



# ROUND THE WORLD.

## FRANCE.

On the 11th September the Court Martial in Rennes pronounced Dreyfus "guilty with extenuating circumstances"—whatever that may mean. To the ordinary person it appears that Dreyfus must be either guilty, or not guilty, of one of the most heinous crimes of which a soldier can be accused, in neither of which cases could extenuating circumstances play any part. The decision was, it is said, received quietly in France. Otherwise, however, with the vast bulk of civilised nations, who have not failed to voice their indignation at the actions of the Generals of the French Army, to whose arbitrament this matter has now been twice submitted. The "honour of the army" must indeed be in a parlous state when such a perversion of justice is required to guard it. Surely the effect of the actions of Jonaust and his confrères must be merely to—

Skin and film the ulcerous place,  
Whiles rank corruption, mining all within,  
Infects unseen.

But the "chose jugée" is still not a thing of the past. The civilised world stands aghast at the tragic farce which has been enacted in France. Zola, Labori and Demange are no longer the only champions of the suffering Jewish Captain. The French flag has been burnt in Annapolis, the naval school of America, and from all quarters are heard expressions of sympathy with Dreyfus and his loyal wife. Not unimportant, also, are the threats to boycott the Exposition of 1900. That the

contempt with which the finding of the biassed Court Martial has been generally received was well founded, is shewn by the fact that as this is written the news comes that Dreyfus has been "pardoned." For what? A crime he did not commit! Even so! In France evidently one must be thankful for small mercies.

## THE TRANSVAAL.

There seems to be but little doubt that British soldiers will once more be pitted against the Boers, who will this time be aided by their kinsmen of the Orange Free State. The reply of the Transvaal Government to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch is generally admitted to be, practically, a rejection of the demands of Great Britain on behalf of the Uitlanders—a rejection to which it would be impossible for the Imperial Government to submit. It cannot be said that the Boers have been hurried into this conflict. Every concession consistent with the undoubted rights of the Uitlanders has been made, and it will be only due to the egotistical stupidity of the Boers if the Transvaal is absolutely annexed. Even Mr. John Morley and Mr. Courtney, who cannot be said to be Imperialists, urge the Boers to accept the five years' franchise without dubious terms. There is no doubt that the Afrikaner party are in no small measure responsible for the present position, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Schreiner will soon learn in a practical way that disloyalty to the Empire is not an admirable quality in a Colonial Premier.