

taken prisoners. Teliche was subsequently carried by assault of the Imperial Guards, who attacked the position simultaneously with the assault on Guruji Debruk. The attacking force was nearly decimated. Several minor positions commanding the Sophia road have been since carried, and Orchanie is threatened.

It is stated at Constantinople that Chefket Pasha has abandoned a large army intended for the relief of Plevna.

The Czarewitch made a reconnaissance in force along the line of the Lom on October 28, but withdrew after some fighting. An attack was simultaneously made on the works at Rustchuk, but the attacks were repulsed by a sortie from the fortress. The Russians retired to Pyrgos.

General Zimmerman, debouching from Dobrudscha, threatens Sillistria. Prince Hassan, with the Egyptian contingent, has been detailed to check him.

The general position to the latest dates is that Plevna is closely invested; Kars is ready to capitulate; Erzeroum is occupied; the Russians have Mukhtar Pasha beaten at all points; Suleiman Pasha is checked by the Czarewitch along the line of the Lom, and remains inactive, his communication with Sillistria and Varna being menaced by the advance of Generals Zimmerman and the massing of a large army between Tinerva and Osman Bazar; the Porte is unable to put another army in the field; the Russians are calling out their reserves and Cossacks, and are embodying 103 infantry battalions; Armenia is practically lost to the Porte; and the Russians are clearing the Balkan passes of the Turks.

THE WHEAT CROP IN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

WHEAT is dearer now than it has been, we believe, for many years, and there are, of course, those who say that it must get dearer yet. The home harvest is said to be generally below the average. We have had all through the middle and northern parts of the Island a most tempestuous season; crops will be exceptionally late, and on many soils exceptionally poor, and the outlook is gloomy.

As to the position at home the fact that the French harvest is but barely equal to the requirements of the country at the very best view, and that it is therefore not unlikely that France may have to be a considerable buyer abroad; that the yield in Spain is, though showing a surplus, not equal to expectation; that the Russian crop, though good, is likely to be difficult to get at, through the war, and that all supplies from the valley of the Danube are cut off from the same cause, and we have a serious conjunction of causes all tending to support the view that bread may be dear. The most favourable estimate of the home wheat crop which we have seen—that of Mr H. Kains-Jackson, no inconsiderable authority—gives us barely twelve million quarters, or hardly half what we require for food or stock purposes, and if the harvests of Europe are, with the exception of that of Hungary, either indifferent or inaccessible, it is evidently a serious problem to know whence this deficiency is to be supplied. * * *

We want, it may be conceded, in round figures at least eleven million quarters of wheat between now and this time next year. Where is it to be had? The United States alone profess to be able to supply the whole of the immense quantity. They claim to have a surplus of exportable grain of over twelve million quarters, and this they will be ready to let us have at a price. This is merely the official estimate, it is true, and may therefore be falsified, but there can be no doubt that the American surplus will be very large in nearly all the States of the Union except California.—*London Spectator*.

THE PRESIDENT'S MANIFESTO.

OPINIONS of some of the French press, on the 19th September:—

The *Pays*, Bonapartist paper, says:—"It is a noble and proud address, and we praise and approve it without reserve. If France does not understand it, it is because she is not ripe for an honest Government. She will have to complete her experience at the cost of fresh ruin and shedding of blood."

The *Monde* says:—"It may with certainty be predicted that the manifesto, which is for us an affirmation, and for the factions a menace, will exasperate our adversaries. It will exasperate them the more because it is in substance unassailable, and they will find themselves reduced to discussing its form."

The *Défense* says:—"Till 1880 the Marshal is Chief of the Power, and he will remain so till the end, whatever may or can happen. He is not the man to bow to the audacious pretensions of those who have led us to ruin and exhausted France, revelling in the blood of her soldiers."

The *Ordre* (Bonapartist) says:—"It is manifest that a Chief of the State who expresses himself with such vigour will never submit. The bridges are henceforth destroyed, the line of retreat is cut off."

The MacMahonian Bonapartist *Liberté* remarks exultingly, that it need no longer be doubted that the Marshal will obey neither of the injunctions to submit or resign.

The *Français*, the Duc de Broglie's organ, says—"When the manifesto demands the election of moderate men, men of order and peace, men who are devoted to the interests and requirements of the country, would France prefer to that appeal of Marshall MacMahon the appeal of M. Gambetta and of the Revolutionaries, all of whose designs follow his cortège?"

M. Legouvé, who has never passed in Paris as a clerical, lately in a speech he made at a Paris municipal school, said:—"There is no education possible without religious ideas. As for myself, I have no fear of saying it, were I absolutely forced to choose for a child, between its being taught to pray and its being taught to read, my decision would be for its being taught to pray. For prayer is reading from the most beautiful of all books, before Him from whom emanate all light, justice and goodness."

A BLACK HILLS ADVENTURE.

A FEW days ago, a man named Montgomery Smith, hailing from St. Louis, had two singular and narrow escapes rolled into one. He left a camp about thirty miles above the Hills to bring letters to post, and, in trying to shorten the distance a little, he lost the regular trail and got into a bad bit of country. While hunting for the trail he came across fresh signs of Indians, and, while hurrying out of the neighbourhood, he ran directly upon a large brown bear, which was sleeping on the sunny side of a thicket. The thicket was on a side hill, and Smith was going at a good pace when he turned the clump. The bear was so near when Smith came in sight of him, that there was neither time to halt nor a chance to turn out, and bruin was cleared by a flying leap. He made a stroke at Smith as he went over, inflicting a slight scratch on one leg, and then set off after the miner with the intention of eating him for dinner. The flight led over broken ground, up and down a ridge, and then along the base of a broken ledge.

Knowing that the bear would soon overtake him, Smith had his eyes peeled for some place of refuge, and he found a good one. Close to the ground was a rift in the ledge made by part of the rocks settling down or crumbling away. He saw it when only thirty feet away, and the bear was not a hundred feet in his rear. There was no time to guess whether the crevice was big enough to admit the man, and too small to admit the bear in after him, or so small that the victim would be there overtaken and devoured. He had dropped his gun to aid his flight, and running at full speed he made a dive and went into the crevice head first, taking enough hide off his shoulders and back to make a pair of baby shoes. The bear wasn't ten seconds behind him, and as Smith reached the back end of the cave, which was not over six feet deep, the bear put in its head and mouth, and tried to work in his body. This he couldn't do, owing to his stout shoulders, but for a quarter of an hour Montgomery Smith was doubtless the worst frightened man in North America. There was room enough for him to turn around in, but he was compelled to lie at full length and look into the fiery eyes of the bear which could get within four feet of him and wanted to come nearer. Bruin didn't give up trying till he had sadly cut and bruised himself against the stones, and his snarls and growls put more religious thoughts into Smith's head than had ever lodged there before. The bear couldn't get him, but neither could he get the bear. He had nothing to shoot with, neither food nor drink, and yelling at a bear to clear out and go home has no effect in this rarified atmosphere. The mouth of the crevice was ten feet long, and Smith could look over his trail for forty rods or more, no matter at what point the bear was.

The animal was walking up and down before the ledge, probably fishing for a plan by which he might get something better than roots for dinner, when the miner caught sight of three Indians creeping along the trail he had made. They had, perhaps, followed it for a mile or more, and must have known that the bear had the first claim. The redskins had just come into view when they saw the bear, the bear saw them, and Smith saw the whole thing. The bear looked in on Smith in a despairing manner, and then made a bee-line for the red men. They fired at him one a piece, and then turned and ran, and after about three minutes' waiting Smith crawled out and made 2.40 time till his breath gave out.—*Deadwood Letter to Cincinnati Enquirer*.

THE AUTHOR OF THE "IMITATION."

THOMAS A KEMPIS was born in the year 1379, at a little village called Kempen, in the Diocese of Cologne, from which he received his latter name, that of his father being John Hammerlein or Heme-reken. His parents were in humble circumstances, and when Thomas was thirteen years of age he was sent to Deventer to a recently established religious community, called "The Brothers of Common Life." Here he became an excellent scholar and was a great favourite with the principal, Dr. Florentius Radewin, upon whose death he joined a branch of the community at Mount St. Agnes, near Zwolle. This happened when he was about twenty years old, and he remained there as a novice for about five more years, and then, in A.D. 1405, he took upon himself the habit and Order of St. Augustine. In 1413 he received Holy Orders, and from that time was sedulously employed in literary occupations of a religious tendency. His great labour consisted in writing out the whole of the Bible in four volumes, in which he was engaged fifteen years. During this period, that is in 1429, he and his brethren were driven from the monastery and wandered about wherever they could find a home for three years. With the exception, however, of this forced expulsion, he continued to live at Mount St. Agnes for nearly seventy years, and it is there, of course, that he is considered to have written the "De Imitatione Christi," or some of the books as early as between 1415 or 1420, shortly after he had taken to Holy Orders. He lived in strict seclusion, rarely ever leaving the monastery, and died in the year 1471, at the advanced age of 92. Such is a brief outline of the life of Thomas a Kempis; and although his actual authorship of the "De Imitatione" has been warmly disputed, yet in the midst of all the controversy it has never been questioned that he wrote out a copy of the work in 1441, and was consequently well acquainted with its contents, and seems from his life to have lived according to its holy counsels. This copy is still in existence, and is very valuable, being attested by Thomas himself with the superscription: *Finitus et completus Anno Domini 1441 per manus Thomas a Kempis in Monte S. Agnes, prope Zwoll.*—*Exchange*.

THE *Daily Telegraph* has published the following extract from the letter of "a correspondent of high position":—"The Holy Father is looking as well and is in as in good spirits as when I left Rome on July 1. During the whole of the summer there has only been one day on which he was unable to receive. His great weakness and constant fainting fits are entirely inventions. I saw Dr. Ceccarelli yesterday, and he assured me that old age was the only infirmity the Holy Father was suffering from. The audiences take place every day as usual, and a great many people are received in the evening."