EMBER 4, 1866. TUROUS MORNING, DEC

> SKETCHES OF TRAVE LETTER NUMBER XXII.

MAYENCE, Germany, 1866.-Frankfort is in the Valley of the Main, and is in the centre of a fertile country. It has nearly 100,000 inhabitants. The new portion of the city contains the finest private residences in Gormany. One of the chief objects of interest to the traveller is the old hall of the Senate-not so much for its splendor as for its historical associations. As I walked through the Elector's room, fifty-two old German Emperors, from CONBAD I. to FRANCIS II., looked down from the walls on which they were hanging upon me; I could but think where are these great men now To their praise it is recorded, that in this long line of Emperers there were very few tyrants among them. In addition to the fifty-two portraits, there are many splendid paintings in the hall. "The Judgment of Solomon," by STEINLE, is a striking picture. It was a wise thought of Solomon in proposing to "divide the child in two; give one half to the one, and half to the other," said he. The greatest horror is depicted on the countenance of the natural mother, at the prospect of having her child slain. Immediately above the bridge, on the Main, is the statue of the famous Charlemagne, who was for a long time resident of the Imperial Free City. CHALEMAGNE, in his day, was equal to Napo-LEON in the 19th century. The favorite German poet GŒTHE was born here, and a handsome marble statue of him stands in the Public Library. There is also a monumental statue of GETHE near the theatre. In the gallery is a fine portrait of the great Reformer, Martin Luther, who at one time resided in Frankfort, though he was a native of Saxony. The old fortifications that encircled the town have been torn down and handsome gardens. laid out on the site. The Jews, until recently, were treated with great illiberality in Frankfort. They were restricted to a particular quarter of the city, and the gates were closed at an early hour every night, after which ingress and egress were denied them. The law restricting their marriage in the city to thirteen annually, was not repealed until 1834. The Exchange here is a fine building, and contains two imposing figures, representing Hope and Prudence. Hope inspires confidence, and en-

I was introduced into two extensive reading rooms-cach of them contained more than a hundred newspapers and journals. American politics are studied as closely here as on Wall street. The bankers said to me, "You will have civil war again in the United States in less than twelve months." I replied, Never-never. They said, "If we could feel assured of that fact, your bonds, which are now selling at thirty per cent. discount, would command a premium." A restored Union, no doubt, would inspire confidence and create such a foreign demand for American securities, as to restore our currency to a specie basis-a result greatly to be desired by all sections of the country. Until our political affairs are more settled, capitalists will be very cautious in making investments in American securities-especially at anything like their value. The Germans hold a large amount of Confederate bonds, and wished to know the prospect of their being paid. I told them the bonds would be good "six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace between the United States and the Confederate States"-but it was quite uncertain when such an event would happen.

courages in our pilgrimage through this life, while

Prudence makes us cantious, careful and discreet.

An hour by railway from Frankfort, in the Vallor of the Main, through an extremely fertile and fine-by cultivated country, and we arrive at Mayence, the chief city of the Grand Duchy of Hesse Darmstadt. Mayence is at the mouth of the River Main, on the Rhine-population 45,000. It is a strongly fortified city, having, for a long period, been the strongest fortress of the German Confederation with a garrison of 5000 Prussian and 5000 Austrian troops, commanded alternately for five years by an Austrian and a Prussian Governor. The lofty old houses and narrow, crooked streets, gives the city an antique appearance, The mammoth cathedral, built of red sand stone, is nearly a thousand years old. The interior is richly painted, and contains numerous old statues. During the frequent bombardments of the city, the old cathedral was much damaged. The Jacobins converted it into a **ELEGANT FURNITURE** powder magazine. A bridge of boats, 1700 feet long, connects Mayence with Cassel on the opposide side of the Rhine.

The printing press, which has had such a powerful influence in advancing human knowledge, was bronze statue has been erected to his memory. Steamers, during the summer months, leave May ence three or four times daily for Cologne; also, three railway trains. Mayence carries on a brisk trade in grain and lumber brought down the Rhine and from the interior by rail. The growth of the finest Rhenish wine is limited to a circle of about ten miles around Mavence.

Prussia has absorbed Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau and Frankfort. She will not be satisfied with the humiliation of Austria, but will dictate terms of her own for all the German States; Holland, Belgium, and old Hamburg may for the present maintain their nationality, but they will all sooner or later be Prussianized.

The recent war in Germany was not for liberty; but for territorial aggrandizement. Prussia wished to extend her northern boundary over the Duchy of Holstein, which was at one time a province of Denmark. It was against the interest of Austria for Prussia to increase her territory, and thereby BRIDGES & LANE, the power of her rival for position and supremacy. The German Diet at Frankfort adhered to Austria by a vote of nine to six, and armed against Prussia. Austria found herself between two fires. King Emanuel wanted Venetia, and now was the time to strike the blow for its recovery to Italy. It was the expectation of Napoleon that the two great powers, before the conflict ended, would become so exhausted that when he got ready to mediate, France would be able to secure the Bhine as the boundary of her empire. The unexpected and disastrous defeat of the Austrians occurred just as the Prussian army was fairly organized. Napoleon consequently found himself unprepared to success fully enforce any demands he might make on Ger-

man territory. BISMARK knew the strength of his kingdom, hence his laconic reply to the French. BISMARK has been for the past six years the mas ter spirit in Germany, and recently he has almost sclipsed the distinguished Emperor of the French. In 1859 BISMARK was the Prussian Ambassador at the Court of the Tuileries. While in Paris it is thought he took some diplomatic lessons from Na-POLEON. I should not wonder if he did, for his eyes are large, and he keeps them pretty wide open. In 1862 BISMARK Was ordered by King WILLIAM to Berlin to form a new Ministry, over which he was chief. His first act was to augment and reorganize the army, and to extend the military service in the army, and to extend the military service in the army to three years. This was quite an unpopular measure, and was rejected by a vote of 272 against 68. Bismank coolly dissolved the Ministry, giving them to understand the King would dispense with their approval of the budget, and would put in execution whatever measures he would put in execution whatever measures he leaves to the public good. Bessark had

some queer notions on political economy; he was in favor of passing a law regulating the prices of all commodities; he was also in favor of prescribing the number of apprentices who should be admitted to each trade.

Count BISMARK is fifty-three years old, and is of a stout, robust constitution; but the heavy duties which devolved upon him during the past year, and more especially during the reorganization of the Northern Germanic Confederacy, have affected his brain. His illness is regarded of a serious character. It will be difficult to get a suitable can to occupy the office which has been so illustri-

p filled by BISMARK. The brilliant success of ous, sasures has made him one of the most popuhis me men in Germany, and it is said he is dislar states. Liberal reforms and make the posed to introduce liberal reforms and make the posed to introduce liberal reforms and make the posed to introduce liberal reforms and subjects. His object is G. W. W. G. W. W. united government.

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL CO. VENTION.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

In the convention of prominent and intelligent agriculturists of Virginia, at Richmond, of which Hon. Willoughby Newton was President, the several subjects to be considered, as labor, land, finance, usury, immigration, &c., having been referred to committees, were fully reported upon. These have been discussed ably by such members as ex-Governor Smith, Hill Carter, Hon. James Lyon, General Imboden and others. Amon the important measures discussed and acted upon was the ropeal of the usury laws, or laws of the State prohibiting a higher rate of interest than 6 per cent. Ex-Governor Smith and General Imboden favored the repeal, on the grounds that capital was more a necessity to the farmers and people of Virginia than labor just now. They both thought that the farmers were not such dolts as that they could not make good bargains in greenbacks or gold as well as in other articles, and the only way to get capital was to pay for it. After considerable debate, resolutions reported by the committee were adopted expressing the opinions of the convention in favor of a modification of the usury law by the Legisture making 6 per cent. the legal interest where a higher sum is not stipulated by parties negotiating. The other great subject, of labor, received a good deal of attention.

Mr. Carter gave his experience in renting lands on shares to freedmen, which was unfavorable, as thoy let the crops perish, but found paying wages better, though the influence of the Freedmen's Bureau made them idle, but they were getting better now that the bureau interfered less. Mr. Harvey, of Amelia, gave similar experience, and had, in consequence, obtained white labor, German and

of Amelia, gave similar experience, and had, in consequence, obtained white labor, German and English, and found the latter excellent. Mr. Sutherlin, however, spoke in favor of negro labor, declaring that it could be made available if kept apart from the Freedmen's Bureau, and advised those who had to expert from the black to expert from the black to expert from the state of the black to the black to the state of the black to the state of the black to the black to the state of the black to the

from the Freedmen's Bureau, and advised those who had to employ force to give the blacks the preference. Mr. Jones, from the Committee on Labor, then reported the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That while we should do all in our power to utilize all of the labor now in our midst, white and colored, yet as this supply is not adequate to the wants of the country, that the landholders in different sections should unite in offering such inducements to the immigrant as will induce him to settle in their midst.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the

should unite in offering such inducements to the immigrant as will induce him to settle in their midst.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the president of this society, whose duty it shall be to memorialize the Legislature of Virginia to encourage immigration to this State, and to make such appropriations as will be needed to carry out this object.

Resolved, That it is deemed by this body as most conductive to the mutual interests of the proprietors and the labor practicable period, and to pay them money instead of a portion of the crops.

Messrs. J. Ravenscroff Jones, William D. Hart, General William H. Richardson, James Lyons, and Lewis E. Harvie, were announced as the committee to carry out the objects of the foregoing.

The following gentlemen, representing the different sections of the State, were appointed a committee to test, examine and report upon such labor-saving machines and implements as the Executive Committee shall prescribe: W. M. Tate, R. W. N. Noland, W. C. Knight, General W. H. F. Lee, and R. H. Carter.

A resolution was adopted endorsing the Virginia Immigration Society, and recommending it to the fostering care of the Legislature, as the best means of introducing capital and labor into the State. A suggestion was made and endorsed, also, by the Committee, The Wew Poland, Spotsylvania County. Polish emigration at New Poland, Spotsylvania

Polish emigration at New Polish, Spotsylvania County.

Finally, resolutions were adopted favorable to instruction of young men at college in mineralogy; in favor of a committee to inquire into the expediency of procuring guano and fertilizers on such terms as shall enable the farmers to pay for it out of the proceeds, who shall report to the Legislature, and inviting the Virginia farmers to hold county meetings to express their sentiments on the subject.

subject.

The matter of finance was not acted upon further matter of finance was not acted upon further in which if The matter of inance was not acted upon inter-ther than a report from the committee, in which it was thought impossible, at the present time, to do anything for the relief of the agricultural commu-nity through the medium of the banks, in conse-quence of the want of capital. The convention ad-

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ALBERT BRIDGES. JOEL C. LANE, November 6

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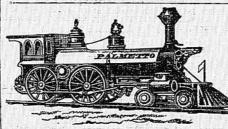
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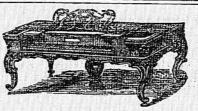
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