

"Organ for the interests of Haiti
and the Black race"

La Fraternité

Editorial Board:
Benito Sylvain

CONTENTS

The French Influence — BENITO SYLVAIN

Letter from Haiti

Cardinal Lavigerie and the Press

Leçons des Choses — Poetry
GEORGES SYLVAIN

Bulletin of Europe and America

The Next War – A Commander on
Leave

News and Rumours

Variety – On the Evolution of the
Black Race – DR. DE GLEYGNON

To Those Who Are Bored

Fantastist Chronicle — EMILE GERMAIN

Miscellany

Financial Bulletin

The Theatre in Paris — MARIUS
BERGERET

Departures for Haiti

THE FRENCH INFLUENCE

France must have felt a great satisfaction when, after the outbreak of the terrible war, she learned of the magnificent explosion of sympathies that had greeted her misfortune around the world. With all due respect to those today who encourage ideas opposed to the traditional courtesy, the legendary kindness of this country toward its guests, this fact constitutes a glaring proof in favour of the causes that most powerfully contributed to the spread of French influence.

No, it was not about military success, it is not to the spirit of conquest that France owes this universal sympathy that it has never stopped enjoying. The thing that ensured it that extraordinary credit from all other peoples, it is the expansive confidence, the intense and penetrating charm that is characteristic of its commerce and its very civilization.

Peoples, like individuals, have a dual purpose on the earth: they must work for their own improvement, and also for the improvement of the conditions of others. They are immediately rewarded for the accomplishment of the former duty by the positive benefits of civilization. As for the latter, although it has no consequence here below, its reward resided in the respect, the love, and the recognition from those to whom they have done the good deed.

Do the European powers want to know the exact measure of the consideration that their civilizing role is worth? They

only have to look toward the Black continent. There, they will see savage tribes, guided by their natural instincts, receiving some with fear and mistrust, while they receive others with something verging on veneration. Some think that it is in the interest of Europeans to maintain this fear, in order to turn it into terror if necessary. But it seems to us that by kindness and good treatment at least as good results would be obtained. The recent odyssey of a young African prince, Abdoulaye, confirms this opinion plainly.

So far people have been happy to deny France the colonizing spirit, to make it the exclusive prerogative of people of the Anglo-Saxon race. This, we believe, is a great error. What have the English and the Americans done, for example, in the region where they have gone to impose civilization? They have coldly and systematically exterminated the indigenous races. The French, less cruel—less practical, the Yankees say—have preferred to fuse with them. The progresses of their colonization are slow but sure, and the effects are intense and durable.

Canada and Haiti strikingly bear witness to the persistence with which French customs penetrate, establish and conserve themselves, and leave an indelible imprint on people who were at one time under the dependency of France. Haiti in particular, despite the painful traditions of its historic past, despite the terrible circumstances that, in destroying slavery, violently separated the country from its Motherland, managed to keep the language, the religion, the laws and the love of France.

Inspired by these facts, all those who, like us, hope to see the French influence spread and sustain itself, are bound to point out the perils of this route that the current colonial policies in Europe seem to be following.

France must seek to annex, not materially and by arms, but morally, by the propagation of its language, all of those populations of Africa that are on their way to acquiring civilization by the humanitarian processes of its worthy explorers. Also, we would not hesitate to declare, much more than all of those easy and bloody victories won over savage tribes, we must exalt the effective and invigorating actions of the great and beautiful Association that is working to safeguard for the whole earth that glorious flag of the French language. It is surely a noble goal that the Association Française has proposed for itself, wanting to create powerful links of friendship, of good relations, of civilization between the

children of France and their faithful friends spread over the whole surface of the globe. We therefore welcome with a profound and sympathetic hope this work whose success will hasten, indirectly, the triumph of persuasion and kindness over violence and cruelty.

May the French nation not allow itself to be seduced by the vain attraction of ephemeral conquests! Every tribe has traditions that they will not freely renounce. Take Germany, for example: in the last twenty years they have experienced a sort of collapse, resulting from the bankruptcy of great intellectual hopes, from the failure of a social and political ideal that was long cherished. Because the military ideal the suddenly glistened in the eyes of the Prussian nation has not come near to what they had dreamed; that which the philosophy of history had promised, constructed for itself, was the conquest of the world by ideas rather than by arms.

Rome and Greece perished, Poland is no more; all peoples can be destroyed. But that which is imperishable is the renown and glory acquired by contributing to the intellectual and more improvement of humankind.

BENITO SYLVAIN

LETTER FROM HAITI

(From our special correspondent) Port-au-Prince, 15 August 1890

My dear Director,

The departure of the steamship *Nacase* has allowed me to send you my previous letter via New York. I will do likewise whenever I have particularly interesting things to tell you about.

We are experience, before autumn, a shower of... portfolios.

General Mompont the younger, the Minister of War, has just resigned in turn, in order to take a well earned res after a campaign of eight months. The ministry has been reformed thus: Hugon Lechaud to Agriculture and Public Works; D. Trouillot to Justice and Religions; Béliard the younger to War and Navy; Nemours Jean-Pierre the elder to the Interior; Mr. Firmin has remained in Finance and Foreign Relations, and Mr. D. Rameau in Public Instruction.

Mr. D. Trouillot who, last year, was previously named Government auditor in cassation, is well known in Port-au-Prince. He also made many friends, when he was in Cap for many years, under Geffrard, as Government auditor.

Mr. Béliard, senator from the North, has occupied diverse functions at the Customs office in Cap, including serving as director; he was the delegate in command of the Cap arrondissement during the last insurrection.

Mr. Nemours Pierre-Louis the elder has been senator of the North-West for some ten years.

Of the three new members of the cabinet, Mr.

Trouillot is the oldest, being over sixty; the other two are in their fifties.

The negotiations with the Dominican are progressing actively. In a few words, here is what is happening: President Domingue, to facilitate relations between the two Republics that share the island of Haiti, had, by treaty, recognizing the Government of Santo Domingo, adopted the application of the free trade of Haitian and Dominican products over the whole of the territory. Furthermore, since the Dominican were demanding a rectification of the border to their advantage, it was decided that all disputes on this subject would be prevented in the future by the payment of an indemnity of 150,000 piastres that the Haitian Government would carry out over eight years.

The treaty of 1874 was never really taken seriously in either country. The proof is that the Dominicans formally contravened it in their most recent Constitution; and they consented in 1882 to conclude another arrangement. However, the Haitian Governments tolerated Dominican products coming into the country duty free, without really concerning themselves with whether or not the same reciprocity was being observed by our neighbours.

Many foreign firms have thus started to bring European merchandise into the country through the Dominican, committing tax fraud.

Members of the Hyppolite Government, who by their anterior relations, found themselves better placed than anyone to recognize these practices, wanted to put an end to it. *Inde irae*. A Dominican commission arrived in Port-au-Prince to solve the matter. They are said to have demanded the remainder of the indemnity stipulated in 1875; they're asking for the most for the least! A special meeting behind closed doors is taking place. Public opinion is in favour of the maintenance of the Government's decision. We have no doubt that the disagreement will be settled peacefully.

I had forgot to mention the departure of Mr. Douglass, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, and of Mr. Bassett, secretary of the same Legation. Their voyage to New York, it is said, will relate to the question of arbitration, which has legitimately concerned the Haitian press. To give a sort of consecration to the Pan-American Congress, Mr. Blaine, had planned to ban Europe from political access, as well as economic access to the Americas. An Arbitration Tribunal would have dealt with all diplomatic difficulties between American States and other nations, whether or not they were a part of the Arbitration Alliance. Most of the countries represented at the Congress refused to thus give up their liberty. Chile made, against the project of arbitration, a resounding protestation.

Mr. Blaine is out of luck! The signatory powers were to ratify the treaty by May 1891. But it is doubtful that this project will live to this time.

It has been announced that the President of Haiti will go on a tour of the South toward the end of September. Clermont Jr., to prepare for this happy event, is getting ready to greet, in a speech "full of feeling" (which becomes the fistula of the doyen of the Haitian press) his *illustrious consanguinocrate*.

CARDINAL LAVIGERIE AND THE PRESS

The *Lanterne* of 1 September, in a long article entitled "Crusade in the Sahara," incriminated Cardinal Lavigerie, with regard to the anti-slavery crusade.

The venerable Primate of Africa, in calling for the creation of a troupe of volunteers to subdue the Touaregs of the Sahara, would have said or written that "the civilized world must reduce volatile hostilities to impotence and assure the benefits of security and peace for half ruined oases."

According to the aforementioned newspaper, "this oratory style hides nothing but one desire: that of going to chastise the Black Muslim tribes to impose the Catholic religion upon them. Replacing one fanaticism for another, by borrowing the support of the army, that's what M. Lavigerie is dreaming about."

Such an accusation necessitates a categorical response. We were at the home of Cardinal Lavigerie's coadjutor, Mgr. Brincat, who is unfortunately not in Paris. But we found in the volume of Documents on the Foundation of the Anti-Slavery Organization, a letter that the Cardinal himself once wrote to the Editor-in-Chief of the paper *République Française*, a letter that entirely refutes those accusations:

Dear Mr. Editor-in-Chief,

I have just been informed about an article that your paper published about my speech calling for the abolition of the slave trade.

On the occasion of this speech, the author of that article accused the Catholic Church "of never having condemned slavery."

He accused me "of calling for the end of Mohammedanism."

He accused me "of wanting to arm against Muslims the secular arm and to exterminate them under the flag of humanitarianism!"

I thought I must be dreaming to hear such infamy applied to me. I said no such thing. I would go further and say I was horrified. To hear such a thing in my conferences, one would have to transform an act of supreme pity, and the opposition to a historical fact, as evident in Africa as the light of day—that of Muslim slavery—into acts of the most odious fanaticism.

For those who have heard or read my speeches, they know it is not true; for the others, I have better things to do than to waste time, which is already so short, in reliving such polemical processes. But since these matters are among those about which I hope to leave no doubt, I appeal to your equity. Sir, I ask you to insert, where you previous published accusations, the following simple declarations:

1. The Catholic Church has condemned, through the voice of twenty Popes (most recently Leo XIII), as contrary to natural law, the hunting and selling of humans. Now, natural law leaving no exceptions, the Church thus condemns African slavery, which I want to see abolished, in all times and in all places, and practiced by whoever, whether they be pagan, Christian or Turk.

2. I have never in my long life "called for the end of" any person under the pretext of religion. I am not about to start doing so today, especially since the Church is under the odious persecution of atheist more and more each day. I have, in particular, for Muslims of good faith, as most all of them are, indeed, in our Africa, nothing but paternal sentiments. I am ready, not to "call for their end," but to serve them, as I have always done, if they need me to defend them, if they are attacked, to sacrifice myself for them, if necessary.

3. The only thing that I want to "exterminate" is the slavery that is making Africa bloodied and lost. All that I have asked in my speeches, for Muslim slave traders (atrocious brigands that they are), is for the removal of their weapons which they use to accomplish so many crimes, and to confine them in the countries which they come out of for their horrible expeditions.

These are my sentiments.

Whatever caused your article, I thank you for it, Sir, for having given me to opportunity to express them, one more time, in the presence of the Christian world.

LEÇON DES CHOSES

I said to the flower: Why bother to grow?
What's the point in donning your fragile corolla?
Of gold and velvet? The batting of a wing
To often suffices to disfigure it,
Under the drops of morning, you are barely born
When evening comes to see you wither.

I said to the bird: Why bother to sing?
The secular wood, today's sceptic,
Is himself deaf to your music;
No one has time to listen to you anymore,
Only close to you, the perfidious bird-catcher,
Is happy to head this song that guides him.

I said to the star: Why bother to shine?
The sky where your radiant eye is lit,
Nevertheless wears its coat of fog.
As for mankind, in vain you hope to keep him awake,
Children of progress and of science,
We no longer have faith in your influence.

I said to my heart: Why bother to love?
Declarations and promises, and sighs and flames,
They are packaged words that please women,
Of the age when the heart hopes to form,
People let themselves be taken by these refrains,
But how they die from them, eternal loves!...

I thought I had convinced them;
But since then, flowers have not ceased to bloom.
Under the fresh thicket, the bird still sings;
The same glimmer comes down to the firmament;
And, no longer tasting my moral erudition,
My heart still beats with the same ardour.

GEORGES SYLVAIN

BULLETIN OF EUROPE AND AMERICA

France – The Chambers are still in recess. Meanwhile, the press and public opinion are interested in the latest incidents of Boulangism. Mr. Mermeix, former newspaper reporter and Boulangist deputy, published, in *Le Figaro*, under the significant title of "The Wings of Boulangism," little secrets of this political cabal, which, if it had triumphed, would certainly have brought about terrible misfortunes in France. As a result of these revelations, General Boulanger would truly have brought about the fall of the Republic with the Bonapartists and Monarchists from whom he was receiving money.

The general opinion is that the Republic is getting stronger each day.

The arming is continuing, in view of the next war; the French see this as the guarantee of the security and the tranquility of their country.

Italy – Mr. Crispi is still thrashing around in the gears of the Triple Alliance. He has derailed the attempts at a reconciliation between France and Italy, which many of his better intentioned and perspicacious compatriots are working for. Semi-official speeches have shown that Italy shares the sentiments of hostility of its minister, and that, commercially and militarily speaking, the best thing to do on both sides of the Alps is to keep arms at the ready and to stay alert.

A Rome journal, *L'Opinione*, in an article about the review of Italian finances, declared that in the first two months of the financial year the receipts are more 10 million below the budgetary provisions. If this continues, the deficit will reach 60 million, which added to the 40 million of the existing deficit, predicts a deficit of one hundred million in the current year.

As we see it, Italy is doing well.

Russia – Russia is still the counterweight of the Triple Alliance, the supreme dispenser of peace or war in Europe. From time to time nihilists, to affirm their existence, blow up something or someone. The links of friendship with France still reach out and strengthen themselves more and more.

England – Great Britain is more consistently than ever following its policy of conquests, or rather of colonial despoliations. Yesterday it was Portugal from whom England was taking possessions as its own domains; today it is Germany's flag in Africa. Queen Victoria must have a voracious appetite, to have such a need to expand her already immense empire.

Germany – Since Emperor Wilhelm's voyage to Russia, he has hardly produced news worth reporting. On this subject, in Berlin there is much talk about a sensational article in the newspaper *Annales Prussiennes* which said that the voyage was a deception, and that the Russian court entertained its imperial guest with a series of pointless theatrical parades, while the military administration had ordered very serious manoeuvres on the western borders, just as the parade was finishing. It even adds that the Prince of Bismarck is visibly the instigator of this failed voyage.

The great manoeuvres and the inspection of the fleet at Kiel are currently demanding attention, with festivities and imperial receptions, all the subjects to keep up on.

The principal interest of the manoeuvres that took place on 6 September was the infantries' shooting with

smokeless powder. It seems that the results were excellent. We can only cry alas! thinking about the murderous goal of all these great discoveries.

United States – Economic questions must always come to mind when it comes to the United States. Europe worries or looks with confidence, whenever America, the world's breadbasket, leans more or less toward protectionism or free trade.

Currently, the unfavourable forecasts of the McKinley bill are being succeeded by a continuity that is allowing hope that ultra-protectionism will soon be on the decline in the United States. During the latest election in the state of Vermont, and important protests took place, which is a sign of the turning of public opinion. President Harrison persists in sustaining the ultras, but Mr. Blaine, although still far from wanting a return to free trade, is evolving toward a more liberal policy. The Wall of China that the Republicans want to set up between the United States and the European nations is threatening to become a Tower of Babel. The Americans, a practical people, seem to already be glimpsing the deplorable political and commercial consequences of the McKinley bill, and will know how to stop it in time.

THE NEXT WAR:

SUBMARINE BOATS

The rapid progress of modern science prevents the powers from keeping their secrets or their monopolies on discoveries for a long time. As soon as one of them has found a new invention, the others strive to penetrate it and have soon appropriated it for themselves.

In 1886, Messrs. Zédé and Goubet only had the Swede Nordenfeld as competition in the realm of "submarine" boats; today France is far from alone.

From the first attempts of the *Gymnote*, all the maritime powers began studying the question, and most of them arrived at satisfactory solutions.

In Spain, the *Peral*, although it was rejected by the admiralty, gave, in various tests and experiments, notably results.

In Germany, they built at Kiel a submarine torpedo boat which moved underwater by way of stored steam. Its speed would be up to 9 knots during immersion. Three other submarine torpedo boats are currently in the experimental stage at State construction sites, and other submarine ships are being studied.

In Italy, the engineer Balmasello has just done tests at Civita-Vecchia of his "submarine," which is of spher-

ical form and bears the name *Belle nautique*. According to a correspondence with the Figaro, this boat manoeuvres easily afloat, and, after diving, it descends to great and small depths, comes rapidly to the surface, exploding barks or conveniently place planks with dynamite cartridges, and finally it can extract items from the floor of the sea after they have been tossed there.

Up to this point, however, it seems that French submarines are superior to the others. Here, according to a learned study published in the *Marine française*: 1. the nautical methods of the *Goubet*, and 2. its attack methods:

"The master quality of the *Goubet* is a perfect stability. It is always balanced amid the element that makes up its environment; it descends and rises always vertically.

"The vessel being balanced, the forced need it to set it moving is very small; this mass of six tonnes is very easy to manoeuvre with oars by a single man. The slightest manipulation of its ballast makes it descend and rise with great speed. It thus has in its power all of the necessities to make it disappear from the sight of an enemy as soon as it has been noticed.

"It was demonstrated, by the latest experiments that took place at Cherbourg, that the *Goubet* can be manoeuvred with such great precision that it can come up beside a ship without being noticed.

"The *Goubet* possesses, moreover, the means of immobilizing a ship without sinking it. It can engage the ship's propeller.

"The order to torpedo a ship having been given, here is what it does:

"If it found itself at a great distance, it would navigate to get closer, and as soon as it arrived in proximity, it would descend so as to leave nothing but its optic tube in projection above the water. In this conditions it is invisible. Up to 100 metres from the battleship, the advance is by way of the engine, but from that point the *Goubet* advance by oar in order avoid producing eddies. Around 50 metres, the pilot identifies the exact position of the ship on a compass and, abruptly, retracts the optical tube in order to dive to 1 or 5 metres. It is at this depth that he advances, chooses his point of attack, triggers his torpedo and, still at the same depth, distances himself swiftly from the spot using the engine.

"If he had been spotted, he would only have to change direction or descent a few metres lower to be sheltered from the most powerful pieces, and ultimately, it is the little submarine that

wins the fight against the immense battleship."

One can imagine the profound revolution that must take place in the art of naval tactics from the appearance of this new engine of rapid destruction.

What will the next war be, which, according to the most optimistic predictions, is only adjourned?

The most fruitful imagination is powerless to conceive of the horror. It will be something horrendous, unbelievable.

But who knows? If all of the powers make use of smokeless powder on land, submarines at sea, perhaps we will be able to say, like the old refrain:

When everyone has weapons, it is as if no one does.

A commander on leave

NEWS AND RUMOURS

The thirty-third anniversary of the death of Auguste Comte, the founder of positivism, was celebrated, on the 5th of September, simultaneously in Paris, London, Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro, Calcutta and in many other cities.

In Paris, at the Père-Lachaise cemetery, a speech was given by Mr. Paul Descours, representing the positivist society of Newton Hall. In the afternoon, Mr. Pierre Laffite spoke on the progress of positivist propaganda. The day concluded with a banquet at the Palais-Royal.

RUSSOPHILE SOCIETY

Just founded in Paris, under the direction of Mrs. Adam, is a so-called friends of Russia society, destined to maintain and to develop the good relations that between exist between France and Russia.

A fraternal gathering will be held this evening at 9 p.m., at Café Riche, for representatives of the Parisian republican press, by the representatives of the Spanish, Portuguese and Italian republican press in Paris.

The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty has, it seems, stirred up lively discontent in Lisbon. A popular protest took place on the 6th, which prompted a meeting of the council of ministers.

The sixty-sixth anniversary of the Mexican proclamation of independence will be celebrated in Paris, on

the 15th of this month, by a great reception at the hotel of the Legation.

In the absence of Mr. Ramon-Fernandez, the minister from Mexico, the honours will be given to Mr. Baz, the chargé d'affaires.

THE SLAVE TRADE IN ZANZIBAR

A telegraph from Zanzibar reads:

"A faint agitation has reigned, for some time, in Zanzibar. The sultan posted a proclamation banning the slave market, a proclamation counter-signed by the English consul. The Arab families protested; in a single day, the placards were pulled down three times. The sultan's authority is contested, and soldiers are refusing to obey him. The English and German squadrons have approached the town. At night, electric lights illuminated the coast, and the naval detachments are ready to disembark to prevent a rebellion."

FIRE AT THESSALONIKI

Athens, 5 September – From the 3rd to the 4th of September, eight fires broke out in Thessaloniki, causing terrible damage.

It is estimated that 1,600 houses have burned down, and more than 12,000 people are left homeless.

It seems that this terrible disaster is due to malevolence.

FLOOD IN SENEGAL

A rise in the sea-level suffered in Senegal has just destroyed part of the town of Khayes, one of the French possessions along the Upper River.

DUELS

An encounter took place on the 6th in Clinge (Holland), between Mr. Henri Rochefort, the well known journalist, and Mr. Georges Thiébaud who, in the Boulangist period, had a certain notoriety.

The motive: An article by the director of the *Intransigeant*.

In the first engagement, which lasted about 30 seconds, Mr. Georges Thiébaud was struck successively in the left temporal region, on the cheek, and on the right hip.

NATIONAL BANK OF HAITI

We have just received a brochure entitled: *National Bank of Haiti, A Page of History*, whose author is Mr. Frédéric

Marcelin, the former deputy, president of the Commerce Tribunal in Port-au-Prince. We will talk more about it later.

The new director of the National Bank of Haiti. Mr. Louis Hartmann, is leaving Paris on the 20th to go to Port-au-Prince. Mr. Hartmann lived for a long time in Haiti and has many friends there.

IN DAHOMEY

The mission that the French government entrusted to R. P. Dorgère regarding the King of Dahomey has failed. A serious action is being prepared for the month of November, after the rainy season.

It has been announced that a French expedition will leave for Abomey around 18 September. It will consist of three columns leaving from Grand-Popo, Whydah and Porto-Novo.

RESULTS OF BULGARIAN ELECTIONS

206 government deputies and 12 opposition. There remains 77 to be determined.

THE CENTENARY OF LAMARTINE

The Comédie-Française will participate in the festivities that will take place on the 18th of October, in Mâcon, on the occasion of the centenary of Lamartine.

Many members will recite the principal poems of the master, and perform an act of *Toussaint Louverture*.¹

The Association of Parisian Journalists received among its members Mrs. Wattier d'Ambroye, a talented writer, presented to the committee by Messrs. Vacquerie and Paul Menrice.

She is the first woman to be part of the Association.

NEXT CLOSURE OF THE HIPPODROME

Because of the engagements in the lyrical theatre of the artists who make up the choirs and ballets of *Jeanne d'Arc*, the season at the Hippodrome will be quite short.

Jeanne d'Arc met an unexpected success: there is a crowd every evening, and every Sunday thousands of people are turned away.

¹This drama was performed in 1850, at Porte-Saint-Martin, with Frédéric Lemaître in the title role.

ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS

As if there were not enough disasters off all sorts, cyclones, floods, fires, that are ravaging Europe, now Vesuvius is threatening to join in. For the last two weeks the crater, which was opened last year after a violent earthquake, has been spewing torrents of lava.

A powerful eruption is expected.

The "meat bill" regarding the verification of the sanitary state of American meat exports, was adopted on the 3rd of September in the Senate in Washington.

Mr. King, the new consul-general for the United States in Paris, took up his post on the 1st of September. His predecessor, Mr. Rathbone, left on Saturday for Le Havre for his return to America.

The president of the United States signed, on the 30th of August, the McKinley bill, ordering the inspection of foreign merchandise. This bill was applied as of the day it was signed.

OBITUARIES

Chairian, the well known novelist and the former collaborator of Erckmann, died on the 1st of September, in Ville-moble, at the age of 61.

Death of Mgr. Bélonino. This friendly curate leaves many in mourning in Haiti, where he lived for many years.

VARIETY

La Fraternité being essentially a newspaper of progress, we accept all writings that debate a point on the question noire, even if we do not completely share the views of their author.

ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE BLACK RACE

Dr. P. Vernial has just published a brochure entitled *The Extinction of the Latin Race*² in which he studies, from the social and philosophical point of view, the causes of the constant and progressive decrease of the population of France. he deals with this question from a very elevated point of view. Without going into an analysis of the work, we only cite the key ideas: "It is in the comparative study of natural laws that direct organic Evolution that we will find the causes of the progression or the regression of the different human races." Departing from this fundamental principle that the laws that reign over the development of a people are "natural, immutable and inevitable

laws... that the Evolution of all living things, whatever they may be, are submitted to identical laws," the author establishes these two fundamental facts: "The species experiencing rapid evolution, that undergo organic modifications, that give rise, by way of these modifications, to a new fixed species, have a short, transitory existence..... We observe, second, this general fact: Whatever epoch they belong to, every species experiences the following evolution: It appears, develops, differentiates, attains a maximum of variation, then undergoes a retrograde evolution during which the most inferior and the most perfected varieties disappear; only the average races survive."

Then, citing numerous examples drawn from the history of the animal kingdom and of humankind, he arrives at this conclusion: "This natural law—that all species on the path of formation, which is to say, rapid, continual evolution, must inevitable disappear to make room for fixed species—is also true when it comes to human races. The evolution of the Latin race is not finished. This race is thus destined to disappear to make room for a fixed, stable race which thus has all of the elements necessary for the fight for survival. Only two human races are fixed and immutable, the Chinese and Jewish race."

I cannot follow Dr. Vernial into these developments that he gave to this idea that might, on first glance and for minds not well versed in these very interesting sociological studies, seem, if not paradoxical, at least outlandish, nor can I judge if these concepts are true: I can merely make note of them.

But, seeing the argument that shows us that such and such a race is condemned to an ephemeral, transitory existence by "these natural laws that we are unconsciously subject to," I wonder if the same *raison d'être* might not exist for a lesser known and lesser studied race, one that is relegated to the lowest rank, and whose evolutive history is nevertheless quite interesting: I want to speak of the Black race.

It is said that the French people, the Latin race, are on the path of rapid decline, and, to explain this alarming fact, many reasons are invoked: When a situation cannot be remedied, we try to explain it. But it is also said, and often repeated, that the Black race is in decline. And in this case, as soon as it is a matter of poor wretches, the reasons are quickly found and accepted without discussion. They flatter, by the way, ethnic self love, and they should not. It is repeated that the Black race is disappearing because from the day they came in contact with the white race, they became the victim of their

own intellectual inferiority, that, in the battle for survival, the weak give way to the strong in the physical domain as in the psychical domain. And, to support this hypothesis that flatters those who use it, they do not fail to cite the general name of the Indians of the Americas, a false name, but sanctioned by usage and which, since the arrival of the Whites, of the "Conquistadors," has diminished and will soon be in the state of a historical memory.

But is this a fair comparison? Are the two cases identical?

I would much rather adopt the reasons astutely examined by doctor Vernial, relative to the evolution of the races, generalizing them to all, believing them true for all, as applicable to the Black races as to the Indian, Latin, Chinese or Semitic.

Now, between the Indian races (of the Americas) and the Black, the evolutive characteristics are totally different, and do not support any element of comparison.

Dr. de GLEYGNON

(*More to follow*)

FOR THOSE WHO ARE BORED

A LOVELY WORD FROM DUMAS PÈRE

The night of the first performance of *The Lady of the Camelias*, Alexandre Dumas was enjoying the success of his son.

During the intermission, a friend came to greet him, and, thinking he would flatter him, said:

"Are you in the play... You must have had something to do with it?"

"I should think so," replied Dumas, "I made the author."

The abundance of material obliges us to postpone the interesting publication of the "Preface" to a History of Haiti, by our collaborator Louis Borno, to next week.

MISCELLANY

IN GUATEMALA

A girl avenges the death of her father – In the aftermath of the troubles that erupted in Guatemala, after the victories of San Salvador, General Barrundia, ex-Minister of War of Guatemala under President Barrios, rebelled against Barillas and had emigrated to Mexico.

Learning that a general amnesty had been granted, he had embarked for

Panama on an American steamer. Barillas, informed of the return of his old adversary, demanded his capture. The captain refused unless he received an order from Mr. Mizner, minister of the United States in Guatemala. The latter made the mistake of authorizing the Guatemalan police to seize the fugitive. The general seeming to resist, the agents, instead of disarming him and forcing him to the ground, killed him on board, without the captain protesting.

The next day, General Barrundia's daughter, a great and beautiful person of 18 years, showed up at the United States' minister's house and fired on him with four blows of a revolver. The minister survived, and the young girl was arrested and held incommunicado.

This act of filial love stirred up the Guatemalan population, who took up the defence of its author. The American legation was likely to be ransacked, if the adept police had not stepped in.

It has been announced that the government of Guatemala has decided to exile Miss Barrundia.

UNIVERSAL SCIENTIFIC ALLIANCE

For the Victims in Fort-de-France

In order to give an exceptional attraction to the great festivities that it is organizing for the profit of the victims in Fort-de-France, the municipality of Antwerp has solicited the Minister of War for the support of the music of the republican guard. Mr. de Freycinet having agreed to the request, the music of the guard, under the direction of its leader Mr. Wetge, will leave Paris next Friday the 12th. The voyage will take five days. A magnificent welcome is prepared for the premier French military music by the population of Antwerp, who remember the festival organized last year, in Paris, in favour of the victims of the catastrophe of Antwerp, and which will surely pay the debt of recognition that it contracted with regard to France.

A USEFUL CONTEST

As seen in the notification letter publishing in our last issue, Cardinal Lavigerie, in order to affirm, by way of a useful work, the importance of the anti-slavery congress that will take place in Paris, has just opened a contest for the composition of a popular work destined to indicate the means of abolishing slavery in Africa. A prize of 20,000 francs is set aside for the author of the work that is chosen as the winner.

²Published by Sauvaire, Libraire Générale, Paris.

We hope that this news will have an impact in Haiti, and that our moralists and our young writers will take part in such a noble literary tournament.

A THEATRICAL MARRIAGE

In Denver, a city in Colorado (United States), two actors and two actresses each night performed a scene in which they got engaged. Three weeks ago, in filling these roles, they were so infused with their characters that, the moment that the curtain fell at the end of the play, they had a protestant pastor come on the scene and unite them—this time for real. The public, becoming aware of what was going on, cheered on the four artists, and the orchestra played a nuptial march, and the maitre d's immediately transformed the theatre into a banquet hall of one hundred and fifty place settings.

A DUEL BETWEEN WOMEN

An encounter with épées took place Monday morning between two women of loose morals, one of whom was a young American.

The irons had hardly been engaged when Pandora arose unexpectedly, and brought the delinquents with all due gallantry to the police station.

After a severe reprimand, the magistrate sent the two enemies away without having been able to reconcile them.

The épées, weapons of great value, were confiscated.

It is useless to describe the motive of this encounter... Look for the man!

It is, all the same, really too *fin de siècle*.

PAULUS AND GENERAL BOULANGER

An editor of the *Gaulois* had an interview with Paulus. — "Ah! The general," the famous singer cried, "I'm associated with him! But, Sir, I did not create General Boulanger, I only consecrated him. I cannot create anyone. All I do is respond to ambitious people who request that I launch them with my songs.

"The public is my master, and I am its valet; in order for me to keep the favour of my audience, it is necessary that no protestation is raised from among the spectators.

"From the moment I took up Boulanger, he was unanimously liked. He was like a painting; he was made, I polished him; so people should stop associating me with him.

"All the more because, as soon as he

started being discussed, I introduced variations.

"Currently, it would be just as impossible to sing about Boulanger as to sing about Ferry or Constans."

COSTLY HONOURS

On the 2nd of August, the English warship *Truth*, having prince George of Wales on board, entered into the port of Halifax. A deputation of residents went on board to invite the son of the future king of England to a banquet that was going to take place in the town. The invitation being made without warning, it could not be accepted, and five midshipmen [English in original] (naval cadets) were charged with going ashore to thank the townspeople and to announce that the prince could not come. Our five rash fellows had the idea to take advantage of the to play a prank on the townspeople. One of them, who looked a bit like the prince, claimed to be prince George. He filled the role wonderfully. He received honours from all and showed himself particularly friendly with the young ladies of Halifax. The banquet was extremely lively; there were toasts to the queen, to the Prince of Wales, and to the fleet. The false prince responded most courteously.

The whole affair would have remained unknown if not for a visit from a delegation from the town that came on board.

The five jokesters were immediately discharged and given over to a war council.

FINANCIAL BULLETIN

The French market for public funds is still in the same state. The start of a new term almost always follows the reactions of a few centimes. The new school of speculation, whose end we are awaiting, seems conversely to be growing with more vitality. Poor placements are somewhat encouraged. We are unfortunately too weakened by the foreign placements that are continuing. The values of credit are encountering serious difficulties in the progress, because of public indifference. As the Bank of Paris increases, the Bank of France lowers. As for property and communal obligations, they are staying steady. In short, the signs of decrease, that were showing in May, in the aftermath of the campaign that we had qualified, were promptly erased. Finally, good public sense has had the upper hand.

THE THEATRE IN PARIS

The theatrical year has started. Shortly the reopenings will all be done. The drift this season seems to

be toward music. In the place of the *Menus-Plaisir*, which are becoming naturalistic with *L'Assomoir*, operetta scenes are being staged at Montmartre and at Rochechouart. Mr. Verdurd is promising a serious campaign competing with the Opera, and finally Mr. Desfossés has just had an excellent opening at the Opéra-Bouffé.

The latter theatre is none other than the *Paradis Latin* transformed, cleared of its galleries where male and female students would lounge and watch acrobats. The current director, active and intelligent, joins a tenacity with a methodical mind that will assure him serious success in the future.

It is thus that, leaving aside singers and puppets, Mr. Désfossés is assembling a troupe of very diverse elements drawn from the corners of the capital and the recesses of the province. Of all these subjects, he has made a charming whole, which has given us *Les noces d'Olivette* with flair and spirit.

The play suffered a bit from a weak diction along with long and useless speeches particularly in the final act. But the actors offset this fault with truly masterful qualities.

We must also congratulate the head of the orchestra Mr. Allery, who directs conscientiously, both the choirs whose assembly and size are worth noting, and the musicians who are attentive to his energetic rhythm.

In a word: the troupe, the play, the costumes, the hall (a true little boudoir), make the Opéra-Bouffé into a charming place, intelligently directed, that deserves complete success. We hope it for Mr. Désfossés, asking him for novelties.

The Folies-Dramatiques have given us a vaudeville in three acts of Messrs. Vallabrègue and David: *Le Pompier de Justine*.

The oddity of the book is in these two lines: The firefighter of Justine is not just one firefighter, but two firefighters, who are not a single firefighter, since they are a fake.

This demands an explanations. Here it is:

Blanchinel, a court bailiff who is legitimately married, expresses his love to the wife of Durozoir, an old soft protector of animals and eater of vegetables. Now, the court bailiff to better conceal his schemes, disguises as a firefighter and goes out thus. He is noticed by his own maid, Justine, who falls madly in love with him. At that time, she is discharged by Madame Blanchinel and passes into the service of Durozoir. She can thus see her firefighter, who is not the only man going to the house of her new master.

The court bailiff's second clerk is in

love with Blanchinel's wife, and tells him about her husband's escapades. The woman is furious, and, wanting to catch her husband in the act, leaves and encounters Justine with a firefighter. But this one is not her husband, but Germain, her own valet, who has fallen for the Mr. Durozoir's new cook. This Germain, knowing that she loves a firefighter, he puts on a beard and a costume, and in this uniform he gets near to his beauty. From this point, total buffoonery. Germain gets heated, while Blanchinel is stony toward Justin who does not understand anything that is going on.

Then the court bailiff surprises his wife with a firefighter; the cook think she has "faulted" with Monsieur, and understands with difficulty that it was Germain. Durozoir demands reparations for his maid from Blanchinel, who believes they are referring to the former's wife.

In short, *Le Pompier de Justine* is a salad in which there is much to laugh at; but the care to sort through it is left entirely to the public, the author did nothing to that end.

For the performance, there is Germain, Gubin and Guyon, all excellent, and who, with Miss Leriche, are four masters of their craft. But the rest!...

MARIUS BERGERET

FANTASIST CHRONICLE

"How sad you are!" a good friend of mine said to me a few days ago. "What's the matter? Did something annoying happen to you, so that you, who is always so gay, should have such a piteous face?"

"Yes, I'm sad, unenthusiastic, regretful. You ask me why? The reason is very simple, it's because I am currently in Paris. Yes, I, Parisian in my soul, born in Paris, having always lived in Paris, adoring Paris, I am almost sick because I am here now."

In fact, is it not September? The middle of the vacation? In a period when no one wants to do anything but go take deep breaths of the air of the countryside? The scattering is general, there is no place where one does not encounter a Parisian; there is no dell, however overlooked it might be, that has not become a retreat for one of them. Some go do more or less perilous ascents of the Alps, others go to spread their happiness and laughter on the Pyrenees; as for the beaches of Normandy, they are a general rendezvous.

Moreover, I cannot refrain from comparing our great capital to an immense apartment whose inhabitants, who we will imagine as a large and happy family, are absent; the furniture is covered, the curtains are closed, there is

no life inside; only one of its members, all alone, is there at the moment; one room is enough for him; when he passes by the closed doors where normally he hears the laughter of little children, in the grand hall where meals are so joyous in the winter and where now nothing moves, he can't help feeling a pang in his heart. Paris at this time is producing the same effect in me as this big empty house.

Yesterday, I was looking for a distraction on the promenade and chance led my steps into that deserted quarter (which no one thinks about anymore) called Invalides, Champ-de-Mars, and where, less than a year ago, our brilliant exposition took place.

At that time no one spoke of anything but IT, of the exposition, which was attracting so many thousands of individuals; from all the corners of the world, people flocked toward it; today, no more. Don't think I am saying that it should have gone on longer, no, but in spite of myself I can't help thinking about that little riddle that young children on school benches are always entertaining themselves with, and which consists of punching a number of different shaped holes in a line along a sheet of paper. The solution (which I hardly dare to offer) is that the days come one after the other but don't look anything alike. Indeed, what a difference between Au-

gust 1889 and August 1890. One year ago, what life in this vicinity, what admiration! Every day one hundred, every day two hundred thousand people wandered through, mixing their gaiety, their laughter, their cries of admiration at the imposing spectacle, at the thundering manifestations of human activity.

In two years a village was built, the most picturesque in the world, enclosing so many wonders, that it would take a lifetime to admire their prodigious and intelligent results, to rapturously observe the countless difficulties vanquished by the energy of mankind, by his tireless patience and his genius.

Reflecting on these things, I arrived at the foot of that Eiffel Tower, that giant full of boldness and originality, striking witness to the labour of human thought; I was thinking about the bustling around her the year before, much more than any anthill, of these tiny people who were rushing around her feet, sometimes looking up to her haughty head, crowned with a giant tricolour flag. The weather was grey, clouds were quickly brushing her summit, and in her current isolation, sombre against a sombre sky, she seemed to lament her triumph of the previous summer, lament that that era had already passed... and I was just like her.

EMILE GERMAIN