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EDWARD WHELAN]

This is true Liberty, when Free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

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Literature.

THE WITHERED KING.

Tyrants dread all whom they raise high in place
From the good, danger,—from the bad, disgrace,
They doubt the lords, mistrust the people's hate,
Till blood becomes a principle of state;
Secured nor by their guards, nor by their right;
But still they fear even more than they fright.

COWLEY.

So have I read a story of a king
Whose hand was heavy on the hearts of men,
Whose tongue spoke lies, and every lie a sting,
Who trampled onward through a gory fen,
And laugh'd to see its teeming haze arise,
Spreading a crimson mist before the skies.

But age fell on him, and with age a dread
Of life and death—a leading gloom of fear
That sat down at his board, and filled his bed,
And stirr'd his flesh, and crept within his ear.
In crowds he fear'd each man; and when alone,
He fear'd himself, and wasted to the bone.

Within a castle strongly fortified
He shut himself, and listened all day long
To his own mutterings, and the wind that sigh'd
In the outer trees, a close and secret song;
And when night fell he sat with straining ear,
And hearken'd for some danger gathering near.

For there were foes within his land, and they
Were mighty, and had cur'd a forward path;
And he could hear their marching on their way,
With endless tramping and a cry of wrath,
As though the many he had laid in ground
Had risen with a huge triumphant sound.

Therefore an iron grating, like a net,
He cast about the walls at every point,
With iron turrets at the corners set,
And massive clamps that grappled joint to joint;
And at the loop-holes always might be seen
The warders with their arrows long and keen.

Likewise upon the ramparts at all hours
The pacing sentries wandered to and fro,
Outlooking from the high and windy towers
Over the level plain that drows'd below;
And to them constantly the king would cry
To shoot at whomsoever wandered by.

From forth this prison durst he never pass,
But roam'd about the chambers up and down;
And twenty times a day he cried, "Alas!
I wither in my own perpetual frown."
And every day he wish'd that he were dead;
Yet death he fear'd with an exceeding dread.

Along the court-yard, sudden'd with the shade
Of circling battlement—a stony nook—
For natural exercises at times he stray'd,
With eyes upon the ground as on a book;
His own sad captive, fearfully confined
In this his dungeon castle hard and blind.

In bed, when massive darkness fill'd his eyes,
He would lie staring till his sight made gleams
Upon the blackness, and black sleep would rise
As from a cavern, follow'd by fierce dreams
That, blood-hound like, pursued and hunted him
Incessantly through aspects foul and grim.

Sometimes he dreamt the foe had scaled the wall;
And he would wake, and to the ramparts haste,
And see the staring moon sicken and fall
Down the horizon, and the small stars waste
In scarlet day-dawn, while the warder high
Gazed outward with a still and steady eye.

And he would bid the captain of the guard
Appoint a double watch at every post,
And let the sentries be more strongly barr'd;
Then, cold and pale and drooping as a ghost,
He would return to sleep, and with a start
Would wake, and find the terror at his heart.

And so, unwept, he died; and soon his foe
Possess'd the land, and sway'd it with great might;
It is a simple tale of long ago,
Which the swift ages bear up in their flight;
But one large fact a thousand times appears
In the revolving of returning years.

Even now a sceptred tyrant, Europe bann'd,
Listens the enemy's approach, and waits
To hear his strongholds crumble into sand,
And the loud cannon knocking at the gates.
In vain his armed legions round him draw;
For who can save him from his inward awe?

Household Words.

(From the Edinburgh Review.)

THE TAURIC CHERSONESE.

1. *The Crimea and Odessa: Journal of a Tour, with an account of the Climate and Vegetation.* By DR. CHARLES KOCH; translated by JOANNA B. HORNBER. 8vo. London: 1855.
2. *An Historical Sketch of the Crimea.* By ANTHONY GRANT, D. C. L., Archdeacon of St. Alban's, &c. 12mo. London: 1855.

(Concluded.)

We hasten over this obscure and confused epoch to come to one nearer our own time, when the Crimea once more rose into importance in the hands of the Genoese. That active commercial people had from an early period turned their attention to the trade with the East, and sought to rival the Venetians in the markets of Constantinople. But they had long contended in vain against the privileges enjoyed by that favoured people. It was not till 1155 that the first treaty between the Byzantine emperors and the Genoese secured to the latter the same commercial advantages already enjoyed by the Venetians and Pisans. Nearly a century more elapsed before the commencement of their settlements in the Euxine. It was the Latin conquest of Constantinople—an event which seemed likely to establish for ever the supremacy of their Venetian rivals in these seas—that, on the contrary, opened the way to the maritime supremacy of the Genoese. The establishment of the Latin Empire secured to the Venetians, for the short period of its duration, the exclusive command of the Bosphorus and the Black Sea; but it threw the Greek emperors into the arms of their rivals; and Michael Palaeologus, who had already before his accession concluded an alliance with the Genoese, no sooner found himself established on the throne of Constantinople than he hastened to accord to them privileges as ample, and monopolies as exclusive, as had been previously enjoyed by their rivals. They were not slow in availing themselves of those advantages. Their establishment at Galata speedily rose from a mere commercial factory into a fortified suburb, which awed and intimidated the feeble emperors of Byzantium, while it gave to its enterprising possessors the exclusive command of the

Bosphorus, and with it, of almost the whole commerce of the Black Sea. The possession of this trade was at this period the more important, as the ports of Syria and Egypt were now in great measure closed against Christian merchants, and the trade with India across the Isthmus of Suez had almost entirely disappeared after the conquest of Egypt by the Saracens. But commerce is ever ready to find for itself new channels; and long disused or neglected caravan routes through Central Asia now became the means of transporting the gems and spices of India, and the silks of China, to the shores of the Black Sea, and the markets of Europe. The Genoese soon absorbed into their own hands the greater part of this lucrative trade, though the Venetians still continued the competition with them, and carried on constant intercourse with Tana, in spite of all the efforts of their rivals. The latter possessed almost exclusively the supply of Constantinople—still the most populous and flourishing city of the East—with corn, fish and salt, for all which important articles it was mainly dependent upon the northern shores of the Euxine.

But the Genoese were not long contented with the footing they had thus permanently gained at the entrance of the Black Sea, and sought to establish themselves equally firm at other points on its shores. The Byzantine emperors had long ceased to exercise any kind of sovereignty over the countries north of the Euxine; and the Greek colonies there had wholly disappeared, with the single exception of Cherson, which, though greatly enfeebled and decayed, still retained some traces of its former prosperity, and carried on a certain amount of trade with Constantinople. The Crimea had at this time fallen under the dominion of the Tartar khans of Kaptchak, who about the middle of the thirteenth century had founded a powerful kingdom in the southern provinces of Russia, and given a check to the growing power of that empire, which for nearly three centuries reduced it to comparative insignificance. These Tartar chiefs, with a policy more enlightened than was commonly found among their brethren, seem to have been desirous of promoting commercial intercourse with more civilized nations, and lent a favourable ear to the overtures of the Genoese, to whom they granted in the first instance considerable privileges. Of these, the most important was that of erecting a factory for the residence of their merchants and the security of their goods. The spot selected by the Genoese was at Kaffa, on the site of the ancient Greek colony of Theodosia. This last had fallen into decay long before, and no trace of it is found after it is mentioned by Arrian as lying in ruins. But a village had grown up on the spot, which is mentioned in the tenth century by the name of Kaffa, though it was apparently an obscure and unimportant place, till the Genoese, attracted by the advantages of its port, or rather roadstead, determined to make it the emporium of their trade in the Black Sea. Their humble factory—for at first it was really nothing more—soon followed the example of Galata, and rose with rapidity into a flourishing town. As early as the year 1318, about forty years after its first foundation, it was erected into a bishopric by Pope John XXII., on the express ground of its opulent and populous condition. In 1357 the trench and rampart, which had at first served for its defence, were replaced by a stone wall and towers; the city itself was by this time adorned with splendid buildings, and is said to have contained not less than a hundred thousand inhabitants. We are assured by contemporary writers that Kaffa vied in splendour with its parent city of Genoa, and even with the imperial Constantinople,—a statement we suspect of exaggeration, but which at least bears testimony to the impression produced by its opulence.

But we must not suppose that the Genoese had established their power without opposition, or that the rising prosperity of Kaffa was altogether undisturbed by storms and reverses. The Greek emperors soon began to take umbrage at the power they had themselves raised, and the insolent and domineering tone which the colonists of Galata early began to assume. Conscious of their naval superiority, which gave them the almost absolute command of a capital situated like Constantinople, the Genoese were not content with excluding their commercial rivals from the trade of the Euxine, but began to assert their own exclusive rights against the Greek emperors themselves. They gradually absorbed into their own hands the fisheries of the Bosphorus, the customs, and even the tolls which were levied by the Imperial authorities at the entrance of the strait. The Byzantine emperors found themselves powerless to resist these encroachments of the haughty republicans; but the Venetians were unwilling to submit without a struggle to the dominion of their rivals. In the reign of Andronicus the Elder a great sea fight took place in the Bosphorus, under the very walls of Constantinople, between the fleets of the two powerful republics. The Genoese were worsted, and the Venetian galleys for a time rode triumphant in the Black Sea. A squadron of twenty-five ships, under Giovanni Supranzo, attacked the rising colony of Kaffa, and made themselves masters of the town; but having had the imprudence to winter there, the Venetian commander lost a great part of his crews by the cold. This was in 1297; the next year the great naval victory of Curzola restored the superiority of the Genoese; Kaffa was re-built, and their power in the Euxine re-established more firmly than before.

Their relations with the Tartar khans were for the most part of the most peaceable character. We are even told that they had established so high a reputation with that people for justice and fair dealing, that the Tartars of the Crimea used to resort to the magistrates at Kaffa for the settlement of their own disputes, and a regular tribunal was established for their decision. But this tranquility was liable to occasional disturbance, and on one occasion the colonists had to stand a long protracted siege from the arms of the Khan, or Emperor, as he is styled, of Kaptchak; but the fortifications of Kaffa defied his efforts. At another time the Tartar sovereign avenged his defeat on this occasion by a promiscuous massacre of the Genoese traders who were dispersed through the Crimea or settled at Tana; and the republicans in consequence instituted a regular blockade of all the coasts of his dominions. A collateral effect of this measure was to cause a famine at Constantinople, which was thus deprived of its ordinary supplies of corn.

But it was the war in which the Genoese found themselves engaged, in 1350, with the Byzantine emperor, John Cantacuzenus, that finally established their dominion in the Black Sea. The increasing arrogance of the colonists of Galata, who now sought nothing less than to prohibit the Greeks themselves from the exercise of navigation, even within the waters of their own dominions, at length drove the feeble emperor to an attempt at resistance. But his fleet was speedily annihilated by that of the Genoese; and his only resource was to call in the assistance of their rivals, the Venetians. "The weight of the Roman empire," observes Gibbon, "was scarcely felt in the balance of these opulent and powerful republics; and the Emperor of the East was content to look on as a passive spectator at the memorable battle which decided the contest, under the walls of Constantinople. The victory was claimed by both parties, but the real success rested with the Genoese; and three months after the battle the Emperor Cantacuzenus accorded to them by treaty the exclusive right of navigation in the Black Sea.

Kaffa now reigned without a rival in the Euxine. The Venetians bound themselves by treaty to forego the trade with Tana, at the head of the Sea of Azoff. Cherson, at the western extremity of the Crimea, which had still maintained a feeble and languishing trade with the Greek capital, now sunk into utter decay. Sudak, or Soldaia, as the Italians termed it, a Greek town on the southern coast of the Crimea, which, before the rise of Kaffa, had enjoyed some prosperity, was attacked

* No mention is found of Cherson at the time of the Turkish conquest of the Crimea; it was, probably, already desolate. Bronovius, who visited and described its ruins in 1595, found them totally uninhabited. It is hardly necessary to remark that the Russian town of Cherson, at the mouth of the Dnieper, founded by Catherine II. in 1778, has no claim to any connexion with the Greek city of which it has usurped the name.

and taken, in 1365, by the colonists of that city, under their consul Bartolomeo di Jacopo. The same fate soon after befell the small town of Cembalo—an Italian corruption of the Greek name of Symbolon, which we find applied, as early as the time of Strabo, to the remarkable land-locked port of Balaklava. Both these points were secured by the Genoese with strong castles, the picturesque ruins of which still remain. Some years later a special treaty with the Khan of Kaptchak secured to them the absolute dominion of the long strip of coast which extends from the one point to the other,—the beautiful district now becomes the favourite resort of the Russian nobility, and of which every traveller speaks in terms of well-merited admiration.

The Genoese pursued the same enlightened policy towards their distant colonies as the Greeks had done, and treated them rather as allies than as subjects. Both Galata and Kaffa seem to have been left, in great measure, to their own management. The parent republic protected them against foreign aggression, and fought their battles against the Venetians. But, in these cases, her own commercial empire was at stake, as well as the interests of her colonists. At other times the colonial administration was left, practically, in the hands of the citizens of each place, though the chief magistrate, who was termed Podesta at Galata, and Consul at Kaffa, was always appointed by the mother city. The frequent occurrence of the names of the noblest Genoese families shows that the most illustrious of her citizens did not disdain to join the colonists in the Black Sea.

For more than a century the whole course of events tended to the aggrandisement of Kaffa and the extension of its dominion. Tana, the important emporium at the mouth of the Don, was destroyed by Tamerlane, as it were incidentally, on his expedition against the Tartars of Kaptchak in 1391, and the whole of its trade was thenceforth transferred to Kaffa. At the same time the conqueror of Asia so effectually humbled the Tartar potentates in question, that they from thenceforth became far less formidable neighbours to the Genoese colonists, whose alliance and favour they courted by every means in their power. It was not long before this that the all-powerful merchants had succeeded in establishing themselves in an almost equally dominant position at the south-eastern corner of the Euxine. Here a dynasty of Byzantine Greeks, an offshoot of the imperial family of the Comneni, had established themselves in an independent position after the conquest of Constantinople by the Latins, and assumed the proud title of Emperors of Trebizond. The city of that name—originally a colony of Sinope, and familiar to the readers of Xenophon as the place where the Ten Thousand first reached the sea, and found themselves once more among their countrymen—had always retained its Greek population and character, but had first risen into importance under the Roman empire. The emperor Hadrian had constructed there a well-sheltered artificial port to supply the deficiency previously felt of a secure anchorage for shipping, at a place which seems marked by nature for one of the principal points of communication between Europe and the East. Even at the present day, though it has again nothing more than an insecure roadstead, Trebizond is, next to Odessa, the most important trading town on the Black Sea, and sends into the interior of Persia and Asiatic Turkey a yearly increasing quantity of European manufactures.

So important a commercial position was not likely to be neglected by the Genoese; and almost as soon as they began to extend their power in the Black Sea, we find them establishing themselves in considerable numbers at Trebizond. Their trade with that place became inferior only to that which they carried on with Kaffa and Tana. But its progress was checked for a time by their own immoderate pretensions. The Genoese government having sent an embassy formally to claim the same privileges accorded to them by the emperors of Constantinople, and insisting not only on the exemption of their goods from the transit duties levied on all others, but on the right to farm those duties for themselves, Alexius II., then emperor of Trebizond, had the courage to refuse; and in the contest that ensued, the warehouses of the Genoese were set on fire, and all their valuable merchandise consumed. "After this," says the chronicler, "they behaved themselves more quietly." But it was only for a time. They soon repaired their losses, and renewed their extensive commercial establishments at Trebizond. In 1348 they broke out into open war with the emperor Michael, took the important town of Kerasunt, the second city in his dominions; and only agreed to restore it in return for the cession of Leontokastron, a fortress close to Trebizond itself, and completely commanding its harbour. But even this did not satisfy the grasping ambition of the Genoese; and circumstances that led to the final establishment of their power at Trebizond are too curious and characteristic to be omitted.

Megollo Lercari, a Genoese of noble birth, established in Kaffa, was one of the most wealthy of the merchant princes of that opulent city. During an occasional residence at Trebizond he was grossly insulted by a favourite page of the reigning emperor, Alexius III., who had the insolence to strike him in the presence of the whole court. Lercari instantly appealed to the emperor; but Alexius protected his minion, and affected to treat the affair as a trifle. Hereupon the Genoese indignantly withdrew from Trebizond, vowing vengeance, not against the miserable page, but his imperial protector. With the assistance of his friends and kinsmen at Genoa, he quickly fitted out two galleys, which were far more than a match for any ships of war belonging to the petty prince who gloried in the title of Emperor of Trebizond. Cruising with these vessels on the southern shore of the Euxine, he carried on a piratical warfare against the subjects of Alexius. The Greeks of Trebizond and Kerasunt had still up to this time retained a certain portion of the maritime trade in their own hands; but now they saw their commerce ruined, their ships captured, and their coasts ravaged by the insolent and daring Lercari; while a feeble attempt on the part of the emperor to protect them, only resulted in the capture of all the imperial galleys that were sent out to the rescue. With a barbarity unworthy of his name and country, Lercari cruelly mutilated all the prisoners that fell into his hands, by cutting off their noses and ears, and sent a barrel full of these miserable trophies to the emperor, with the threat that he would continue to exact a similar tribute till he should obtain full satisfaction for the insult he had received. Alexius had no choice but to submit, and surrendered the wretched page into the hands of his enemy. But Lercari, with a magnanimity hardly to be expected from his previous cruelty, scorned to punish the poor stripling, and contented himself with having humbled his master. At the same time he took the opportunity to secure for his countrymen a fresh commercial treaty by which the whole trade of Trebizond was virtually secured to them.

The beginning of the fifteenth century was the period when the power of the Genoese in the Black Sea was at its greatest height. Even the conquests of the Ottoman Turks did not for a considerable time seriously interfere with it. But the capture of Constantinople by Mahomet II., 1453, involved their flourishing colony of Galata in the ruin of the capital; and though Kaffa still survived for a time, and from its secluded position witnessed in apparent security the successive fall of Constantinople and Trebizond, it was evident that its own fate could not be far distant. It was accelerated by domestic dissensions. Such was the influence that the Genoese colonists had at this time acquired over the Tartar chiefs, that the governors or Khans of the Crimea were not appointed by their superior lord, the Khan of Kaptchak, without the consent and approbation of the magistrates of Kaffa. A contest had arisen between two candidates for his appointment, in which the Genoese magistrates, who had been gained by large bribes, favoured the cause of the wrongfully claimant, and succeeded in forcing his appointment upon the unwilling Khan. Hereupon Eminek, the defeated candidate, had recourse to a more powerful protector, and persuaded Mahomet II., who had just assembled a powerful fleet and army for the conquest of Rhodes, to turn his efforts against Kaffa. The appearance of so formidable

an armament struck terror into the citizens of the colony, who were already divided among themselves by internal dissensions, and assailed from without by a Tartar force under Eminek. On the 6th of June, 1475, after a faint attempt at resistance for a few days, they opened their gates to the Turkish commander, Achmet Pacha. He promised to spare their lives, but transported forty thousand of the inhabitants to Constantinople, where they served in some measure to fill the gap of desolation that had been created in that populous capital by the Turkish conquest.

The fall of Kaffa was naturally followed by that of the smaller places held by the Genoese in the peninsula. The fate of most of these has nothing to arrest our attention. But the remarkable rock-fortress of Mangouk deserves to be made an exception, not only on account of the heroic resistance offered by its defenders to the overwhelming forces of the Turks, but as the last occasion on which the once dreaded name of the Goths makes its appearance in history. In the mountain district of the Crimea, that people had preserved its nationality and its language for above twelve centuries; and the two brothers who so gallantly defended the fortress of Mangouk against the troops of Mahomet II. showed that they had not degenerated from the hereditary valour of their race.

Thus fell the power of the Genoese in the peninsula. But it would be unjust to attribute (as Dr. Koch has done) the final desolation and decay of Kaffa to its Turkish conquerors. Severely as it suffered on this occasion, as well as from the subsequent oppression of the Tartar Khan Mengli Ghior, who now ruled the Crimea as tributary to the Turks, it is certain that it subsequently recovered itself to a great degree, and became one of the most flourishing commercial cities in the Black Sea. So far from all trade having disappeared with the departure of the Genoese, we learn from Chardin, who visited it in 1672, that the town then contained not less than 4000 houses, and carried on so active a trade that during the space of forty days which he spent there, not less than 400 vessels arrived in or quitted its port. At a later period, Poyssonnet, who was for many years French Consul-General in the Crimea, estimated the population of Kaffa, shortly before its conquest by the Russians, at 85,000 souls. Forty years after that event it was reduced to less than 4000; and even as late as 1834, had not again risen to more than 4500. Pallas himself, writing in 1803, under the authority of the Russian Government, deprecates the state of desolation of this once opulent city, which was already little more than a heap of ruins. The splendid Genoese churches had been spared by the Turks and Tartars, who had contented themselves with converting them into mosques; but they have been demolished, with one single exception, by the Russian authorities. The picturesque walls and towers, which still subsisted uninjured in the day of Pallas, have been since almost entirely destroyed, and their materials employed in the construction of barracks. Kaffa, in the hands of the Tartars, was probably but a shadow of what it had once been under the Genoese; but it was immeasurably superior to what it has become under the Russians.

We cannot attempt here to trace any further the fortunes of the Crimea. Under the government of the Tartar Khans it sank for more than three centuries into that state of obscurity from which it has only recently emerged. But the events of the last twelve months have earned for it a place in history which can never again be lost. Whatever be the destinies of the Crimea itself, its name has become imperishable; and the gallant deeds that have been done under the walls of Sebastopol will live as long as the English language shall endure. But it is impossible to repress a hope that this memorable contest may be also the beginning of a fairer period for the country in which it has been carried on; and when we look back at the important position once held by the Tauric Peninsula under the Greeks and the Genoese, we cannot but feel that its natural advantages require only to be developed by a more liberal policy, in order that it should again rise to a condition both of agricultural and commercial prosperity very different from the state to which it has fallen under the Russian Government.

* In the treaty of 1380 between the Khan of Kaptchak and the Genoese, "la Götia con i suoi essai di i suoi popoli e dei suoi Cristiani" is annexed to the dominions of the latter. Giuseppe Barbiero, who has left us a curious account of Tana, and the trade with the interior of Asia in the fifteenth century, remarks, "I Götii parlano in Tedesco." (Ramusio, vol. ii. p. 91.)

† Chardin, *Voyage en Perse*, vol. i. pp. 47, 48.

‡ Dubois de Montperoux, vol. v. p. 285.

§ We regret to have received Mr. Danby Seymour's interesting and comprehensive volume upon the Shores of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff too late to have availed ourselves in this article of the result of his researches and observations; but we recommend the work to our readers as one of the most complete productions which has been published on this interesting subject.

A VENTRILOQUIST ON THE DOCK.—Quite an exciting scene occurred at one of our wharfs yesterday:

The hands of one of our steamers were engaged in rolling off a cask, when to the consternation and surprise of the persons engaged in performing that operation, a voice was heard within the cask.

"Roll it easy, these darned nails hurt; I'd rather pay my passage than stand all this."

Holding up their hands, their visages expanded to the size of two saucers, the two laborers exclaimed—

"That beats the d—!"

The mate coming up at this moment, and unaware of the cause of delay, commenced cursing them for their dilatoriness, when from within the voice again came forth—

"You're nobody; let me out of this."

"What's that?" said the mate.

"Why it's me!" said the voice, "I want to get out—I won't stand this any longer!"

"End up the cask," said the mate.

"Oh, don't—you'll kill me!" said the voice, "These darned nails prick me. Look out,—don't!" again said he casked-up individual, as the men were turning it over.

"Cooper," said the mate, "unhead this cask, and take out that man."

As the adze sundered the hoops, and the head was coming out, the voice again broke forth—

"Be easy now! is there any one about? I don't want to be caught!"

Quite a crowd had now gathered around the "scene of action," when to the utter astonishment of the by-standers, a loud guttural laugh broke forth which made our hair stand on end, the cask was found filled with bacon.

"What does it mean?" said one.

"I swear, it beats my time," said the mate.

We enjoyed the joke too well to "blow," as we walked off arm in arm with the "Fakir of Ava," the ventriloquist and magician.—*Exchange Paper.*

CONFLICT BETWEEN THE POWERS.—Our young friend, Kamehameha the Fourth, King of the Sandwich Islands, is turning out to be a trump. On the 16th of June last, he followed the brilliant example of Cromwell and Napoleon, and dissolved the Legislature. The Appropriation Bill voted by the House exceeded the revenue about two hundred thousand dollars, and the King refused to sanction direct taxation to make up the deficit. He has ordered a new election, and Parliament was called to meet at Honolulu on the 30th of July. The young King has evidently caught the dictatorial spirit of the age. Well, why shouldn't he have his little *coup d'état*?—*N. Y. Herald.*