

## SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, JULY 6.

### A Stormy Epoch.

The second half of the present century, ushered in by the revolutionary outbreaks of 1848, promises to be the most stormy that the world has for a long time seen. For the last ten years we have had nothing but "wars and rumors of wars." The long peace which ensued after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, was broken by France, England and Sardinia, in a war against Russia in the Crimea. No sooner was this contest brought to a close than the present ruler of the French commenced hostilities against Austria, for the purpose of depriving her of a portion of her Italian possessions. Solferino and Magenta are still as fresh in the minds of everybody as if they were fought but a month or two ago.

Then followed a war between the French and English on the one side, and the Chinese on the other, which resulted in some further concessions from his Celestial Majesty, but the conflict was scarcely ended before a rebellion against British authority, on a gigantic scale, broke out in India. 1861 was signalized by the development of a civil war in a quarter least of all expected—the United States of America. The contest has since grown to proportions never witnessed before in the world. It is the struggle of the Titans modernized. It has been progressing now for fully two years, sometimes with varying success, but upon the whole, to the great advantage of the legitimate Government, for more than one-third of the territory originally claimed by the rebels has been wrested from their grasp. It is not probable that when this war is ended a general peace will dawn upon the world. The condition of

things abroad were never so suggestive of "villainous saltpeire," as at present.

The French have had already some severe fighting in Mexico. After a tedious siege, they captured Puebla. At last dates, they were in possession of the capital of the republic. They cannot remain much longer in their present position without showing their hands. The prospect is probably to convert our sister republic into a colony of France. The nations most likely to object to such an "annexation" are the United States, England and Spain. Just at this time we can do nothing, for we have as much on our hands as we can attend to, but we may have something to say in the matter by and by. England will make no objection. Lord Palmerston recently stated that "France and England were in perfect accord, not only as to all questions in the East, but the West." In fact, that nation has, to all appearances, determined to give up everything that in any way interferes with France. It seeks no longer to maintain its power by arms. Diplomacy and a large royal family, are the supports upon which it now relies.

The Prince of Wales was recently married to a Danish princess. The world saw nothing in it but the union of a young couple. Shortly after the marriage, though, a brother of Alexandra was selected to rule over the Greeks. He has not, however, got the throne yet. An agitation has recently sprung up against him, and Otho, the ex-king, demands six millions of drachms for his private property, which is generally considered to be a home thrust. There is trouble, too, in Prussia. We had a rumor some days ago that a revolution had broken out in Berlin, but no confirmation of it has yet reached us. It is probable, however, that disturbances are imminent there. The present King is in a position somewhat similar to that of Charles I. of England before his condemnation. There is a violent feud between him and his parliament. If he should be deposed, the husband of the Princess Royal of England

is a violent feud between him and his parliament. If he should be deposed, the husband of the Princess Royal of England would become King. At least, so English statesmen calculate; but a revolution may be attended with more weighty consequences.

The Poles are still fighting with as much energy as ever. If there be a revolution in Prussia, it will be one in sympathy with them. The moving cause of the present entanglement was the conclusion of a convention between the king of Prussia and the Czar, on the subject of Poland. Then come the revolutionary Hungarians, and Italy, volcanic politically as well as physically. There is even now talk of a war between France and Russia; and that would lead to other complications sure to involve the whole of Europe in the quarrel. In addition to all these wars and probable wars, a revolution has been going on in New Grenada for some time past. And there are some scattering discharges of musketry by the French in Cochinchina, and the prospect of a war between England and Japan. There is rebellion, too, in China. It has been going on, however, for several years, and in all probability will not be ended during this century.

The times were never so much out of joint as they are at present. It will take more than two generations to come to repair the damages which have already been done by the men of to-day. The prospect for posterity just now is not a very bright one. The amount of debt alone which is being transferred everywhere—in England as well as France, and in America as well as either—to their shoulders, will be sufficient to keep them down, but they will have a general peace, because of the general exhaustion.