

present, heart and soul, in adding, at the suggestion of Thiers, a supplementary paragraph to the posthumous history of Napoleon. The wily politician has applied to our English Government for permission to remove the remains of the great hero of France from St Helena to Paris; the English have acceded to the request with the best possible grace; and the French people, brim-full of sentiment and enthusiasm, and on tiptoe expectation of the coming pageant, are lauding Thiers to the skies as the best possible of all good Ministers, and the English as the most generous of all old enemies, made friends for evermore. When a Roman general wished to conciliate the people of Rome, he turned loose a score or two of wild beasts in the amphitheatre, or hired a few hundred gladiators to fight together till the one-half of them were dead. One general, however, was content just to imitate another general; and though they squandered their bronze and silver in immense sums, there was no expense of invention. Thiers is immensely more original: he has got a dead Napoleon for the French to bury, and will probably command majorities, on the strength of their gratitude and respect, for a twelvemonth or two to come. Even the classes with discernment enough to see through his policy will admire him for the great tact and ability which it displays,—and there is perhaps no civilized people in the world whom the mere admiration of talent or of greatness influences more. The French, as a people, are followers rather of great men than of great principles. Nature does not seem to have intended them for republicans: they were content of old to be little individually, that their kings might be great; and in after days they were equally content to lose their individuality in the glory of Napoleon. But is it not well, for the sake of peace, that the policy of Thiers tells, on the present occasion, as powerfully in favour of the English Government as in that of the sagacious politician himself?