

The sequels of May Day in Europe have been more important and more threatening to the public peace than the events of the day itself. In France, the commandant of the troops at Fourmies assumes the whole responsibility for their action, and declares that they fired upon the mob only when they were in actual danger, and after the mob had been three times ordered to disperse. The popular feeling at Fourmies does not appear to sustain this officer. On the contrary, it is thought that the Government may be disposed to postpone the funeral of the men and women and children who were killed by the firing, lest the funeral should lead to a still graver invasion of public order than was caused by the outbreak which the troops were ordered to suppress. If it be true that a considerable amount of dynamite, intended for use against the troops at Fourmies, has been seized at the Belgian frontier, then, plainly enough, the commandant has received as sufficient a warrant for his action as could possibly be furnished *ex post facto*. Innocent workingmen beat upon obtaining legitimate ends by peaceful means, and interrupted in a harmless "demonstration" by a brutal soldiery, do not take measures the next day to import dynamite for use upon their persecutors.

This, however, is not the main point. The main point is that that is a very uncomfortable condition of society in which Government has to take measures, upon the annual recurrence of any day in the calendar, to prevent a general riot, and yet this seems to be the condition of every country on the Continent of Europe, with one noteworthy exception. It is announced from Vienna that there was a riot in Hungary on Sunday, caused by the demand of the workingmen that their "brethren," who had been put in jail on Friday for disorderly conduct, should be instantly released. It is further announced that 15,000 weavers at Bielitz and 2,000 at Pesth have been dismissed from their employments for being absent from work and engaged in "demonstrating" on May Day. These men are at once converted into discontented idlers and possible rioters. In Italy there was on Friday a very considerable disturbance in Florence, and a riot in Rome that resulted at least in the murder of one policeman. The demonstrations in Belgium have thus far been peaceful, though several demonstrators were wounded at Liège by the police, but they are not free from a serious menace to public order.

While Austria, Italy, and France are thus affected, Germany remains absolutely quiet and goes about her business as if nothing out of the common were happening. This exception to the rule is certainly very striking. Our London correspondent, in his cable letter, to which we called attention on Sunday, attributed it to the fact that the young Emperor of Germany has shown a disposition to inquire into the grievances of the working classes throughout Germany and no indisposition to take their part against their employers if his conclusions were favorable to the workingmen and unfavorable to the employers. This explanation has been scouted in some quarters, but evidently it behooves those who reject it to offer some other explanation of the facts. It cannot be an accident that no disturbance has occurred throughout the whole extent of the German Empire on a day when disturbances more or less serious occurred in all the neighbors of the German Empire. Neither can it be an accident that the Socialist meetings in Germany were very thinly attended on Sunday, when there might have been expected to be a very full attendance if the German workingmen sympathized in the movement that was going on all over Europe. If they did not sympathize in it, what was the cause of the failure? It is quite true that the Emperor has done nothing much to the purpose toward ameliorating the lot of the German workingman, which remains what it was when German socialism seemed in great part to deserve the uglier name of anarchism. But he has shown a desire to ameliorate it, and nobody seems to question the sincerity of this desire. The less educated classes are the more sentimental all the world over, and the Germans are the most sentimental people in Europe. It is not wonderful that the German workingmen should have believed that the Emperor, whose power they know to be far superior to their own, should have the power, as doubtless he has the will, to make his good intentions bear fruit. This is an explanation of the quiet in Germany which cannot be disposed of except by another explanation more plausible and equally consonant with the facts.