

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

PRESENTATION OF THE CARDINAL'S HAT TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF BORDEAUX.—The Prince-President received on Sunday morning Monsignor Flavio Chigi, who remitted to him letters from the Pope, accrediting him as Apostolic Alegate for presenting the Cardinal's hat to Monsignor Donnet, the Archbishop of Bordeaux.

A Mass followed in the chapel of the Tuilleries, which was sumptuously decorated for the occasion, at the end of which, the Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux and the Alegate were introduced into the chapel by Count Bacciochi, la Feuillet de Conches, and an orderly officer; and the Prince-President placed the red hat on the Cardinal's head.

The Prince and the rest of the court then left the chapel, and proceeded to the old throne-room. Then the Cardinal, habited in the purple, was conducted into the presence of the Prince, and addressed to him a speech in which he thanked him at considerable length for the services he had rendered to the cause of religion.

The Prince replied as follows:—

"I did not, Monsieur le Cardinal, expect a speech so eloquent and so nobly developed; you will excuse my only briefly replying to it. Your Eminence cannot doubt the value which I attach to that particular prerogative of my position which permits me, as a layman, to place on the head of one of the Princes of the Church the insignia of the elevated rank he is about to hold. This ceremony is not a vain formality; it is the emblem of the union which should exist between the spiritual and the temporal power, the concord and harmony of which so powerfully contribute to the peace and happiness of the world. I am happy to be able to crown, by so striking a dignity, a career so honorably run; and I am grateful for the kind manner in which your Eminence appreciates my efforts for the prosperity of France, and for the triumph of religion."

Several presentations then took place, and the ceremonies terminated.

SWEARING IN OF THE JUDGES.—On Monday, the 6th inst., the judges of the superior courts took the oath of allegiance at the Elysée. M. Abbatucci, the Minister of Justice, on presenting them to the President, made a short speech, in which he stated that it was to the Prince that the magistracy owed the preservation of that strong organisation which was given to it by the emperor, and that the presence of its highest representatives attested that they would themselves respect, and cause to be respected by others, that constitution which had been proclaimed by the voice of the nation. The Minister afterwards said that the magistracy well knew that it was to the courageous initiative of the Prince that they owed the defeat of demagogy and the re-establishment of order, and that their well-known loyalty was a guarantee for their full adhesion to his government. The Prince replied as follows:—

"Messieurs les Magistrats.—Although I receive your oath with pleasure, the obligation imposed on all the constituted bodies to take it appears to me less necessary on the part of those of whom the noble mission is to make the right dominant and respected. The more authority reposes on an incontestable base, the more it ought naturally to be defended by you. Since the day on which the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people replaced that of Divine right, it may be affirmed with truth that no government has been as legitimate as mine. In 1804, 4,000,000 of votes, in proclaiming the power to be hereditary in my family, designated me as heir to the empire. In 1848, nearly 6,000,000 called me the head of the Republic. In 1851 nearly 8,000,000 maintained me there. Consequently, in taking the oath to me, it is not merely to a man that you swear to be faithful, but to a principle, to a cause, to the national will itself."

The Minister of Justice then read the form of the oath, and called over the names, beginning by the Court of Cassation and the Court of Accounts. Each member, in answer to his name, replied by holding up his hand, and saying, "Je le jure!" When the oath had been administered to all present, the Prince bowed to them and retired.

Orders have been given for the removal of the obstructions which still encumber the Place du Carrousel, and for the complete levelling of that immense space by the 5th of next month. It is said that on that day—the anniversary of the death of the Emperor—a review of the army of the garrison of Paris and the newly-organised National Guard will be held by the President. It is quite possible that the Imperial régime may commence with that date, and the new chief raised on the shields of his soldiers and saluted Caesar. This is as yet surmise, but much more unlikely things have come to pass. While the eagle is thus spreading his wings, and preparing for a new ascent, the secret societies, we are informed, are trying to again bind together their broken links in Paris. Some joints of that tail, which lately was so mighty, have been got together, we are told, and an attempt is made to re-connect them. The propagandism is once more attempted, and funds are raised for the purpose. From the information which has reached us, we should not be surprised if an arrest were made, to-day or to-morrow, of a person whose movements have been watched for some time past, and whose arrival in Paris from Belgium has been daily expected.

THE QUESTION OF PROTECTION.—Louis Napoleon, now that free trade is jeopardised in England, has revived the old duty of twelve francs on foreign sugar. The protection of the beet root sugar manufacture is one of his *Idees Napoléoniennes*.

We read in the *Presse*:— "We think we are well informed in stating that the attention of the government is seriously occupied with important modifications in our military régime."

The question is not to diminish the effective strength of our army, but to substitute voluntary for compulsory enrolment. If we are well informed, the arrangements for this change are well advanced."

Out of the 255 members of which the legislative body is at present composed, 104 have titles of nobility or high rank in the army.

SPAIN.

Our accounts from Madrid are of the 27th ult. The report of the interesting position of Queen Isabella appears to be confirmed. Her Majesty was to proceed to the royal chapel of Atocha to place on the heads of the statues of the Virgin Mary and Infant Jesus the precious crowns made with the jewels she wore on the 2nd of February, the day of the attempt against her life.

A royal decree, countersigned by Senor Gonzalez Romero, Minister of Grace and Justice, directs that daily pensions of four reals each shall be given to all Nuns who entered on their novitiate before the decree of April, 1834, and brought dotations with them, whether they have recently professed, or may do so in future; and those who are in the above case, and may now profess, will not be required to bring new dotations. It is stated that the question of the circumscription of the dioceses in Spain is rapidly proceeding with at the Nunciatura, and that the "Camara Ecclesiastica" is occupied with labors relative to the parochial Clergy.

The *Gazette* contains a further list of sixty-two converts, situated in the dioceses of Avila, Cuenca, Leon, Oriedo, and Placencia, which are authorised to receive noviciates under the Concordat. The maximum number of Nuns to be contained in the whole of these convents is 1,107.

AUSTRIA.

DEATH OF PRINCE SCHWARZENBERG.—Prince Schwarzenberg died suddenly at Vienna on Monday last, the 5th instant, of a stroke of apoplexy.

DENMARK.

The amnesty for the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein has been published. Of the thirty-three natives of Schleswig excepted from the amnesty of the 10th of May, 1851, eighteen are included in the present one; but the following persons remain excepted—the Duke of Augustenburg and his family; Prince Emil Augustus of Schleswig-Sonderburg and his family; M. Beseler, one of the chiefs of the Provisional Government; Count Reventlow-Wittenberg; M. Francke, Minister of Foreign Affairs under the Provisional Government, and several others.

*Fædrelandet* still agitates the question of the succession to the Danish crown, and considers the resignation of Prince Frederick of Hesse-Cassel, the next heir after the Crown-Prince Ferdinand, as decisive of all the direct claims, and that, therefore, nothing remains, according to the *Grundgesetz* of Denmark, but an election of a successor, for which it advocates the choice of an English Prince.

TURKEY.

According to a telegraphic despatch of the 20th of March, received at Vienna from Constantinople, the Sultan wrote under the Egyptian note demanding a modification in the *Tanzimat*, "This request I neither can, ought, nor will grant."

AUSTRALIA.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINES.—The precious metal arrives in daily increasing quantities, and the estimated export has risen from £1,000,000 to £3,000,000 per annum. There is no end to the gold; and as far as we have been able to ascertain from personal communication with diggers of various degree, the labor is by no means so tremendous as some would make it out.

In reference to the Victoria Gold Fields, the *Melbourne Morning Herald* of December 10th says—"Letters were received in town yesterday from the police magistrate at Gipps Land, stating that the whole dividing range between Sydney and Victoria, and known as the Snowy Mountains, for 200 miles in extent, is one vast gold field. There was upwards of a ton and a half of gold in Mr. Commissioner Powlett's tent, waiting for the escort, up to Saturday last, and it is expected that to-day's escort from the Mount will not be able to bring down one half the quantity offered. It is intended to increase the military force here to 100 men."

ST. PATRICK'S BALL—QUEBEC.

The St. Patrick's Society, following up the move of last year, celebrated their anniversary by a Ball and Supper upon a considerable scale, on Monday night last, (April 19.) at the great room attached to the Russell Hotel. About 600 persons were present. The room was most tastefully decorated, and two military bands discoursed most exquisite music throughout the evening, to which the nimble feet of the Terpsichorean votaries beat excellent time.

His Excellency the Governor General, attended by his suite and Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. R. Bruce, and Mrs. Bruce, entered the Ball Room at 10, p.m., and were greeted as usual, with the national anthem, the dancers suspending their operations the while.—The Honbles Messrs. Caron, Taché, Rolph, and Ross, were present. Mr. Morin, from indisposition, was unable to attend. The Hon. Mr. Killaly, the heads of the departments of the Government, the Commandant of the garrison, and Colonels of regiments, were also among the numerous guests invited; and a large array of military, in their gay uniforms, attended the Ball on their own account.

At about half-past twelve, His Excellency led the wife of the Mayor to the supper table, which was amply spread with substantial and delicacies, with wines of various kinds, and with the merry champagne, of a rare vintage, in an inexhaustible supply. The liberality, as well as taste, of the entertainers, was indeed conspicuous in all the arrangements of the evening.

After a certain time spent in feeding the hungry,

Mr. Maguire, President of the Society, proposed the first toast. "The health of our beloved Sovereign," he said, "which I propose to you as a toast, needs no comment from my lips to recommend it to your willing adoption. Her name commands the homage of all, and will not fail to receive an enthusiastic welcome."

The company did not belie the forecast of the President, but greeted the toast with several rounds of enthusiastic cheering.

Mr. Maguire, in offering the next toast, said: "For the first time in this city is the St. Patrick's Society honored by the presence of the Representative of our Sovereign at the celebration of its anniversary. This honor we owe to His Excellency the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, a nobleman justly honored for the exalted office he holds, for his name connected with an illustrious ancestry, respected for the great qualities of mind and disposition by which he is distinguished, and cherished for his many virtues. His Excellency mingles with us in our social meetings and pastimes, as a kind parent with the children in whose welfare and happiness he takes a deep interest, adding to our enjoyment of the occasion by the pleasure which he seems to derive from it. In His Excellency's residence among the free, and happy, and enlightened people of Canada, a Garneau, or other equally impartial and gifted historian, will discover the materials which will supply the brightest page in the recorded annals of this country. His Excellency's presence here this night will be treasured up as an agreeable souvenir, and form an epoch in the history of our Society. I have the distinguished honor to propose the health of the Governor General."

The speaker was frequently applauded, and the toast was enthusiastically drunk.

The Governor General replied as follows: "Many things have been said of me by your honorable President, which I feel to be above my deserts, but in one particular he has done me no more than justice, that is, in stating that I have always felt happy to meet the sons and daughters of Erin; (cheers) and in this I am not singular, for I find that a close connection has always existed between the Scotch and the Irish; in early times the former had even the good sense to resolve upon taking none other than Irish wives, (laughter) and the annals tell us of the period when Scotland was called *Scotia Minor*, which meant nothing more or less than Young Ireland.—(Cheers and laughter.) The wheel of fortune has given me some changes in Canada, but I have never been without Irishmen in my government; (cheers); indeed I should scarcely know the Council Chamber, if I did not hear a little of the Milesian accent in it.—(Cheers and loud laughter.) There is no portion of the children of St. Patrick of which he has more reason to be proud than of those in Canada; here they fill high offices in Church and State, and discharge their several duties with honor to themselves and advantage to the country.—(Loud cheers.)

His Excellency then proposed: "The day and all who honor it."

Mr. Maguire—The next toast on our list is, "the day we celebrate," but as His Excellency has kindly anticipated that toast by the one he has proposed, I shall leave it, and pass to the next, which is the kindred toast of "our sister societies." It is scarcely necessary I should state that these societies are instituted for the beneficial purpose of dispensing charity to the poor of their respective origins, and to assist by good counsel and advice the emigrant newly arrived in this country, the land of his adoption. The little nationalities we celebrate on these occasions, exist only for the day which gives to them a separate birth. That day's innocent business of commemoration and social enjoyment terminated, the distinction of nationality is instantly forgotten, and all again unite in the bonds of fraternity with their fellow subjects of Canada, engaging with them in the one common object of advancing on the highway of prosperity this young but vast country to the high destiny which we all believe awaits it."

The toast of "our sister societies" was then drunk with the honors.

The Honble. Mr. Caron responded in his usual happy strain for St. Jean Baptiste Society. The older race of this land had tendered freely and with delight a welcome hand to the strangers, whom they rejoiced much to see rising up and thriving around them, in institutions like that under whose auspices, and as whose guests they were now enjoying themselves.—In conclusion, he proposed the health of Mrs. Maguire, which was drunk with hearty applause, and every demonstration of respect.

Mr. Poston handsomely acknowledged the compliment paid to the Society of St. George.

Mr. Gillespie, Vice-President of St. Andrew, in the absence from illness of Mr. Primrose, returned thanks, and complimented Mr. Maguire for the successful exertions he had made to substitute the more pleasing and rational enjoyment of an evening's entertainment like the present, for the dull formality of the dinner table.

Mr. Maguire, in proposing the health of the Countess of Elgin and her family, observed that it was one of the failings of human nature that, whatever good reason we had to be satisfied with what we possessed, we were still wanting something more to complete our happiness. Thus it was on the present occasion.—Gratified as they were by the attendance of His Excellency, they could not help wishing that the august consort of their honored guest had been able to grace, with her presence, their festivities.

The toast was drunk with fervent applause.

The Earl of Elgin assured the President and company that nothing less potential than the summons of St. Patrick could have brought him over such roads as lay between his residence and where he then stood—and that cause and indisposition had operated in preventing Lady Elgin from accompanying him. As for his sons, whom, he supposed, he must call *Scotia Minores*, he could undertake to respond for them: when at age, no roads would hereafter deter them from coming to a St. Patrick's invitation, if honored with a call.

Mr. Noel Bowen proposed, in a complimentary speech, the health of Colonel Gordon Higgins, who was about to leave the country, to the regret of all who had known him in it. Colonel Higgins returned thanks, and stated that his countrymen would be at all times ready to assist in promoting the prosperity of Canada.

After supper, dancing was renewed, and it was nearly four o'clock before the last revellers left the scene of gaiety.—*Quebec Gazette*.

Mrs. SWISSHELM ON DANCING.—The following remarks are from the piquant pen of Mrs. Swisshelm: "One curious fact we have observed with regard to dancing. This is, the more deeply a church or individual professor is steeped in the spirit of money-grabbing, or intemperance, the greater their abhorrence of dancing. This appears to be a kind of convenient scape-goat on which the sins of the congregation are laid; that they may be borne in the wilderness. Let the preacher at any time submit to a gag which shall, on some special occasion, forbid his opening his mouth for the dumb, or reproving a wealthy distiller, or fat usurer, who grinds the poor to pay pew rent, and forthwith we get a fresh anathema on dancing. Show us a wealthy deacon's wife, who will haggle with a widow to get washing done for twelve and a half cents a dozen, and then pay her in trade, or give two dimes and four coppers for twenty-five cents, and we will show you one who will take a spasm over the iniquities of a cotillion. We never knew the rule to fail, and have watched its workings so long that whenever any one begins a lecture on dancing we suspect him or her to be a worshipper of mammon. Oh! Christian in his long journey danced for joy, but the man with the muck rake was too busy."

WARNING TO FREE MASONS.

THE CHURCH vs. MASONRY.

To the Editor of the Catholic Standard.

Sir—The Church has once more spoken out, decidedly and clearly, by the mouth of her Bishops, in condemnation of the Ancient Society of Freemasons. There can be no further doubt or hesitation as to the course that all Catholics, who have unfortunately enrolled themselves in the ranks of this mystic association, must now adopt. "Hear the Church" is a Divine command, and all personal interest and private opinions and predilections must be promptly and meekly sacrificed on the altar of obedience.

For myself, I can only say, that I was a Freemason for many long years before I was a Catholic, and until quite lately I was not aware that to be so was contrary to the command of the Church. I was formerly an active and zealous member of the craft, and ever since I became a convert I have often been on the very point of once more actively joining the society; but, from what I then considered accidental circumstances, and what I now perceive with thankfulness, to have been providential interpositions, I have never actually done so; and I can truly say, that since I became a Catholic I have never set my foot within the door of a Masonic lodge.

The simple command of the Church ought to be sufficient in itself to satisfy all the Faithful of the evil and danger of secret societies: and I find upon inquiry that Clement XII., in 1731; Benedict XIV., in 1751; Pious VII., in 1812; and Leo XII., in 1826; as also the Synod of Thurles, in 1850, have all spoken plainly in condemnation of, and published anathemas against all secret societies without any exception in favor of Freemasonry. The Church sets her face against the system, because all vows taken in ignorance of the obligations to be entered into must constitute and come under the head of Rash Vows, which are in themselves of necessity dangerous and sinful; and though I feel sure that no human power can absolve a Mason from the fearful vows of secrecy which he has taken, yet I am of opinion that, as a Catholic, each one would, in his heart, be glad to unlearn, if it were possible, those secrets with which he must now ever remain burdened. Independent of the commands of the Church, I can see many objections to Masonry. Though doubtless founded on a beautiful system of benevolence and charity, my own experience of Masonry is, that it is not a society that a sincere and earnest Catholic can be benefited or improved by entering into or frequenting.

In the first place, should he have been so foolish, to call it by no harsher name, as to have joined Masonry after his admission into the Catholic Church, he entails upon himself one of two mortal sins. Either he must totally abstain from the Sacrament of Penance, or else he must make a Sacrilegious, because imperfect, confession; for should he acknowledge to his spiritual adviser, as he is in duty bound to do, the fact of his having joined a secret society, he could not obtain absolution until he had withdrawn himself again therefrom; and, as it generally takes a more or less lengthened period of time to arrive at the higher grades in the craft, the Catholics must, during that interval, have been guilty of one or other of the above-mentioned mortal offences. Then, again, it must ever be offensive and grating to the feelings of a Catholic to find none but Anglican Parsons officiating in a Masonic lodge in a religious capacity. A Catholic Priest cannot, of course, by possibility, be present at these secret meetings, and none of the other heretical sects are ever found (at least within my experience) acting as Masonic Chaplains.

As to the business part of Masonry, I have no complaints or objections to make; but I must say that when this portion of the affair is over, and the brethren are called from labor to refreshment, I fear my pen must record the fact, that there is then far more zeal for champagne than charity; far more devotion to Bacchus than benevolence. And in many lodges where "fast young men" are amongst the members, I have known them linger in the banquet-hall until the "oldsters" have departed to their homes, and then kept up the affair until very far into the "small hours" of morning. Then might be witnessed vile scenes of drunkenness and debauchery; obscene language, ribald songs, and every variety of licentiousness then became the order of the night, and the watch-house or a brothel too often proved the wretched finale! How, then, can this be a place for one to frequent who is taught daily to pray to God not "to lead him into temptation?" I speak advisedly in this matter, for I have personally attended many lodges of Masons in different places, and the above orgies are but of too common occurrence, so much so, that I have known many sober-minded Protestants, who, though subscribing members of a lodge, have either totally absented themselves from the place so soon as the work of the evening was concluded. There is only one class of Freemasons whose case I commiserate, and it is those persons who were initiated into the society previous to becoming Catholics, and who, through ignorance, have continued to be members, until, in their old age, have by poverty and misfortune become fitting objects of the society's pecuniary assistance, must, now that the voice of the Church has sounded so loudly in their ears, refuse any longer to receive this much-needed provision for their wants, or else expose their immortal souls to the awful anathemas of our Holy Church. Nevertheless, the plunge must be taken, the link must be severed without hesitation or