

tion is about 25 per cent. of the whole, and on the Continent the proportion fluctuates, in the different countries, between 30 and 40 per cent.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

2. CURIOSITIES OF FRENCH STATE STATISTICS.

The *Exposé de la Situation de l'Empire* contains some curious cyphers. The French empire has the advantage of possessing no less than 446,000 municipal councillors, which number actually exceeds that of the army, and 37,860 mayors. There are 1,637 newspapers, which are thus classified: In Paris there are 63 *société* political newspapers; the provinces, 267. In Paris 703 non-political journals appeared daily and weekly; and 604 in different country towns. The *Exposé* congratulates the country on the diminution of crime in Paris. The returns of the colportage prove that of 1,542 works published during the past year but 82 were stopped at the Censeur. The importation of foreign works has notably increased. In 1864, 210,000 kilogrammes weight were brought into France, whereas last year 250,000 kilos, entered the country.

3. STATISTICS OF FRENCH COLONIES.

Very few probably are aware of the number of subjects which France has in her colonies. She has in Algeria 3,000,000; in Senegal and its dependencies, 113,000; in Reunion, 183,000; Mayotte and its dependencies, 35,000; Martinique, 136,000; Guadeloupe, 138,000; Guiana, 20,000; St. Pierre and Miquelon, 3,000; in her East Indian establishments, 225,000; Cochon China, 1,200,000; in French Oceania, which includes New Caledonia, the Marquesas, and other places, 100,000; and in sundry establishments in Africa, 20,000; making a total of 5,173,000 individuals.—*Willmer and Smith's European Times*.

4. STATISTICS OF RAILWAYS IN FRANCE.

The following is the actual state of railway communication in France as compiled from public documents:—From 1823 to the end of 1850, 2,190 miles of railway lines had been conceded; thence, up to the end of 1860, 7,078 miles. From this period up to the end of 1864, 3,149 miles; or, in total, 12,417 miles definitely conceded up to the beginning of the present year. Adding to this 499 miles of lines decreed but yet not definitely conceded at the end of 1864, we have a total of 12,916 miles from 1823 to the end of 1864. Of this total length, 8,113 had been opened for traffic at the beginning of 1865, leaving 4,803 miles not yet constructed; seventy-three miles, however, from Guincamp to Brest have been added in April last, thus leaving only 4,730 miles to be constructed out of the number conceded up to 1st January, 1865.—*Willmer and Smith's European Times*.

5. THE FRENCH POST-OFFICE.

The annual report of the post-office department of France shows that during the past year 311,000,000 letters were written and despatched within the limits of France. Of these 287,000, were franked; 275,000,000 newspapers passed through the post-office during the past twelve months. The value of goods forwarded through the post-office during that period amounted to above 33,000,000*fr.*, to which, if one adds the money paid for the postage of newspapers, the formidable sum of fifty odd millions is attained, that is, above £2,000,000 sterling. Correspondence has increased since the year 1851 at the rate of between 3,000,000*fr.* and 4,000,000*fr.* per annum. In bonds, railway scrip and bank notes, no less than 775,824,000*fr.* passed through the post-office, which brought in a return of 793,338*fr.* to the treasury. To avoid paying the tax on *lettres chargées*, money is constantly forwarded by the post without the sender declaring the contents of his letter. If discovered, this breach of the laws which regulate post-office transactions is punished by a heavy fine.

6. ENGLISH OFFICIAL SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES.

The *Philadelphia Press* thus refers to this subject. The Queen's annual allowance is \$1,925,000, to which must be added \$125,000 from the surplus revenue of the Duchy of Lancaster. Total, \$2,150,000. She also has a variety of first-class palatial residences, such as Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, St. James' Palace, Kew and Windsor Castles—all of which are kept in repair, decorated, and frequently furnished, at the expense of the nation. Besides this, the Prince of Wales has Marlborough House to live in, and an allowance of \$500,000 per annum. The annuity to the late King of the Belgians, was £50,000 a year, out of which he returned about

£30,000. Payments are also made to the Duke of Cambridge, his mother and sisters. Besides having over two million dollars a year herself, Queen Victoria further has the interest on the money which Prince Albert had at the time of his decease.

The members of the government are handsomely paid. The Premier's salary is \$25,000 a year—and five Secretaries of State, (Home, Colonial, Foreign, War and India), respectively receive the same. So does the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Irish Viceroy has \$100,000, and the Irish Secretary \$27,500 a year. The first Lord of the Admiralty has \$22,000 a year; the Lord Chancellor \$50,000; the Irish Lord Chancellor, \$40,000; the Attorney-General about \$50,000; the Solicitor General, \$25,000; the Lord Advocate of Scotland, \$30,000; the Irish-Attorney General, \$30,000. When a change of ministers takes place, about seventy persons, all holding high office have to retire—and the gross amount of all their salaries is \$850,000 a year. All the working staff remain in office for life, their salaries gradually rising, and after thirty years service, each man may retire on a pension equal to his full salary at the time. A clerk in the treasury in England commences with \$400 a year, and cannot obtain the nomination until, in a strict competitive examination, he has shown himself to possess a certain quantity and variety of general information. When he retires, after thirty years' service, his income may be, and often is, between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year.

V. Papers on Literary Subjects.

1. ORIGIN OF THE "MARSEILLAISE"

A correspondent of the London *Daily News* writes:—"I read in the papers that an action at law is pending in France, involving the question of whether Rouget de Lisle was the author of this song. According to the account of M. de Lisle himself, he composed both the verses and the music; and if this statement was a misrepresentation, he must have been not only a literary impostor, but one of a remarkably fraudulent kind, because I believe it was principally, if not solely, owing to his being the supposed author of the song that he received a pension of fifteen hundred francs immediately after the revolution of 1830, from Louis Philippe. At that time, in September, I saw M. de Lisle at his own house, at Choisy-le-Roy, a village near Paris. He was then seventy years of age, a fresh-looking, affable old gentleman. I showed him a printed copy of the song, and he related to me minutely the circumstances under which it was produced, pointing out, however, in my copy, several words wherein, as he said, there were mistakes, that is, variations from his own composition.

"The song, he told me was produced while he was on service as a captain of engineers in the French army, and he composed it at Strasburg, in the month of April, 1792, during the night following the declaration of war with Austria and Prussia. 'Le Chante de l'Armée du Rhin' was the title given to it by the author; but a daily publication, edited at the time by M. de Lisle and other young officers of the army of the Rhine, conveyed the animating effusion throughout the south of France. The Marseillaise were just then marching upon Paris; they read it on their way; and they arrived at the capital chanting these verses. Hence the name given by the Parisians, 'L'Hymne de Marseillaise.' The forty battalions of national volunteers, formed at Paris in fifteen days, beat the duke of Brunswick and Prussians in Campaigne on the 28th of September, 1792, and routed them again in a few days after at Jemappe. These volunteers were commanded by General Dumourier, having under his orders General d'Orleans, since King Louis Philippe; and they marched up to each engagement with the enemy singing, 'Allons, enfants de la patrie, &c.

"The 'Marseillaise' was always the song of the French army from 1792 to 1804, when the first Bonaparte, having made himself Emperor, and doubting the benefit to himself of such a hymn, caused other songs to come forth which were better calculated to make soldiers admire emperors. Twice subsequently, in 1830 and 1848, the same chant has performed its revolutionary office, and received its quietus of suppression. M. de Lisle was the author of a whole volume of lyric poetry which was published along with a good deal of music of his, I think in 1830. His account of the 'Marseillaise,' as he told it to me, was this: His brother officers, knowing him to have some pretensions to the poetic as well as the musical faculty, said upon the occasion before mentioned, that he must write a song. It was, too, required to be forthcoming without delay, and it was, as M. de Lisle said, the result of one night's meditation, the martial muse being aided only by the fiddle. Going to bed with the injunction of his comrades, he joined them at breakfast time playing his air and singing his song. Some of the errors mentioned are these: 'Les maîtres nos destinees,' should be 'Les moteurs,' &c. 'Dans tes ennemis expirans voir,' should be 'Que tes ennemis expirans voient.'