

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The *Times*' Paris correspondent says:—"The rumor of Lord Palmerston's return to office caused a fall in the funds. It was reported in Paris that the English and French Governments had now very little hope of a pacific solution of the Eastern question, and that both France and England were about to make preparations for an expedition to the Baltic early in the spring; Sir Charles Napier was to command the English fleet in that sea."

A Paris correspondent says:—"We have very contradictory accounts here. All the most experienced men in the money-market regard as inevitable a financial crisis before March. The state of trade, too, in France, is bad, and there is great distress in the provinces from the want of work and the high price of bread. Even in Paris there are great complaints as to the state of trade; not one shopkeeper in ten is covering his expenses."

CHARITABLE DONATIONS FROM THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.—The Emperor has ordered the sum of 700*l.* to be paid by Messrs. Orsi and Armani, merchants in London, for the benefit of the Dreadnought Hospital establishment in the Thames. Not a day passes at this inclement season of the year, as we learn, without the receipt, by the same gentlemen, of like instructions. Scarcely any of our benevolent institutions appear to have escaped the kindly considerations of the emperor. We could desire to particularize the different objects of his Majesty's munificence, but we fear we may already have said more than we are warranted in doing upon a subject involving so much delicacy.—*Morning Post.*

The Marquis of Turgot has been rewarded by Louis Napoleon with a higher rank in the Legion of Honor, for his chivalrous conduct in the Soule affair. There is no reason for giving credit to the rumor that Mr. Soule had fought another duel with the Duke of Alba, ending in his own death. It is, we trust, entirely untrue.

A correspondent of the *Tablet* gives an interesting account of a visit to the "Séminaire des Missions Étrangères" at Paris. Every year, on an average, twelve of thirteen young Priests, in the heyday of health and strength, go forth from this seminary to preach the Gospel of Christ to the heathen and the savage; and here I must pause for a moment to tell you an anecdote of what befel me while yet a Puseyite, and one so characteristic of the sect that I cannot forbear detailing it. I had accompanied a Clergyman of the Anglo-Pusey school with his wife to show them this institution; the good lady asked me what its aim and plans were. I told her to the best of my ability. "Oh!" said she, "like our St. Augustine's College at Canterbury." Really, Puseyite as I then was, I was fairly disgusted. Conceive comparing the Browns, Jones', and Robinsons, who, accompanied by their wives, and probably small scions of the Brown, Jones, and Robinson stock, go quietly out to countries where the British lion opens his wide and noisy mouth, and roars if a hair is touched of a son of the Establishment, where, if the worthy Minister dies of some fever, which he might as easily have caught at home, he is forthwith canonized by the Gorham or Philpott section to which he may have attached himself, while, on her return to England, the widow of Brown Jones, or Robinson is pensioned; the juvenile Brown, Jones, or Robinson provided for at one of the public schools founded by our Catholic predecessors for Catholic purposes, and this miserable abortion, this contemptible mimicry of God's immutable truth, compared to the glorious career of the blessed Martyrs who have gone forth in God's name, and by the authority of God's Church, to endure hunger, cold, suffering, imprisonment, torture, and death, to promote His glory and advance His holy Word.

AUSTRIA.

It is said in a Vienna letter of the 26th ult., that Russia has offered to connive at Louis Napoleon's taking possession of Albania, and even of a maritime province farther north, if he will break with England. This we can readily believe, but the French Emperor is not the Emperor of Russia; Louis Napoleon is a man of truth and honor.

A new religious sect called the Successors to Christ, rejecting all laws of clerical hierarchy, and adopting the Bible of Luther, has made its appearance in Hungary.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

From undoubted information (says the *Morning Post*) we learn that the Turks are preparing for an expedition against Sebastopol.

WHY RUSSIA WANTS THE PRINCIPALITIES.—At present the Russian and Austrian frontiers are continuous for a distance of 500 miles; and if Russia be allowed to complete her long-cherished designs upon the Danubian Principalities, that extent will be doubled, and for a distance of one thousand miles, or more than one-third of its entire circumference, will Russia clasp in one giant embrace an empire of magnitude nearly equal to the enormous territory of Poland which the last half century has seen absorbed within her vast dominions. Hitherto Russia has possessed only the swampy delta of the Danube, and her frontier is continuous with that of Turkey in Europe for about eighty miles; but, if the contemplated annexation takes place, it will extend along the shores of that river for nearly five hundred miles to this little town of Orsova; and her acquisitions from Turkey since the treaty of Kainardji in 1774, will comprise a greater extent of territory than all that remains in Europe of the ill-fated empire from which they have been successively wrested.—*Oliphant's Russian Shores of the Black Sea.*

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—When these genies are again, perhaps, about to mingle among the people of other nations, whether in war or peace, it may not be amiss to recall something of their characteristics. Both are stolid and massive machines, to an inconceivable extent; and, in masses, seen to be almost destitute of passions or feelings. Individually they are not cruel; but the absence of active sympathies with their kind renders them regardless of sufferings, merciless, and inhuman. Their habits agree with these dispositions. They will stand like stocks to be mowed down by artillery, but they are inefficient for charges and attacks. Cunning is pre-eminently a trait of marked development, and yet they are nearly as great fatalists as the Turks themselves. In the French invasion (as mentioned in "Jordan's Autobiography") their watering the gardens of their billets was regarded by their unwilling hosts as proof of a kindly nature; but they only resorted to the experiment in order to ascertain, by the ready sinking of the water, if the ground had been recently dug, and aught valuable concealed! In olden times, when a Russian squadron lay at Leith, the inhabitants of Edinburgh were surprised at the extinction of their lamps long before the usual time. A watch was set, and it was discovered that the detachments of the sailors visited the city covertly by night, to enjoy the indulgence of drinking all the oil they could find in these luminaries, and sucking the wicks! Some whale blubber was found and substituted for this nocturnal symposium. Such are the men on whom so much of the fate of Europe now hangs by a thread; they do not invite our love, admiration, or confidence.

We read in *L'Univers* the following curious legend respecting the Polish Martyr, Bobola, lately canonized by Pope Pius IX.:

"Russia has left no means untried to prevent this canonization; and no doubt, here is the reason:—According to a secular legend, highly venerated throughout the country, the martyr Bobola foretold that, within the year of his canonization, a great battle would be fought in the plains of Poland, by the armies of Turkey, France, England, and Poland, which should decide for ever the fate of the civilization of Europe; and in which the double-headed eagle of Russia should be humbled."

CHINA.

MUTINY ON ADMIRAL PELLEW'S FLAGSHIP.—A letter from Hong-Kong says:—"We hear there has been a mutiny on board the flag-ship. It seems that on the 8th November the men, who have not had liberty for eighteen months, sent in a petition on the subject to Admiral Pellew, who immediately ordered the ship to be got ready for sea. In the evening there was a noise below, when the drum was beat to quarters, and some of the men refused to come on deck, upon which the officers were ordered to compel them at the point of the sword, and in doing so some of the men were severely wounded."

AUSTRALIA.

A "BASIN" OF GOLD.—The "Jeweller's Ship" as the newly-discovered strata of gold at Ballarat are called, are of surpassing richness. A Geelong correspondent states that people were arriving, after a month's work, with from 200 to 400 ounces of gold. The rich new discovery is described as being a "basin" of gold. The gold is found in an immense circular patch, or monster pocket, and already about a dozen holes have been sunk into it, every one of which has hit. So uniform is this rich stratum, that its value, wherever tested, has been found to range from £1,200 to £2,000 per superficial foot. From other parts of Ballarat the accounts are little less successful. It is said that the miners earn on an average from £2 to £3 a-day. Grains of gold were found in sinking a well at Emerald Hill, beside Melbourne.—*Melbourne Herald.*

THE CONSEQUENCES OF WAR.

(From the *Times*.)

One of the first of the immediate consequences of the commencement of hostilities is, that all trade whatsoever between the subjects of states at war becomes illegal without the license of their respective governments, and even merchandise purchased from the enemy and conveyed in neutral bottoms becomes liable to seizures. There is no principle of public law more thoroughly established than this; and it has been carried to the extent that goods purchased within an enemy's territory long previous to the declaration of hostilities, and conveyed away on the breaking out of hostilities, have been condemned as prize of war in the American courts, whose Admiralty jurisprudence is the same as our own. It may be of use to some of our mercantile readers to be reminded of this principle, for they must bear in mind that from the moment of a declaration of war individual intercourse between the subjects of the contending states becomes an offence punishable by confiscation in our own prize courts. Another point of immediate interest, in the event of hostilities, is the position of British subjects domiciled in Russia, who are surprised by a rupture between their native country and the empire they are inhabiting. There is reason to believe that a very considerable and important class of British subjects are employed in Russia in manufactories, in the construction and use of machinery, and in steam navigation, having consequently more or less reference to the purposes of war, and we hope that few of these persons who have sought their fortune abroad have so little English feeling as to throw off their allegiance in the hour of danger, or to assist the enemies of their country. The treaties of 1734, 1766, and 1793, between Great Britain and Russia (which seem to have been renewed under the treaty of Orebro, in 1812), provided that in the event of a rupture between the two crowns the subjects of each of them residing in the territories of the other should have a year at least to depart in, and that neither persons, vessels, nor merchandise should be seized. This provision included persons in the land or sea service. No such provision occurs in the commercial treaty of 1840, but we presume that it may be contended that this stipulation is

in force, and, at any rate, all civilized countries concede a period for withdrawal on the declaration of war. It need hardly be added that it is the clear duty of all persons so situated to be no parties, either directly or indirectly, to any act of hostility against their own country, and to return to her assistance when required to do so.

THE TIMES ON THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW.

In a country where everything finds its level there are not many projects that can be pronounced utterly impracticable. There is nothing politically impossible in an arbitration clause,—nothing, physically, in a railway to Calcutta; nor, as far as we know, in an electric cable from Galway to New York. But there now lies before us the account of a scheme which does seem wholly beyond the range of British possibilities. It is the "First Report of the Executive Committee of the United Kingdom Alliance to procure the Total and Immediate Legislative Suppression of the Traffic in all Intoxicating Liquors, as Beverages." Our readers will excuse the quotation of so lengthily a title. It is necessary to truth in this instance, as a certain wordiness is the uniform characteristic of these moral extravagances. The drunkard has his drawl, the puritan his whine, and the teetotaler, and others of his class, have their long stream of watery prose, trickling so tediously that you never know when you have got to the last drop.

The gentlemen whose names are affixed to the report before us have combined to press upon Parliament the total and immediate closing of all public-houses, gin-shops, and beer-shops, and a prohibition of the traffic altogether, except for what they are pleased to call "medicinal purposes." As beverage, the smallest beer is to be utterly interdicted. The harvestman or the "navy" is not to be permitted to ask for his ale or his pot of porter, unless he comes armed with a certificate from an authorised physician that his health is of so peculiar a nature as to require that degree of artificial stimulus. Nay, more, the number of officers charged with the distribution of the medicine is to be but small,—only one or two in a town, and they are to be closely watched, lest they should dose their patients too largely. Policemen and detectives are to guard the approach to the spirit or malt-liquor dispensary, to see that the unhappy sufferers are duly restricted to their quarter-pint draughts of brown stout or their dessert-spoonfuls of brandy. It is contemplated that the English people—that, for example, the two millions of people in this metropolis—will quietly submit to this new pharmacopœia, and draw their porter in phials across the counter of a druggist's shop, after a proper exhibition of "permits" by the constituted authorities.

We ought to know something about the British public, but we know nothing about them if they will ever consent to such an anti-liquor traffic enactment or obey it, if passed. They will not stand the hypocrisy of their medical certificate,—the distinction between intoxicating liquor as a medicine and as a beverage. Half the ladies in this kingdom are taking porter or pale ale by medical advice; and, as half the doctors in the kingdom advise porter and pale ale, it is quite as easy to get advice to this effect as not. It all depends on your choice of an adviser. We certainly should very much like to see the question discussed rather more fully, carefully, and dispassionately than it has hitherto been done, for we can hardly believe that a young lady, assumed to be of delicate health and liable to depression and weakness, can take a pint of strong ale and two or three glasses of wine a day without some effect on the mental as well as the physical constitution. If, however, it is to be a matter of advice, we beg to suggest a very uniform rule for all patients, whether they be laborers, paupers, or invalidish young ladies. But, how such a rule is to be enforced in the face of money and all kinds of persuasion, we are at a loss to understand. Then, what is to be done with a gentleman's wine-cellar? He wants "a little wine for his stomach's sake," and to assist also the digestion and the spirits of his friends; so he sends his usual order to his wine-merchant, sufficient perhaps for a whole year's festivities on a general scale? Must the order be viced by a medical officer? Must the applicant undergo a medical examination before a temperance board, and must his friends also present themselves at his house with white gloves and licenses to drink on the premises? We cannot see how the prohibition is to work without the alternative of placing every gentleman's cellar and dining-room under the surveillance of the police, or allowing to the luxurious and wealthy a most unfair advantage over the industrious poor. The report does not tell us how the Maine Liquor Law works in Maine itself upon the wealthier classes. It only tells us of the immense decrease of "crime,"—that is of the robberies and other outrages. What we want to know is, not the effect of shutting up grogshops and tipping-houses, but the working of the prohibition upon gentlemen and ladies with plenty of money in their pockets, commodious cellars, and kind-hearted family physicians, themselves fond of good living. If, too, as we have observed, the report had gone a little into the physical bearings of the question, instead of dwelling on the progress of the cause all over the world, we should have been a little more aided towards our own practice at least. After all, the authorities triumphantly paraded for our guidance are neither very winning nor very overpowering. Passing over Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as well as some provinces of British America, we cannot think the cause very much aided by the fact that at Buenos Ayres no liquor—so we are assured—can be sold in public; that in the Sandwich Islands a prohibitory Liquor Law is part of the permanent constitution of society; that in Madagascar a Maine Law is engrafted on the Constitution, and by an edict from the Throne the use of intoxicating wine is even forbidden in the Sacrament; and that even the much maligned King of Dahomey, in Western Africa, steadily refuses to sanction a traffic in strong drink. His Majesty's revenues it seems, are chiefly derived from the traffic of human beings, and, with the cautious spirit of the breeder, he is not disposed to allow his people to be degraded and destroyed by strong drink. This we can understand, but we don't see how the example of the Royal slave-breeder applies to the free people of this country.

The report appeals to the failure of all attempts to regulate the sale of drinks, and to the comparatively small success of voluntary associations, to prove the necessity of legislation. But what if legislation should be attempted and fail? What a tremendous reaction would ensue from an unsuccessful attempt to deny beer, spirits, and wine, not merely to the tippler and the sot, but to gentlemen, ladies, and hardworking

men? Stolen waters are sweeter, and how much sweeter will these furtive draughts be when they are vinous, spirituous, or strong of the malt! After a short and not very effectual prohibition, with what increased zest will thirsty souls rush to the bar and swallow the dram that will then burn with illegality, and quaff the stout that will then be the stronger for having been once forbidden! The law once obtained, we tremble for the inevitable repeal. But such a law is utterly impossible in this land of liberty. It is the inalienable birthright of every Briton to make a fool or a beast of himself as much as he pleases, so long as it does not directly interfere with the safety, comfort, and morals of others. To be sure, one vice, or one evil, now and then puts a check on another. Our quarrelsome tempers and thirst of dominion have entailed a load of debt; so, to pay that debt and keep ourselves still in fighting trim, we must tax malt liquor, spirits, and wine. This tax has a prohibitory force, so we are now drinking less, and have been drinking less ever since the war, than we should have done otherwise, as a sort of penance, and to chastise our proud spirits to greater sobriety and patience. This is a very legitimate sort of check on our drinking propensities, like that, indeed, felt by the drunkard, who, having spent all his money at the tap, can drink no more till he has returned to his work and replenished his purse. But an act of Parliament to prohibit the use of all strong drink whatever, except under medical advice from constituted authorities, is a chimæra which we can only suppose these gentlemen take up for the very reason that it is a chimæra, and will never be brought to the test of practice. The "United Kingdom Alliance," indeed, as it calls itself, besides aspiring at this last consummation, condescends to hail some minor successes, such as the recent Scotch act forbidding the sale of spirits in the same shop with groceries and provisions. It may, of course, do some good in this way, for there is little doubt the sale of intoxicating liquors may be compelled to assume a much less seductive appearance than it now has, and may be reduced more to the limits of a reasonable demand. To this point these gentlemen would do well to direct their attention,—not wholly giving up their ultimate object, if they will be content not to expect it till the year 2000, or thereabouts, but bestowing their chief labor on some early and feasible improvements. After all, more is to be done by moral means than by legislative enactments. Provide superior attractions,—give the people other places to go to than the gin-shop,—create a strong public opinion in the operative classes, and hard drinking, if it will never wholly disappear, will at least be kept more within compass, and compelled to hide itself from the light of day.

PROTESTANT CONVERSIONS.

English Protestants have a wonderful desire to thrust their religion, by hook or by crook, into every hole and corner abroad, without reflecting what the bad effect may be on the people of the place. It is a well-known fact, that a great deal of the immorality of foreign watering places, where the English are wont to resort, is traceable to the endeavors of English Protestants abroad to destroy the Catholic religion in the minds of those who hold it. Their contemptuous way of speaking of the Church's ceremonies of priests and their office, of fasting, and everything enjoined by the Church upon her members, naturally leads every weak and insincere member, first, to think lightly of his religion, and then, to give it up. They would seem to think they do Catholics good and God service by making them false to their religion; ignorantly imagining (in some cases this may be) that where they have rooted out the Catholic faith they will be able to plant some other in its place. Provided it be but another, they are satisfied, no matter which of the thousand and one Protestant creeds it be; no matter, indeed, whether it be more than a disbelief in the Catholic religion. Such persons go out with a parcel of tracts in their hand, are the real pests and corrupters of the faith and morals of the lower orders of society in almost every continental town of any size. Sir Culling Eardley and Miss Cunningham are but samples of a large class of people who go abroad, burning with an heretical zeal against the Catholic religion, which is always strong in proportion as it is heretical. The harm done by such wretched creatures is very great, as every one who has stayed at any city or town on the Continent discovers. First, immorality of every description finds its way. Taught to disbelieve their religion by ladies and gentlemen who abound in wealth and also are liberal in bestowing it on those who serve them, the servants at hotels are too often easily persuaded to neglect their duties, and, after a time, to renounce it altogether. And, when they have been drawn thus far, it is strange that they should give themselves up to lives of no restraint, and sin? We are often taunted with the disgraceful characters whom the English traveller is wont to meet in France and Italy at hotels. Because these are Catholic countries, it is deemed a reproach and a scandal to the Catholic religion of those countries by English Protestants who fall in with them. That they are a reproach and scandal they are quite right in considering; but that it should be charged upon the Catholic religion is precisely as unjust as if it were charged upon the Almighty Himself. Where the evil is not chargeable upon the wickedness of the human heart, and the ordinary devices of Satan, which have ever had their working, and their victims—and these not a few, within the pale of the Church—it is chargeable on none so much as on these fanatical Protestants, who, like the two above named individuals, go about on the Continent trying to make people false to their religion. In many places their success is truly appalling, in regard to two things in particular—the faith of the male sex, and the chastity of the female. They have helped the former to get rid of their religious belief, who have, as the consequence in many instances, bid farewell to all fear of future punishment, and given themselves up to lives of sensual indulgence and profligacy. The poison of infidelity once infused into the men, could not fail, however uncongenial to the soil, to find its way into the opposite sex; and though it may not, through the restraining power of God, make them abandon themselves to unbelief, as so many men have done, it does undermine their virtue and destroy their character.—*Catholic Standard.*

In striking confirmation of these statements of the *Catholic Standard*, we copy the following from the lately published Report of the French "Bible Society." At Alençon, where their success has been greatest, they have induced 150 persons to leave the Church, of whom we are told that 50 are Christians; and the remainder, it must be concluded, "not having given themselves to Christ," are simply infidels, or ultra Protesters.