

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

According to the *Avenir National* the cabinet at St. Petersburg has addressed a circular note to the French Government on the Eastern question which contains the following propositions. The independence of Montenegro and the Romanian provinces.—The independence of Egypt. The annexation of Thessaly and Epirus to Greece. The separation of the Isles from Turkey and their annexation to Greece or independent existence. Bosnia and the Herzegovina to be erected into a kingdom under an Austrian Archduke. The independence of Servia. Bulgaria to be recognized as an independent principality, under a Russian Prince; and, lastly, the European possessions of Turkey to be united to Roumelia and Albania. France was to reply in a few days.

The *Liberte* has the following: 'It would be vain to deny what is about being plotted in secret—the division of the Ottoman Empire between Russia and England, both of them cordial allies of Prussia.—Their not disinterested instrument—England—is to have the whole of Egypt; Prussia the whole of Germany; Russia to have Turkey, from which, however, would be cut out a kingdom of Greece of a suitable size for King George, the brother-in-law of the Prince of Wales—the heir apparent to the English throne, and brother-in-law also to the presumptive heir to the throne of Moscow—and there the bond of union between Russia and England.

Since the accession of Napoleon III. a sum of £270,000,000 sterling has been added to the national debt of France, which now amounts to £433,600,000. As his wars and foreign expeditions have not cost more, we are told, than £100,000,000 at the most, we are left to suppose that the annual deficit in the revenue since 1851 has averaged something like £10,000,000 sterling.

A correspondence in a morning paper of Monday says that the phantom of the Eastern question is beginning to excite alarm in Paris. 'People there do not like the turn affairs are taking between Greece and the Porte, and fears are entertained that the trumpety Ottoman insurrection may precipitate matters. There is little reliable news from that part of the world, and the telegrams are so notoriously mere fabrications, that it appears to me very difficult to form an opinion on the subject. The general public here care very little for the Turks, and less for the Greeks. If they could destroy each other without an European intervention, i.e., war, the French people would view the result with perfect indifference. But every one in France is fully conscious that such cannot be the case, and that anything that endangers the waning vitality of the Sick Man must bring about complications of a far more serious character than the Austro-Prussian difficulty last year. My own belief is that all these apprehensions are premature, and I do not believe that the blow which is to prostrate the Turkish Empire will be struck by King George's subjects. So far as regards the 'difficulty' between the Porte and the Cabinet of Athens it appears to be real. The Porte is about to send a 'note' to Athens, and the *Patrie* informs us that the Turkish Ambassador yesterday communicated the document to the Marquis de Moustier. The *Patrie* also believes that the 'Ottoman insurrection, insignificant in itself, is likely to bring about perilous complications'; but, if this belief is grounded on nothing more substantial than a telegram, it proves nothing beyond your contemporary's credulity.'

The *Ettoile Belge* (Brussels, Saturday) says:—'France has addressed propositions to England for the conclusion of an alliance between the two countries in view of the existing complications in the East. Similar proposals have been addressed by the French Government to the Cabinets of Vienna and Florence.'

The *Morning Herald* has a letter, dated Paris, Saturday which says a report, current in this capital for some days past, is noticed by a Belgian paper. It is to the effect that the French Government, anxious to be prepared for any complications arising out of the Eastern question, is endeavoring to form an alliance *ad hoc* between England, Austria, Italy, and herself. I am unable to state what degree of reliance is to be placed in this report, and only mention it *quantum valuit*. But whether the French Government has sounded ours or not on the subject, there is no doubt that it views with great uneasiness the events taking place in the East. In many well-informed quarters it is believed that the French Government is anxious to renew the alliance with England which enabled it to carry on the Crimean war to a successful issue, and that her Majesty's Government has been sounded on the subject. It is moreover asserted that these overtures have met with an evasive reply, England, in the present state of Continental affairs, not thinking fit to enter into engagements which affect neither her honor nor her interest.

From 1862 to 1865 there were 986 French shipwrecks or disasters at sea. The crews of the vessels amounted in the aggregate to 3,280 men, 1,850 of whom perished. Of the disasters registered 598 were caused by the state of the weather, 107 by negligence, want of experience, or bad management, 240 by overloading, bad rigging or defects of construction.—There were two explosions one case of barratry one fire and 127 cases owing to unknown causes. There were 23 collisions.

All English ladies who are warmly devoted to the great cause of feminine authority have got their eyes just now upon the Empress of the French. It is understood in English domestic circles that the Empress has decided to go to Rome, and that the Emperor has decided on her staying at home, and the interest of the situation is generally thought to be intense. The ocean race between the yachts was nothing to it. Every woman of spirit has been betting heavily this Christmas upon the Empress, and praying mentally for the defeat of the Emperor, and every new telegram that bears upon the subject of the difficult controversy is scanned by hundreds of dove-like eyes every morning with indescribable eagerness. M. Reuter, who is a man probably, if he is not a joint stock company, is believed not to be altogether an impartial historian; and it is felt in many drawing rooms that what is wanted on this occasion, at the telegraph offices, is a sound and resolute Madame Reuter, to correct the deviations of M. Reuter's compass. In default of all trustworthy telegraphic intelligence, Englishwomen are compelled to fall back on their vivid imagination, and to construct a picture of what is happening from the depths of their own moral consciousness. And several things their moral consciousness tells them are clear and certain. The first is, that the Empress Eugenie is an injured and interesting victim. She has made a vow, under the very touching circumstances of measles in the Imperial nursery, to pay a visit to the Pope; and Cabinet Ministers like M. Lavalette, who throw suspicion on the binding nature of such a holy maternal obligation, are worse than 'S. G. O.' In the second place, she has set her heart upon going. Even if a vow were not binding, this is it more nonsense to say that her pilgrimage would interfere with politics. A woman's free tact is often of considerable use in politics, and the sight of the Prince Imperial in his mother's arms might exercise the most beneficial influence on the Pope's mind. Pio Nono has held out hitherto in the most inexplicable manner against the Prince Imperial's photograph, but he never could resist a sight of the original. And thirdly if a wife and a mother may not have her own way about going to see the Head of her own Church, when is she ever to have her way at all, and where is the line to be drawn? The next downward step in a husband's declension will be to prevent her from frequenting all religious exercises, or still worse, from selecting her own halls and evening parties. This is what English ladies feel keenly. It is some consolation to

them to learn that, if the Empress Eugenie is discomfited, she will not have been discomfited without a struggle. Of course there will be no evening reception on the New Year at the Tuilleries. No lady with a proper sense of what was due to her own dignity would receive under such circumstances. But till the most authentic news arrive, it will still be possible to hope and to believe that victory will eventually, and in spite of all appearances, declare itself upon the side of right and of propriety, and that Her Majesty will not be interfered with merely to satisfy the idle caprices of a Foreign Office.—*Saturday Review*.

A FRENCH ABBE ON IRELAND.—A French priest, the Abbe Domenech, has just lately published two volumes, to be followed by a third, of a tour in Ireland, different in most respects from works of similar kind which have preceded them.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times*, in noticing the book and the writer observes:—His principal object, for the present, is to recount the numberless legends which once peopled the fairy sky of Green Brinn; to rescue from oblivion the pantheon of spiteful or benevolent spirits which seem rapidly to disappear. He is one of those who regret the decay of popular mythology and traditions of the West and South. I am not quite sure whether many are left who now believe in the existence of the supernatural beings with which the peasantry used, not many years ago, to people their lovely lakes; and the guardians of enchanted abodes beneath the waters, and of countless treasures, such as those of Carrigrohane, near Cork, and of Gougane Barra, where the limpid Leppachau is seldom met with, I fear, even in the wilds of Glengariff; and the wail of the Bausee is no longer heard announcing the approaching death of the chieftain of the old race. The temperament of the Abbe Domenech is essentially poetical; and he cannot help regretting the decay of these superstitions.

To the good qualities of the Irish he renders ample justice. Their hearts are warm, and their heads more so. They are gay, expansive, generous, impulsive, and impassioned. The brilliant gifts of the mind are more common with them than most other people. As for wit, M. Domenech, who is himself a good judge of the article, says that it may be met with any day in the streets of Dublin.

To the hospitality of the Irish he pays a just tribute. Indeed, he seems to think that it sometimes borders on the oppressive, and becomes, by its excess, a sort of persecution which it is not easy to escape. He, himself, is a notable example. He had, out of pure politeness, to accompany a gentleman on a long walk, to visit certain ruins, under a pelting rain, and on his return had to swallow, still out of politeness, a mysterious liquid which burned his very entrails.—a liquid fire capable of molting the hardest diamond—whisky, no doubt, that had never seen the face of a gauger; and when he took his departure his pockets were stuffed with etables.

The author is greatly alarmed and irritated at the almost absolute extinction of the native language, and he reproaches the Irish for their neglect of it. 'When the women have about their necks a Celtic brooch, or sing one of Moore's melodies, they think they have given sufficient proof of their devotedness to their country.' But if any one asks of them to study their own tongue, or to make it fashionable, they will politely send their adviser to Jericho. M. Domenech is more Irish than the Irish themselves. The remedy he proposes for the restoration and spread of the Irish language is a desperate and a dangerous one:—

'Had I to give advice to the young woman of Erin, it would be to recommend them to found, not archery clubs, but a vast patriotic association, the first statute of which should be that no one of them would consent to marry a man who spoke anything but Celtic, and to obstinately reject all who did not speak it.'

'At any rate the remedy is original. As for the association, if it were even formed it would soon dissolve of itself, out of fear of the members being driven to that desolate community of spinsters whose chief occupation consists in what the French call 'coiffer Sainte Catherine.'

PILATE'S WIFE.—St. Matthew the Evangelist, in chapter xxvii., v. 19, tells us that when Pontius Pilate was seated at the tribunal, about to judge and condemn Jesus Christ, his wife sent for him and said, 'Have thou nothing to do with that just man, for I have been much troubled in a dream this night because of him.' The Fathers of the Church generally believe that this dream came from God, and that in it he showed the wife of Pilate the holiness and innocence of Jesus Christ, and the mistletoe that would befall Jerusalem, and her husband, if, out of human respect, he were to let him be induced to shed the blood of the just. *Monibat uxor*, says St. Ambrose—his wife gave Pilate precious warnings, and he did not heed them. *Uxor proceat ad salutem*, adds St. Augustine—Pilate's wife knew the true policy far better than her husband, but he turned his back.

A good woman was she, and her name was Claudia Proculla.

How much better would Pontius Pilate have provided for himself and for his family, if instead of yielding to the perfidious Jews who surrounded him, he had obeyed the holy counsels of his wife. Had he been at his side when he turned his back upon the warning of the good Claudia, he would have said to him: 'Ah, Pilate! Pilate! You are a mighty man to-day, and you can laugh, but the hand of God will soon be heavy on your head. You will go into exile, and will die miserably. Your name will descend to posterity, branded with infamy, while the just man, whom you abandon to his enemies, will rule the world, and will triumph in heaven, conqueror over death and hell.'

But perhaps Pilate, on hearing these our warnings would have had us bound by his guards, and crucified with the two thieves. And yet every day sees to-day that we should have given him excellent advice, and should have shown ourselves a hundred times kinder towards him than those wretches who in order to induce him to pronounce the fatal sentence against Jesus Christ, flattered him, and came and cried, 'We will have no other king but Cæsar.'

How do you bring in—somebody will say—how do you bring in Pontius Pilate and his wife? Why does the 'Unita Cattolica,' instead of talking to us about Rome, and about the Pope, hold discourse about Jerusalem and Claudia Proculla? The reason is, that we are sometimes surfeited with politics, and like to turn from the topics of the day back to Gospel history.—*Unita Cattolica*.

ITALY.

PIEDMONT.—In round numbers, the Italian revenue for this year is estimated at 866 millions, and the expenditure at 1,052, showing a deficit of 186, or something less than 74 million sterling.

The interest on the debt alone amounts to 334 million francs, in which there does not appear to be included the 5 millions of *Rentes* lately issued, and which would bring this heavy item alone to £13,600,000 sterling. The difficulty of getting in the taxes has also to be taken into consideration. This has been spoken of in previous letters, and may arise partly from the bad organisation of tax collection in this country, but also, in great measure, from want of means on the part of the taxpayers. A Florence paper two days ago said:—

'It is certain that a portion of the tax on the *ricchezza mobile* (income-tax) for 1865 has still to be got in. As to that for 1866, only a small part of it has yet been collected—that part which is deducted from the salaries of public functionaries and of persons employed in banks and other establishments; but by the mass of contributors it has not been and could not be paid.'

The same paper goes into calculations to prove that the true deficit will be nearly 250 million francs, instead of 186 millions (to say nothing of any fresh

'extraordinary' expenses that may arise), and I regret to say that its calculations have the appearance of being well-founded and free from exaggeration. Nor is this surprising when we recall all the charges the country has been put to in 1866. Two years ago, at the time of Solta's famous exposure of the nakedness of the land—which, like a noxious but salutary medicine, disgusted many at the time, but has since had a most beneficial effect—the deficit was fully 300 millions. A considerable amount of fresh taxation has since then been imposed, but not all of it has been very judicious or productive, although it was perhaps the best that could be done under very difficult circumstances. In 1866 we have had the expenses of the war, which will certainly not have been fully met by the proceeds of the forced loan; there has been a large sum to pay to Austria which could only be done by fresh borrowing; and Italy has taken on her shoulders at least 20 millions annually for her share of the Pontifical debt. It has often been urged that she is not heavily taxed in proportion to many other European countries, but in estimating her capability of supporting taxation other circumstances must be considered besides the number of her population and the natural wealth of her territory.—*Times Cor.*

At a reception given at Florence on Tuesday by King Victor Emmanuel to a deputation from the Italian Parliament, his Majesty thanked the senators and deputies for the sentiments of perfect devotedness which they expressed in their own names and in the name of the country. The new year, said the King, reminds Italians that they have now secured the independence of their country, and with it an improvement in the civil administration and increased public prosperity. During the period of peace upon which we are entering we shall not cease to devote our attention to the army. The army is not only necessary for the preservation of that independence which it so greatly contributed to acquire, but is in itself a solid guarantee for internal security, and an element of moral unity and of that civil training which renders disciplined nations strong and capable of accomplishing great deeds.'

TAVISIO.—An Anti-Papal demonstration of some importance took place at Treviso on Christmas Day. The Bishop of the town Monsignor Zinelli, preached on this occasion in the Cathedral, and in the course of his sermon made some pointed remarks on the 'persecution' to which the Pope is being subjected. These remarks were received by the congregation, which was a very numerous one, with murmurs, hisses, and loud exclamations of dissent, and although the bishop did his best to restore order the tumult became so great that he was obliged to leave the pulpit. So excited were the people that when the bishop left the cathedral it was found necessary to send for a detachment of cuirassiers to protect him from ill-treatment, and while proceeding through the streets to his place he was greeted with hisses and groans. A large crowd assembled in front of the palace in the evening, and several of its windows were broken.

The 'instruction,' or rather Court-Martial on Admiral Persano, of the Italian Navy, was to have concluded its report on the 15th inst., when, it is believed, that he will be acquitted of treason and cowardice—two of the charges preferred against him—and found guilty of the third, incapacity.

The Roman correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* is nonplussed by the turn affairs have taken.—Being unable to earn his salaries by describing the downfall of the Temporal Power, he is driven to such news as the following: 'During the celebration of the eighteenth century of the martyrdom of St. Peter, to which all Catholic bishops are invited, the Pope will promulgate the dogmatical definition of the Assumption in the spirit and in the flesh of the Virgin Mary, in the same way as he decreed the immaculate conception, which was not an article of faith with Catholics till 1854. Other religious matters are engaging attention at Rome. In February the Pope will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his first Mass and it was expected that he would send out many invitations to the solemnity; but it has been decided that the service, though it will embrace great pomp, shall partake of a private character.'

The *Roman Journal* says that on Christmas Day, at nine o'clock in the morning, the Holy Father celebrated Mass in the patriarchal basilique of the Vatican, and himself administered Holy Communion to the cardinals and to certain noble laymen. The Mass being ended, His Holiness gave the apostolical benediction, with a plenary indulgence. The King of the Two Sicilies and the princes of the Royal Family of Naples were present at the ceremony, as were also the Corps Diplomatique accredited to the Holy See, the staff of the Pontifical troops, and many illustrious personages, both Romans and strangers. The people, moved by devotional feelings, hastened in crowds to the patriarchal and other churches.—On coming out from the High Mass, the Holy Father (we read in the *Monde*) received, according to custom, the congratulations of the Sacred College. The Cardinal Vicar, taking the place of the senior cardinal, gave utterance for his brethren to the expressions of their loyalty and fidelity to the Holy See. The following is the substance of his Holiness's reply:—'In the midst of the great storm which now agitates the Church, I have the utmost pleasure at hearing the vows to which on this solemn occasion the Sacred College has given utterance, and the sentiments of its devotion and respect are for us a support and the trials which Providence has thought fit to send us. We, the ministers of God, who have the happiness to be fed daily by the bread which strengthens man, we, who are able each day to recruit our strength by feeding on the bread of life in the feast of the Eucharist, we ought not to fear dangers, nor ought we to be frightened at the proofs wanted of our courage, but we should fight with boldness and courage the battles of Our Lord. We have this day learned that several priests in the Corea have given their life for Jesus Christ. This recent example shows us by new martyrs ought to inspire us to be always ready to sacrifice our lives rather than betray our duties. It is true that at this moment we are not called upon to submit to martyrdom like in Corea; the trials to which we are subjected are hypocrites, the seduction of friends, the deception of enemies, the diabolical artifices by which our enemies are permitted to fight against the Church and to tread under feet its rights and its divine powers. We see these enemies appear before us with the most flattering promises. Every day we have a renewal of the temptations with which Satan was permitted to tempt Jesus Christ from the pinnacle of the temple: 'All these things will I give you if you will fall down and worship me.' But, after the example of our Divine Master, we ought to know that it is our duty to reply with energy, 'Get thee behind me, Satan.' I hope that the tempter by which the barque of St. Peter is threatened will not become more violent; but, whatever may happen, we ought to be ready to give the greatest proof of confidence in God, who increases His assistance in proportion to the peril: 'Where there is the greatest danger, there is also the greatest help.' If we receive offers of conciliation, or if we are presented with the olive branch of peace, we, the ministers of peace, we, the representatives of Him whose chief attribute was mercy, we ought certainly not to hesitate as to what is our duty to do, but always on condition that our rights will be safe and intact, and that nothing will be effected against the divine constitution of the Church and the Holy See. For the rest we place our whole trust in God; it is from God that we expect help and strength under all circumstances, certain that He will know always how to dictate our conduct, our words, and our answers. Pray God that we may all have confidence in His all powerful arms to say on all occasions: 'The Lord is the strength of my life; in whom shall I be afraid?'

The Pope has addressed an autograph letter to the committee of Roman nobles who, in the name of the

nobles and citizens of Rome, had placed themselves at the disposal of the Pope to defend the Holy See. His Holiness thanks them for their generous offer, and declares that he will avail himself of it should the occasion arise.

RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 5.—Three ukases concerning Poland, and bearing date the 19th of December, have been issued to-day. The first introduces the Russian system into the financial administration of Poland, and establishes a provisional financial direction at Warsaw, under the control of the Finance Ministry at St. Petersburg. The definitive constitution of this office as a permanent finance direction is reserved.

The second ukase regulates the postal administration of Poland, and subordinates it to the Russian Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

The third decree simplifies the general Polish administration. It orders that from the 13th of January Poland shall be divided into five, instead of ten, provincial governments, and 85 districts, and that offices for the payment of the taxes shall be established on that day in the governments and districts according to the new division of the new kingdom.

It also grants fuller powers to the Governors, and orders the formation of local bodies of guards. The sentences passed upon the Polish exiles who took part in the revolt in Siberia having been confirmed by the Emperor, have been carried into execution. Of the seven condemned to death, four have been shot, and the remainder sent off to be kept at hard labour, together with those who were sentenced to the latter punishment. Corporal punishment has been remitted in all cases.

The *Impartial Russe*, commenting upon the ukases relating to Poland issued to-day, says that the object of these decrees is the practical union and equalization of the regulations existing in Poland with those in force in Russia. 'Administrative assimilation,' it adds, 'will enable the Government to extend to Poland all the improvements which have been introduced in Russia.'

Russia watches the progress of the Austrian agitation in Poland with much anxiety, and is likely to anticipate the Hapsburg movement by a bold counter stroke.

The Russian Government, as you may well imagine, are attentive observers of what is going on in their immediate frontiers. The *Oracov* correspondent of the official *Warsaw Dziennik* writes home as follows:—

'Our Ultras, knowing Maximilian to be favorable to the Polish cause, hope that he will soon be back from Mexico and transfer the political centre of gravity in these parts from Oracov and Lemberg to Warsaw and Kieff, if not farther. *Risum tenentis* I can solemnly assure you that these fantasies are credited by very many persons here, dreaming about war against barbarous Muscovy by Austria and France.'

This intelligence is improved upon by the Paris correspondent of the same official organ reporting that the Polish committee at the French capital, more impatient than their brethren at home, are organizing 'the cadres of a national army.' They, too, according to the same authority, flatter themselves with the hope that Maximilian will be shortly made King of Poland by the party that failed to constitute him Emperor of Mexico.

TURKEY.

Turkey, who begins to suspect the fate that awaits her, is making her arrangements, but where is the money to pay the fresh troops? This state of things explains the haughty attitude of Italy towards Turkey. Italy is playing her card.

THE AFFAIR IN KOREA.

Very few Englishmen, except naval officers, have ever seen the coast of Korea, or 'the Corea,' as it is sometimes called, after the manner of the French; and the interior of that large peninsula, which runs down from Manchuria to the islands of Japan, may be said to be very nearly unknown. It occupies a geographical position towards China in the north closely resembling that of the Annamese peninsula in the south; and its government, like that of Annam is independent of the Celestial empire, though its people both in their physical and social characteristics present, so far as they are known to us, many points of resemblance to the Chinese. With the treaty of Tientsin, and the opening of regular communications from Shanghai to Japan and the Gulf of Pechelee, it was inevitable that Korea should begin to be attempted, and the wonder only is that so little has been done in the way of opening it up. It is now no obscure retired maiden who requires to be sought out to her seclusion, but a personage very prominent before the desiring eyes of China merchants who are always eager to tempt Oriental simplicity with their cotton and woollen fabrics. Americans have had their attention specially turned to it by the rumour of its containing an immense quantity of mineral wealth. Russian frigates are always hovering around its coasts, and the agents of the Propaganda have found in it a new field in which to manifest their skill and devotion; but though little progress has yet been made, attention has been called in this country to Korea by recent events of such a character as to indicate that matters there will not long rest as they rested for so many centuries. It is not at all surprising that when Roman Catholic missionaries first enter a country which has hitherto for long been secluded they contrive to obtain a footing when no other class of Europeans could do so, and yet after a time bring down persecution, torture, and massacre on themselves and on their converts. This has frequently been illustrated before, in India, in China, in Japan, and in Cochinchina. The missionaries are in great part men of superior mind and character, who really unreservedly devote themselves, hand, head, and heart, to the perilous labour in which they engage. In this way they soon make great progress; but, ere long, the rulers of the country discover that they have admitted a power which threatens to be inimical to their own power and privileges, and consequently try to crush it by violence, while the priests, if there are priests, appeal, to the same end, to superstitions of the people. This history was repeated in Korea a few months ago; for the French missionaries who had managed to establish themselves there with apparent ease were almost all cruelly put to death, only a few escaping to the mountains and one to Shanghai, while those converts who refused to recant were massacred en masse. The French Admiral then took up the question, and the whole affair, so far as it has gone, is an exact repetition of that of Annam. War has been declared by the French, and in September and October last the Admiral advanced on a reconnoitering expedition, from Prince Jerome Bay, some distance up the river which leads from the coast to the capital. Against a current running five miles an hour he found it easy to reach the city of Kang Hoa, a distance of five miles. From that point navigation was more difficult, the current being still more rapid, and there being many sharp turnings, shoals, and sunken rocks; but some of the gunboats got up twenty miles above Kang Hoa, to within sight of Bay-ool, the capital of the kingdom. At one or two places the expedition was fired upon, but the fire was soon silenced, and in one instance the authorities came on board and presented provisions. The French have resolved to suspend further operations until winter is over, but it would seem, from what has been learned, that there will be no difficulty in the way of reaching the capital with a small force. At the same time there come to us accounts of a very opposite character in regard to the fate of the crews of two American vessels which have fallen into the hands of the Koreans. In the one case the crew, there is no doubt, received a greater amount of care and kindness than they would have got in any civilized country, while in the other it is to be feared they were put to a cruel death. The first case was that of the schooner *Surprise*, the captain of which, M'Oslen, has reached Shanghai in safety, and published an ac-

count of his experiences. The case of the other American vessel, the *General Sherman*, is so different from that just noted that we cannot but entertain a hope that it may turn out to have been misreported. It was an armed vessel, with a large crew, and two Englishmen (one of them Mr. Thomas, a linguist and missionary), on board, and seems to have gone to Korea for the purpose of what the Americans call 'prospecting generally.' Having run aground on the bank of one of the rivers which it attempted to ascend in August last, it is said that the authorities, by order of the King, fastened the crew and passengers down in their berths, and the set the vessel on fire. The evidence in proof of this story is not of a very satisfactory kind, but the mere fact of the good treatment of the other ship wrecked crew can go very little way in refutation of it; for the Koreans might think themselves justified in acting towards vessels that intruded upon their rivers very differently than those accidentally shipwrecked upon their coast. It is understood that even if the two Englishmen on board the *General Sherman* were murdered her Majesty's Government will take no action in the matter.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The *China Mail* of November 15 states that the news of the burning of the General Sherman American schooner by the Koreans and the consequent death of all on board is confirmed. Passengers and crew were tied on their berths and burned with the ship. The French fleet, consisting of one frigate, three corvettes, and four gunboats, left for Korea on the 11th of October, and on the 15th entered the town of Kanghoa, some distance up a river, described as a small place of only 10,000 inhabitants nearly all of whom deserted the town on the French approach. The fact of the murder of the missionaries is fully admitted by the Koreans, and a mandarin who was captured and taken on board the admiral's ship seemed to glory in the fact. The King invited the French captain to proceed to the capital to negotiate; but this was declined, as a trap was suspected, and a despatch was sent instead, in which demands were made for punishment of the mandarin who had instigated the murders, and for the appointment of a plenipotentiary. News had been brought to the French by a Korean convert that junk containing stone had been sunk in the river Seoul, between Kanghoa and the capital; and that the Viceroy had despatched an army of 15,000 strong to attack them. The Seoul is officially declared under blockade by the French.

With regard to the French expedition to the Korea, the *London and China Telegraph* (Dec 27) has received the following telegram via Kischia without date:—French evacuated Korea. Expedition total failure. The natives greatly elated, and European prestige much damaged.

M de Montalembert has been long engaged on a work, which to him is a labour of love, the 'History of the Monks of the West.' It is incited in a short but graceful and affectionate dedication, in Latin, to Lord Dunraven, who accompanied the author during his visits to Iona, 'from which,' as Sir W. Scott observes, 'the light of Christianity shone forth on Scotland and Ireland,' and to other ancient sanctuaries in England and Scotland.

The new volume opens with a sketch of the English nation in five or six pages, vigorously and eloquently written, which I (*Times Cor*) have thus translated:—

'There exists in modern Europe, at seven leagues distance from France, within sight of our northern coast, a people whose empire is more vast than that of Alexander or the Cæsars, who are at once the freest and the mightiest, the richest and most manifold, the most undaunted and the most orderly that the world has known. No study is more instructive than the character of this people; none presents so original an aspect, or stranger contrasts. Liberal and intolerant, pious and intemperate, loving order and security as much as movement and reform, they feel a superstitious respect for the letter of the law and practise the most unbounded personal independence. Governed, as now others are, with all the arts of peace, and yet unconquerable in war, too often strangers to enthusiasm, but incapable of faint-heartedness, they know not what it is to be discouraged or enervated. At one time they count all by the measure of their gain or their caprices; at another they get heated for a disinterested idea or a passion. As fickle as any other race in their affections and their judgment, they always know where to stop, and they are gifted at once with a power of initiative which nothing astonishes, and a perseverance which nothing turns aside. Eager for conquest and discoveries, they wander or rush to the utmost boundaries of the earth, and they return more attached than ever to their home, and more resolute in upholding its dignity and perpetuating its ancient stability. Implacable haters of constraint, they are yet voluntary slaves to tradition and to discipline freely accepted, or to prejudices handed down to them through generations. No people have been oftener conquered, but none have so absorbed and transformed their conquerors. None have persecuted Catholicism with more unrelenting and sanguinary hatred; even at this day none appear more hostile to the Church, of which yet none have more need; none have been more wanting to it; none have left in its bosom a more irreparable void; but none have lavished on our proscribed bishops, priests, and monks a more generous hospitality. Inaccessible to modern convulsions, that island has been an inviolable asylum for our exiled fathers, and our Princes, not less than for our most violent enemies. Neither the selfishness of these islanders, nor their indolence, too often cynical, towards the sufferings and the servitude of others, should make us forget that in their country, more than any other, man belongs to himself and governs himself. It is there that the nobleness of our nature develops itself in all its splendor, and there attains its highest perfection. It is there that the noble passion of independence, combined with the genius of association, and the constant practice of self-control, have given birth to those prodigies of energy, of indomitable vigour, of stubborn heroism, which have triumphed over nature and tyranny, and have excited the envy of all peoples and the haughty enthusiasm of the English. Loving liberty for her own sake, and loving nothing without her, they owe little to their Kings, who were nothing but through them and for them. On them alone rests the formidable responsibility of their history. After undergoing as much, and more than any other nation of Europe, the horrors of political and religious despotism in the 16th and 17th centuries, they were the first and the only people who threw it off once and for ever. Reinstated in their ancient rights, their proud and brave nature has ever since kept them from delivering over to any one their rights, their destiny, their interests, or their free will. They themselves know what to resolve and what to do; governing, raising up, inspiring their great men, instead of being subdued, led astray, or made the matter of traffic by them. That English race has inherited the pride, as it has inherited the grandeur of the people whose rivals and whose heirs they are, of the Roman people—not the vile Romans enslaved by Augustus but the sterling Romans of the Republic. But that race, like the Romans to their tributaries, has been fierce and rapacious in Ireland, and has inflicted, down to recent times, the servitude and degradation which it repudiates with horror for itself. Like ancient Rome, often hated, and too often deserving of hatred, it will always excite even among its most favorable judges, more of admiration than of love. But, more fortunate than Rome, that race is, after a thousand years and more, still full of youth and youthful vigor. Progress, gradual, imperceptible, but never interrupted, has created for it an inexhaustible store of force and life. Its sap overflowed yesterday, and it will overflow to-morrow. More fortunate than Rome, and despite of a thousand inconsistencies, a thousand excesses, a thousand foul blots, the English race is of all modern races and of all Christian communities the one which has best preserved the three fundamen-