

commencement of the demand has probably not amounted to the arrivals of these articles in one month of which the above is the return. From the Continent of Europe no further supplies can, it seems, at present be calculated on, but it does not therefore follow that importations will wholly cease; there is certainly no margin for profit at present, but this will not stop the supplies from the Black Sea and from America. The quantity of wheat on passage from Odessa, Alexandria, &c., is not so large as at this time last year, but it must be borne in mind that our own crop has proved infinitely better, and that our wants are not nearly so great as they were at the corresponding period of 1851. Besides the favourable result of the wheat harvest, we have reason to believe that potatoes suffered less on this side of the Channel as well as in Ireland than in any preceding season, and in the latter country the stocks of Indian corn are heavier than they were at the opening of last year. Under these circumstances, we cannot agree with those who predict scarcity and high prices; at the same time we are inclined to expect a good healthy trade, at rates somewhat above those now current for a month or two to come. Towards the close of last week there was some appearance of a reaction in the prices of wheat, but this was in a great measure caused by the indifferent condition in which most of the samples came forward, the prevalence of wet weather having affected the quality. This also has had its influence since, but holders have nevertheless remained exceedingly firm, and not only has no decline been submitted to, but a further rise of fully 1s. per quarter has been established at most of the leading provincial markets. The arrivals of wheat coastwise into the port of London have been quite moderate, and the quantity brought forward at Mark Lane by land carriage samples from the home counties has been small, more especially from Essex. At the commencement of Monday's market, factors demanded materially advanced terms, which the millers refused to pay, and some time elapsed before an understanding could be arrived at. Ultimately, however, a clearance was made at prices fully 1s. per quarter higher than those current on that day so might. This advance was not so freely conceded on Wednesday, but the few lots exhibited this morning were placed without difficulty at the extreme rates of Monday. Flour of home manufacture has met a steady sale at previous prices; for fine American and the best qualities of French rather enhanced terms have been realized.—*Shipping and Mercantile Gazette.*

POLITICAL.

THE PUPIL TEACHER SYSTEM.

We expressed our conviction, lately, that the Pupil Teacher System, devised by Sir Philip Kay Shuttleworth, is by far the most pernicious feature of the scheme set on foot for the purpose of bringing the Education of the country under the controul of that creatureless State authority, the COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION. For this conviction we feel the more anxious to assign our reason, because not only has public attention not been sufficiently directed to this point, but it has actually been diverted from it by the controversy touching the Management Clauses. While fully admitting the objectionable character of the latter, the Bishop of Oxford speaks of the Pupil Teacher System in terms of unqualified praise; and even Archdeacon Denison, who has concentrated the whole force of his energetic opposition upon the Management Clauses, allows the enemy to take him in the rear by the Pupil Teacher System.

At the risk, then, of differing from two such great authorities, in the present instance, somewhat conflicting authorities, we must maintain that if Church schools are to be preserved from the danger of being secularized, and latitudinarianized, the vigilance of Churchmen must be exercised in a far greater degree with regard to the effects which the Pupil Teacher System is calculated to produce. The reason for this appears to us obvious and incontrovertible. The object of both the Management Clauses and the Pupil Teacher System is undoubtedly the same; viz., to introduce into our parochial schools a system of what is termed, in the language of the Council Office, non-sectarian education. This object the Management Clauses are intended to effect by giving the Committee of Council a hold upon the building, and through the building upon the managers of the school; a hold which is stipulated for in the trust deed in a manner sufficiently explicit to put founders of schools upon their guard as to the risk which they run of being interfered with by an authority indifferent, if not inimical, to Church principles. The Pupil Teacher System aims at the same object by giving the Committee of Council a hold upon the master, the living power of education in the school; and it does so not by a direct proviso, but by indirect influence, not openly and in express terms, but "unobtrusively," on the sly.

To our thinking there cannot be a moment's doubt which of the two modes of interference is the more likely to affect the school injuriously. If the mind of the schoolmaster be brought into subjection to an alien influence, it matters comparatively little how the Committee of Management is composed, or what is the extent of its powers. In spite of any Committee of Management, in spite of the Clergyman, even supposing him to reign nominally supreme as sole Manager, the spirit of the schoolmaster will still be the spirit of the school. The objectionable power which the Management Clause confers upon the Committee of Council, may, in most cases, probably, it would, lie dormant for years in the trust deed, without ever making itself practically felt in the school; whereas the power over the teacher, placed in the hands of the Committee of Council by the Pupil Teacher System, is a living influence which, by the aid of the powerful levers of personal interest and professional ambition, is constantly brought to bear upon him, and through him upon the school.

Under the Minutes of the Committee of Council which establish the Pupil Teacher System, the Government Inspector becomes the dispenser of every stimulus to exertion in the mind of the master, and not of the master only, but of the whole school. The objection of the Inspector who in a girl's school made said: "Now, girls, you are to remember that henceforward you are government officers," was not more grogrous than pregnant with truth. The teacher is dependent on the report of the Government Inspector, and on his success in the examinations appointed to take place under the authority of the Committee of Council for his Class Certificate, which regulates the amount of his salary from the Parliamentary grant, which is another source of increased remuneration. In order to place himself in the best position with regard to the advantages held out by the Committee of Council, the master must necessarily throw himself, both in the school, and out of it, in the instruction of the Pupil Teachers, and in the pursuit of his own studies, upon the attainments in various branches of secular knowledge which the Committee of Council have made the standard of qualification. The extent to which the de-

mand for proficiency in these, especially in physical and mathematical science, is carried, is truly ridiculous. Men whose proper business is to instill the first rudiments of necessary knowledge into the children of the labouring classes, during the extremely limited time of their school attendance, are subjected to a test not inferior to that which constitutes the qualification for an academic degree; even classical learning is not omitted from the list of subjects for examination. A similar scale of excessive requirement in matters of secular knowledge is laid down for the examination of the Pupil Teachers, and of the scholars aspiring to that position; while the amount of religious knowledge specified in the examination papers is of the most meagre description, and studiously undogmatic,—for the most part confined to sacred history and geography.

The inevitable result is, that, as a mere question of time and attention, religion,—that which in elementary schools for the great mass of the people ought to be the main object of instruction,—is thrown into the background. A very small modicum of it is made to suffice; while every nerve has to be strained to come up to the standard in point of secular knowledge. Add to this the well-known, the undisguised hostility of the Committee of Council against the Church Catechism; the slur cast upon it in the Minutes of the Committee, and in the *obiter dicta*, not of school Inspectors only, in their reports, but of members of the Committee itself, as well as of their clerical echoes, Bishops and Deans of Whig creation, and it is not difficult to see how sound religious instruction, based upon the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England, is likely to fare in schools subjected to the operation of the Pupil Teacher System. To suppose that the action of the Clergyman upon the school, or the remote and qualified power reserved to the Bishop, can avail to counterbalance this powerful momentum of secularizing influence, is a perfect absurdity. Any man moderately acquainted with the practical working of a school must perceive that the odds are altogether against sound religious instruction. The plain truth of the matter is that by the Pupil Teacher System "two masters" are established side by side in the parochial school,—the Church and the Committee of Council,—and good care is taken to supply both teacher and pupils with sufficient motives for serving the one and despising the other.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Sir Robert Hall required some explanation of the passage in the speech referring to our foreign relations in connection with Lord Palmerston's resignation.

Lord John Russell was ready to answer the inquiry. He had ever shown, not in words only, his sense of Lord Palmerston's eminent abilities and services, and had in other days expressly recommended him to Lord Melbourne, besides invariably including him in any plan of a Government formed by himself. But circumstances had occurred such as, in his mind, had made it impossible for him any longer to continue in co-operation with Lord Palmerston. He proceeded to make a detailed statement of the causes which had led to Lord Palmerston's resignation. Describing, first, what he conceived to be the relative positions of a Prime Minister and a Foreign Secretary, taking the definition of the former from the evidence of Sir Robert Peel before the Committee on Salaries, he stated that in August, 1850, a letter had been written to Lord Palmerston explaining how his duty was understood by the Queen, and that Lord Palmerston had promised to observe its terms. Incidentally, the speaker also mentioned that Sir Robert Peel, on leaving office, had advised the Queen always to consult him, Lord John, on all foreign questions. He then proceeded to state certain events of last autumn, and said that there had been a Cabinet meeting on the 3rd November, at which it was agreed that the state of Europe was very critical, and that it behoved England to preserve the strictest neutrality. Yet, a short time afterwards Lord Palmerston received deputations with addresses, in which the most disrespectful language was applied to the Sovereigns of foreign nations. But though in this matter Lord Palmerston had not exercised due caution, he (Lord John Russell) had been willing to consider it an inadvertence, and to take his share of the responsibility. But after that occurrence, he had expected even increased frankness from Lord Palmerston, and that he would certainly not make any communication to foreign Governments without giving him (Lord John Russell) the opportunity of expressing his sentiments thereon. His next act, however, was the crowning one. A Cabinet Council had been held on the 3rd of December, in reference to Lord Normanby's application for instructions on the Parisian crisis, when it was agreed that Lord Normanby had only to abstain from all interference, and Lord Palmerston, on the 5th, sent off a despatch correctly expressing the opinion of the Government. A few days afterwards Lord Normanby wrote to Lord Palmerston to say that he had communicated his despatch to the French Foreign Minister, who had informed him that some days before Lord Palmerston had signified to Count Walewski his entire approbation of the *coup d'état*, and had said that there was no other course open to Louis Napoleon. Lord John had thought that this might be explained, and had written to Lord Palmerston for such explanation of what, if truly stated, amounted to moral interference with the affairs of France. For several days Lord Palmerston sent no reply, and although on the 13th a messenger came to Woburn from the Queen, with a desire that the affair might be explained, Lord Palmerston, apprised of this, neglected to answer. On the 16th Lord John Russell wrote to him that his silence was disrespectful to the Queen. On the same day Lord Palmerston wrote, of his own authority, to Lord Normanby (in answer to a despatch from him commenting on his conduct), and denied that he had said anything to Count Walewski inconsistent with the Government instructions to Lord Normanby, but added that his private opinion was that it was for the interest of France and of Europe that the President should succeed in the struggle.

Lord Palmerston had in this communication avoided the real question. The Foreign Secretary had chosen to put himself in the place of the Crown, and to pass by and neglect the Crown, although as Lord John Russell held, a Secretary of State had no constitutional authority whatever. Another question had arisen, which had been one of delicacy. The act of the French President had not only dissolved the Assembly, but abolished the constitution, and fettered the press. This might be desirable or not, but this was a matter for the French alone. It was not for an English Minister to place the broad seal of England on such acts. We had been showing sympathy to various nations, for many years, in their attempts to obtain constitutions—how could we take that course after expressing approbation of what had been done in France? Under all circumstances, he had come to the conclusion that he could not continue to act with Lord Palmerston. The latter had at last addressed to him a long letter, giving him reasons for advocating the cause of the President, but these reasons did not seem to Lord John to touch the question. He had, there-

fore on the 20th, written to her Majesty, advising that Lord Palmerston be required to resign. He had consulted none of his colleagues in that step, feeling that the responsibility ought to remain with himself alone, but at a Cabinet Council on the 22nd they decided that he could have taken no other course. The Vienna letter he declared was a curious coincidence, but afforded no proof of the implied secret understanding with Austria. He did not accuse Lord Palmerston of personal disaffection, but believed that his conduct had been produced by his self-reliance and his long habits of management. He then entered upon continental affairs, and, in reference to France, declared his own opinion that though it was not for us to act as Austria and Russia had done in regard to the President, still he had no hesitation in saying that no doubt the President had acted from the best sources of information, and had done what from his knowledge of the question he thought best for France [murmurs, and some slight laughter, upon which Lord John Russell repeated the sentence]. He proceeded to condemn the severe language the English press had used against Louis Napoleon, and reminded the House that such language by the press of former days had goaded the First Consul into war, but he thought this was not probable on that account, because the President of France well understood that the press of England did not necessarily convey the feelings of the Government or of the nation. He was opposed to alarmist doctrines, and did not believe that two of the greatest nations of the earth were going to butcher one another. Alluding to the hospitality we had for so many years shown to refugees of every nation, he trusted we should never forget this obligation, but he hoped we should remember it without incensing other nations, or increasing our own armaments. His Lordship concluded with a eulogy on peace, and the expression of a belief that out of all the troublous events of the day political liberty would be at last established.

Lord Palmerston felt that, after what had fallen, some observations from him were necessary. He would not have it go out to the country that he had abandoned the principles of a life in favour of military despotism. He concurred in the definitions of the duties of a Secretary of State as they were laid down by Lord John Russell, but believed he had in no way departed from their spirit. The practice of the Foreign-office, as sought to be defined by Lord John Russell, was no new one, for despatches and notes had never been sent without the Prime Minister's sanction. Referring to the incident of the deputation, he said that he had thought it his duty to receive it, but had scarcely thought his answer would have made a matter of public importance; but there was nothing in that answer which he had not said in his place in that house, and though he had regretted expressions in the addresses in question, he did not think there was anything in that affair to impair our foreign relations. Adverting to the incidents of the *coup d'état*, he said that he had, in conversation with the French Ambassador, uttered precisely the sentiments which appeared in the despatch Lord J. Russell had read. But when Lord Normanby applied for instructions, there could be, of course, but one answer consistently with our habitual policy. Lord Normanby thought it necessary to communicate this to the French Minister. The latter said that two days before he had received a communication, which he described however in highly-coloured words—Lord J. Russell had written for explanation, and he (Lord Palmerston) had, being much pressed by business, delayed his reply until he could write fully. He then did write, and said that his opinion was, that the antagonism which had arisen between the President and the Assembly had made it impossible both could exist together. Recapitulating the remainder of the correspondence, he observed that he had replied to Lord John Russell's letter that there was a distinction between official despatches and non-official communications, that he had said nothing to Count Walewski which could fetter the Government, and that if a Foreign Secretary were forbidden to talk frankly to a Foreign Ambassador, there would be an end of all that easy diplomatic communication which tended most of all to preserve the peace of nations. Upon this Lord John signified that he, Lord Palmerston, ought to resign. He conceived his own doctrine right, and Lord John Russell's to be wrong. But he added, that his opinion was expressed on the 3d December; and the same evening, under the same roof, Lord John Russell expressed his opinion to the same individual, and, judging by what had fallen from Lord John Russell that night, it was probable that his opinion was the same as Lord Palmerston's. And on the following Friday each of the other ministers seemed to have expressed an opinion upon the very subject which Lord Palmerston was told he must not express an opinion on. So every minister, except the only one who had studied foreign questions, was to be free to pronounce upon them. And as to the despatch to Lord Normanby, was it to be laid down as a rule that on no occasion was a Foreign Minister to send a despatch on his own discretion, without being charged with breach of duty to the Crown and to the Prime Minister? He had certainly often adhered to that rule, to the damage of his own character for punctuality in matters of business; but was such a rule to be pushed to absurdity? It was an unfair misrepresentation to say that in his despatch to Lord Normanby he had given any instructions, or spoken in the name of England. He had done no such thing. Lord John Russell had therefore written to the Queen to remove him (Lord Palmerston) for doing precisely what every other member of the Government had done. He proceeded to say that he fully concurred in the policy which Lord John Russell had declared should be ours, and that he had been proud to be, as Lord John had once described him, the Minister not of France, or Austria, or Russia, but of England. In doing his duty in that position, it was impossible he should always avoid giving offence, but he had succeeded in leaving the country at peace with other nations, and without even a subject of dispute with any of them. After naming various countries with which we had not long ago been upon less amicable terms than he had now left the nation, and referring to his success in suppressing the slave trade (upon the prospect of the speedy extinction of which he dilated with earnestness), he alluded to the state of feeling between ourselves and Austria, and in accounting for it, reminded the house that for a long time there had been differences between the two Governments on points of policy, but there was nothing in the fact which need prevent the two countries from co-operation on ordinary matters. And he concluded by saying that in leaving office he had left the foreign relations of England in a satisfactory condition, and her character and honour unsullied.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FRANCE.

The accounts from Paris are in the highest degree important. The Ministry has undergone considerable change, and two new departments have been created—a Ministry of State and a Ministry of Police.

M. Saliandrouze de Lamornaix has written to the *Constitutionnel* to say that it is not true, as stated by one of the journals, that a sum of 25,000 l. has been awarded to him by the Royal Commission of the Exhibition at London, for his services as French Commissary-General. A sum of money was, he says, offered to him by the Commission, but he declined to accept it.

The Marquise d'Osmond a Legitimist lady, who gives brilliant reunions at her house on the Boulevard de la Madeleine, received last week an official intimation from the Minister of the Interior that politics were not approved of by the Government as a subject of conversation at parties, and that as many other subjects gave equal scope for social communication there existed no necessity for discussing the acts of the Government. Consequently the marquise was requested to intimate to her guests that they must refrain from talking politics. Madame d'Osmond, after receiving this notice, invited to her next party only ladies; but the absence of the "lords of the creation" did not prevent the company present from exchanging the freest criticisms possible upon the deeds of the Government, and in particular from venting their indignation, in shrill chorus, at the invasion of private society by such monstrous prohibitions. This occurred on Friday night. The next morning Madame d'Osmond received a note from M. de Morny begging her to name which of her châteaux the marquis would prefer for her country residence, as her sojourn at Paris any longer for the present had become impossible; and intimating that her return to the capital would not be permitted without an express permission from the President of the Republic.

The friends of Louis Napoleon imagine—and I fear imagine truly—that the French people want to have their revenge for the defeat at Waterloo, and for the imprisonment of the Emperor at St. Helena. Such a war they say would be popular; and in such circumstances why should they not undertake it? I know nothing of the feelings of other countries, but here the belief is that Russia would join in any attack which France might be disposed to make on England. Certain it is that since the 2nd of December the representative of Russia has been the most assiduous in his attendance at the Elysée, and the most honoured of the diplomatic corps; that Russian nobles are more plentiful in Paris at the present moment than they have ever been since 1848; and that both amongst the French and the Russians it is currently stated that an arrangement between France and Russia could easily be managed, for that Russia would not interfere with the extension of the French frontier to the Rhine, if France would permit Russia to seize on Constantinople.

The confiscation of the possessions of the House of Orleans is still the great topic of the day. It has produced a most painful sensation throughout France, and no doubt it will produce a similar impression in all parts of Europe. The effect of it is to deprive that illustrious family of every particle of property held by Louis Philippe, the head of the house, when, in 1830, he was called to the throne of France. I need hardly say that this measure will bring the whole of that family to the verge of ruin; but it does not affect them in precisely equal proportions. The blow falls most heavily on the family of the late Duke of Orleans, who, in consequence of this cruel act of spoliation, are deprived of everything. The Comte de Paris and the Duke de Chartres are at the present moment utterly destitute of resources. They have positively nothing but what their mother, the Duchess of Orleans, chooses to give them out of her precarious dowry of 300,000l., which she is still allowed to retain, though she may be deprived of it any day by the same power which deprived her family of the rest of their rights. The only property now remaining to the Orleans family is that derived from Madame Adelaide, the only sister of Louis Philippe.

PARIS, Sunday Evening.—The impression is becoming daily stronger here that we are on the eve of war. Those who are acquainted with the sentiments of Louis Napoleon on the subject, all admit that he will not only do nothing to avoid war, but that he will be glad of the opportunity of waging it. His firm and decided opinion is that martial success is necessary to the consolidation of his power, and that his surest means of retaining a hold of the French people, and more especially of the French army, is to give employment to the troops. The idea of war is not new to Louis Napoleon. It was his first thought after his election in 1848. It was the first suggestion he made to M. Thiers, when that statesman went to the Elysée; and in deference to the opinion of his Ministers, and in face of the opposition of the Assembly, he then postponed the fulfilment of his idea, it must not be supposed that he has abandoned it. It is well known that it is one of the peculiar characteristics of Louis Napoleon, that he never abandons a wish or an idea which he thinks will contribute to his own interests.

The anniversary of the death of Louis XVI., on Wednesday, was for the first time since 1830 observed by the suspension of all Ministerial and public reception. This is attributed, not so much to an extraordinary love for the Legitimists on the part of the President, as to a dislike to the Orleanists, and to the same policy which has caused all Legitimist names to be excluded from the lists of proscription.

The Minister of State is an entirely new creation, and it is expected that his appointment will retard rather than facilitate the transaction of business, as the President refuses to confer with the other Ministers, or to receive their reports, except through the Minister of State. The resignation of M. de Morny has diffused considerable alarm in Paris, for although his successor is known to be an able man, yet M. de Morny had during his administration gained to a great extent the confidence of the people, and when his resignation became known, it created a panic in the Bourse.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A SINGULAR RELIC.—Captain D'Aubreville, of the bark *Chieftain*, of Boston, writes to the editor of the *Louisville Varieties*, that he put into Gibraltar on the 27th of August, last to repair some damages his vessel had sustained, and while waiting, himself and two of his passengers crossed the straits to Mount Abylus, on the African coast, to shoot, and pick up geological specimens. Before returning the breeze had freshened so much as to render it necessary to put more ballast in the boat, and one of the crew lifted what he supposed to be a piece of rock, but from its extreme lightness and singular shape was induced to call the attention of the captain to it, who at first took it for a piece of pumice-stone, but so completely covered with barnacles and other marine animals, as to deny that supposition. On further examination he found a cocoa-nut, enveloped in a kind of gum or resinous substance; this he also opened, and found a parchment coloured with gothic characters, nearly illegible, and which neither he nor any one on board