

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

In France the impending, and apparently inevitable, struggle between the many factions into which that great nation is divided, continues almost to monopolise public attention. The period of the Presidency of Louis Napoleon being about to expire, that child of fortune, clinging to regal pre-eminence, is exerting all his influence to secure his own re-election, and with that object to remodel the constitution, which, as it now exists, does not admit of his nomination to the Presidency at the next election. Public opinion in France is divided amongst Louis Napoleon and his partisans seeking to re-establish "the Empire"—the Red Republicans, or great Communist faction—the Orleanists, who aim at placing the young Count de Paris on the throne of his grandfather—the Legitimists, or supporters of the claims of Henry, Duke de Bourdeaux; to the sceptre of France—and, lastly, the moderate Republicans, under the leadership of General Cavaignac, who seek to perpetuate the Republic and national liberty on the basis of the existing constitution.

PARIS, AUGUST 30.—The court-martial at Lyons held its final sitting on Thursday. The result is, that seven of the accused have been sentenced to transportation for life, 36 to various periods of imprisonment, and 12 have been acquitted. Of the number condemned eleven were not present, having made their escape, and been pronounced in contempt of court. Three only against whom the severe sentence of transportation was passed were present at the trial.

M. Lamartine has written two articles in the *Pays* against the presidency of the Prince de Joinville, which he says would be deplorable for the republic, deplorable for royalty, and deplorable for the prince.

PARIS, SEP. 1.—There is still perfect calm, and although everybody seems to expect a storm to come on in, or perhaps before, 1852, there is no other indication of want of confidence than the stagnation in the higher branches of trade.

The number of Councils-General that have voted for the revision of the constitution is now 44, being more than the half. The whole of the returns will be received this week.

SPAIN.

Accounts from Madrid of the 29th ult. announce that the Duchess of Montpensier was safely delivered of a daughter on the previous evening, in her palace at Seville. The mother and child were doing well.

ITALY.

EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTHERN ITALY.—The Naples correspondent of the *Times*, writing on August 24th, gives several details relative to a dreadful disaster which occurred on the 14th, in the province of Basilicata, in the kingdom of Naples, and about 100 miles from the capital. A list of more than fifty villages is given, in which greater or less damage was done, in more than one place the principal buildings having been destroyed, and in all several lives having been lost amidst the ruins of fallen houses. The greatest sufferer, however, was the town of Melfi, a place containing 10,000 inhabitants; three-quarters of the city are a mass of ruins—the Archbishop's palace, the college, the municipality, the barracks, and the police station have been all levelled to the ground. The known deaths amount already to 700, besides 200 wounded, among whom the principal families count victims.

Several individuals who had resisted a patrol of gendarmerie in the execution of their duty at Milan had been tried by court-martial, and sentenced to be shot. The sentence was subsequently mitigated to imprisonment, with hard labor, for ten years.

A letter from Rome, of the 20th, states, that the Rev. Canon Marsolini, the representative of the Duke of Parma, had been assailed, near his own house, by four men, who severely beat him and his man-servant. This outrageous act of violence had created a great sensation in Rome.

AUSTRIA.

The most remarkable event in the political world, which has transpired during the week, is the arrival of the news of the assumption of absolute power by the Emperor of Austria. His Imperial Majesty, by letters addressed to Prince Schwarzenberg, Minister President of the cabinet, and Baron Kubeck, President of the Reichsrath or council of the empire, has formally abrogated the constitution of the 4th of March, 1849, to which he solemnly swore adherence. That constitution was ceded by unwilling and despotic ministers, and by a Sovereign no less opposed to the progress of reform, in compliance with the unanimous demands of the whole people. That constitution which at best effected only a very moderate restraint upon despotism, has been formally superseded by a stroke of the imperial pen, and undisguised and unfettered absolutism—as perfect and irresponsible as the wicked heart of despot could desire—has been established in its place. The probable effect which this daring and aggressive step will have upon the cause of constitutional liberty and the destinies of Europe, is now one of the chief topics of discussion in the London and continental press. In adopting so prominent a course in the march of retrogression, Catholic Austria has been warmly seconded by Protestant Prussia, whose leaning towards despotic sway, and whose efforts at unconstitutional government, have for a long time past been the subject of observation and comment. A most unfortunate coincidence for the Exeter Hall fanatics, who have thus lost an opportunity of turning the crimes of the Austrian despot to account, and, because of his being a Catholic, attributing his treachery to the cause of constitutional liberty to his professed Catholicity. They had already commenced the howl, when the Protestant despot of Prussia silenced it by his perfidy to the constitution of "his people."

AUSTRALIA.

THE GOLD FEVER IN AUSTRALIA.—The following statement is given by the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Tuesday, May 20th, from the *Bathurst Free Press* of Saturday, the 17th:—

"The discovery of the fact by Mr. Hargraves that the country, from the Mountain Ranges to an indefinite extent in the interior, is one immense gold field, has produced a tremendous excitement in the town of Bathurst and the surrounding districts. For several days after our last publication the business of the town was utterly paralysed. A complete mental madness appears to have seized almost every member of the community; and, as a natural consequence, there has been an universal rush to the diggings. Any attempt to describe the numberless scenes—grave, gay and ludicrous—which have arisen out of this state of things, would require the graphic pen of a Dickens, and would exceed any limit which could be assigned to it in a newspaper. Groups of people were to be seen early on Monday morning at every corner of the streets, assembled in solemn conclave, debating both possibilities and impossibilities, and eager to pounce upon any human being who was likely to give any information about the diggings. People of all trades, callings, and pursuits, were quickly transformed into miners, and many a hand which had been trained to kid gloves, or accustomed to wield nothing heavier than the grey goose-quill, became nervous to clutch the pick and crowbar, or "rock the cradle" at our infant mines. The blacksmiths of the town could not turn off the picks fast enough, and the manufacture of cradles was the second brisk business of the place. A few left town on Monday equipped for the diggings; but on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the roads to Summer-hill Creek became literally alive with new-made miners from every quarter, some armed with picks, others shouldering crow-bars or shovels, and not a few strung round with wash-hand basins, tin pots, and cullenders, garden and agricultural implements of every variety either hung from the saddle bow, or dangled about the persons of the pilgrims to Ophir. Now and then a respectable tradesman, who had just left his bench or counter, would leave in sight, with a huge something in front of his horse, which he called a cradle, and with which he was about to rock himself into fortune. Scores have rushed from their homes, provided with a blanket, 'a damper,' and a pick or grubbing hoe, full of hope that a day or two's labor would fill their pockets with the precious metal; and we have heard of a great number who have started without any provision but a blanket and some rude instrument to dig with. Such is the intensity of the excitement that people appear almost regardless of their present comfort and think of nothing but gold. Of course all this must end in disappointment. The wet weather of the last two nights, with the damp ground for a bed, and the teeming clouds for a canopy, will do much towards damping the enthusiasm of numbers. We have the authority of an experienced man in stating that, from the imperfect and unsuitable implements used by all who have left for the diggings, coupled with their miserable provision in other respects, success is impossible; that the labor necessary to success is extremely severe, and he ventures, as his opinion, that no more than three per cent will become permanent miners. One of the consequences has been a rapid rise in the price of provisions. Flour which ranged from 26s to 28s per 100lbs., has been sold for 45s; tea, sugar, and almost every other eatable commodity, have advanced in proportion. A large amount of the wheat in the districts is in the hands of a few speculators, who will maintain their hold in the hope of a golden harvest. But for the very extensive supplies now on their way from Sydney, flour would be soon at a famine price, and should a rush take place from below, as may be reasonably expected, it is to be hoped that there are capitalists enough to adventure in one of the safest speculations of the times—the purchase of flour for the supply of the district.

"What assisted very materially to fan the excitement into a flame was the arrival of a son of Mr. Neale, the brewer, with a piece of pure metal, weighing 11 ounces, which was purchased by Mr. Austin for £30, who started to Sydney by the following day's mail with the gold and the news. Since that an old man arrived in town with several pieces in mass, weighing in all from two to three pounds. He also started to Sydney with his prize. Mr. Kennedy, the manager of the Bathurst Branch of the Union Bank of Australia, visited the diggings on Saturday last, in company with Messrs. Hawkins and Greene, and each of these gentlemen picked up a small piece of the pure metal and a few handfuls of the loose earth from the bed of the creek, which were brought home by Mr. Kennedy from motives of curiosity, have been since assayed by Mr. Korff, from Sydney, and a piece of gold extracted therefrom, of the size of a small pea. Besides these we have not heard of any particular instance of success.

On Wednesday morning last, Mr. Hargraves, accompanied by Mr. Stutchbury, the government geologist, went to the diggings, and with his own hands washed a pan of earth in his presence, from which twenty-one grains of fine gold were produced. He afterwards washed several baskets of earth, and produced gold therefrom. Mr. Stutchbury hereupon expressed his satisfaction, and immediately furnished him with credentials which have since been forwarded to government. The fact of the existence of the gold is therefore clearly established; and whatever credit or emolument may arise therefrom, Mr. Hargraves is certainly the individual to whom it properly belongs. Should government deem it necessary, as it most probably will, to appoint an inspector, superintendent, or commissioner, over the gold regions, in addition to the fact of Mr. Hargraves being the discoverer, his practical acquaintance with mining points

him out as the most suitable and worthy person for the appointment.

"A Mr. Rudder, an experienced California gold digger, is now at work in the diggings. There are also several magistrates plying their picks and cradles most laboriously, but we have not heard with what success. In fact there appears every probability of a complete social revolution in the course of time. Those who are not already departed are making preparations. Servants of every description are leaving their various employments, and the employers are, *per necessitatem*, preparing to follow. But notwithstanding all this, we feel that a reaction will speedily take place. The approach of winter and wet weather will do something towards cooling the ardor of the excited multitude."

THE AGGREGATE MEETING—THE FRENCH PRESS.

From an article in the *Journal des Debats*, (by M. Lemoine) severely commenting on the persecuting policy of the present administration, and ridiculing their inconsistency, we (*Tablet*) translate the following passages:—

"The great Catholic meeting in Dublin possesses real importance, because it is the commencement of a serious campaign between the Catholic Clergy and the English government. The Primate, as Archbishop of Armagh, and the Archbishop of Tuam, have publicly assumed their titles, and have, with almost official distinctness, announced their resolve to set the government at defiance. The parliamentary representative of the metropolis of Ireland, Mr. Reynolds, in addressing an immense concourse of respectable citizens of Dublin from a window, in one of the leading thoroughfares, related to them the leading incidents of the great meeting, and pointedly repeated the titles of the Bishops, which systematic violation of the recent statute drew forth the loud applause of the large number of citizens crowded together in the street. At a great banquet on the following day, given to Mr. Reynolds in the principal theatre of Dublin, that gentleman said, with an oath, that to seize upon a Bishop the government officers must pass over his dead body.

"In the parliamentary elections which are expected to take place next year, the effect of the religious agitation which has commenced in Ireland will make itself felt. The meeting held the other day in Dublin formed an 'Association of Defence,' on the plan of the ancient 'Catholic League of France.' This new association will throw into the election struggle, all the weight of Ecclesiastical influence, and this influence is all powerful in Ireland. Confronted with the Irish hustings of 1852, Lord John Russell will learn the real consequences of his policy."

THE PROTESTANT BISHOPS AND THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF THE PRESENT DAY.

"Quis eorum videretur esse major?"—St. Luke. The Parliamentary Prelates being infected with the rot, its ravages are announced to the public in Tait's excellent magazine of last month.

We are there informed that these Holy Fathers of the Church by law established "have abstracted from the poorer Clergy" no less a sum than five hundred and twenty-nine thousand five hundred and forty-six pounds sterling, which they have crammed into their own breeches-pockets.

Unfeeling masters! Even the good Dr. Maltby himself, the Bishop of Durham, and prime mover to Lord John Russell in his late anti-Catholic puppet show, has pocketed seventy-nine thousand six hundred and fifty pounds, eight more than his due by Act of Parliament.

Still, although these virtuous Prelates have deliberately set the said Act at defiance, not one of them has been pulled up to answer for his conduct; whilst, on the other hand, our Catholic Bishops, who are proverbially attentive to the wants of their Clergy, and whose honesty is unspotted, are doomed to be fined, aye, and imprisoned, in case of inability to pay the fine, should they contravene a late Act, which settles upon them no income at all, but which strikes at the very root of religious liberty in these realms.

Now, supposing that our Catholic Bishops do contravene this mean and unnecessary Act, they will do no more than what the Protestant Bishops have done before them; but with this mighty difference—viz., that the Protestant Bishops have committed a great robbery; whereas the Catholic Bishops have committed no robbery at all.

"Thou shalt not steal." This mandate, in the Divine Decalogue, is often so rigidly enforced by the magistrates, who now swear through our land, that they will send to prison a penniless culprit for kidnapping a couple of stray fowls. It makes one's heart ache to think that this man should be incarcerated, whilst the Bishops are allowed to run loose. Both have certainly broken a solemn Act of Parliament.—The hen-stealer, to the amount of two shillings—the Bishops, to the amount of above half-a-million of money.

Tait's Magazine gives us a list of eleven Episcopal offenders.

Oh! for a bucket and brush, with leave to try to scrub clean these mitred abstractors of money, due by Act of Parliament from them to their "poorer Clergy." With what joy would I tuck up my shirt sleeves above the elbows, and set to work in earnest.

CHARLES WATERTON.
Walton Hall, September 1st, 1851.

PREFERMENT FOR SALE IN THE PROTESTANT CHURCH.

On Wednesday se'night, the day appointed for the sale by auction of this valuable church preferment, a large number of the inhabitants of the extensive parish of Chelsea attended for the purpose of witnessing the proceedings, amongst whom were Mr. Jones, the convenor of a local meeting, to consider the propriety of endeavoring to secure the presentation to the parish, out of the reach of tractarianism. The auctioneer (Mr. Alderman Farebrother) stated that he had to offer the next presentation (subject to the life of the present Incumbent, now in the 70th year of his age) to the Rectory of Saint Luke's, Chelsea, which consisted of the detached Rectory house, with offices and gardens, extending to three and a quarter acres of ground, together with twenty-six acres of glebe land, let on building leases for lives, which, together with the commuted rent-charge in lieu of tithes, creates an income of £1,604 5s. 2d. per annum, with a prospect of

a further increase of £1,300 per annum, as the lives upon which the glebe lands are let drop in. The Rector, during his incumbency, has also the right of nomination to the Ministry of the Old Church, now the parish chapel, producing about £300 per annum, the present Incumbent in his 83rd year. After reading the above particulars, the auctioneer stated that the heavy duties of the parish required the assistance of two Curates, whose salaries, together with highway rates, &c., caused the reduction of £287 from the annual income, and said that, taking every source of income, patronage, and revisionary interest into consideration, according to the tables, the value was about £16,000 but it was for bidders to decide what it was worth. The auctioneer then invited any person in the company to make any observation, or ask any questions, but a dead silence was maintained, and the lot was put up at £6,000 and the biddings went on by £100 each, until they reached £8,500 at which price the hammer fell, and the auctioneer declared the property was not sold. The *Daily News* remarks on this transaction:—

"In what country but England would public opinion, or does the law permit such an auction to be held? It is a practice long since abolished in all Roman Catholic nations. And in England only, of Protestant countries, have the people of a parish no right or power, or veto over the appointment of the Minister charged with their salvation. What if Cardinal Wiseman, or one of his semi-Romish allies for him, had bought the next presentation? The parishioners of St. Luke's might, in that event, have had a Jesuit in disguise inducted into the benefice; and not a word of complaint could they legally make. What so probable, as that at this very moment the Tractarians have come up to Lord Cadogan's price? The parishioners have no remedy; they must either submit to some Popery or vacate their parish church. Or, if they are resolved to have a Pastor of their own choice, they must tax themselves to the tune of £16,000. The thing is monstrous look at it as you will; put it in what aspect you choose. No law, or custom, or precedent can reconcile people to it. And then the indecency with which purchasers are attracted. 'The Incumbent is in the seventieth year of his age! The Minister of the subordinate chapel is eighty three!' 'Just one leg in the grave, gentlemen, and only £16,000 asked—£8,500, Sir, and one leg in the grave—in the grave, Sir. Gentlemen, gentlemen, what are you thinking of?' Such is Lord Cadogan's notion of presenting to the next vacancy of St. Luke's, Chelsea. Mark, too, how the age of the Incumbent is placed in contrast with the worldly advantages to be secured by his death:—

A detached Rectory House,
Seated in its own Grounds, approached
by a Carriage Drive,
with two elegant Drawing-rooms,
thirty-nine feet long, having gilt mouldings, marble
Chimney Piece, and Steps to
Pleasure Ground.
A capital Dining-room,
and Library and Bed room adjoining.
The Grounds
are disposed in Lawn, Plantation Garden,
and range of Green Houses, ornamented with timber,
and surrounded by serpentine gravelled walks,
Rent-charge, rent of houses,
producing together, independent of House,
One thousand four hundred and eighty-four Pounds;
and also,
Further Increase of £1,256
On the dropping in of Lives in Leases.

It is in vain to reason or to expostulate with a man who would issue such a placard as this, when it involved the spiritual welfare of thousands of his tenants or fellow-creatures. But it is well to record and recollect the outrage; for a day of reckoning will come, and before long too; when Lord Cadogan and such people will be taught better. Meanwhile, let us mark, learn, and inwardly digest, that all this occurs in a Church professing to have a Divine mission, claiming Apostolic authority, having Bishops in the House of Lords, and requiring a monopoly of national education!"

The *Morning Chronicle* has a long article on the correspondence between Dr. Sumner and Mr. Gawthorn in which, after commenting with vehemence indignation on Mr. Gawthorn's proceedings, it thus adverts to Dr. Sumner and his letter:—

"We cannot afford to permit the whole scandal of what has taken place to pass off in indignation against Gawthorn. This unhappy transaction does seriously inculcate others, whose share in it we would willingly pass over. We admit to the full the disgraceful artifice under which the Archbishop's letter was obtained; we acknowledge its private purpose; we remember its 'private' superintention; we make all allowance for one holding his Grace's sentiments, writing unguardedly and in haste, and even in good faith, to rescue one whom he thought likely to leave the Church of England. But the fact that his Grace wrote at all in reply to such a letter exposes not only lamentable weakness of character, but a dangerous habit of another sort; it shows that Bishops do attend to what practically amounts to an anonymous letter—that they, without inquiry, listen to silly tittle-tattle and scandal—that they dash off, without a moment's thought, what may, as in this case, damage the faith and destroy the confidence of thousands. All this we say upon the mere fact of the Archbishop replying to 'Mr. Francis'—even supposing that his letter was genuine, and every word in it true.

"Much more—and what is more painful to add—must be said of what the Archbishop wrote. *Litæra scripta manet*; the Primate's letter was extorted by fraud and villainy, but Gawthorn's share in this matter does not alter the character of that document. His Grace wrote what he felt; and first it is obvious to ask, what right had Dr. Sumner to make himself the mouthpiece of the English Bishops? As to the Colonial Bishops, Lambeth, of course, does not recognise them—they are not 'the bench.' But have twenty-four Bishops ever accredited the Archbishop to deliver their sentiments for them in reply to every anonymous scribbler from Holywell-street? Great and grievous wrong has been done to the Church of England by its Primate taking upon himself to express, in a very delicate matter, the sentiments of others, of which he was absolutely and entirely ignorant. The Archbishop has maligned others, while expressing a sentiment that is in itself indefensible. Something else remains to be said. If the Archbishop's own estimate of his own position is true—which we emphatically deny—we must say that the Church of England, at least so far as its 'bench' goes, is a grave and patent