

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE "TE DEUM" AT NOTRE DAME.—The ceremony of returning thanks to Heaven, as ordered by the President of the Republic, for the success of his late election, was celebrated on 1st January, at the cathedral of Notre Dame, with most imposing magnificence. The weather was not by any means propitious for the occasion, the cold being exceedingly severe, and a thick fog during the whole day, but particularly in the morning, enveloping Paris.

The Clergy came, with the Archbishop at their head, in procession to meet him as a sovereign, at the door of the church. In the interior of the nave purple velvet, embroidered with gold, struck the eye, already dazzled by the brilliant light, which like fiery net work filled up the depths of the aisles. Above the pillars were ornamented with banners of a purple color, strewn with golden stars, with the letters L. N. Between the columns of the upper galleries near the roof there hung ninety more flags, bearing, like those outside, but with a richer decoration, the arms and names of the principal cities and departmental towns. Between every two pillars was suspended a beautiful chandelier of cut glass, from the centre of the arch which they supported; each of these chandeliers contained forty-five wax lights. Vast chandeliers also hung from the centre of the roof, and lofty candelabra of gilt bronze stood along the sides, containing each about two dozen of lights. The whole number of wax lights burning was 13,000.

It was very nearly twelve when the Archbishop of Paris and the Clergy moved down the aisle to receive the President of the Republic. Only one Bishop was present during the day with the Archbishop—namely, the Bishop of St. Fleur, situated in the south of France; the rest of the sacerdotal cortege was composed of Canons and Curés in splendid canonicals. Just as the body arrived at the grand entrance, the drums beat to arms, the *bourdon*, or grand bell at Notre Dame, pealed forth, and Louis Napoleon descended from his carriage. On alighting he was received by the Archbishop, who tendered to him the holy relic to kiss, presented to him the holy water, and then turning led back the procession to the altar. The Prince followed immediately behind the Clergy, having on his right hand General St. Arnaud, Minister of War; and on his left General Magnan, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Paris. The President of the Republic was received with loud cries of "Vive Napoleon!" several cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" being also heard. Louis Napoleon acknowledged the reception by slightly bowing from side to side. He looked in excellent health.

A correspondent of the *Chronicle* says:—"Neither shouts, decorations, nor illuminations appeared to excite him: he bowed to the right and left, and always with the same pale, sad look—a cast of countenance which ambition loves to wear. There was a nervous hesitation in his manner as he stood before his chair, but it passed away, and he remained as immovable as the sculptured figures which adorned the aisles."

All proclamations, instead of being headed "Republique Française," commence now with the words, "Au nom du Peuple Français." The great national French theatre is ordered to drop the name of "Theatre de la République," and to assume that of "Comédie Française," which it had under the Empire; and the words "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité," are to disappear from all the walls of Paris.

It is asserted positively that the President is to marry a Princess of Sweden. The princess in question, a descendant of Gustavus Vasa, King of Sweden, now resides in Austria. She is about the President's age, and passes for possessing a dowry of 100 millions.

The *Moniteur Parisien* contains an article in favor of re-establishing the titles and orders of hereditary nobility.

During the late insurrection in the Var a crime was committed, which is worthy of 1793. The corporal of the gendarmery at Cuers, who had been taken prisoner by the insurgents, was stabbed in eight or ten places, and was afterwards placed before a slow fire while a man kept beating a drum, in order to drown the cries of the victim. All the murderers are now in prison.

It is said that Louis Napoleon will propose the holding of an European congress at Paris for the consideration of all the points which have during the last few years created doubts and uncertainty as to the equilibrium of power; but this idea is founded entirely on the desire to maintain peace. It is reported also that Louis Napoleon intends to reorganise an Imperial Guard in imitation of his uncle.

AUSTRIA.

THE FALL OF LORD PALMERSTON.—The Vienna correspondent of the *Chronicle*, writing on December 27th, says:—"It would be impossible to overrate the importance attached in Austria to the change in the English ministry. I can venture to say that it would have been difficult to find last night a man, woman, or child that had not got by heart the substance of the telegraphic despatch, announcing to the world that Lord Palmerston no longer enjoyed the confidence of her Britannic Majesty. Groups formed themselves in the streets, charged with the weighty intelligence, and knots of middle class politicians were to be seen everywhere, eager and attentive, while one more skilled, or at least more daring, than the rest, undertook to set forth the 'pith and moment' of the message. The official paper, in common with other of the daily journals, purely attributes the change in Downing-street to the influence of events in France; and the hope is held out that Lord Granville's policy will be of a nature to re-establish the cordial understanding with England's old allies that has been so long interrupted; so that henceforth the name of the

great English nation may no longer be coupled with that of democracy, and solidarity with the cause of continental revolutionists."

The principal features of the new fundamental laws for the organic arrangement of the Austrian empire are—

The countries united to the Austrian empire by virtue of ancient historical or new titles are to form the indivisible elements of an hereditary Austrian empire.

The communes or parishes already existing will not be interfered with, excepting when it may appear advisable to unite two or more of them. The appointment of the chief of each commune must receive the ratification of government, and all such chiefs (Mayors) must swear fidelity and obedience to the Sovereign. Where it may appear advisable, the appointment of the superior municipal *employés* must also be ratified by government. The more important affairs of the communities are to be subjected to the control and ratification of the superior authorities of the province. The publicity of the debates on parish matters is abolished. The Lombardo-Venetian municipal arrangements will be maintained, except where experience shall show that a modification is necessary.

The judicial authorities throughout the whole empire will administer justice in the name of his Imperial Royal Apostolic Majesty. In civil as well as criminal matters there are to be, as heretofore, three "Instances" (Instance Courts): the common courts of justice, the Superior Provincial Court, as the first court of appeal, and the Supreme Court of Justice as the last. In the so-called Collegial Courts, something like our sessions, the defendant is entitled to the assistance of counsel, who may speak in his behalf. The proceedings are not public, but in the lowest courts a certain number of persons may be admitted at the wish of the defendant, if the President should think it advisable. Trial by jury is abolished. The proceedings in the superior provincial courts, and in the Supreme Court of Justice, are to be in writing, not oral. The same civil and penal codes are to be valid in all the provinces.

Separate statutes will be drawn up relative to the hereditary nobility of the different crown lands, and all possible facility will be afforded for the formation of "*Majoraten* and *Fideicommissen*" (Entails).

The authorities of the circles and the stadtholders of the provinces are to be assisted by a Consultative Council, formed from the hereditary nobles possessing landed property, the great and small landed proprietors, and men of business. A nearer explanation of this will be given in a future rescript.

The old political denominations are to be employed in the different provinces. Thus Hungary will again have its *comitats* (counties), its *Ober-gespans* (Lord-Lieutenants) &c. In criminal cases, sentence must be given in one of three forms—"guilty," "not guilty," or "acquitted of the charge"—or, in other words, "acquitted *ab instantia* (for want of proof.)"

NOVEL TRAFFIC.—A man has just been arrested for carrying on a strange sort of commerce. He bought children at about 10s. (nine florins) a piece, to take to London as street musicians, and was embarking with about twenty of them, when the police laid hands on him. His name is Humpf.

SPAIN.

Advices from Madrid of the 28th ult. mention that the Queen is sufficiently recovered to be able to receive the congratulations of her ministers.

ITALY.

The *Parma Gazette* publishes a decree which enacts all offences of sedition, high treason, tampering with the fidelity of the troops, distributing revolutionary publications, &c., shall be punished with death. Minor offences of the kind are to be punished by imprisonment or the galleys.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

A supplement of the *Corfu Gazette*, of the 22nd ult., has a notification from the Lord High Commissioner, containing a decree of her Britannic Majesty, by which the Ionian Parliament is dissolved.

AUSTRALIA.

By the kindness of Captain Silver, of the ship *Honduras*, arrived off Dover, we have received Port Philip papers down to the 1st of September, containing the most recent accounts of the gold-seeking operations in that district.

The *Honduras* has brought home the first samples from the Clunes Diggings at the Pyrenees. Further discoveries of gold had been made at the Victoria, Bannibong, and Bank's Marsh Diggings, just before the *Honduras* sailed, and fears were entertained that the whole of the laboring population would leave for the mines in the summer, and thus cause considerable difficulty in securing the next clip and harvest. —*Dublin Freeman*.

LOUIS NAPOLEON AND THE UNIVERSITY.

There can be no doubt that the French University as at present organised is at no distant day to be suppressed, and to be supplanted by a new organisation from which the Voltairian, eclectic, latitudinarian spirit is to be entirely excluded, and the rights of the Church are to be amply recognised. A few words in explanation of this coming change may not be misplaced.

Our readers already understand and will bear in mind, that in France the theory of University education for Catholic students has always been Catholic. The practice has been bad enough, but the theory always has been what we have indicated. The management has been in bad hands; the powers given have been abused; the young men have, in fact, been perverted; but the theory always has been that they were to be brought up Catholics.

The compromise of last year still went upon the same basis; and, as we have repeatedly proved, it established—though under a mixed management—Catholic schools and colleges for Catholics, Protestant schools and colleges for Protestants, Jewish schools and colleges for Jews. In their estimate of this com-

promise, the Catholics were divided. The Count de Montalembert supported it as the best that could be then got; the *Univers* opposed it as containing much that was objectionable. The obstacle to a more Catholic arrangement was, not the general sentiment of the country, but the artificial organisation of parliamentary parties, which impeded Government, distorted public opinion, and which, as recent events have clearly proved, did anything but represent the general sentiment of the country.

This obstacle is now removed, and a better arrangement may be looked for—that is—an arrangement which, while it restores the Church to its proper position with regard to Catholic education, will leave Protestants and Jews to instruct and educate their children according to their own notions of their own religious duty.—*Tablet*.

THE IRISH EXILES AND PRESIDENT FILLMORE.

A deputation of Irishmen, 250 strong, from Baltimore, arrived on Thursday, 22d, to memorialize President Fillmore to appeal for the release of Smith O'Brien and his associates. The deputation marched in procession to the President's, at 4 o'clock, and were conducted into the East-room. The company amounted to 500. Dr. Chaisty presented a memorial from Baltimore, with 15,000 signatures, praying the kindly intervention of our executive for the release of Smith O'Brien and his associates, exiles in Australia. Dr. Chaisty also delivered a speech, pleading the same cause, in which he referred to the release of Kossuth as a case in point.

A committee having waited upon the President, and made known the purpose of the delegation, President Fillmore returned as answer that he would be pleased to receive the delegates at four o'clock p.m.

The deputation was received here by a committee previously appointed; and, at the hour named for an interview, a line of procession was formed in front of the National Hotel.

Arriving at the President's House, the "East Room" of the building, which had been opened for the occasion, was soon occupied by some three or four hundred persons.

President Fillmore, soon thereafter, made his appearance.

Thomas Yates Walsh, of the Maryland delegation in Congress, thereupon introduced Dr. Edward J. Chaisty to the President as the spokesman of the Baltimore deputation.

Dr. Chaisty thus addressed the President:—

"In presenting to your excellency in the name of the citizens of Baltimore, and of the highest dignitaries of our State, this memorial so numerously signed, we feel that we are engaged in one of the holiest duties that occupy the attention of man, and that we are about to impose upon you, the father of the American people, a task which we trust it will be your pride and pleasure to perform.

"Prompted by a feeling of sympathy, we have assembled around your excellency this day to enkindle in your bosom the noblest affection which dignifies the human heart, and to awaken in your breast a lively interest for the sufferings of men whose ardent attachment to the land of their nativity, and whose efforts to win back the liberties of her sons, constitute their only crime, and have drawn down upon their devoted heads the severest sentence of the law, and a punishment which, in this land of freedom, we deem disproportionate to the offence.

"It is, then, I may say, for patriots that we plead; for what has been done by O'Brien, Mitchell, Meagher, and the rest of that gallant band, that the patriot of every land does not feel that it is his duty to perform? They have wept over the wrongs of their country; they have proclaimed them in the measured notes of the poet and the thrilling tones of the orator; they have taught the people that which history has chronicled for ages—that Ireland was once a nation; and they have sighed for the restoration of the glory of their sires. Farther than this, with all their aspirations for freedom, they have not proceeded; and, deep and abiding as has been their sense of wrong, the blood of their foes sullies not their hands. And yet their deeds and their hopes, their sentiments and tears, have subjected them, in the land in which they lived, to the charge of felony, and reduced them to the ignominious companionship with the basest of mankind. To the cultivated mind and the proud heart what sentence brings more bitter pain than that which consigns their possessor to the terrible communion with spirits that the soul abhors!

"The generous sons of our land, sympathising with these unfortunate but noble exiles, have resolved to make one grand and mighty effort for the liberation of these unhappy men. Hence it is that we have assembled within these hallowed walls, hence this imposing array of delegates from a sister city, anxious to give expression to the feelings of their hearts. As the father of our common country, we have selected your excellency to be the organ of communication, and to interpose with the friendly power of Great Britain the kind offices of our Government for the mitigation of the punishment and the release of those unfortunate exiles.

"We trust that the services of the Irish people who by adoption have become citizens of our happy republic, and whose devotion to the principles of our Government is daily exhibited in the strength of their attachment to our glorious Constitution, and in the position which they hold amidst the jarring elements of sectional strife, will prove a sufficient inducement to awaken in your generous breast a deep and lively interest in the fate of their brethren, who, through the indiscretion into which they have been hurried by the promptings of patriotism, have fallen beneath the sentence of the law, and linger out a miserable existence, surrounded by convicts steeped in guilt and attainted with the worst of crimes.

"Let, then, the voice of the American people be heard supplicating through the lips of the father of our country in behalf of those unhappy beings, torn from all the delights of home, of country, kindred, and of friends. In the name of humanity we beseech your excellency to send forth from this temple of liberty—the ark of freedom—the proud bird of America, that, like the dove of old, it may sweep across the waters, and return once more bearing in its beak the olive branch of peace."

President Fillmore, in reply, said—

"Sir—It is quite natural that natives of Ireland residing in the United States, should feel deep sympathy and commiseration for those of their countrymen who have been condemned to a long imprisonment in a distant land. Indeed all the humane and benevolent lament severe suffering wherever it exists, and

by whatever cause occasioned. I have become acquainted with the memorial which you have presented. It is ably written and contains suggestions which are entitled to weight with all just minds, and cannot fail to awaken in every bosom a strong desire for the accomplishment of its humane object.

"Frankness, however, compels me to say that the request which it contains cannot be made the ground of any official proceedings. Yet any personal good offices in aid of your wishes, so far as may be compatible with duty and obligation, will be most cheerfully rendered. It is a principle well settled, and which is absolutely necessary to all national independence, that one nation cannot claim a right to interfere with the internal concerns of another. The United States government would be the last to yield to any such claim by a foreign state, and there, from its very origin, it has cautiously abstained from setting up or exercising any such claim or right itself. It has never in any instance interfered in such a case as you present. When the great Father of his Country was President of the United States, his companion-in-arms, General Lafayette, beloved by him like a brother, became a prisoner at Olmutz in Austria, the President was most earnestly and importunately solicited to interfere officially for his release. But this he steadily declined, although at the same time he made every private and personal effort to accomplish a purpose so dear to his own heart.

"I shall regard the principle of this precedent, and together with those whom I consult on important questions, shall consider what can be done in aid of your object consistently with principle. You and your friends, sir, will probably see on reflection, that nothing could be more likely to defeat the desired object, than any interference which might be justly deemed offensive according to the usages of nations and the well settled principles of public honor. Nor can I so far disregard what is due to the dignity of this government as to make an application as its head, to another government, which such government might treat with disrespect and be justified in so doing by the rules of international law. You refer to what has been done in regard to M. Kossuth; but in his case government made no representation or application to the government against which he had committed alleged offences. The representation of this government was made to Turkey and not to Austria.

"In regard to our own citizens the case would be different. The paternal care which we exercise for the welfare of our citizens would justify such intercession. For one of them this has been done by myself and my predecessors in several instances. But we have never interfered between a government and its subjects or citizens. Be assured, sir, that it would give me sincere pleasure to see the prisoners to whom your memorial refers set at liberty. Whenever that happens, which I hope may be soon, should they see fit to come to this country, they will find a safe asylum and full protection under its laws.

"Accept, Sir, for yourself and friends, my respect and good wishes."

Mr. McGee—who had, after the arrival of the procession, delivered to the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, a petition from the citizens of Boston upon the subject, under special instructions—was next introduced, and addressed the President as follows:

"Mr. President—I have the honor to present you—being to-day introduced by the Secretary of State—in connexion with this movement, with the certified minutes of the Massachusetts meeting in favor of the Irish exiles, held on the 26th of October last in Faneuil Hall, and presided over by the Governor of that State. Also, with a petition signed by over five thousand citizens, native and naturalised, of Boston; also, with a numerously-signed memorial to the same effect, signed by citizens of Lawrence, in Massachusetts; also, with a similar petition, signed by the Mayor and principal citizens of Bangor, in Maine.

"In doing so, I wish to add that these documents represent fully and fairly, without distinction of class or creed, the sentiment of the citizens of the northern States in this behalf.

"After what you have said, sir, I feel bound to add—and in doing so I do not wish to impose any additional reply on your excellency—I feel bound to add, as the universal sentiment of the signers of these documents, that if they believed this request involved any departure from the fixed foreign policy of the Government, it would not be made. I declare, and put on record, in the presence of your excellency, that if those I represent supposed this request would be mistakenly identified with the current projects of the intervention, their names and their delegates would never have been here.

"We did, however, suppose and expect that what has been often done since the foundation of governments—what Elizabeth did for the Huguenots and King Philip for our Irish Catholic rebel ancestors, what the French did for Mary Queen of Scots, and Christina for the German Protestant followers of her father, Gustavus, that that ancient, established, and recognised mode of mediation would be used by the Federal Government for six brave, educated, distinguished, suffering Irish gentlemen.

"That portion of the memorialists born in Ireland, may, sir, have some claims, both from their ancestors and their own labors on this government. But whenever our peculiar aspirations seem to conflict with the unity, peace, or prosperity of our adopted country—this country, which gives us homes, protection, and equal rights with its native children—we still our aspirations for the good of the great Confederacy. In this case all we ask is, that the Government will do all it can do for our dear friends in exile, and that it will give us a definite answer, favorable, we hope, but final, at all events, to our request.

"As a favor to our committees, which will retain their organizations till the issue is known, in mercy to the anxious friends and families of the gentlemen interested, we ask a final answer within a reasonable time.

"Without more words, I have the honor to present these papers, with full confidence that your excellency, and the administration over which you preside, will do all that can be done in this matter, so interesting to (I may say) millions of men."

President Fillmore, in response, expressed himself gratified with the tone, temper, and sentiments uttered by Mr. McGee, as manifesting no disposition to involve the Government in any course inconsistent with its long established principles and policy; and, entertaining personal feelings of sympathy for the parties interested, he said that everything would be done that could be done with propriety to further the main object of the petitioners.

The speeches were frequently interrupted by cheers, and the interview seemed to be satisfactory to all.