

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Louis Napoleon's remarks to the Diplomats on New Year's Day were of no effect. It is said that the English Government had sent a strong note to the Emperor of France, protesting against the extension of the occupation of Syria by a French force. No reply had been yet received.

It is reported that the correspondence between France and England relative to the French fleet before Gaeta was most unsatisfactory.

A Paris letter in the *Independence* has the following:—"All the Powers which met at Warsaw have just expressed their collective wish to the Emperor Napoleon's Government that it will continue the protection of the French fleet at Gaeta. As yet the instructions given to Admiral Le Barbier de Tinan have not been modified." The French screw ship of the line *Pontenoy* has joined the squadron of Vice Admiral Le Barbier de Tinan before Gaeta, to replace the *Alexandre*, which is under orders to return to Toulon. On the 19th Dec. the situation at Gaeta had undergone no change, the squadron being at anchor, having received supplies of stores.

The report that some Governments have recently taken collective steps at Paris in reference to the question of Gaeta is without any foundation.

In a remarkable article by M. de Carne, a few days ago in the *Année de la Religion*, entitled "The Peace Party and the War Party," the writer strongly advocates the faithful execution of the Treaty of Villafranca, and concludes as follows:—

"If such is the real sentiment of honest men, with what eye would the country view a policy the inevitable result of which would be to give it the terrible tutelage of all revolutions, and the bloody apostleship of all nationalities? Strange crusade from the Mincio to the Danube through the chances of a gigantic war, the true object of which, it must be admitted and confessed, will be the confiscation by France of Belgian nationality, and that of those Rhenish provinces so dear to German nationality.

"Such is the nightmare from which the nation would feel itself relieved by recovering at last the right of speech and the practice of liberty. The principle of the evil which affects so gravely our imagination and our interests is that France, perhaps without reflecting on it, does not think herself sufficiently defended by her institutions—such, at least, as until now practised—against the suddenness of superior decisions. Peace is only firmly established when there exists a sort of State doctrine which makes respect to treaties the very basis of policy. However poor in traditions, our Parliamentary Assemblies had at least that advantage, and if the majority represented anything, it was the idea of peace. In spite of the sterile and hypocritical caresses lavished on agitators, England is faithful to the same thought, and remains fully assured that her reflected will can alone dispose of her destiny. It is because she is confident in the action of this sovereignty incessantly exercised by public opinion that her financial credit surpasses ours. What alarms France is the fear of finding herself engaged in a great war as suddenly as one might be in a party of pleasure. A country well enough prepared to embark an army in 24 hours is condemned to the double danger of alarming others and never being reassured itself. The only counterpoise to such a military Power is the power of popular assemblies with their habitual procrastination. If, then, France recover the serious practice of her representative institutions Europe will have no less reason for congratulation than France herself, and we shall be enabled once more to say that liberty will maintain peace."

The *Constitutionnel* contains a second article, signed by its chief editor, M. Grandguillot says:—"France will never suffer the return to an offensive policy by Austria in Lombardy."

M. Grandguillot explains that another Power, from divers motives, is equally contrary to Austrian domination in Italy.

It is believed the Sovereign Pontiff will not confirm the nomination of the French Bishops as long as the Government conducts itself so hypocritically towards the Holy See. It is certain that the Empress Eugenie has sent 100,000 francs for St. Peter's Pence to the Archbishop of Paris, who has himself subscribed 10,000.—Cardinal Morlot, I may add, is her confessor.—The Empress has resumed the habit of going to her duties on every Festival of the Blessed Virgin. Since her return her sickle husband has not admitted her to the Council of Ministers as formerly. A divorce is spoken of, but I cannot believe that. With regard to the decree of the 24th Nov., I fully believe that it will lead not merely to a simple change of regulations, but that it is the dawn of an entirely new system of Government. That Napoleon pronounced it only to cover his mysterious plans cannot admit of a doubt. His policy requires some approbation on the part of the licentious "national representation," and every one knows right well that from that distinguished body he has no serious opposition to fear. At the first glance it is clear that the very small amount of liberty recently granted has some other object than that of provoking a criticism of the acts of Government.—What is that other object? You remember that it has been often said that the desire of possessing the Rhine was a national desire, that a war undertaken to conquer the ancient boundaries of France would be popular. How would it be then, if the policy of the Empire, which evidently marches towards a conclusion, sought to render itself very brilliant, and to wind up by a glorious national achievement, such as the acquisition of the Rhenish frontier and Antwerp to boot.—*Paris Cor. Weekly Register.*

ITALY.

The *Pays* says:—"The tendency of public opinion presages that the Garibaldian party will obtain the majority at the elections to the Italian Parliament. Count Cavour has the intention of retiring, at least provisionally, from the Sardinian Ministry. The official *Gazette* publishes the four Royal decrees, dated Naples, December 17, declaring the provinces of Naples, Sicily, the Marches, and Umbria to constitute an integral part of the State of Italy.

THE SWISS AT CASTEL FIDARDO.—The *Fribourg Chronicle* publishes a letter from the Rev. Mr. Oberon, Protonotary Apostolic, Chaplain of a Swiss Regiment which did not distinguish itself at Castel Fildardo. He explains that the first Foreign Regiment, was 1,535 strong, and that when the new battalions were raised for the Pope's service, 29 officers, 60 sous-officers, and 700 corporals and privates were taken from the 1st Foreign Regiment to form the nucleus of the new organisations. Their place was supplied by new recruits and if the war had not occurred during the process of re-formation, the regiment would have recovered its solidity; but as it was it went into action, at Castel Fildardo, 1,100 strong, half of them being raw recruits; and the best companies, in which the old soldier predominated, being almost without officers. M. Oberon gives an account of the brutality of General Cialdini, which accords with all that is otherwise known of that worthy. M. Oberon was administering the rites of religion to the wounded and the dying on the field of battle, when he was carried by Piedmontese soldiers before the General, who began crying "O bello! un prete, un prete!" The soldiers and officers shouted "It's Pio Nono—the thief—the brigand—the assassin! Shoot him, shoot him; ce bourgeois d'un pretre!" "Well, shoot me," said M. Oberon; "that would pain me less than to keep me from the wounded, who are dying without help a few paces off." "Ah," they laughed, "he wants to be a martyr! Questo brutto porrone! Not a bit of it!" He entreated Cialdini to allow him to go to the dying. "No!" said Cialdini, "Italy has no need of foreigners; she has chaplains and surgeons of her own; she has no need of you!" He then sent to him two surgeons and a chaplain. M. Oberon reminded him that he was speaking English and German, and many of them no Italian. He replied, "Why did they come to tally these infamous butchers? Let them make the best of it."

ROME, Dec. 18, 1860.—On Sunday, the 19th, a meeting of the Peter's Pence Association was held at the Palazzo Brancaccio. Three foreigners, who had been specially invited to attend, were present—namely, Dr. Dixon, the Archbishop of Armagh; Mr. Pope Hennessy, and Judge Therry. The meeting, with the exception of the Irish Primate and Monsignor Nardi, was exclusively composed of laymen. The Secretary, Marquis Cavalletti, read a communication from Macerata, stating that the people selected the moment when the Piedmontese officials and soldiers were going through the force of voting the annexation of that province, to meet and inaugurate the Peter's Pence Association. The total sum announced for the first half of the month of December was 3,866 scudi, which gives for the whole month an estimate of 7,000 scudi, or about £1,400. This is from the city of Rome alone. Such marked success is the best answer to those who ignorantly assert that the Romans are inimical to the Holy Father. Up to this the offerings in the Eternal City have been as follows:—Sept., 3,132 scudi; Oct., 4,301 scudi; November, 4,024 scudi. First half of December, 3,866 scudi.—*Cor. of Tablet.*

The party in favour of the annexation of Rome to Sardinia assembled at the Cathedral of St. Peter on the 23rd inst., and made a demonstration. The Rev. R. Belamy writes from Rome, where he was staying for a week:—"People in England ask for what purpose the French soldiers are here? And some reply, to prevent the Sardinians entering. This is simple hash. The French soldiers are here to indoctrinate the people, especially the little shopkeepers, with French principles—to depopulate the population. They go about from person to person, and from house to house, propagating their loose sentiments about religion and politics, with a view of preparing the people of Rome, especially the lower classes, for that consummation so devoutly to be wished by the French Emperor, the reduction of Rome and Italy to a French dependency. To say the French soldiers are here to prevent the Sardinian usurper from entering is so arrant an absurdity that no man in his senses could for a moment entertain it. The King of Sardinia is as much under the control of the Emperor of the French, as his own army is; and would no more think of entering Rome without his imperial orders, than of entering Paris to depose him. It serves a purpose, however, the depth of which no one can fathom, to make it appear to the world that he wishes to defend the Pope against any assault from without, i.e., from Sardinia. The Catholics of France are deceived by it. The device leads them still to hope that he intends in his own way to succour the Holy Father. It prevents the other Powers from interfering. And it hinders the King of Naples and the Neapolitan troops from making Rome their place of retreat, should Gaeta have to be abandoned by them. Eight years ago when I was in Rome, on a Saturday afternoon, I used to see the French soldiers crowding round the door of the Jesuits' Confessional. I see nothing of the kind now. But I see them drunk in the streets, and in crowds in cafes and trattorias.

You have heard of the suspension of the bombardment of Gaeta. The Emperor has got credit for it. No doubt it was his suggestion. And the King of Naples, caught in a snare, has allowed his Minister to embody the act, as one to be grateful for, in a communication he has made to the other European Courts. From the comment, I have seen upon it in the English papers, it does not appear that you have any idea of it. Yet here it is held to be as clear as day that the Emperor of the French only proposed it to the King of Sardinia to enable him to put down the insurrection which was endangering his throne of the country. It was becoming apparent that the reaction would soon triumph in favor of the King of Naples (Francis II). To stop that reaction it was necessary to withdraw the troops from the siege of Gaeta for a time, as was done; and one can only lament that the good King should not have distrusted the proposals that were made to him for the suspension of hostilities. Had he not done so, he might in the absence of the Sardinian forces, have raised to the ground the works which they have erected for the bombardment of Gaeta, and secured for the King a few months' more impunity from their assault.

DEAR SIR:—There is a great cry here about the price of bread. In Italy the poor will have swollen bread, it appears, or none. The English in Denmark, and the Scotch, are satisfied to live on oat or barley bread, and the *Times* makes no objection to it; but its bowls of compassion are moved when it hears of a Roman labourer paying a trifle more than usual for his wheaten loaf. The Pope's Government is attacked because the loaf is allowed to rise in price. Cardinal Antonelli is accused, because he has two or three brothers who, as corn merchants, supply the Roman market with corn, of keeping the price up for the mere purpose of making money; whereas Cardinal Antonelli is just as innocent as Mr. Cobden is of the charge. I have inquired into this outcry. Many good Catholics consider there was ground for it. Now I find there is none, actually none. The bread, for Rome, is no doubt high. But the Government is not any more than

the Pope, to be blamed for that. The Pope, it must be presumed, by Cardinal Antonelli his chief adviser's advice, has established bake-houses to the number of about thirty (I am told) in Rome, to supply the labouring and poorer classes with cheap bread. More than this the Pope or his Government cannot do, unless he put down free trade in Rome, and make the supply of bread to the city of Rome, as was till recently, the business of the Papal Government. There is at Rome, at this moment, great agitation going on in regard to this matter. I was told yesterday that several persons had been wounded in an affray in one of the streets of Rome, which arose out of an attempt to sell bread at a cheaper rate than suited the monopolists (who are identified with Cardinal Antonelli). On investigation, I found that the whole story was a perversion of the truth. The Pope's baker's carts were stopped by persons interested in keeping up the price of bread—a thing highly honourable to the Pope and his Government, who advocate and pray for the reduction of the price. This, however, was not told. The story affixed is, that the scuffle (in which two or three men were wounded) arose out of a determination on the part of the population of Rome to force the Government to lower the price of bread in Rome.

The fact is (impossible as it is to account for it), there is not one thing here which is truly reported. Let the Pope do what he may, the enemies of the Church, who are many and malignant, will falsify his best acts.—Yours truly,

R. BELAMY.

Affairs at Gaeta unchanged. It is reported that negotiations were pending for an extended armistice. The nomination of Prince Carignano as the King of Sardinia's Lieutenant at Naples is confirmed. Count Trapani is said to be heading the reactionary movement in Abruzzi.

The *Times* correspondent, writing on the 22nd, says:—"A terrific reaction" has again broken out at Teramo; riot and brigandage, in the name of the Bombardier, are reported to rage at Saterano; here and there in the Abruzzi and Calabria; and even, if the telegrams may be trusted—for electricity has given newspapers a power of lying commensurate with the speed of its transmission of intelligence—even here and there in the Marches. At Teramo most of the theatres, and especially the Teatro San Carlo, are nightly the scene of disgraceful disturbances.

The *Morning Star* correspondent says:—"The French Government cannot recognize the blockade of Gaeta without acknowledging the power by which Gaeta is blockaded; ergo, the French Government, whose Ambassador has been recalled from Turin, while leaving its representative at Gaeta, cannot consistently with logical reasoning recognize the hostile act of Victor Emmanuel as King of Italy."

The old trait of falsehood and deception, which has rendered the ancient regime of diplomatic rule so hateful, has been suffered to overcast every account given to us of the strength and importance of Gaeta. It has been made to appear by the reports from Turin as if the presence of the French fleet alone prevented the instant annihilation of the place, whereas it is now generally known that Admiral Persano's vessels would stand but little chance against the 300 guns which defend Gaeta from the sea."

The *Gaeta Gazette* publishes the following order of the day addressed by King Francis to his troops in the Pontifical States:—"Gaeta, 20th Nov.—Soldiers! Separated from you by the force of events, my affection always remains with you. The remembrance of the fatigues you have endured during the last eight months, and of the glorious exploits you have valiantly executed, will never be effaced from my mind. I am obliged to dissolve provisionally the corps to which you belong. I have the firm confidence that in a short time you will be united, perhaps to combat again and to augment the glory of the Neapolitan troops. You bear on your breasts medals which testify to your bravery, and which will recall all the combats in which you have given striking proofs of courage. You will return for the present to your homes, where you will find your companions, who, by fighting valiantly in 1848 and 1849, gained the medals of fidelity and those of Sicily and Rome. Unite with them, and you will be, like them, respected and honored by all good and honest citizens. A day will certainly come when you will again take up the arms you now carry for the defence of your country, your families, and your property."

It is rumored that a correspondence has been discovered between a number of the clergy at Gaeta. The communications from Naples, which, like other public journals, we copied into our columns, give an entirely false account of the events connected with the return to that city of its Archbishop, Cardinal Ruffini-Sforza. They have unblushingly asserted that the Archbishop presented himself before the mob, and, holding a trifling flag in his hand, pronounced from the balcony of his palace his blessing upon the insurrection. But, having received other information from a highly reliable source, we are in a position to give a formal contradiction to this calumny, and present our readers with a statement of the truth. Our correspondence from Rome, bearing date the 27th of November, and published in our paper of Dec. 3rd, furnished us with very exact details of the steps taken by Monsignor Farini in order to bring about the return of the Cardinal Archbishop to Naples, and of the conditions made by His Eminence previously to giving his consent.—These terms having been granted, that Cardinal at once set out for Naples. He refrained from sending any announcement of his intended return, with the view of avoiding any disturbance or public demonstration. But while passing through the streets, on his way to the Episcopal palace, a poor woman happened to recognise him. In her joy she began to cry out aloud that their father had come back to his people, and in a few moments the Archbishop was surrounded by a large crowd of people, who, in the midst of loud cries of joy and thankfulness to God for his return, conducted him in triumph to his palace. This spontaneous outburst of public good-will and affection to the Garibaldians. Bent on having their revenge they waited till evening, and then began to assemble in great numbers round the Cardinal's residence, where they created much rioting and confusion during the whole night. In the morning they loudly demanded that the Cardinal should show himself, and publicly bless the colors which they had brought, and which bore the figure of King Victor Emmanuel. On the Cardinal's refusal to do so, the mob commenced a fresh disturbance, and threatened to burn down the palace. His Eminence, however, remained unmoved either by their cries or menaces, and still refused to make his appearance on the balcony. In the height of their rage they now commenced collecting large bundles of wood, and heaped them up against the four corners of the building; and, waiting only the moment to set them on fire, they again cried out, "The benediction! the benediction!" The holy Archbishop at length presented himself before them, and, raising a Crucifix in his hand, he answered them with a thrilling voice:—"I bless the people who are faithful to the Church; but never will I bless one object which belongs to those who are out of the Church, or to those who have been condemned by the Church, or to those whom the Holy Father has excommunicated, or to those whom the Holy Father does not bless." After pronouncing these words the Archbishop retired, and the authorities, having arrived, put the mob of Garibaldians to flight.—*ibid.*

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described the policy which he proposes to pursue, and all Germany awaits with anxiety the issue of the speculation. The leading feature of the new scheme is, that the principle of Representation by Estates is abandoned for direct representation of all existing interests. That is, instead of the Nobles and Clergy, the Burgers and Peasants, electing severally their own members, there will be a franchise and qualifications on the model of our own English institutions, and each member will represent the interest of all classes.—*Tablet.*

A pamphlet has been published at Vienna on the Austrian navy, the authorship of which is attributed to the Archduke Maximilian, brother of the Emperor, and commanding the Austrian navy. He proposes a vote of 30,000,000 florins to create a navy equal to Italy. In urging his proposition, he says that he regards the loss of Venetia as very possible, that he has familiarised himself to the idea of a united Italy and that Austria ought to seek to form an alliance with England, Austria, he says, ought to reform her internal system, so that "England would not fear, in the presence of public opinion, to take the hand which we stretch out to her."

PRUSSIA. DEATH OF THE KING.—Frederick William, King of Prussia, has at length passed away. On Monday night his state became so alarming that the Prince Regent and the other Princes of Berlin repaired to Sans Souci, and a telegram now arrives informing us of his long expected death. His late Majesty was born on the 15th of October, 1795, being the son of Frederick William III. At a suitable age he was admitted into the Council of State, where the affairs of the nation were discussed prior to the establishment of a parliamentary system. Called to the throne by the decease of his father on the 7th June, 1840, he distinguished his accession by repairing several of the injuries which had grown out of his father's repressive system of government. The aims of Frederick William IV., in behalf of the German Unity, of which he aspired to make Prussia the keystone and himself the head, subsequent to the revolutionary crisis of 1848, were of a very lofty character; but when the National Assembly at Frankfurt passed over his pretensions, and elected the Archduke John Lieutenant-General of the German Empire, he became convinced to all appearances that "German unity," such as is desired by the enthusiastic students of Germany, was a game too difficult for him to play; and that as a king he would better consult the interests of his kingdom, by giving more to his attention to Prussia, and less to Germany than he had been in the habit of doing. The policy which his Government pursued during the Crimean war lowered greatly the prestige to which his kingdom had attained, and lessened the rank which Prussia had reached in the councils of the Great Powers. In the year 1857, symptoms of mental aberration were observed by the physicians of his Majesty, and these symptoms continuing to grow stronger, it was at length deemed necessary to establish a regency; and on the 9th October, 1858, the King's brother, Prince Frederick William Louis, the heir presumptive to the throne, was inducted into that office, and took the necessary oaths amid the general satisfaction of the people. The king was married on the 29th November, 1823, to Elizabeth Louise, daughter of the late Maximilian Joseph, King of Bavaria. There has been no issue by the marriage, so that after the actual Regent, the heir presumptive to the throne of Prussia is the Prince Frederick William Nicholas Charles, married on the 25th of February, 1858, to the Princess Royal of England.

BAVARIA. The Munich *Gazette* announces officially the rupture of diplomatic relations between the Courts of Bavaria and Turin. In announcing this rupture the Bavarian journal also explains its causes. It alleges in the first instance, that the policy, "of which the Sardinian Government has made itself the willing instrument," has infringed the rights of three Italian princes "closely connected with the royal family by the bonds of relationship and friendship." It next declares that this same policy "threatens the safety and existence of all States, and even of social order." The article concludes with moral and political reflections, based on the assertion that "all the lessons of history would be false if Sardinia were not forced to drink of the same cup which she forces upon others for her own advantage." Some journals had stated that the Court of Munich, in recalling Baron de Verger, and also suppressing its legation at Turin, but the official journal of Munich does not confirm the reports on that head.

RUSSIA. January 12, 1861, is New Year's day in Russia, according to the Old Style to that empire still adheres. It is a day destined to be forever memorable as the date of the complete abolition of serfdom, the final and triumphant close of the mighty movement inaugurated by the Emperor Alexander II in 1857. On this great day of emancipation, twenty millions of Russians cease to be property and become men. The last and worst, the most gigantic and most baneful relic of barbarism that infested Europe, vanishes before the march of civilisation, and personal liberty is decreed to all the inhabitants of a country whose area stretches through three-quarters of the globe, and over a seventh part of its habitable surface.

Serfdom in Russia is comparatively a modern institution. It was intruded by the Tartars, who conquered and held the country during the Middle Ages. Before their domination, the Russian peasant was a free man. Toward the end of the sixteenth century, an attempt was made by the Czar to restore to the people their lost rights, but it was defeated by the violent opposition of the aristocracy. In the earlier part of the present century the attempt was renewed by Alexander I. and by Nicholas with the same result, though Alexander succeeded in stopping the reduction of free communities of peasants to slavery, and also prohibited the sale of serfs in the market, and the separation of their families. In many other respects, likewise, he regulated and limited the power of the masters.

Like all other slaveholding nations, Russia has suffered terribly from insurrections of the subject race. In the reign of Catherine, a revolt of serfs, peasants and Cossacks of Ural or Orenburg, headed by Pugacheff, who pretended to be the Emperor Peter III., and styled himself "Czar, the Avenger," extended with horrible excesses nearly to the gates of Moscow, Pouchkine, the greatest of Russian poets, alluding to this insurrection, exclaims:—"May God preserve Russia from the seething outbreak of its own people." In 1838, partial risings took place in the government of Saratoff, in which the nobles were burnt with their houses, and the Imperial officers thrown into the fire.

In almost every respect, however, the condition of the Russian serfs was superior to that of the American slaves. The agricultural serfs lived in villages, and had land given to them to cultivate for their own profit, paying to their master a certain rent, and labouring for him on his own land three days in the week. A serf woman marrying a free man became herself free. Marriages, however, though by law the serfs had the liberty of choice, were in practice arranged by the master, and could seldom be contracted without his permission. If a serf man became free by manumission, or in any other legal way, his wife also was entitled to her freedom. The serf could not be forced to do any work on Sundays, or on the established holidays he could claim before the tribunals a right to freedom, if his master did not belong to any Christian church; if the master had made a forcible attack on the virtue of his wife or daughter; or if he had been made prisoner by the enemy; and carried beyond the frontiers of the empire. He became free, also, legally condemned to exile in Siberia, where his wife, if she followed him, likewise acquired freedom, if sold without the estate to which he belonged, or if the buyer did not possess

INDIA. The Bombay Mail of 12th December had reached Marseilles. The income tax troubles still continued.

CHINA. THE PRIZE MONEY AT PEKIN.—The prize money taken in the Emperor's Summer Palace, situated some miles out of Pekin, amounts (for the troops engaged there) to about £23,000, and is made up by a sum of £14,000, in 5000 silver, which the French handed over (in accordance with the terms of the treaty) as the British share of what they had found in the Imperial treasury, and by one of £9,000, realized by the sale by auction in the camp of articles which English officers had looted, and which Sir Hope Grant made them give up, declaring on their words of honour that they had done so; the articles brought large prices, and, as Sir Hope Grant and his two Generals of Division, Napier and Michel, gave up their shares, it allowed for the army the following scale:—"First-class field-officers, £50; second-class field-officers, £40; captains, £30; lieutenants, £20; sergeants, £10; privates, £5."

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THE MASSACRE IN CHINA.—The *Times*, in a leader on the news of the death of the prisoners in China, says:—"We must not write vengefully upon a subject on which we have peculiar and personal feeling, but the dryest and most unimpassioned statement of this massacre is enough to stir the blood and to excite even foreigners to urge retribution. Not one of these 19 victims were taken dead-handed, or had committed any special wrong upon the persons who put them thus cruelly to death. They went originally to a conference to which the Chinese had invited them, they were under a flag of truce—a signal well known and often used by the Chinese, and which they had hoisted upon their own forts, to the salvation of hundreds of Chinese lives. According to all laws, Asiatic or European, nothing could be more sacred than the flag under which these men and escort went to that camping ground which had been designated by the Chinese for Europeans, but had been occupied by themselves, and converted by them into an ambush. Whether the Europeans were wisely there in safety we cannot in duty refrain from stating, what we had no heart to say while his fate was yet in suspense, that his conduct of the whole affair indicates a degree of rashness and recklessness almost beyond conception. His remaining after he found that the ground was occupied by the Chinese in force; his still further dallying when the Prince had given him warning by his insolent manner that he thought himself able now to throw off the mask and drop the tactics of delay; his turning back after all his suspicions had been aroused, and when he and his companions were already half in flight, and had arrived within easy reach of the English lines; his pulling up even at the last moment and leaving his obliging in honor to wait for him without a choice, either to run or to fight—these are facts that throw upon Mr. Parkes a heavy responsibility. Of his courage and constancy in prison and of his steadfast behaviour to his companion in activity, no one who has any knowledge of Mr. Parkes' career could for a moment doubt; but courage and constancy, when they have a phase of rashness and presumption, are apt to more than balance their good by their evil deeds. There is no doubt that when Mr. Parkes had been first insulted by the Prince, and found that further conversation was unavailing, the whole party might have got away; and even the Tartar General himself only defended his conduct in taking them prisoners by saying that they had forfeited the protection of their flag of truce by remaining within the Chinese lines after a shot had been fired. All this, however, in no way excuses the Chinese. The excuse was futile, but had it been as valid as it was futile, it would only have entitled the Chinese to treat the prisoners as prisoners of war; and no one knows better than Sanku-lin-sin how we send prisoners of war. There is no one who would be said to check the indignation that is felt in England and France at the story of these cruelties, and no circumstance to justify the crime or even to mitigate the guilt."

Even if the Treaty of Peking was really made under the mediation of Russia, we cannot for a moment believe that the honor of England was tarnished by allowing the grievous massacre of her sons to go without due punishment. There was, we may be sure, some castigation inflicted upon the vulgar hands which committed these cruelties; but it must be doubted whether full vengeance has fallen upon the heads that directed them. However, as a supplementary and as an obviously appropriate punishment, we trust that full indemnity, so far as any indemnity in money can be full, has been exacted for every pang endured and for every pecuniary loss sustained. It is not much that money can do to alleviate such distress as has been created by these butcheries, but the want of money can do much to embitter it.

It will be some satisfaction also to know that, although it might be impossible to find out the authors of these crimes with a view to punish them in their persons, no sooner has the public Treasury been made to pay a great tariff, with every act of cruelty duly noted therein, with special indemnity for money damage, in addition to its punishment as a crime, than the Chinese themselves will quickly find out the individual upon whom this payment should properly fall, and make him reimburse to the Emperor what the Emperor has to pay for his misdeeds.

THE GLOBE, in a leader upon the fate of the European prisoners in China, defends Mr. Parkes from the charge of rashness made by a contemporary. The *Globe* says that the capture of the party resulted from no fault of delay of Mr. Parkes. He might in the first instance have escaped had he left the others to their fate, but he rode on to save them.

AUSTRALIA. Sydney, New South Wales, has contributed £4000 in aid of the Pope.

UNITED STATES. THE SECESSION MOVEMENT.—We regret to say, that we cannot report in this issue of the Pilot any improvement in the political aspects of the country.—The resignation of Mr. Floyd Secretary at War, has brought to light a most unauthorized, extraordinary and dangerous proceeding on his part in regard to the national defences of Charleston harbor. It seems that he gave a pledge to the seceders, that the forts, not then in a condition to stand even a short siege, should be kept in *utroque*. He regarded the act as a change of the status, which violated the pledge he had given—and given, too, without any color of right, and without the knowledge of the President and cabinet. It appears that the fraudulent abstraction of the Indian bonds had commenced much farther back than was at first supposed, through the practice of ex-secretary Floyd, of signing acceptance upon contracts for services which had not been performed. It is probable that some of the money raised upon the bonds was used in the unsuccessful attempt to defeat the re-election of Douglas to the Senate, from Illinois. Floyd's complicity with the treasonable purposes of the secessionists is now established. An overt act of treason has been committed by Capt. De Corde, commander of the revenue cutter, at Charleston. He ran her ashore, and abandoned her to the secessionists, and then took command of her again under the authority of South Carolina. There can be no question about the quality of this

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