

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The opening of the Legislature took place on the 18th ult., and the Emperor delivered a comparatively lengthy speech on the occasion. The effect of the explosion of the three projectiles at the time of the attempted assassination of the Emperor, proved, on investigation, to be far more disastrous than was at first supposed. The number of persons more or less wounded fell little, if any, short of 150, and 6 had died of wounds sustained.

It is stated that Rudie, the youngest of the Italian prisoners, had revealed everything connected with the plot to assassinate the Emperor. The trial will take place about the 10th February.

The correspondent of the London Herald says that, on the 21st ult., twenty-two persons were arrested in the Gardens of the Tuilleries, each with a revolver in his pocket.

The Paris correspondent of the London Advertiser says that a formal demand has been preferred upon the British Government for the expulsion of Victor Hugo, Mazzini, Ledru Rollin, and Louis Blanc from the British territory.

The Revue de Paris and the Spectateur have been suppressed for publishing articles upholding republican principles.

The Monteur announces that the Belgian Government intends prosecuting the newspapers Le Drapeau and Le Crocodile for their objectionable remarks on the attempted assassination.

The funds were buoyant on Friday, and 3 per cents closed at 69-85.

The Paris Univers, replying to the Siecle, denies that any single case has occurred in Piedmont of "excommunication" having been threatened against any individual for the mere fact of his abstaining from voting, or for voting against non-Catholic deputies, or deputies notoriously hostile to the Church.

The Paris correspondent of the Manchester Guardian relates the following curious incident: "A few days since M. de Saint Marc Girardin having occasion, in one of his lessons at the Sorbonne, to speak of the state of civilisation in ancient times, alluded to the tribunals and courts of the Jews, and incidentally mentioning Pontius Pilate, he made use of the following phrase:—'He was, after all, when he washed his hands of the blood of the Innocent—and yet let the crime be committed—he was after all a public functionary, a magistrate who was desirous not to lose his place.' The words were not out of the lecturer's mouth when the entire audience, with one shout of delight, applied the words to M. Dupin, and such a violent tumult of applause ensued that for ten minutes silence could not be obtained. The next day this scene was related at the Tuilleries, and the cant name for Dupin at this moment amongst all the court entourage is Pontius Pilate."

(Paris Correspondent of Weekly Register.)

Paris, Jan. 21st, 1858.—The Paris papers will have given you the particulars of the atrocious act which was so near depriving France, and probably Europe, of that order and tranquillity which are mostly due to the firm hand of Napoleon III. As some of them may, however, escape your attention, you must allow me to sum up a few that may prove of interest to your readers. On coming up to the Opera, the Emperor's coach was preceded by another containing one of his Chamberlains, on duty for the occasion. In consequence of some obstruction in the street, which has not yet been explained, the coachman had pulled up his horses, but whipped them in again, in order to drive up briskly before the entrance door of the Opera. One second later, the Imperial carriage would likewise have been engaged under the vaulted passage leading to the door, and have thus escaped all danger; but at that very moment the first explosion took place, which caused both horses to fall—one being killed on the spot, and the other grievously wounded. The shaft was dashed to pieces against the wall, and the carriage of course came to a stand. Several of the footmen were wounded by the explosion, or in falling to the ground. While this was going on, the horses of the military belonging to the escort, having been frightened by the noise of the explosions, had run away, and the commanding officer was hurried off to a neighbouring street with his men, who could no longer master their animals. It appears that this involuntary charge proved a providential circumstance to their Majesties, as it drove back the crowd and opened one side of the street. A few minutes after the escort wheeled round, arriving at full gallop to protect the Emperor's carriage. In the meantime M. de Lafont, the Chamberlain whom I mentioned above, had himself rushed to open the carriage door on hearing the explosions. The Emperor had some difficulty in getting out, as he had to pass before the Empress, who was seated on the right-hand side. The Chamberlain, on seeing His Majesty's face covered with blood, and his hat full of holes, made by the projectiles, instinctively opened his arms in order to receive his Sovereign. The latter, however, had preserved his wondrous presence of mind, and merely exclaimed: "Why my dear Sir, if you wish me to get out, please to let down the steps!" The Empress followed, showing great agitation. As for General Roquet, who was also in the Emperor's coach, he uttered not a single word, though seriously wounded in the neck, and his streaming blood alone betrayed his real state. At the same moment, M. Herbert, a police-officer, who had helped their Majesties to alight, received no less than sixteen wounds, which, however, did not prevent him from assisting in his perilous duties. Assisted by another policeman, likewise bleeding, and by a large number of persons belonging to the Imperial household, who had also suffered from the explosions, they all surrounded the Imperial pair to prevent any further attack; whilst close to them lay prostrate on the ground many soldiers, either killed or mortally wounded. Such a scene is seldom witnessed in the capital of a civilized nation. The Emperor and the Empress, carried rather than surrounded by the persons of the household who had not suffered from the explosions, ascended the staircase, at the top of which they were received by the manager of the Opera. As soon as they entered their box, they hastened to wipe away the bloody traces that were but too evident on their dresses, anxiously inquiring at the same time about the number and condition of such persons as had been wounded. On receiving the first reports, the Emperor is said to have exclaimed, "Would to God there were fewer victims!" The Empress had hitherto evinced great self-restraint, and gave vent to the following feeling:—"Sir," said she, "let us return to the spot, and show those cowards that we do not fear them!" And adding a gentle pressure on the Emperor's arm, she endeavored to hurry him along with her to tend the wounded. It was with some difficulty that the attendants dissuaded them from carrying their ideas into execution. It would be useless to dwell upon the feeling of hor-

ror and amazement which seized upon the whole population on learning the dreadful attempt of the conspirators. One fact alone may suffice to convey an idea of the impression:—Immediately after the explosions, a rumour was circulated that the Emperor was killed. A universal stupor took hold of the crowd, which literally seemed horror-struck; but His Majesty's narrow escape had hardly been ascertained, when people were seen falling into each other's arms, and heard to exclaim, "We are saved, saved—thank God, once more saved!" There was not a single circumstance of the public joy noted by the public journals which is not perfectly true, and nothing can be laid to the score of exaggeration. But if the first feeling was that of congratulation, the second was that of anger and indignation, that such atrocious plots can be constantly brewed and concocted in a country like England, though by the hands of foreign miscreants. At present this feeling is superimposed with the French nation, and the corps legislatif in particular had decided upon voting an address to the Emperor on the subject. According to the best authorities, they went so far as to ask that England should be given to understand that she must either alter her laws concerning the hospitality she offers to political refugees, or expect to go to war with the French. This was the result of the first impulse, I admit; but still you may see the vestiges of it in the address of M. de Morny, speaking for the deputies over whom he presides. That speech was marked as being most significant, and as implying the future policy of the Imperial Government on that head. Whatever may be the wishes of political parties in France, they at least concur in one thing—hatred of political assassinations. The French will readily fight a duel, but they instinctively scorn the stiletto of a murderer. Thus, you see that the Emperor is sure to be supported by public opinion, if he undertakes to make the question a matter of international law; and as he would likewise be backed by all Europe, he will probably take advantage of the opportunity. Indeed, the Government papers have already mooted the question. Most fortunately, the tone of the press in England has of late been such as to offer facilities for negotiations on that subject between both Governments. The Emperor will not be contented with anything short of the expulsion of these banditti, who seem to revel in murder; and it does not seem likely that our free country should be desirous of seeing her generosity become a screen for the most nefarious felons. Should, however, the British Government be mad enough to refuse such a reasonable demand, you may depend that all France would joyfully back the Emperor in open hostility to our country, just at the time when our whole resources are required to curb the Indian insurrection. At any rate, it seems downright impossible that this country should be constantly exposed to attacks of this kind, which cost her some of her best blood, and threaten her with the return of social anarchy. From the official reports of the Monteur, we see that no less than one hundred and forty-one persons have either been killed or wounded by the explosion! We talk of Walker and his outrageous invasions; what are they compared with the murderous attempt of an Orsini and a Pierri? As you will certainly give a translation of the Emperor's Speech at the opening of the French Session, I shall merely content myself with a few observations upon its most thrilling features. Coming soon after the late occurrence, it was expected with more than usual anxiety. Though Napoleon's coolness is now next to proverbial, every one was taken by surprise on reading this more than an American President's message to the Congress, except where it comments upon the actual institutions of the country. Here it is easy to perceive that stern purpose which has resolved, to curtail rather than extend, the civil and political liberties of France. As must always be the case after such attempts, the Imperial Government will avail itself of the present attempt to crush all opposition to its own tendencies. It is an easy matter, on the plea of faction and extreme opinions, to set aside both such men and publications as are disposed to assert the privilege of free discussion in matters of social importance. Under the impression of the late conspiracy, the nation will not move one finger to prevent any executive measure which it may please the Emperor to adopt. It is certainly most remarkable that every passage of the Imperial Speech containing a threat against adverse opinions was hailed with enthusiastic applause. I shall quote the two following sentences as the most striking illustrations of this feeling:—"I do not now hesitate to declare before you that our present danger lies, not indeed in the excessive prerogatives of the Crown, but in the want of repressive laws. And as the pacification of the public opinion must become the constant aim of our efforts, I trust that you will help me in the devising such means as may silence all extreme, and factions opposition." From these two passages it is no difficult matter to conclude that ere long the few remaining organs of the Legitimist, Orleanist, and Republican parties in France will become extinct; as is indeed already the case in the provinces, where the prevailing laws upon the press are applied more rigorously than in Paris. I cannot close my letter without referring to the pleasure which Cardinal Wiseman's graceful and appropriate speech on the present melancholy occasion, has given to the French public.

ITALY.

THE KING OF NAPLES.—We find the following in La Espana, a Madrid journal, of Jan. 1st, 1858:—"Of the Italian States that which at present excites the greatest amount of interest is the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Notwithstanding the insolence and contempt with which the government of Ferdinand has been treated, and the excesses and outrages of which the King has been accused, not only his Majesty, but his ministers also, may rest calmly in the consciousness of having fulfilled the task committed to their hands. The enemies of his government have not been sparing of menaces, but their only act has been the movement of the republican party, headed by Colonel Piscane, who landed about six months ago on the island of Ponza. It has been seen how their boasted schemes of liberty commenced; the means were worthy of the end. The first act of the insurgents was to set at liberty the criminals confined in the prisons of the island. These disorders were soon quelled, however, by a few of the gendarmes, aided by the peasantry, who spontaneously took up arms in the cause of law and order. The satellites of Mazzini attempted to excite republican insurrections at Genoa and Leghorn, but their efforts succumbed before the universal repugnance of the inhabitants and the energetic measures taken to put down the rising. Ferdinand, confident in the love and attachment of his people, regarded these attempts with but little apprehension, convinced that such chimeric notions would end in smoke, and turned all his attention to financial and administrative reform, more particularly to works of public utility. Amongst these may be mentioned the draining of a marshy lake of vast extent which in ancient times had submerged the greater part of the towns and villages on its banks, and menaced those existing at the present day with the same fate. The King has also projected the conversion of another lake into a port and arsenal, which will be connected by a canal with the sea, distant about five or six leagues. Both these enterprises are colossal, and even the mighty genius of Rome

succumbed before the obstacles which they present. This work has been commenced; and there now exists no doubt that this scheme will be at length completed. The creation of an artificial port in which the vessels of war will be completely sheltered from the attack of an enemy competes with the design of the Sardinian government, which has lately removed the state arsenal from Genoa to Spezia. It may be added that, in the late earthquake, which has caused so much desolation, the King showed his usual fortitude and Christian resignation, and proved himself a not unworthy descendant of St. Louis and the Saint after whom his Majesty is named.

The Sardinian Coppock having signally failed to overthrow the Catholic party in the recent elections, the Liberals, with Count Cavour at their head, have carried a vote for a committee of inquiry into the manner in which the elections were conducted, with the view of substantiating charges of bribery and "spiritual intimidation" against the Clerical party. It is the old electioneering trick, which we have seen played off on the hustings and in the House of Commons for years past. If Coppock cannot beat you at the polling booth, he will try his luck in a committee of inquiry. Such a proceeding, emanating from the Liberal party, and supported by the head of the government, is only another indication of the worthlessness of the one and the weakness of the other.—Union.

GERMANY.

GREAT DROUGHT IN GERMANY.—Accounts from the Hartz mountains state that the district of Clausthal is suffering from an unprecedented dearth of water; the natives had left off washing their hands and faces more than once a week, the authorities of the place having imposed a fine of two thalers on all laundresses who persist in pursuing their trade. Great quantities of cattle were dying from thirst, and a few of the community, who are unable to forego habits of cleanliness, use beer to perform their ablutions.

PRUSSIA.

According to a recent statistical return, there exist in the Catholic provinces of Prussia 60 convents and religious communities, comprising 976 members, of whom about three-fifths are females. They are principally Ursulines and Sisters of Charity.

The Univers, quoting from a German correspondence, mentions the reception into the bosom of the Catholic Church at Posen, in Polish Prussia, of the chief Protestant Pastor, Giessler, of the parish of Schmiegel, together with his wife and children.

AUSTRIA.

A very acrimonious correspondence is said to be taking place between the French and Austrian Governments on the subject of the navigation of the Danube.

Accounts had reached Paris of the landing of two hundred Mazzinians on Ancona, and of their attempt to surprise the Austrian garrison. Many were killed and others made prisoners.

RUSSIA.

The following facts from the Monteur de la Flotte, relating to the Russian navy are not without interest:—

"Previous to the last war the Russian ships in the Black Sea were chiefly built at Nicolaief, but the river being too shallow to permit them to embark their guns or their stores, these objects were taken on board at Sebastopol. On the arrival of a new ship at the latter port a warehouse was placed at the captain's disposal for himself, his officers, and his crew, and he occupied it as long as he remained in port. By this system an entire fleet might be prepared for sea in two or three days, or even, if necessary, within 24 hours. This system, though expensive, is at the same time economical, inasmuch as every ship's stores are preserved in a good state by the same men, for the crew of a Russian ship-of-war never quit her during their period of service except in case of accident, and their period of service lasts 20 years. The seamen always remaining in the same ship become attached to it, and an emulation is created among the various ships, which tends to establish good discipline. A French naval officer, who had an opportunity of observing the manner in which the Russian captains manoeuvre their ships, expressed himself in the following terms in the year 1850:—'The manner in which a Russian crew handle their sails, the silence which reigns on board, the agility, intelligence, and zeal displayed by the seamen are something surprising when one considers that those men have been taken from the plough to be converted into seamen. Previous to coming in contact with a Russian ship I never saw the three topsails of a corvette changed in less than three minutes, particularly when they are set. I now see it every day, and, if I can credit the assertions of the Russian captains, their largest ships are handled equally well. The manner in which they anchor, leave their anchors, and set sail before leaving port is remarkable for the celerity with which it is performed.' The same officer added that the discipline on board a Russian ship of war is perfect, and that it is not the result of corporal punishment, as has often been asserted, for flogging is reserved for such crimes as robbery and desertion. According to an excellent authority the Russian navy suffers from the difficulty of finding recruits, and this arises from the slow development of the merchant navy, notwithstanding the encouragement afforded to it by the Government for the last 150 years. The best merchant seamen are the Russians of the Baltic, the Cossacks and Greeks of the Black Sea, but their number is far below the necessities of the State. For that reason the crew of a Russian ship of war is infinitely superior to that of a merchantman. The maxim of Peter the Great, that every man is good for everything, is applied more easily in Russia than in any other country, and for that reason seamen are levied not only on the sea coast but in the interior of the country. The dislike the Russians feel for the sea service is at present beginning to disappear in consequence of the Emperor Nicholas having educated his son Constantine for the navy. The time is past when the officers of the Russian navy were in the habit of wearing boots and spurs, and of repeating that they would soon exchange into the cavalry."

CHINA.

An Island opposite to Canton, was occupied by the English and French forces without resistance.

The French Admiral had proclaimed the blockade of the Canton River on the part of France.

Lord Elgin's ultimatum had been sent in and China allowed ten days to accept or reject it.

AUSTRALIA.

We have received by the last mail our file of Australian papers, and we are glad to see that the Church is making rapid progress in that wonderful land. From the Goulburn Chronicle we learn that a Conference of the Clergy of the Southern District had been held at Goulburn. This was the first that has taken place in the district since the publication of the decrees of the first Synod of Australia, and will be continued at certain seasons. Decrees having been issued by the Synod of Sydney for the purpose of establishing a uniformity of discipline, the task of the Conference has been to promulgate them among the Clergy, and to consider the best means of carrying them out.—Weekly Register.

The following article from the Dublin Tablet though designed for Ireland, is not without interest, for, because directly applicable to our political condition in Canada:—

Is there any hope from Ireland? Is there any hope from Ireland for the thousands of Irish and Catholic soldiers, on whose behalf we claim that while they are giving away their lives in deadly warfare with the fanatical enemies of Christianity, the ferocious Mahometan and the idolatrous Hindoo, they shall not be robbed of the Sacraments of the Church?

Is there any hope from Ireland for the thousands of Irish and Catholic soldiers, on whose behalf we claim from the British Government, which profits by their services, and depends upon their prowess, that, in the number and the pay of the Catholic Chaplains appointed to minister to their spiritual wants, they shall be put upon an equality with the English and Protestant soldiers, by whom the services of their Ministers are far less valued, yet in whose favour an outrageous and unjust distinction is maintained?

Is there any hope from Ireland for the children of these thousands of Catholic and Irish soldiers? The Government has established Protestant schools in which to educate these children, and it pays for these schools by deductions from the scanty pay of the Catholic soldier, whether he sends his child to them or not. As to the orphan children of the soldier who has died in service, no one throughout the length and breadth of the land is ignorant of the wrongs inflicted upon them, or of their pressing need of help.

Is there any hope from them from Ireland? These are questions which have been addressed to us weekly for many months, since we first called upon the Catholic people to avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the Indian outbreak to insist upon a

redress of their grievances, in return for the sacrifices which they were called on to make for the empire.

But what answer can we make? From two of the three political parties which divide the Catholics of Ireland we see no hope.

We see no hope from the Whig Catholics, or from the supporters of Lord Palmerston, or from the men with whom politics are but a trade, which they pursue for the profits it brings in.

It would be absurd to expect of men who have entered into well-understood engagements with the Ministry, by which they promised their support in return for favours asked and granted, that these very men should now turn round upon the Ministry, and exert upon them an unpleasant pressure.

We do not now propose to inveigh against those Irish Catholic members of Parliament who have entered into these relations with the Whig Ministers.—The most conspicuous of those who, having obtained the confidence of the people by solemn pledges, treacherously broke those pledges, have already obtained the reward of their iniquity, either by being promoted to high office, or by being hunted by the people back into obscurity. A new Parliament was elected last April; and, on the whole, it may be fairly said, that there is no Irish Catholic member, whatever his shortcomings, for whose misconduct his constituents are not directly responsible. There are, we believe, not a few instances in which the corruption of the constituency is the principal cause of the uselessness of the representative.

All we have to say is, that there is no reason to hope anything from either members or constituents of this class.

Still less can we hope anything from that numerous and powerful party, which from the time when the revolutionary enterprise of 1848 failed, was mistakenly supposed by many to have abandoned its hopes, and the practical pursuit of its favourite ends, although it still retained all its regrets for the past, and all its aversion for the present.

It would be not only foolish, but dishonest, to disguise the fact that the mutiny of the revolted Sepoys has awakened or revealed a deep and wide-spread feeling, which, however we may deplore its influence on the religious and national interests of Ireland, is for the present a stream too strong to be stemmed, and a mine too profitable to be abandoned by those who choose to work it for their own advantage. But it needs no argument to show that no help is to be expected towards the vindication of the civil and religious rights of Catholic soldiers and their children and orphans from those who insist that the mere fact of enlisting in the army deprives a man of all claim upon them, whose comment on the cruelties inflicted upon English and Irish men and women in India is, that they were rightly served for being there at all, and that as robbers and invaders they were no doubt prepared for all they got, since they might have escaped it by staying away. It needs no arguments to show that no man can consistently desire the overthrow of the empire and denounce every man who takes the Saxon shilling, and still at the same time join a struggle for the rights of soldiers, and endeavour to remove the religious grievance which actually constitutes a practical and valid objection to enlistment.

But what of the great Catholic party formed in 1851, that party on the formation and sustenance of which "all our hopes upon heaven" were declared to rest—that party which was to be "ready to defend 'at all hazards, and with an independent spirit, our 'civil and religious liberty'?"

Well, all that remains in Ireland of that great party to which, six years ago, all were proud to belong—which had the countenance of so many Bishops and Archbishops, of such hosts of Clergy, of so many politicians, and of countless thousands of the people—that party, in defence of whose principles there have been enlisted the enlightened patriotism of a McHale, the undaunted spirit of Moore, and the massive strength of Lucas is still ready and willing to do all it can to carry out the great objects for which it was founded, and among them these:—

"Establishment of perfect religious equality," and "a reform which shall cause fairness and justice to Catholics in the administration of the public education grants, of the army and navy, of the union workhouses, and of every other branch of the public service, in all which the influence of Government is now systematically, though unostentatiously directed against our faith and in favour of the attempts of proselytisers."—Address to the Catholics of the Empire, Jan. 30th, 1852.

If they cannot promise any decided demonstration from the people of Ireland, on a subject so important to all Catholics as the religious rights of Catholic soldiers and the protection of their children from the snares of proselytism, let not the fault be laid on those who have remained true to their principles, and kept the ground once taken up by all, but on those rather who, for whatever motives, and in pursuit of whatever other objects, have adopted other principles and entered on new fields of action.

A FROM BREWSTER IN THE U. S.—There were indications yesterday, in the Senate of the United States, of the storm that is likely to burst forth over the whole Union when Congress comes to the practical work of admitting new states into the Union.—These indications were given in connection with a motion to consider the application from Minnesota to be admitted as a state. Mr. Mason, from Virginia, gave an intimation of the policy likely to be pursued by the pro-slavery Democracy, by opposing the consideration of the Minnesota question on the ground that the South desired first to know what would be done with respect to Kansas. He somewhat obscurely but still intelligibly, hinted that in case Congress did not admit Kansas with the Lecompton constitution, the Southern states would secede from the Union, and he demanded that the two questions of Minnesota and Kansas, should be considered together. Senator Brown, of Mississippi, was for "resisting to the bitter end" the admission of Minnesota. On the other side Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts gave notice that the admission of Kansas, with the Lecompton constitution, would be opposed by the Republicans in both Houses of Congress by every means which congressional rules would permit, and urged strenuously against uniting the two questions of the admission of Minnesota and of Kansas. Mr. Hall, of New Hampshire, expressed similar views, and the venerable Senator from Kentucky, Mr. Crittenden also declared that there was no reason for uniting them. He also eloquently rebuked the diabolical sentiments uttered by Mr. Mason. Enough feeling was manifested and enough was said to show that whenever the question comes fairly before either House, there will assuredly be a fearful storm of words, an outburst of passionate temper, whatever may be the practical result of the discussion. When Senators of Mr. Mason's standing introduce diabolical doctrines upon the floor of the Senate, patriots may well look grave.

The diabolical threat half uttered by Mr. Mason, every true patriot must read with regret. It is true that the country has become familiar with such sentiments from the lips and pens of a certain class of Southern gentlemen, and the very familiarity with it has been calculated to inspire contempt. But its grave reproduction in the conservative branch of the national legislature, by a gentleman who enjoys so largely the confidence of that august body, to whom years of public life have brought experience and it was believed wisdom, is another matter altogether. It shows that a dissolution is no longer regarded by the best men at the South as a thing impossible, and it also shows how small need be the provocation to bring it about. Mr. Mason virtually says that if all the frauds committed in regard to the Lecompton constitution are not sanctioned, or at least connived at by Congress, and if that instrument is not forced upon the people of that territory when it is notoriously objectionable to the overwhelming majority of them, the South will deem herself insulted and in-