

FOREIGN

CLOSING OF THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.—BERLIN, December 22.—The Emperor William closed the session of the German Parliament to-day with a speech from the Throne. To said: In reference to foreign affairs, the negotiations of the powers upon the Eastern Question as far as proceeded with, justify the hope that my efforts and mutually conciliatory and peaceful intentions of the powers immediately concerned will be successful in solving the pending questions without prejudice to the good relations now existing. Germany will continue by friendly, disinterested mediation to lend her co-operation for the attainment of this end.

THE POPE'S GIFT TO THE VATICAN GALLERY.—The Vatican picture gallery has recently been enriched by the munificence of our Holy Father, Pius IX., by a work of the great Spanish artist, Murillo. The subject is the martyrdom of St. Peter Arbus. The saint is represented in church assisting at nocturn, and in prayer near the altar, with the assassins approaching with their weapons drawn. The background is obscure; the light of the sanctuary lamp, the sole illumination, shows three figures—the martyr and the two assassins. The lights are handled with great skill. The eye is attracted by the fierce expression on the faces of the murderers, and on the saint, the colours of whose dress stand clearly out. The movements are natural and life-like. The white rochet and violet mozetta of the victim are admirably depicted. Above there is seen a beautiful angelic form bearing a palm branch. This work is worthy of the master and of the gallery in which it is placed.—Roman correspondent of Weekly Register.

DEATH OF THE DUKE DI GALLIERA.—On the evening of the 23rd November, at half-past eight, his Excellency the Marquis Raffaele De Ferrari, Prince of Lucedio and Duke of Galliera, died at Genoa. He received the Viaticum with great devotion, and the Holy Father sent him a special benediction on his death-bed. It is related that previous to his death he repeatedly made the following declaration:—"I wish to die an Apostolic, Roman, and Papal Catholic.—Voglio morire Cattolico, Apostolico, Romano e Papale." His death is greatly regretted in Genoa. During the past year he bestowed twenty million of francs on his native city for the amelioration of the harbour, and two millions for the construction of workmen's cottages. He was nominated to the Senate in 1848, but did not take the oath until 1855, at which period he voted against the Piedmontese law for the suppression of the Religious Orders. He only appeared twice in the Senate, and took no part in the atrocious war waged by Piedmont against the Church. The Duchess di Galliera is the daughter of the noble Genoese house of Brignole-Sale, and has been remarkable for her noble contributions to the Peter's Pence offering, to which she has dedicated two-thirds of the revenues of a Marquisate in her family. In France, as well as in Italy, the loss of the Duke di Galliera is keenly felt.—R.I.P.—Roman correspondence of Weekly Register.

THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT.—His Majesty King Victor Emmanuel opened the Italian Parliament in Monte Citorio, on the 20th of November. The morning was cloudy, and the rain fell in quantity sufficient to make the streets disagreeable to sight-seers. The Royal party drove to the Parliament in closed carriages, and his Majesty was cheered as he passed by the soldiers and people. His speech at the opening was attentively listened to, and at intervals loudly applauded. It contained the usual phrases about the unity of Italy, the speedy approach of a balance between income and expenditure, and the necessity of keeping up the navy and army, and paying taxes. Italy his Majesty remarked, "when she took her part among the great Powers, accepted a mission of progress and civilisation." By some this passage was considered an indication that Italy is about to consider peace a secondary object, and to take a share in the war against the barbarian, the Turk. But Signor Crispi, the present head of the Left party, gave, in a recent speech, some details which would lead one to suppose that Italy is not now prepared for war. He said that the fleet, which was re-made in a hurry, and that the few ships which could put to sea would scarcely venture to oppose the ships of the Great Powers. The army, he added, is in want of weapons, and scarcely a third of the available men could be sent to the field. The portion of the Royal speech which chiefly concerns Catholics is that relating to the new laws which are prepared against the Church. "It remains to us," said the King, "to attack a problem hitherto unassailed—ad affrontare un problema in qui in tentato. The liberties conceded to the Church in our kingdom, more largely than in any other Catholic State may not be used (applicata) in a way to offend the public liberties or lessen the rights of the national sovereignty. My Government will present for your examination the measures necessary for giving efficacy to the reservations and conditions indicated in the law itself which sanctioned the ecclesiastical franchises." Without inquiring into the liberty enjoyed by the Church in other Catholic States, it may be remarked that the liberty which the Church has lately enjoyed in Italy is small indeed. In Italy of to-day the convents were suppressed and plundered, the Church Congresses were dispersed, the religious processions were prohibited, it was forbidden to ring bells at the procession of the Host, the profession of religious vows was forbidden, clergymen were forced to become soldiers, the Catholic schools were closed, the nomination of parish priests was taken from Bishops, and the Bishops themselves were driven out of their episcopal residences, to say nothing of the plundering and imprisonment of the Chief Pastor, Pius IX. Verily the Church enjoys less liberty in Italy under a Catholic King than she enjoys in non-Catholic countries, such as England or America, or even in a non-Christian country, such for example as Turkey. The laws, however, which the ministry has prepared against the Church, and to which the King alluded, are doubtless laws intended to modify the famous guarantees, to put the ecclesiastical stipends of bishops and priests under lay control and management, and to subject all religious ministrations to the supervision of the police. That the present Parliament will enact laws to persecute the Church is but too probable. That the Italian bishops and clergy will do their duty in spite of persecution is almost certain.—Roman Corr. of London Tablet.

RUSSIAN SUSCEPTIBILITY.—Prince Gortschakoff's "private" letter to Count Schouvaloff has been published in the Journal de St. Petersburg. The air of injured innocence which pervades it would perhaps be more warmly appreciated were it not that the present attitude of Russia is unnecessarily and even wantonly warlike, and the past policy of Russia too evasive and subtle to admit of our feeling secure as to the future. The Prince considers that such an idea as that of "Russia wanting Constantinople" is "an absurdity beyond belief," and that it should be dismissed, with the conquest of India by Russia, to the domain of political mythology. So it might be, if the solemn promises of Alexander II. were sure to bind Russia for ever, or if other Powers beside that of the Tsar's will were not active in the domain of ambition. The Emperor's "personal loyalty is at stake," says the Prince; and we have no wish to cast suspicion on that loyalty; but was not the Emperor's personal loyalty at stake when he promised that he would not annex Khiva, or when he annexed it when six months of that promise had again, as to the patently folly of such an enterprise—the taking of the hold-

amount appropriated for the navy in the latter year was 25,800,000 roubles. The Russian navy is in two principal divisions, the fleet of the Baltic and that of the Black Seas; and there are smaller fleets in the Caspian, Aral, Siberian, and White Sea waters. The total comprises 108 men-of-war, 1,477 officers, and 7,217 seamen. The iron-clad fleet of war comprises the powerful turret-ship Peter the Great, 3 frigates, 3 corvettes, 14 turret monitors, and 8 floating batteries. The entire fleet now consists of 225 steam vessels, with 521 guns and a total tonnage of 172,501. As to the direction which the Russian military movements will take, the following statement is probably nearly correct:—"The main strength of this vast military force will be concentrated at two points. The first army is already gathering about Kichiney, in the vicinity of the Pruth, which divides Bessarabia from Roumania. Across the river her forces will sweep down through Roumania into Bulgaria, threatening Constantinople on the left. To meet this force the Turks are about concentrating 200,000 men in Bulgaria. They are also strengthening Widdin and other Danubian fortresses, and reinforcing the fleet on that river. The second army will have Tiflis as its base, on the trans-Caucasian side, and operate in Armenia, which is friendly to Russia, Trebizond and Ziva, threatening Constantinople on the right. A powerful army is already concentrated at Tiflis, with no corresponding Turkish army to meet it, so that the principal fighting, if war should be declared, would be in European Turkey."

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THE SOPHISTRY OF COMMUNISM.

A foolish question sometimes requires a studied answer. A representative of American Communism the other day stigmatised the religious reading of the *Columbian* and other Catholic journals, as only "a reproduction of the catechism," and asks what is the use of paying two dollars for a paper which only tells what you might learn in a five cent catechism? Garibaldi's familiar, or Robert Ingersoll's inspirer could not have put the question in a more cunning way to justify contempt for anything like a pious or religious life. Since Luther this has been the aim of heresy—to separate belief from works. This is now the sophistry of Communism. You buy a five cent catechism; and when you have read it over, you throw it aside, and thenceforward you do as you please and read what you please. You have found out what your faith is—thenceforward you have nothing to read but what is opposed to faith. You know all about the duties you owe to God, to His Church, to your neighbor and yourself; thenceforward you devote yourself to the study of what you are forbidden to do to God, your neighbor and yourself. Who does not see the miserable sophistry of this? If we must take care of our soul, then all the knowledge of life must take its own tone and color from the catechism. If then, there is anything in religion, then every interest of life is in religion. Everything is granted to the Puritans, when it is conceded that our duty to God is a form to go through on Sunday and forget on Monday; that the reading for a Catholic is to be a little at some stated time and after that the sentimental stories, the sensational items, the scandals, the murders, forgeries, rapes, seductions, divorce trials, and other horrible and nasty things that make popular reading amongst those who have no respect for Jesus Christ and His Immaculate Mother. Faith, without works, is dead. Those who call themselves Catholics, while they follow the practice and hold the sentiment of heathens and libertines, will be worse off in the day of judgment than if they never had been baptised. Catholic Columbian.

A Score of Impolite Things.

- 1. Loud and boisterous laughter.
2. Reading when others are talking.
3. Reading aloud in company without being asked.
4. Talking when others are reading.
5. Spitting about the house, smoking, or chewing.
6. Cutting finger nails in company.
7. Leaving church before public worship is closed.
8. Whispering or laughing in the house of God.
9. Gazing rudely at strangers.
10. Leaving a stranger without a seat.
11. A want of respect and reverence for strangers.
12. Correcting other persons than yourself, especially parents.
13. Receiving a present without an expression of gratitude.
14. Making yourself the hero of your own story.
15. Laughing at the mistakes of others.
16. Joking of others in company.
17. Commence talking before others have finished speaking.
18. Answering questions that have been put to others.
19. Commencing to eat as soon as you get to the table.
20. In not listening to what one is saying in company—unless you desire to show open contempt for the speaker. A well-bred person will not make any observation whilst another of the company is addressing himself to it.

Not Yet.

"My son give me thy heart," said the Lord Jesus to a little boy.
"Not yet," said the little boy, who was busy with his bat and ball; "when I grow older I will think about it."
"My son give me thy heart," said the Lord Jesus to a young man.
"Not yet," said the young man. "I am just going into business, and when I see it prosper I shall have more time to attend to the matter."
"My son, give me thy heart," said the Lord Jesus to the man of business.
"Not yet," said the man of business; "I am pressed now. When my children are well settled in life I will be better able to attend to the affairs of religion."
He lived to be an old man.
"My son, give me thy heart," said the Lord Jesus to the old man.
"Not yet," he cried, "I shall soon give up trade, and then I shall have nothing else to do but to read and pray."
And so he died. He put off to another time what should have been attended to in his childhood. He therefore died as he had lived, without God.—S. S. Gem.

Give Your Child a Paper.

A child beginning to read is delighted with a newspaper, because he reads the names of things which are familiar to him, and he will progress accordingly. A newspaper in one year is worth a quarter's schooling to a child. Every father must consider that information is connected with advancement. The mother of a family being one of its heads, and having a more immediate charge of children should herself be instructed. A mind occupied becomes fortified against the ills of life, and is braced for emergency. Children amused by reading or study, are of course, more considerate and easily governed. How many thoughtless young men have spent their evenings in a grog-shop who ought to be reading! How many parents who have not spent twenty dollars for books or papers for their families, who have given thousands to reclaim a son or daughter who had ignorantly and thoughtlessly fallen into temptation from the want of wise counsel, or from the want of something to occupy the mind!

"Brothers unite! unite!" he cried,
And died for what his Saviour died,
"Wake of William Orr."

"Brothers unite!" There's a day approaching
Swift and sure on the wings of time
When the old-time foe on our rights encroaching
Must be stayed and thwarted by our manhood's prime.

Unite, unite for the day is nearing.
When our own old land must assert her right;
Dear Erin's star is but now appearing
And soon 'twill shine on us both clear and bright.

Unite, unite for your common mother;
Unite, and swear before God above,
To grasp the hand of each Irish brother
Who has for Erin a soul of love.

Unite, unite, while the war-clouds lower,
And lightning flashes athwart the sky;
Prepare, prepare for the dreadful hour
The wished-for moment again is nigh.

The Czar looks towards where Gange's waters
Roll thro' a land of flowers and gems;
The Sultan's throne and the crescent totters
There's fear and trembling upon the Thames.

The lion growls, but his teeth are rotten;
He fain would shrink from the coming fight
His power, by plunder and blood begotten,
May soon be crushed by the Russian's might.

Prepare, prepare! in the clash of nations
Let Erin's tocsin be heard afar,
Calling her sons from their distant stations
To draw the sword in her holy war.

Cease to think of our fell disunion,
Let it pass like the clouds away,
We must join in a grand communion
To prepare for the final fray.

Work there is for the strong and willing—
Work there is for the brave and bold;
Let the breasts of the people thrilling,
Rouse the hearts of the young and old.

Be prepared; there are hosts to scatter,
Work to do with the hand and brain;
Be prepared there are walls to shatter,
Blows to strike that must not be vain.

Can you fight 'mid the bullets pouring,
Face to face, eye and hand to hand?
Can you stand 'mid the cannon's roaring
Firm and true to your native land?

What the steel, let the cloud impending
Burst and find you prepared to fight;
Draw the sword, let your blows descending
Crush to ashes the tyrant's might.

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A VERY SICK WOMAN. While calling at the office of a friend the other day, we were handed a letter from which we read the following: Friend Craddock—My best friend for thus I must address you, as you have done me more good than any one on earth under God, and I believe I owe my life to you, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done. It would take several sheets of paper to enumerate all my sufferings, so will only speak of the most important. For four years I had hemorrhages, beginning in February and lasting until fall; palpitation of the heart; soreness of the breast-bone and short ribs; pain in the back and lower part of the abdomen; cold hands and feet, even in August; constipation and headaches. I had tried doctors far and near, but all in vain. Some said I had consumption; others liver disease. I quit all doctors, and wrote to you for help, and obtained it from your great "East India Balm." I depend upon you alone for a perfect restoration to health, and feel that I shall not be disappointed. Please send two more bottles, with Pills and Ointment, which I think will do the work.

Yours truly, A. E. RICHARD. 10-13

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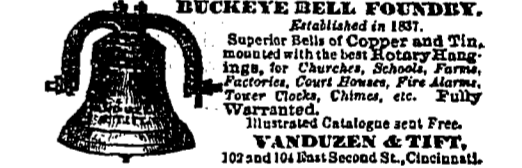
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