

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, APRIL 29.—Our attention this week has been fully occupied with the evacuation of Syria (which is certain) and that of Rome (which is probable), in spite of, or rather all the more because of, the denials of the *Patrie* the Duke d'Aumale's pamphlet, and the revolution which is still in progress at Warsaw. Lord John has won; General Beaufort will leave Syria without having done a thing that any fool could not have done. France will feel it hard to gulp this humiliation, and after this triumph of the two allies, England and the Revolution (alas! that these two Powers should ever stand together) will perhaps obtain another and a more important one, the withdrawal of the French from Rome; for Piedmont, as Napoleon has said, is the sword of the Revolution, and England is the mainstay of his dynasty, and united they can always make him do whatever they require. Russia is not so much opposed as you might fancy to the evacuation of Syria, for she will then be able to say to the Orientals—"You see that you can count on none but me for a constant support." The relations between St. Petersburg and the Tuileries are not so sweet as they seem; the note against Poland in the *Monteur* was only inserted during a moment of ill-feeling against you, because the *Times* published the Duke d'Aumale's letter with commentaries. For all that, the Poles here were not a bit frightened, and are still as certain as ever that they may count upon the French Emperor. The Warsaw business is all the more grave, because nobody can say what will turn up. Poland has no natural frontiers; geographically it must either be absorbed by Russia, or must absorb it. But neither alternative is easy. There is but one way of settling the question—the despotism whose Machiavellian policy has separated the two countries must be abolished for ever, and the two peoples, alike as they are in origin, in qualities, and even in their faults, must be fused together by a common free constitution. Unluckily, Alexander II. has a soft heart, and a weak head; he hesitates about taking a bold line, and the nation is humbled by catastrophes brought on by foreign influence; it sees in the Warsaw business the hand of Napoleon, and on this side of the horizon it discovers nothing but the threats of interminable quarrels. And all this, it must be owned, is the fault of your amiable ally, and of the Palmerstonian policy which supports him. This policy is enough to make a saint swear; not being a saint, I don't know how I should have behaved, if I had not been laughing so heartily at the comedy played by Cavour and Garibaldi, and at the vain attempts here to smother the Duke d'Aumale's pamphlet under a heap of new ones. To-day we are promised the reply of Plon-Plon. It is to be a bill of indictment against the Orleans family from the Regent downwards, cleverly drawn up so as to please both the Legitimists and the blouses, who will buy it for twopenny. They say that the Count of Chambord has congratulated the Duke; I do not think he has, though he said that he would only see in the pamphlet the points on which he could agree, and would forget all the rest. The courtiers of the Palais Royal declare that Plon-Plon will fight after publishing his reply. The Count of Rochepousm will take that opportunity of settling an old quarrel with him. In 1845 he publicly horse-whipped the Prince at Florence. The next day the Prince ran off to London, whither the Count followed him; as soon as the Prince knew that his enemy was in London he packed off to Marseilles; here the Count caught him, and boxed his ears at the table d'hôte of the Hotel Beauran. There was no helping what followed now; the next day he was on the ground, but before any business could be done, the combatants were arrested by the police, who had received the most exact information about time and place from Prince Napoleon himself. In spite of the awkward attempts of the *Times* correspondent to patch up his reputation, he himself is quite cynical in the confession of his own cowardice. The difficulties which the Government puts in the way of the smallest religious publication surpass belief. Lately the Society of St. Francis Regis, at Versailles, printed a report which contained the words—"Perhaps the time is not far distant when the children of the Church will have only themselves to depend upon, and when they can only look to charity for pecuniary aid." This was interpreted to be a political allusion; the printer was told to lodge the pamphlet at the imperial procurator's office, and only to print on stamped paper. The very day when Delangle published his monstrous circular, he sent his card to the Archbishop of Paris to signify that the circular was not meant for his Eminence. I don't believe that the Government seriously intends to execute it; it was only meant to humiliate the Cure in the eyes of the policeman, and to expose the clergy to the suspicions and the jeers of the people; this object is completely attained. Priests are now insulted in the streets as they have never been before; the son of M. Nicholas, who is a Dominican, was most grossly insulted a day or two ago. I have seen a copy of a secret circular of Delangle's, in which he recommends his agents to make the most of any scandalous revelation of the private life of a Priest. Marshal MacMahon passed last week at Paris; he told the Emperor what a miserable effect the expulsion of the Redemptorists from Douai had produced. "Rouland never produces anything else," said the master; "speak to him severely." The Marshal went at once; Rouland received him as if he had not a moment to spare; the Marshal told him that he came by the Emperor's orders to ask an explanation concerning his savage mode of proceeding. "That is very fine," replied the minister; "every time the Emperor sees me he says, 'Rouland, you are asleep; do something to frighten the clergy; and it was with his formal consent that I began with the Redemptorists of Douai, and the Capucins of Hazebrouck.' The turn of the Jesuits has already come; six houses have received orders to disperse, and the Noviciate of Pau is dissolved. The Nuns are not out of danger of this silent persecution; the Convent of Notre Dame de

Sion is closed; it was founded by the Abbe Theodore Ratisbonne for the conversion of the Jews.

The *Constitutionnel* comments with fear and trembling upon the acts of Government; the *Secle and Opinion* foreshadow its future acts. These journals make me think that the troops will be soon withdrawn from Rome; and the Corps Legislatif dissolved. The other day M. Jouvenal said to Persigny—Why dissolve us? Because you are mere animals. Why animals? Because you are Royalists. Then you want an advanced Chamber? Of course. *Mon Dieu!* then, it is ridiculous to pack us off; you need only declare that you are Reds, and the Chamber will be at once as Red as you.—*Correspondent of the Weekly Register.*

The Archbishop of Tours has published a letter to M. Delangle, the Emperor's Minister of Justice. The Bishop of Poitiers himself has not spoken more decidedly. He says it the temporal power of the Pope should be entirely abolished; the conscience of Catholics all over the world will hold the Emperor of the French responsible. With regard to the present state of uncertainty, "clear and unambiguous declarations must put an end to the anxieties which, for the last two years, have been torturing the minds of Catholics." As to the Minister's late circular, he says—"Your threats have no terrors for the clergy. We will not allow ourselves to be influenced by any human consideration. Believe me, M. le Ministre, the Government had better think twice before it engages in a conflict with men whose sole motive is a conscientious determination to do their duty."

La *Patrie* publishes the following contradiction of the report of the intended withdrawal of the French troops from Rome:—"We have already declared in reply to the *Independence Belge* that the report of the departure of our troops from Rome which has been circulated in Italy was incorrect. The same journal returns to this question, and asserts that a project of convention relative to the evacuation of France of the States of the Church is about to be carried out. We are again enabled to affirm from personal and positive information that the assertion is untrue; that the plan spoken of by the Belgian journal is not serious, and there is no question at the present moment of the departure of our troops."

"France is at Rome to provide for the safety of the Holy Father, but, in consequence of the immense consideration she enjoys, the sole presence of her flag on this point assures peace to Italy, which at the present moment is the greatest blessing she could have, because it allows her to devote herself fearlessly to her internal organization and to the development of her institutions."

"It is known in the political world that our departure from Rome, by depriving the two nations engaged in Italy of a mediating Power like France, whose straightforwardness is appreciated by all parties, would leave the belligerents face to face, and would speedily lead to a conflict between Austria and Piedmont—a struggle which all Europe would regret, and this is why all the Powers, England at the head, now behold without regret the promulgation of our occupation, which, from other grounds religious interests equally demand."

Upon this semi-official notice, the London *Tablet* has the following comments:—"Let the *Standard* and other revolutionary papers take comfort. The Emperor means no harm to their cause by stopping at Rome in the persons of General Goyon and 20,000 men. They may depend on his hostility both to religion and the Pope, and as he understands the position of affairs better than they do, they should confide in, rather than criticize him. We fear that the Conservative papers will hardly take to Conservative principles till they have well nigh seen through the plank on which they stand. Happily for them, there is in the power and prerogative of the Vicar of Christ a fortress, which, as it has stood ruler shocks than those of the crowned conspirators who are now attacking it, it may be expected to withstand Napoleon the Third, and Victor Emmanuel, though backed by the English revolutionary press."

The *Moniteur* of the 23d ult., contained the following note:—"The events at Warsaw have been spoken of by the French press with the feeling of traditional sympathy which Poland has always excited in Western Europe. These marks of interest would, however, be of little service to the cause to which they relate, if they tended to lead public opinion astray by leaving it to be supposed that the Emperor's Government encouraged hopes which it could not satisfy. The generous ideas by which the Emperor Alexander has not ceased to prove himself animated since his accession to the throne, and which have been evinced in the great measure of the emancipation of the peasants, are a sure pledge of his desire to also carry out the improvements which the state of Poland can support; and it is to be hoped that he will not be deterred by manifestations of a nature to place the dignity and the political interests of the Russian Empire in antagonism with the measures of its Sovereign."

The *Moniteur* is under the control of the Minister of State, nothing official or semi-official appearing in it without his sanction; and, curious enough, the Minister of State, M. Walewski, is himself a Pole, and was at one time most enthusiastic in the cause of his country. Whoever was the author of the note, it is certain that it has produced a very bad effect throughout France, for the cause of Poland has ever been, and is, extremely popular in this country.

POPULATION OF PARIS.—The progress from 1817 to 1856, of the population of the area of the capital, lying within the old octroi wall, or external boulevards, is shown by the following figures:—In 1817 there were 713,966 persons; 1831, 785,862; 1836, 868,438; 1841, 935,261; 1846, 1,053,897; 1851, 1,053,262; 1856, 1,174,346. It will be observed that there was no increase in the five years ending with 1851, a circumstance which is attributed to the effects of the revolution of 1848, and other causes. The total increase in the period comprised by the above dates, 460,380 persons; of this only 90,000 being due to the excess of births over deaths; the augmentation from other sources had been, say 370,000 inhabitants up to 1856.—*The Builder.*

ITALY.

GENOA, May 2.—The *Corriere Mercantile* announces that large bodies of troops have embarked for Southern Italy.

Annexation turns out to be financially expensive, and sacrifice does not meet all its requirements. Sardinia wants to borrow £20,000,000, to meet a deficiency of £12,500,000, and to get a little pocket money to carry on with. As the Sardinian 5 per cents. are at 81, the operation, however necessary, will be costly. If the European money market furnishes the required supply it will be an evidence in support of the proverb about fools and their money. We know the flourishing state of the Neapolitan finances up to the period of the Sardinian invasion, and we are told by the revolutionary papers that the Sardinian armed occupation has greatly developed the wealth of the country, the tranquillity of which we are told day by day is re-established. If so, King Victor Emmanuel will draw the useful supplies from the wealth and loyalty of his new subjects.—*Tablet.*

General Garibaldi has left Turin. He accepted, it is said, an invitation from the Marquis Pallavicini Trivulzio to spend a few days at his villa near Vog-

hera, after which the General is expected to go back to his own solitude in Capri. This would be at close to what has turned out one of the most memorable episodes both in Garibaldi's life and in the history of this country.—*Times.*

As he said himself in the Chamber, Garibaldi is not a man of words, but deeds. He hardly ever opened his lips or put pen to paper without damaging himself. It is not possible now, nor ever will it be possible hereafter, to ascertain for what amount of the letters, addresses, protests, and proclamations attributed to him, or even bearing his actual signature, he may be truly answerable; hardly one of the speeches delivered by him from the balcony of the Casa Annone, in the Via della Rocca, in Turin, or of the Palazzo d'Azori at Naples, or from any other place where he was suddenly called upon to exhibit, has been truly reported, or admitted indeed of a faithful literal report. But, in Parliament!—*que d'ailleurs il faut dans cette galere!* The moment Garibaldi was on his legs, he should have been aware that the House was hushed into the stillness of death; that four sharp, nimble-fingered, shorthand writers were ready to take down any untoward syllable which might fall from his lips. 300 pair of eyes, cold, prying, impassible, were riveted on him, and one of them at least, those of the greatest of living statesmen, spying into every gap in his red flannel and grey Scotch-plaid armour, to find out his vulnerable side.

Garibaldi, though vanquished, departs unscathed. He is no worse off than he was in the autumn 1859, when he withdrew from the Romagna after relinquishing his plan for an attack on the Marches, which superior judgment deemed at that time premature; no worse off than last summer, when he turned his back upon this same Parliamentary arena after his ill-fought battle for Nice.

Venice, agreeably to Count Cavour's views, must either be won by moral force or must fall to Italy as her own share in the prey of a general European war, into which this country may be forced to take part. Those who flatter themselves they are in the Government's secrets here are far more confident of imminent success at Rome. "September will not turn the first leaves," they say, "ere Italy shall have possession of her eternal metropolis." For my own part, I am no dealer and no believer in prophecies; all I know is that sanguine anticipations as to the withdrawal of the French from Rome were again and again entertained last Christmas, in the Carnival, in Lent, and at Easter, and my misgivings as to the French Emperor's intention on that score have proved hitherto to be too well founded. Napoleon III. still holds Rome for the Pope, and the Pope still harbours Francis II., to be a scourge to Naples and a danger to all Italy.

The newspapers report the arrest of Signor Alberto Mario at Ferrara, and the protest of his wife Madame Mario formerly Miss Jesse White. The reasons of this incident, as far as I have been able to ascertain, are the following:—A certain number of political exiles from the Venetian provinces had assembled at Ferrara, and the Government had positive information that some of these refugees, lured on by the Austrian authorities, and anxious to provoke an outbreak of hostilities at any price, were plotting an expedition across the Po; a resolution was therefore taken to remove from that frontier city all the emigrants established there. Signor Mario, who, as a Venetian exile, had received notice to quit, insisted on his right to reside in any part of the Italian kingdom he preferred, and protested he would not move from the spot unless he was driven away by the Carabinieri or Gendarmes, whereupon the authorities ordered him to be arrested.

Rome.—The Neapolitan Bourbons are evidently settling themselves here for the summer. It is still expected that the ex-King will inhabit Castle Gandolfo. I hear that Count Trapani has taken a summer residence at Frascati, and that the dowager Queen is about to take another elsewhere in the environs.

By my letters from Turin I find that, even at so short a distance from Rome, very exaggerated reports have been current respecting the Pope's late indisposition; I do not believe that his friends were ever seriously alarmed about him, and he is now, according to the best authorities, restored to his usual health.—*Times.*

All the telegrams from Naples appear couched in a stereotyped mould—"Tranquillity has been restored." The private letters, however, tell a very different story. The greatest disorganization prevails in the capital, the condition of which may be compared to that of Paris after the revolution of 1848; whilst in the Abruzzi the Piedmontese troops are barely able to hold their own. This state of affairs is the more deplorable, as it affords a pretext for French intervention. I am assured, on reliable authority, that the 7th Regiment of the Line has left Rome for the Neapolitan frontier.—*Standard.*

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.—The *Patrie* says—"It is asserted that the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands has issued a proclamation, in which he declares that, should the disturbances which have broken out at several points continue, the country will be placed in a state of siege." The same paper asserts that Corfu is militarily occupied, and that the troops are encamped in the squares and streets.

La *Patrie* says—"The schism between the Ionians and the English Government assumes daily larger proportions. We learn by a despatch that a conflict has taken at Zante, between the English garrison and the people, and that twelve soldiers and eight inhabitants were wounded. The details of this collision are wanting."

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, May 1st.—Both Houses of the Council of the Empire were opened to-day.

The Emperor in his opening speech said:—"It affords me the greatest satisfaction to greet to-day in this assembly the Imperial Princes, the high dignitaries of the Church, and the heads of the noble families of the country."

"I also welcome the Deputies. I have been deeply moved by the many addresses of thanks which I have received from the Provincial Diets. I consider them as a token for the future, which is rich in hope."

"I am convinced that free institutions, accompanied by a conscientious protection of the equal rights of all the nationalities and the equality of all citizens, will lead to a safe reorganization of the whole monarchy. With this aim in view I sanctioned the introduction of tried constitutional forms."

"A liberal policy shall be equally developed in all parts of the empire, with special regard for the historical traditions of the provinces."

"I desire to learn positively, through the mouths of the representatives of the people, what they consider best for the welfare of the country."

"It is necessary to show the world that political, national, and religious differences do not form an insurmountable obstacle to a national understanding."

"Austria is powerful enough safely to carry out the development of her internal interests. She will inspire no fear abroad, because we shall avoid all passionate excitement."

"Relying on the justice of my policy and on the intelligence of the peoples, I expect a satisfactory solution of the question of the representation of Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia, and Slavonia."

"As soon as they shall understand the real state of things they will be inspired with the necessity for, and the advantages of, the institutions I have granted, and will then justify my confidence by their actions, and I shall see around me with the greatest satisfaction the representatives of the whole monarchy."

"I hope to enjoy undisturbed the blessings of peace. Europe feels the same want, as she wishes to repose from the agitation of recent times, and to recover her equilibrium."

"This universal feeling imposes upon the Powers the duty of not exposing the precious treasure of peace to any danger."

"Austria acknowledges this duty, which has also been admitted by the other Powers, in order to give herself up to work for the general welfare."

"Estimates will be submitted to you for establishing an equilibrium between the income and expenditure; and also proposals for the introduction of desirable modifications in some branches of the revenue, and for the settlement of the relations between the National Bank and the State."

The Emperor concluded as follows:—"I acknowledge the duty which, as a Sovereign, I have assumed before all nations, to protect with all my power the Constitution of the whole Empire in the sense of the diploma of October and February last, as the inviolable foundation of the unity and indivisibility of the whole monarchy; and it is my intention to repel any violation of the same as an attack on the existence of the monarchy, and on the rights of all the provinces and nationalities."

Towards the end of the month of August the Emperor will be crowned at Prague as King of Bohemia. The Bohemian Crown, which was made by order of Charles IV., in 1346, is of fine gold, and contains 111 precious stones. For some years this crown rested on the head of a figure of St. Wenceslaus, which is in a chapel at Prague, but at present it is in the safe custody of the keepers of the orb and sceptre. To the Bohemian regalia belongs a sword, with which the canonized Duke Wenceslaus of Bohemia is said to have slain in the year 936.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

WARSAW, April 20.—In a recent leading article in the *Evening Mail* on passing events in Poland there was a remark to the effect that the Polish nation must be possessed of some peculiar vitality if it had resisted the assimilating influences that had been brought to bear upon it by the Russian Government. I do not propose to enter into any ethnological or historical discussion as to the origin of such a vitality, I merely speak to the matter of indisputable fact, that in the period that has elapsed since the first partition of Poland in 1772 the nation has in no sense become Russified. The present generation is as Polish, as un-Russian, as was that of its grandfathers and great-grandfathers. And this is the more remarkable when we consider the common Slavonic origin of the two nations. Their language, moreover, is so far similar that the Russian has very little difficulty in understanding the Pole, or the Pole the Russian, even after a very short sojourn in each other's country. To make their wants known each speaks his own language, and each answers in his own, and yet they comprehend each other's meaning. Nor have ingenious efforts been wanting to assimilate the Pole to the Russian. Not to mention the Russian system of organization which has been introduced into the administration, many social influences have in vain been exerted to this end. By an Imperial edict it is enacted that all children of mixed marriages, where one parent—father or mother—is of the Greek faith, shall be brought up members of the Greek Church.

In every school, too, even the lowest, the Russian language is one indispensable subject of instruction, the highest rewards being given for proficiency in it. Even more subtle influences have been tried equally in vain. Nicholas conceived the idea of making the future mothers of the nation Russian at heart, and for this purpose established at Pulawy, on the confiscated estate of the Prince Czartoryski, a large girls' school, where, under Russian principals and professors, in the midst of Russian ideas and associations, a free, or partly free education should be provided for privileged Government nominees. The present number of girls is about 400, I am told; but they take the education and leave their Russianism behind them when they leave the walls of Pulawy. Nay, they manifest their unchangeable Polish sympathies within those walls. While the recent demonstrations have been taking place in the streets of Warsaw, and the other towns of the kingdom, demonstrations, equally serious in the little world where they have been enacted, have taken place in the school-rooms and corridors of Pulawy. The national mourning was worn; and when that was forbidden, the sombre tints of school-room ink easily replaced crape and gauze. At last an *emeute* occurred before which the lady principal had to fly. It is to be hoped that infantry and artillery will not be used to bring back the little Polish damsels, the mothers of the Poland of the future, back to order and obedience. I write lightly of a subject that cannot be treated very seriously, but I mention it because it has its grave significance. If the centre and focus of Russianism in Poland is not Russified, is it any wonder that the nation is not? The only one of the partitioning Powers—Russia, Austria, Prussia—that has at all succeeded in denationalizing the Pole is Prussia; but the treatment of the Poles of Posen by Prussia has been much more liberal than that of his brothers of the kingdom and of Galicia by the two other Powers.

I mentioned in my last a restlessness and agitation which was beginning to be felt among the peasants. This has assumed very grave dimensions. At Sieradz and in the neighborhood of Piotrkow, towards the Prussian frontier, and at several places to the eastward of the Vistula in the department of Lublin, the peasants have absolutely refused to do their compulsory labour (*corvee*); nor will money payments tempt them to resume it. If this continues, the effects on the year's harvest will be very serious. In some cases proprietors are hurrying off to their estates to use their personal influence with their peasantry; in others they are coming up to Warsaw, finding their efforts in vain. The distress, too, in the town from the excitement and consequent stagnation of commerce and trade during the past six or seven weeks is great. To remedy this in some measure Government (and in all justice it should have what praise it does deserve) has provided work for certain trades. Boots and clothes are to be made for the troops, old houses are to be demolished and new streets laid out. But, while such are its measures of wise consideration for national distress, it adopts other of most impolitic interference with national prejudices. An order has been published forbidding the attendance of any but the immediate family of the deceased at funerals. It is said, too, that a communication has been made by M. Wielopolski, as Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs, to the ecclesiastical authorities in reference to the number of services celebrated in each church during the day, and to the singing of certain religious hymns in which also the national feelings of the people find an utterance. When a Government begins to meddle in matters out of its province, it must fall into contempt. This has been the case too much already. In my last I mentioned the orders relating to mourning, and sticks, and lanterns, after 10 o'clock in the evening. Such measures were sufficiently trivial to border upon the ludicrous. Since I wrote, police agents have been employed to regulate the arrangement of articles for sale in drapers' and other tradesmen's shopwindows, lest anything in the articles themselves or in their manner of display should assume a national or demonstrative character! Where is the dignity, self-respect, and moral power of statesmen who concern themselves in such child's-play as this?

The late orders about not wearing mourning, carrying sticks, &c., have given rise to all sorts of absurdities. The shopkeepers were ordered to take all signs of mourning dresses, &c., out of their windows, on which they all, with one accord, exhibited things only of the two colors—red and green—the former signifying bloodshed and the latter hope—and actually a fresh order has been issued forbidding these colors to appear. Everybody is obliged to carry a lantern who is out after ten o'clock at night, as you know, so all sorts of devices have been resorted to, to render this order ridiculous: two schoolboys were seen marching through the streets, between 9 and 10 in the morning, with a tiny lantern suspended on a huge pole, in the manner in which the soldiers carry their sloop. Again, between 5 and 6 in the evening, a man might be seen bearing

two lighted lanterns suspended on each end of a stick, and another with a lantern fastened to his coat in front, in the fashion of an order. Another made the tour of the town in a droshka with an enormous Chinese lantern on each side of him, and so on.

When the order for leaving off mourning first appeared the English and Prussian Consuls-General went to the Prince and told him they had been ordered by their own Sovereigns to wear mourning, and they therefore intended doing so, but they decidedly objected to the idea of having it forcibly torn off by the patrols appointed for that purpose; so the Prince caused papers to be drawn up containing a permission to wear mourning, "or anything they liked," which were given to the British Consul-General, Vice-Consul, and Chaplain, and to the Prussian Consul, who now accordingly walk about the town each with his crape on his hat and his "permit" in his pocket, bearing the autograph of the most merciful General Zablocki. A few days ago M. Laszczynski, the Civil Governor of Warsaw, was walking along the street with a stick in his hand, when a patrol met him, stopped him (sticks being forbidden), and handled him rather roughly. He was extremely indignant at this, and went back immediately to the Castle, which he had just left, to complain to the Prince, saying that it was intolerable that Government employees should be so insulted, but the only remedy the Prince could devise was, that the employees should give up wearing hats, adopting caps with a star in the front instead.

POSEN, April 29.—An ordinance of the Governor of Poland has been published at Warsaw to-day ordering proceedings to be taken, without any reserve, against all clergymen who may excite the people by their preaching in the churches. It has been forbidden a number of the principal inhabitants to receive company at their houses. When Alexander II. came to the throne the severity of the penal laws against Catholics was relaxed, hundreds of priests returned from exile, and at St. Petersburg those of our faith enjoyed a liberty of which they had been long deprived. An idea arose that union with Rome might bring about more political advantages than the Protectorate of the Greek Church, which seemed to be losing ground in Turkey, and which threatened everywhere to be destroyed by movements similar to that which has united the Bulgarians to Rome. In Slavonic Austria the Russian sympathies are neutralized by the Catholic faith of the vast majority of the people, as is the case also in Prussian Poland. It seemed that if Russia could make use of the Catholic faith to attract instead of to repel, the prospects of Pan-Slavism would be all the brighter.

But this theory has fallen to the ground. Since 1859 the counsels of the ardent Russians have prevailed; the old penal laws have once more been awakened to their old severity, Polish Catholics are once more sent to Siberia for conscience sake, the administration of the Sacraments is interfered with, conversion is made a crime, and the knot is once more, as in the days of Nicholas, the apostolic staff of the Russian clergy.—*Weekly Register.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE PAPAL QUESTION.—On Sunday last a pastoral letter from the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster was read in all the Catholic churches and chapels of the archdiocese of Westminster, recommending, during the present month of May, a special "devotion." The pastoral explains why this year, in particular, the congregations should exercise their special devotion. "It is," he says, "dearly beloved in Christ, on account of the peculiar circumstances of perplexity and affliction in which the Holy Father is placed, for although there appears to be no ground for apprehension in his late attack of illness, we must all be aware how wearying and trying must, necessarily, be that state of uncertainty regarding his future position which the complicated state of politics must produce. Miserable and humiliating it is to every Catholic heart to think that the tranquillity and happiness of the Vicar of Jesus Christ should have become the sport of those whose natural duty it was at any sacrifice, to secure them. Shame, that it should be a matter of daily and fluctuating rumour whether or no he is to be handed over to one calling himself his son, to another boasting of the same title, and what is the price at which he is to be so transferred. Hateful it is to any loyal and affectionate son to see those conditions every day canvassed; and the familiar question reported as repeated with varying answer—'What will you give me and I will deliver him up to you?' The more gross injustices may have been accomplished; the more bitter sufferings may have been inflicted; the more personal insults may have been exhausted; the pangs of his crucifixion may have been fully felt; the spoliation, of the rending in pieces of all that gave him outward and worldly dignity, may have been completed. He is now left hanging in what is intended to be ignominious suspense, while the dice are cast by political gamblers for his seamless robe of state—that capital of the Christian world—that seat of his eternal pontificate—to see 'whose it shall be,' a secular possession of one or many declared foes, no longer the object of the world's veneration, admiration, and love. It is that God will bring our Holy Father quickly out of this harassing and humiliating condition that we wish you more particularly to pray. That God alone, in whose hands are the hearts of kings, is our only trust for counteracting the strength of our Pontiff's enemies. In the abyss of His wisdom is our only confidence for the overthrow of the craftiness of the many Achiops who have combined the wiles of their diplomacy to aid every form of rebellion against King and Father." His Eminence then proceeds to say that the Church grants an indulgence of one hundred days to every one of the faithful three times attending the devotion of the month of May. The Cardinal also recommends the faithful to pray for the success of the battle that is to be fought in Parliament "to rescue Catholic children from the dangers to which they are exposed in workhouses, prisons, and schools."

THE PAPAL SUCCESSION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Poor dear Mr. Newdegate called the attention of the House to a statement which appeared in the *Independence Belge* of the 20th of April, and which was confirmed by a correspondence of the 22nd in the same paper, to the effect that, in the event of the abdication, death, or removal of the Pope from Rome, Cardinal Wiseman was to be, during the interregnum, appointed Pope to all intents and purposes, under the title of Pius X., and that he should convene a council which should decide on the election of the future successor of the present Pope. He should have thought little of the report if he had not found that the correspondent of the Belgian paper stated that it was not Cardinal Antonelli who carried out this decision, but Cardinal Alfiéri; the communication went on to say that all the Cardinals did not adhere to the new arrangement, though the majority did, that Cardinal Wiseman, the Primate of England, was to be the Pope's successor. The number of the cardinals who approved of this decision was said to be 21, and of those who dissented from it only five or six. Now a circumstance like that could not be agreeable to this country. The hon. member having read the statements in the *Independence Belge*, proceeded—The House could not forget the measure passed last session to prevent the necessity of the Roman Catholic subjects of Her Majesty being compelled to resort to the courts of Rome in matters arising out of disputes relative to Roman Catholic trusts. Recollect the feelings, which arose in this country in 1851, when English law was set at defiance, and when the independence of this country was invaded by an usurping authority, he naturally looked with anxiety to the possibility of the recurrence of such aggression, especially when he found that reports were current in 1850 of what was about to happen, which afterwards turned out to be correct. The reports now prevalent also were characterized by much