

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

ASSASSINATION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE RUSSIAN LEGATION.—Paris, April 25.—Yesterday, at 3 p.m., a stranger presented himself at the Russian Embassy, demanding to speak with the Secretary of Legation. Almost immediately after his entrance a noise was heard, and the Secretary was found covered with blood, having received five stabs from a dagger. The murderer fled, but was stopped, when he wounded two other persons before he was arrested.

The Paris evening papers state that the name of the person who attempted to assassinate M. Balch, Attaché of the Russian Embassy, is Nikitenko, and that he was formerly a sub lieutenant in the Russian army. His object is said to have been to ask assistance of M. Balch. The latter, it is added, is not dead, and Dr. Nelaton hopes to be able to save his life.

PARIS, April 26.—All the Paris evening papers express feeling of horror at the assassination of President Liucolo.

A petition is now before the Senate from a lady, Madame Girond de Villette, who complains of the arbitrary conduct of the police authorities in preventing her, on various occasions, from exercising her profession as a singer, and this without assigning any reason whatever. The petitioner, who is the great-niece of the late Princess de Canino, sister-in-law of the Emperor Napoleon I., prays the Senate, as the guardian of the public liberties, and charged with maintaining or annulling acts denounced as contrary to the Constitution, either by the Government or by the petitions of citizens, to visit with severe blame the conduct of the authorities, who for more than two years have, she asserts,

Violated the most sacred rights and the personal liberty of the petitioner, by preventing her, as a lyric artist, from giving her concerts at the Italian Opera house, as they had also done at Compiègne, Vichy, and elsewhere.

The petition, which fills 20 printed pages, concludes thus:—

'The petitioner, confiding in the respect which the personal liberty of every French citizen is entitled, hopes that the Senate, as the sole guardian of our public liberties, will take her grievances into consideration, and, by transmitting her petition to the competent Minister, will do prompt justice as to the arbitrary acts committed by the superior authority against her.'

There exists, or rather existed, in the ancient town of Narbonne, a choral society, which had quietly flourished for seven years, and whose banner was decorated with the arms of the town and five gold medals. It was suddenly discovered by the Sub-Prefect that this musical association had not the formal authorization of the police, and it was called upon by that functionary to take out a regular licence. It applied for the licence through the Mayor, who received the following answer from the Sub-Prefect:—

'Monsieur le Maire,—You have transmitted to me a demand from M. Courat, Guyot, and others, the object of which is to obtain a legal permission for the meetings of the choral society called the Orpheons of Narbonne. The demand has been submitted to me by the Prefect of the Aude, who informs me in his despatch of the 11th of February that the authorization solicited cannot be accorded.

Receive, &c. The Orpheonic Society consists of amateur musicians and people were at first unable to make out what could be the reason of its suppression, particularly as similar societies were tolerated in other places of the same department. The mystery was soon cleared up. M. Courat, barrister by profession, and president of the Orpheons of Narbonne, had committed the offence of offering himself as an Opposition candidate at the last general elections of the Aude. Cardinal Mazzini used to say that people might sing when they pleased, provided they paid the taxes. The Sub-Prefect is not of the same way of thinking, and evidently does not love music. It now seems to be ruled that an Opposition candidate in departmental elections is by that very fact disqualified for the office of president of a musical society.—Times Correspondent.

The possibility of the Sovereign Pontiff being driven into exile has become a topic of absorbing interest among all parties. It is the wish of the Church that her Head should be free. The Pope would not be free at Rome, nor would there be free access to him there, if he were surrounded by Piedmontese guards, whether they were at Viterbo or at Orsorio. Although the terms of the Convention might be strictly carried out at first, who can foresee what circumstances might arise? Certain limitations were fixed by France in 1860, which, we were assured, were to be kept to; but encroachments have already been made in spite of them, and they will therefore not suffice to hinder fresh ones. The hypothesis that the Sovereign Pontiff will quit Rome remains therefore uncontradicted, and speculation upon the subject is rife. The revolutionary party are uneasy about the direction which the august exile might take; they are aware that wherever he might fix his abode, they would be overcome by the twofold majesty of the Pontiff and the martyr; their statesmen also are discontented, and the land which can hold Garibaldi and Mazzini, the world-wide spirit of Revolution, appears to them not wide enough for the Vicar of Jesus Christ. The Conservative party are assounded at the words of Lord Palmerston. If England, says they, refuses to shelter the Pope, who will receive him? It would be dangerous for a Catholic Power to do so; for the preference thus given to one might be considered as a protest against others. The most serious side of the Roman question is now before us. The Pope is urged to act, to form an army, to regulate his finances, because at bottom people dread his departure, which implies the unknown disquiet, the necessity of making a selection, and one which can in no case be a matter of indifference. England had been reckoned upon, but her political eclecticism disappears before her religious prejudices.—Noble

M. Rouher, hard pushed by that distinguished orator, M. Thiers, has at length been forced to speak out. 'It is,' says he, 'the will of the Imperial Government that the Pope shall retain his independence and that for that purpose he shall continue to hold a temporal principality, which is a necessary condition of that independence.'—Bien Public.

The Opinion Nationale states that the French Imperial navy is at present composed as follows:—Iron-plated steamvessels—2 ships of the line afloat, 1 corvette on the stocks, none afloat; 1 coastguard on the stocks, none afloat; 12 floating batteries, and 4 on the stocks; 11 batteries, capable of being taken to pieces, afloat, and 30 on the stocks. Screw steamers, not iron-plated—36 ships of the line afloat, none building; 23 frigates afloat, and 1 on the stocks; 11 corvettes afloat, and 3 on the stocks; 43 cutters afloat, and none on the stocks; 11 vessels for constituting a flotilla; 58 gunbrigs afloat, and 1 on the stocks; 40 transports afloat, and 3 on the stocks; 4 vessels afloat for special service. Paddle-wheeled steamers not iron-plated. 26 frigates and 61 cutters afloat. Sailing Vessels. One ship of the line, 19 frigates, 9 corvettes, 12 brigs, 66 floating vessels for the conveyance of troops and stores, and 23 transports afloat, with one transport on the stocks. These vessels carry altogether 6,859 guns, and their steam power is equal to that of 102,292 horses. France possesses, moreover, 245 sailing

vessels capable of being armed with cannon in case of war.

Was.—Dr. Chenu, physician of the French army, has just published and presented to the Imperial Academy of Medicine a large 4to volume, containing a report of the medical service of the army during the war in the Crimea, from 1854 to 1856. It appears from this work that the number of men killed in battle was 10,240; and of wounded, 34,606. Of this last number about 100 died in the hospitals in Turkey. But that was not the whole of the losses; we must take into account those who died of cold, cholera, typhus, scoury, &c., and Dr. Chenu gives the following table of the losses experienced by the French army in the East from the 1st of April, 1854, to the 31st of December, 1857, for many soldiers died after their return to France in consequence of wounds received or diseases contracted in the Crimea:—Killed on the field of battle or missing, 10,240; lost in the Semillante, 702; died of various diseases and cholera before the battle of Alma, 8,084; died of cold, apoplexy, &c., before Sebastopol, 4,342; died in field and general hospitals to the 31st of December, 1857, 72,247; total, 95,615. The effective force sent by France to the East was only 309,264 men; consequently about one-third of them perished. It is to be remarked that as the number actually killed in battle or dead from wounds does exceed 90,000 according to Dr. Chenu, disease alone carried off about 74,000 men, or one-fourth of the army. Dr. Chenu attributes these enormous losses by disease to the feeble constitutions of a portion of the contingent. He says that many conscripts, totally unable to bear the fatigues of a campaign, are declared fit for service, but they no sooner join the army than they have to be sent to the hospitals.—Galignani's Messenger.

THE DEAD SEA.—Last year the Duc de Luynes started on a scientific exploration of the Dead Sea and the adjacent country; and it was stated at the time that he had caused an iron built vessel, the Segar, to be transported thither piece by piece on camels. We may state, by the way, that this boat, after doing excellent service, was intrusted to the care of a sheikh, in the hope that she might be serviceable to other tourists; but that, during a stormy night, she broke from her anchorage and struck against a rock, which caused her so much damage that the French sailors who had had the management of her towed her far into the Dead Sea, and sank her that she might not be broken up and then destroyed by the Bedouins. This and the following details of the expedition we have gleaned from an able article on the subject by M. Hillaire-Brethelles, in this fortnight's Revue Contemporaine:—The Duc de Luynes, who had reserved the archeological department for himself, had selected M. Lartet, a geologist attached to the Museum of Natural History at the Jardin des Plantes, Dr. Combe, and Lieutenant Vignes, French navy to aid him, each in their respective capacities. A few caverns, situated near Beyreth, were explored in the hope of finding antediluvian remains in them, and indeed several flint instruments were dug up as evidence of the 'age of stone' in these parts. The expedition visited Masada, the last stronghold of the Jews, of which Josephus relates that after the fall of Jerusalem 900 men retreated to this spot and held out against the Romans as long as there were any, but that, finding themselves unable to resist any longer, they appointed ten of their number to be the executioners of their comrades; and that these after performing this horrible task, slew each other, so that only two women and a few children remained to tell the tale. This stronghold is a rock accessible only by two narrow paths, leading over frightful precipices. There are still some ruins visible at Masada, besides the trenches of the Roman General Silva, who besieged the place. From the surveys taken by Lieutenant Vignes, it appears that the Dead Sea is of an oval form, with the narrower end towards the south. It is 45 miles long, and its greatest breadth does not exceed 12. The density of the waters of this inland sea varies between 1,100 and 1,230, that of pure water being 1,000. The larger figures represent the density at the bottom, which shows that the waters of the affluents do not descend to the lower strata. The bottom consists of a bluish mud mixed with crystals of salt. For further particulars we must refer the reader to the article, which is very interesting.—Galignani's Messenger.

BELGIUM. There have been several committees on the temporal des cultes, or Church property, and the outrageous conclusions they have come to have at length aroused the somnolency and carelessness of Catholics, and, finally, at the eleventh hour, determined them to shake off their political indolence and dormant sloth, and fight manfully pro aris et focis. The initiative has been taken at Liege, the stronghold of ultra-liberalism. If throughout the country the example be followed, success will most assuredly crown their efforts. After the Easter recess, the question will be immediately brought before the Parliament, and become the order of the day. Should the obnoxious measure pass the Church becomes the humble servant of the State in all its temporal affairs—even in the minutia of its internal and domestic arrangement, in the seat-rents, collections, poor-boxes, altar ornaments, sacred vases, &c., &c., and all the outward paraphernalia of piety and ceremony. The only alternative will then be for the Church, in order to secure her independence, to renounce all Government aid whatever, and throw herself entirely upon the voluntary system, as in England. During the first French revolution, and the first Napoleonic Empire, the Church of Belgium went through the same trials and changes and phases as that of France, all its property was confiscated, and the State was obliged by the Concordat to allow an annual income for the maintenance of the clergy and the ornaments and repairs of the Church, to be expended by the incumbents and the vestry according to their judgment and arrangements, entirely independent of Government interference and control. By passing the law sur le temporel des cultes Government reverses the thing altogether, claiming the management of the incomes of the Clergy, and depositing medals with their insalienable rights and private concerns.

The Crown of England has ceded its royal domains to the nation, and receives in return an ample and handsome civil list worthy of Britain's greatness and renown. Now what would you say if the Government of the day were to claim a right to the disposal and management of such civil list, and insist upon pushing its unsavoury nose into all the domestic and private concerns of the Queen or Prince of Wales's household; so that its sic volo and sic jubeo is to be implicitly and with the utmost submission complied with in all the atoms of expenditure and family economy of the establishment? This will be precisely the case of the Belgian Church after the passing of the temporel des cultes Bill, with the aggravating circumstance that the cause is more sacred. Corr. of Weekly Register.

ITALY. PIEDMONT.—In the report of the Committee on the Bill authorizing the conscription of 46,000 young men born in the year 1845, it is stated that on the 31st of January of the present year the Italian army was composed of 251,606 men under arms, and of 130,128 absent on unlimited leave (liable to be called to the colours at any moment), the whole exclusive of officers, and giving a total of 381,734 privates and non-commissioned officers. 'Such,' continues the report, 'were the strength and composition of the Italian army, and we think that result of 381,734 combatants, exclusive of officers, between the man on unlimited leave, may be contemplated with pride by the nation.' With pride, perhaps, but hardly with satisfaction by those who desire to see Italy emerge from her financial difficulties. Scarcely any one here dares to advocate reduction, but foreigners will persist in thinking that, if it be not intended to fight, so large an army serves only as a heavy bur-

den on the finances and a serious diminution of the productive forces of the country.—Times' Cor.

MAZZINI'S DESIGNS.—A letter from Milan of the 10th inst., and published in the Austrian Gazette, contains the following accounts of new plots and designs on the part of M. Mazzini and his agents.—The evening before that of yesterday at the Club Unitario, influenced and conducted directly by Mazzini, there was a meeting of his most important and influential agents, at which decisions of the highest interest were come to. A statement, drawn up by Mazzini himself gave an account of the present state of affairs, and set forth that the party of action should in any case give some sign of life if it did not resign itself to the loss of all influence. The report stated that the best course under the circumstances would be to carry out the attempt at a risk in Venetia, on the Southern Tyrol, even at the risk of a failure. The government would most likely decline to afford assistance, but on the other hand, there was but little room for fearing that it would place any serious obstacle in the way. Every body understood, it is true, how few were the chances of success, but, nevertheless, it was necessary that some thing should be done to prove to the world, and to Venetia in particular, that the party of action had not abdicated. Much would depend on the attitude of the Venetians as to the good or evil issue of the enterprise. Such is an outline of the report read. It was decided that the rising announced should be attempted in May next, and preparations are being made for a new insurrectionary enterprise. According to the assurance given by Mazzini arms in sufficient numbers have already been introduced into Venetia, in order to furnish to the people the means of taking part in the attempt if they wish to do so. The chief reliance is placed on the emigrants from Venetia who reside in the States of King Victor Emmanuel, and the greater part of whom, since the withdrawal of subsidies previously granted to them by the Government have been reduced to a condition of such great poverty that they will throw themselves into the arms of the first comer who will offer them food and money. Mazzini reckons on this desperate condition of the refugees for the support of his insensate plans and for instruments to carry them out. What matters it to that man, who has never had much regard for human life, if floods of precious blood should again flow uselessly. The Austrian Government must, therefore, expect to see a new insurrectionary movement break out in the course of next month. Without doubt no serious embarrassment will result but there will be a disturbance, which is all that Mazzini seems to have in view for the moment.

ROME.—The Pope officiated at Pontifical Mass in the Basilica of the Vatican on Easter Day. He then repaired to the grand lodge, and thence he gave his solemn benediction urbi et orbi. The weather was magnificent, and the attendance was very large. The whole of the French division, and of the Pontifical troops, in full uniform, occupied the square of the Vatican. After the blessing had been given the multitude cheered the Holy Father lustily.—Weekly Register.

ROME.—April 20.—The anniversary of the return of the Pope from Gaeta in 1849 was celebrated here yesterday. Brilliant illuminations took place in front of the Pantheon. An illuminated transparency was displayed, representing the Pope publishing the Encyclical and the Syllabus.

Deputy Vegezzi, the former Italian Minister of Finance, is at present in Rome. His visit is understood to have reference to certain negotiations in accordance with the Convention of the 15th of September for the assumption by this Government of the proportion of the Papal debt pertaining to the provinces taken by Italy from the Pope. A fresh charge to be included in the future calculations of Italian Finance Ministers, who already have so many more than they find it possible to meet. It must be admitted that the financial future of Italy wears an aspect calculated to dishearten the most sanguine. People here ardently wish they could hold opinions and hazard predictions as favourable to it as those which certain English journals, deluded by superficial and highly-coloured statements, and being themselves unacquainted with the subject, have lately been inveigled into endorsing. Such views may obtain acceptance in England, where so many thousands of the educated classes, bound to Italy by memory and associations, loving her for her past and hopeful of her future, are eager to believe the best. Here, where the unwelcome truth is known, they are received with mournful but derisive smiles. It seems the prevailing opinion here that the object of Signor Vegezzi's visit to Rome is to come to an understanding with the Pope about the appointment of new Bishops.

We have received the following telegram from our correspondent at Rome, via Naples:—

Rome, April 25.—M. Vegezzi had another audience with the Pope on Sunday evening, which lasted for two hours.

The Bishops already appointed in the former dominions of the Pope will be allowed to assume office without taking the oath of allegiance.

Bishops who have been exiled or imprisoned are allowed to return at their own pleasure.

The Pope admits the right of the King of Italy to appoint Lombard and Piedmontese Bishops, according to ancient rights.

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.—The flight of an individual who was supposed to be the secretary of King Francis II., has been the topic of conversation at Rome. He said, moreover, to have carried off with him papers which compromise certain parties. He had, under Ferdinand II., the custody of the archives of the police. At the outbreak of the revolution he threw himself into it with enthusiasm and became one of its leaders. Being however a schemer, and trained in the school of the Neapolitan police, he took from the archives the correspondence of Ferdinand and of Francis with their Ministers, relating to matters of police, and sent an offer to the King, who was then in exile at Rome, to give up to him the above-mentioned correspondence. The King naturally accepted the proposal, but by some omission the box which contained these papers was never forwarded from Naples. The individual in question, having once put himself in communication with certain members of the court, set to work and made himself so busy in their service that he was found out one day and had to leave Naples in haste and to seek an asylum at Rome. There he continued to make himself very useful, by keeping up a communication with Naples. Whether however, from fickleness or from disgust at some proceedings of his countrymen, he revealed all that had passed to the Italian Government, and bought the favour of the revolutionary party by undertaking to give up the papers which were still at Naples.—Weekly Register.

The Naples Pungolo says that a lieutenant of National Guards, Alfonso di Marco, and another person were lately carried off by brigands near Pienisco, in the Terra di Lavoro, and that brigandage is on the increase in that province. On Monday, the 24th, the Masini band, 17 in number, are to be brought to trial. Among them are three young and handsome women, who, after having been carried off by the robbers, had finished by joining in their expedition, and who are accused of many crimes and of a ferocity even surpassing that of their male associates. Except one man and one woman, who were taken with arms in their hands, all these brigands voluntarily surrendered themselves. Between abolitionists and careless goalers, it seems as if a good time had come for malefactors. Within the last month there have been two escapes of galley-slaves, eight getting away in the one case, and five in the other.

There has been a sad affray at Ogliastra between gendarmes and soldiers of the line, which commenced by a contest between the latter and some civilians. The gendarmes interfered, the soldiers resisted; more gendarmes came up and the soldiers also were reinforced; muskets, bayonets, and revolvers seem

to have been freely used, and a great many wounds and some deaths are reported to have ensued.—Times.

GERMANY.

The host of emigration agents who for years have been inviting the German villagers to take a trip over the world, and settle in all possible lands of the globe, have had a novel species added to their number. 'To Mexico, to the land of the German Emperor,' is the latest cry in the advertisement of the class. There seems to be an intention to found a large German colony on the peninsula of Yucatan, and make it the nucleus of a more solid concern than the empire of the Aztecs has been till within lately. Poles, too, have been urgently requested by the Emperor Maximilian to come and aid him in the execution of his arduous task. These, however, are chiefly required as soldiers, and promised a new country—as the Emperor is said to have expressed himself—as glorious as the old. But Polish emigrants are just now an article much in demand. At Paris many have been lately enlisted for the Panama canal expedition, while at St. Gallen, in Switzerland, a Polish committee has been formed with a view to enable the many emigrants roving about in those parts to find a permanent asylum in some fitting locality of the United States. In answer to an application a *visaticum* of 100f. will be accorded to every Polish emigrant by the Swiss Federal Government. I am also told, but cannot say for certain, that the Swiss Government have applied to the Washington authorities for the cession of some land to the contemplated colony.—Times Cor.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

St. Petersburg, April 25.—A telegram has just been received here from Nice announcing the death of the Czarowitch, which took place early this morning.

The heir to the throne is now the Grand Duke Alexander, who was born on the 10th of March, 1845. This Prince is said not to have robust health, and it is no secret that for some time there have been speculations as to the probability of the claims of both the Czar's elder sons being postponed to those of the Grand Duke Vladimir, the third son, who is just eighteen years of age. In Russia the claims of birth have never had that sanctity which belongs to them in Western Europe. Like the Eastern nations generally the Russians have an extraordinary reverence for the reigning house or race, but care little about setting aside an individual member of it. Not to mention the revolutions and detronements of former times, there is a direct precedent for passing over an heir in the succession of Nicholas, in 1825, in preference to his elder brother, Constantine.—Times.

THE RUSSIAN PLAGUE.—It is impossible to say in what state the Russian epidemic at this moment is. The Russians tell us they know nothing about it; they are all tolerably well, and are surprised to learn from foreign journals that they are all dying of plague. On the other hand, complaints leak out that the hospitals are in a state of secrecy at this moment in Russia. No physicians save those employed by the Government are admitted except on stated days, prepared for long before, and then only over a small part of the hospital wards. What the truth may be we shall not immediately know; but it is a significant fact that the authorities at Copenhagen, almost the nearest neighbor of St. Petersburg, have provided a separate hospital for sailors coming from that port.

Appropos of the Russian epidemic, an interesting letter appears in the Vienna Medical News, a paper written for and by physicians. It is dated St. Petersburg, April 9, and runs the following effect:—

'The conduct of Government in this emergency is really unpardonable. Instead of allowing the inhabitants of this city to learn anything about the nature and progress of the prevailing epidemic, they are systematically cut off from the sick as well as from all news relating to the sickness. Exactly the same way the physicians are treated. Unless a doctor happens to be employed by the police or the military, he is, in the eyes of this Government, a mere ignoramus. He has no admission to the hospitals, nor in fact any opportunity for studying the disease. No sooner is a case reported to the authorities, than the poor are carried off to the hospitals, and the wealthy forced to employ a doctor provided by Government. You will not wonder, then, at my being unable to give you anything but a very general and rather indefinite account. From the provinces we get no news whatever, the papers being strictly forbidden to mention as much as the name of the Siberian plague. Government won't hear of a plague, and so there is none. Foreign papers, we hear, are full of Russian news; but though all of them are freely admitted, and may be seen easily enough in this capital, we are none the wiser for reading them, at least on this particular head. Whole columns are effaced with printer's ink, and nothing but a few lines left in a readable state, provided they contain a *demi-t*. As to ascertaining anything about the plague through the medium of the many foreign physicians sent here, this is a hope which, if it was ever entertained, will be soon enough exploded in your part of the world. These gentlemen have been received with open arms, and in course of time will return home decorated with orders, and perhaps also requited with a remuneration for the time they have been here;—but that is all. They are shown over the hospitals at a double quick pace. They are mostly admitted to one wing only, where a few slight cases have been collected expressly for the inspection of foreign gentlemen; and when a vast number of compliments have been paid them by doctors and attendants, luncheon is announced, and a good deal is consumed at the expense of the hospital, though not without its monetary advantages to the doctor *du jour*. His metropolitan studies being thus at an end, the foreign doctor is then, officially of course, sent on to the provinces. Of course all these gentlemen have written long letters home. Any body may write letters in Russia, but the worst is they so seldom reach their destination.'

From a Warsaw correspondence of the same paper we learn that typhus is spreading in that town. As a rule, death or recovery is a matter of six days.

The Copenhagen Ministerial *Flyveposten* says that a hospital has been opened there for suspicious cases occurring on board Russian ships.

UNITED STATES.

A STRANGE STORY ABOUT MR. LINCOLN.—Three years ago, the gentleman I spoke of told us a story of Mr. Lincoln which I have not thought of since until now. When Mr. Lincoln received the news of his first election, he came home to tell Mrs. Lincoln about it. She was up stairs in the bedroom, and after telling the news, in walking about the room, his eye fell upon the bureau glass. Immediately he threw himself down upon the lounge, and told Mrs. Lincoln he thought he must be ill, for he saw a second reflection of his face in the glass which he could not account for. It was perfect, but very pale. 'Oh,' said Mrs. Lincoln, 'that means that means that you will be re-elected—but I don't like its looking pale,' she added; 'that looks as if you would not live through your second term.' Mr. Lincoln himself told this to the friend I mentioned, and this gentleman told it to us in our parlor, soon after the first Bull Run battle. It made quite an impression upon me at the time—but one forgets such things. Was it not singular?—Cor. of Country Gentleman.

A military commission is now trying Mr. B. S. Osbon, of New York, a naval news reporter, for furnishing contraband information to the newspapers, and thereby giving intelligence to the enemy. Mr. Osbon very pluckily denies the right of the commission to try him, and, according to the New York World, is supported in this demurrer 'by a Attorney-General Bates and every other constitutional lawyer in the land.'—Montreal Gazette.

Coal has fallen \$4 a ton in the Northern States, and now sells at \$8. The mining companies have reduced the wages of the laborers to \$3 a day, and a strike is consequently raging at the principal mines of Pennsylvania. Owing to the large number of men seeking employment, now that the war is over, the companies refuse to give in, and work is expected to be resumed immediately.

The Boston Traveller states that seven divorces were granted at the recent session of the Supreme Court for Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

THE ASSASSINATION PLOT.—There is an opinion here that the authorities have been too precipitate in branding Mr. Davis and other as authors of the assassination plot. The evidence of which the charge was based, some persons, who profess to be well informed, pronounce to be of a questionable character.—Washington telegram to N. Y. News.

At about midnight last Saturday, the steamer Keyport was ordered to the navy-yard. She received from the monitors Saugus and Montauk the persons who have been arrested as directly concerned in the conspiracy to murder simultaneously the President and other Union leaders, and who now number: fifteen men and one woman. These prisoners were all heavily ironed with a ball and chain on each leg, handcuffed in such a manner as to keep the hands several inches apart, and some of the more desperate ones having the hands fastened behind the back. A sort of sack covered the head and face of each leaving only the mouth and nostrils exposed, so as to prevent their recognition by each other or any one else. A special sentinel was in charge of each prisoner.—As the signal was given for the Keyport to start the steamer's bell rang slowly, and nearly all the muffled prisoners gave a convulsive start at the sound, evidently thinking that their hour of retribution had come. They were transferred to the district penitentiary adjoining the arsenal, where cells had been arranged for them. Two prisoners occupy each cell, but a sentinel in charge of each man prevents any conversation. Notwithstanding the larger number already in custody, several more of the assassination conspirators are still at large. Their early apprehension is considered almost certain.

The grievance particularly pressed against England by the war-organs of Mr. Seward and the administration is the concession by the British government of belligerent rights to the South.

Complaint of this grievance has been so constant and uniform ever since the outbreak of the rebellion that it has gradually come to be accepted by the great mass of our people as a substantial wrong done to us by Great Britain, involving us in such unnecessary suffering and expense, and indicating a real disposition of hostility toward the Union. But Earl Russell's explanations upon this point, given in his speech of March 23, are unquestionably well calculated to make us revise this general impression.

The earl's statements on this subject were in substance a simple condensation of a very clear and able review of the whole case which appeared in the London Times of March 23, over the signature of 'Historicus,' a *nom de plume* identified in the popular mind in America with some of the calmest, least un-friendly, and most convincing arguments on American affairs, which have been published in England since the war began.

'Historicus' takes the matter up from the outset. He shows that as soon as the President of the United States had issued his proclamation blockading the southern ports, that proclamation created a state of things which involved neutral nations in this dilemma. Either the President's proclamation declared a state of legitimate war between the United States and certain states styling themselves the Confederate States of America, which words were used by the President himself; and in that case made a lawful blockade, necessitating 'belligerent rights' in the states blockaded; or it claimed a right for the Union government to stop neutral vessels and search them, no lawful blockade and no belligerent rights existing; and in that case became a proper cause of war on the part of all neutral nations against whom it should be put in force.

This dilemma Mr. Seward does not seem to have perceived; and, although, 'Historicus' properly forbears to dwell on this point in the case, it is well known to Americans that Mr. Lincoln's administration entered upon the great military and diplomatic problems of the position with a very indistinct apprehension of the differences between a great civil war and an ordinary riot. It was natural, he should as a people lose sight of the fact that neutral nations had any rights to be affected by our course; and toward England in especial we had very generally the same feeling which Englishmen had towards ourselves during the Crimean war. When English consuls were arrested in America for violating our enlistment laws, the London Times bitterly expressed the amazement of Englishmen that America should be so very punctilious about their neutral rights when England had expected of them an active sympathy with a free people contending against a military empire. A similar angry surprise ran through the popular mind in America in respect to England's course in 1861.

But the surprise and the anger were, perhaps, equally unreasonable in both cases. At least this 'Historicus' makes plain, that England, by the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, simply recognized an existing state of things, and neither conferred upon nor conceded to the 'Confederate States' any belligerent rights at all. That proclamation was addressed to the neutral subjects of the neutral monarchy of Great Britain, defined their duty in the premises, and neither added to nor took away from any 'rights' either of the government of the Union or of the 'so-called Confederate States.'

If this was a duty owed by the British government to British subjects, it was clearly to be done without delay.

Any delay in doing it would have exposed British ships, British subjects, British admirals and courts of law, to find themselves seriously in the new and startling complications growing out of our state of war, with no proper guide to their conduct; and might therefore, indeed almost certainly must, have brought on collisions between the British government itself and the American belligerents which would have made war inevitable.—N. Y. World.

The prevailing impression among officials here is that Jeff. Davis will be tried for high treason before the United States court of this district, and that he will not be arraigned before the military commission now trying the conspirators.—Washington Post.

The Tribune says S. H. Foote, late of the rebel Congress, who was some time since released from prison here on parole, was, a few days since, notified that he must either stand trial for treason or quit the country. He accepted the latter alternative, and is now, supposed to be in Canada.

HOW NATURE GOVERNS US IN BATTLE-FIELDS.—'Did I ever tell you,' says a correspondent of an Eastern paper, among the affecting little things one is always seeing in these battlefields, how, on the ground upon which the battle of Bull Run was fought, I saw the empty ammunition boxes; and a wild rose thrusting up its graceful head through the top of a broken drum, which doubtless sounded its last charge in that battle; and a cunning scarlet verberna peeping out of a fragment of a burst shell, in which strange pot it was planted? Wasn't that peace growing out of war? Even so shall the beautiful and graceful ever grow out of the horrid and terrible things that transpire in this chancing but ever advancing world. Future covers over the battle-grounds with verdure and bloom. Peace and plenty spring up in the track of the devouring campaign; and all things in nature and society shall work out the progress of mankind.'