

MISCELLANEOUS.

The uneasiness between France and Italy does not decrease. Extensive warlike preparations are still being made in France.

CALL A SPADE A SPADE.—After a devilish outrage at Clerkenwell, Fenianism surely would be better known as Fiendism.—*Punch*.

Lord Adelbert Cecil who has been holding religious services in Stanford, is about to join his regiment, the Rifle Brigade at Ottawa, Canada.

The *Standard's* Paris correspondent reports that the feeling that there is to be war in the Spring has once more begun to prevail in the Capital.

Requiem masses for the souls of Allen and the other two Manchester Fenians, continue to be celebrated in various parishes in the West of Ireland.

Upwards of 30,000 special constables have been sworn in throughout London. In Marylebone the numbers exceed 3,000; in St. Pancras they are nearly 4,000; and in Paddington close upon 2,000.

Sir Henry Storks entered upon his duties as Comptroller General at the War Office on the 1st January. The salary will be the same as that of the permanent Under Secretary of State, viz: £2000 a year.

Among the Continental papers which do nounce the criminal folly of Fenianism is the *Cologne Gazette*, a journal which, as the principal organ of the Prussian Liberals, possesses considerable influence in Germany.

From the Cape of Good Hope we learn that the rumor that had prevailed that there was danger from large parties of armed Kaffirs patrolling had been proved groundless by Sir Walter Currie, who had visited the district with an armed force.

ARMING THE QUADRILATEAL.—Italy seems preoccupied with the necessity of promptly arming the Quadrilateral. The *Lombardia* of Milan announces that the question has been discussed in a council of superior engineer and artillery officers, held at the residence of Prince Humber at Milan, in which it was decided that the Prince should go and visit the fortifications of Venice.

RESULTS OF FENIANISM.—In Paisley (Scotland) a firm which employs about twenty men, has paid off eight of them on the ground of their being Fenians. In connection with this, it is said that some of the Insurance Offices have intimated to the owners of large public works, that their fire insurance policies will not be renewed unless they discharge from their employment all persons reported to be connected with the Fenian movement.

GUN COTTON.—Mix in any convenient glass vessel one and a half ounce (by measure) of nitric acid, of the specific gravity from 1.45 to 1.5, with an equal quantity of sulphuric acid, specific gravity 1.8; when the mixture has cooled, place 100 grains of fine cotton wool in a Wedgewood mortar, pour the acid

over it, and with a glass rod saturate the cotton as quickly as possible. Then pour out the acid, and squeeze the cotton with the pestle. Then wash it in water several times, or let the tap flow upon it till the acid is washed out and no acid is perceived. Then squeeze it and dry it in warm air, and it is all ready.

THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE OF SYMPATHY.—*Mr. Punch* presents his compliments to the Dowager Marchioness of Drivolderry, and is sorry to say that he cannot congratulate her on the destruction and ruin of poor people of the working classes by means of the Fenian Explosion in Clerkenwell. It is the earnest hope of *Mr. Punch* that a pious letter of condolence and sympathy addressed by a lady of rank to the criminals who were hanged for murder at Manchester, did not have the effect of encouraging other Fenians to commit the still more atrocious outrage which has occurred in London. *Mr. Punch* respectfully begs permission to express his wonder whether her Ladyship will feel herself at all called upon to make any charitable provision for the families that have been made destitute by the Gunpowder Treason perpetrated by the fellow-conspirators of her late pets.

THE VELOCITY OF MUSKET BALLS.—Some highly interesting experiments for the purpose of ascertaining the velocity of musket and cannon balls, are being conducted in the Springfield (Mass.) Armory water shops in this city, by Captain Stockton and Lieutenant Maclay, of the Ordnance Corps. Two newly invented machines are used in these experiments, the electro ballistic pendulum, which is the invention of Colonel Benton, the commandant at the Armory, and Schultz's chronoscope, a machine invented and constructed in Europe. The former is much the simpler of the two, and doubtless these experiments will prove it to be more reliable. Targets are placed at measured distances apart and connected with electric wires with the machines. In passing from one target to another the ball ruptures the electric current and records its velocity. It is ascertained by these experiments that the ordinary rifle ball of the Springfield musket, with a regulation quantity of powder, passes over one hundred feet directly from the muzzle of the piece in about the fifteenth part of a second.

BOURBON INTRIGUES AT NAPLES.—A circular which has lately been impressed from Naples to all the Embassies in Paris is now the subject of much talk among diplomatists. This document announces the establishment of a central insurrectionary committee in Naples with the object of restoring the independence of the Two Sicilies under the sceptre of their legitimate sovereign King, Francis II. of Bourbon. The committee declares that it has the support of all the honorable men of the country, and that it is empowered by them to lay a true description of the Two Sicilies before civilised Europe. It then describes in very violent language the result of the rule of Victor Emmanuel. Whole towns, it says, have been burned or destroyed, 2000 citizens have been shot, and 5000 have emigrated. The prisons are so full that monasteries have been turned into jails, the landowners have no money to pay taxes, the masses have none to buy bread, and the population of nine millions have been made the slaves of these new barbarians, who,

drunk with blood and hatred, have overrun our provinces. This state of things has elicited a cry of anguish from the hearts of nine million of people, who, the committee hopes, will be listened to by the civilised Governments of Europe, as it is the interest of civilization and true progress to prevent the realisation of the designs of men whose only programme is murder, and whose only flag is atheism. The circular concludes by declaring that the Neapolitans do not ask for revenge, but for independence, and the restoration of their place, their King, and their God; and that, if they are abandoned by other nations, they will alone rise up against their oppressors.

THE WELL OF CAWNPORE.—On his way from the Cawnpore station of the East Indian Railway to that of the Lucknow lines, across the Ganges, a distance of four miles, the visitor's eye is caught by an oasis in the very heart of the dust and dirt of the worst station in India. These are the gardens surrounding the Well in which lie "a great company of Christian people, chiefly women and children." I could not recognize the place, so complete is the transformation. In 1859 the bare Well merely bricked up, the ghastly slaughter house, the filthy ravines were all there, with the few tombs scattered around where private soldiers had placed inscriptions in memory of departed comrades or officers. Now the whole is enclosed and consecrated so as to form the centre of an extensive garden, in which evergreens so predominate as to give it the aspect of a cemetery, yet relieved by many a flower. The well is approached by a mound, around which stands an octagonal screen of exquisitely carved stone work. Entering by a door carefully watched, as the whole garden is, we descend to the pit's mouth, around which the bones were literally scattered. From it, on a pedestal, arises Baron Marochetti's figure of Pity, or Mercy, or Hope, or Triumph, or all combined—a female figure dressed in angel's robes, with angel's wings, and bearing in her hands "the martyr's holy palms." Whether we look at the figure itself or at its relation to the screen, we feel that its condemnation by the whole of the Northwestern Provinces has considerable justification. There is no expression in the face, no grace in attitude, no meaning in the position of the arms and palm branches, which, with the wings, form a succession of repulsive angularities, while the figure is neither sufficiently above the screen nor sufficiently below it, but so placed as to form a ludicrous object to the spectator outside. Even yet the figure might be raised, but nothing can redeem the universally acknowledged want of expression in the face and meaning in the attitude.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SOLDIERING.—In the debate on the Reorganization of the Army Bill, in the Corps Legislatif, on Monday last, Marshal Niel said. They must not suppose that the raw recruit when he joined was taught nothing but the handling of his musket and military exercise. The recruits joined their corps raw, unformed, sad at leaving their homes, with very imperfect ideas of duty—he used the word in its best sense—and of self respect. They were taught at their corps how to behave, how to respect their superiors, and how to treat their equals without boorishness. When