

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

STATE OF RELIGION IN FRANCE.—Notwithstanding the happy revival of Catholicity in France the sad fact that wide-spread infidelity has here, as in Germany, resulted from the diffusion of Protestantism is made painfully apparent by the extraordinary circumstance that the *Sidde*, a journal holding as prominent a position in Paris as the *Chronicle*, has entered into a controversy with the *Univers* on the subject of religion; in which the sentiments expressed by the *Sidde* have been so scandalously unchristian, that the *Univers* announces itself, on Saturday, unable to continue the controversy. It is very important to bear in mind in all discussions respecting countries on the Continent loosely called Catholic, that Protestantism has pervaded large masses of the population for many generations, and produced in its inevitable results the spread of scepticism.

The latest Austrian proposition for conditions of peace to be offered to Russia has been favorably received by the French government; but some doubt is felt, or affected to be felt, whether it will be thought equally acceptable in England.

M. Le Maout, a chemist at St. Brienne, has started the theory that the cannonade at Sebastopol has a great effect on the weather. In an article on the subject, published by him on the 5th ult., he says:—"The whole course of nature is affected by this cannonade. The residue of the combustion of the powder is dispersed in the air by the wind to a distance of more than 1,000 leagues, and afterwards falls in rain or snow. It has changed the chemical composition of the atmospheric air, by causing a greater quantity of azote and carbon to enter into it; it maintains the sky in a constantly cloudy state, as was the case last year during the bombardment of Silistria; it causes rain to fall in abundance; it produces violent storms of wind and extreme cold, and considerably lowers the temperature of the atmosphere, and subsequently, makes the barometer rise. The weather, which had become much milder for a week during the temporary suspension of the bombardment of Sebastopol, yesterday (May 12th) underwent a complete change. The barometer, which had been falling, suddenly checked its downward progress, and began to rise; heavy rain, accompanied by a violent gale of wind, commenced at daybreak. This complete change in the weather leads to the idea that the cannonade recommenced with violence on that day, or that there has been some new affair."

GERMAN POWERS.

It is not easy to get any trustworthy information as to the nature of the new Austrian proposition, but it is again affirmed that if Russia will not accept it Austria will at last declare war; whilst, even though the English and French Governments should not deem it sufficient, she will nevertheless consider herself bound to her engagements and to all their consequences. Austria evidently fears that, when once engaged with us in military operations, Prussia will, with characteristic treachery, make common cause with Russia.

SWITZERLAND.

The *Univers* of Tuesday has an interesting article on the Catholic affairs of this country, as to which it states truly and with just sincerity:—"It is by such means that the Protestants have established a preponderance in the Canton of St. Gall, and seek to maintain it the Cantons of Lucerne and Freiburg. Nothing better exhibits the spirit of injustice and hypocrisy which characterises the dominant party in these Cantons. They speak of 'liberty of conscience,' of 'toleration,' and of 'equality,' but they hold their Catholic brethren in actual slavery. [How true this is, not only in Switzerland but in other countries! The spirit of sectarianism always and everywhere the same.—Ed. W. R.] They have expelled the Jesuits, and calumniously attribute to them the maxim, that 'The end justifies the means,' and they themselves never cease to act upon it."

The *Univers* states that a lay committee of the Great Council actually arrogate and exercise the quasi episcopal power formerly exercised by the Abbot of St. Gall, and that not a single curate in the Canton is nominated, either by the Chapter or the Bishop!

ITALY.

SARDINIA.—The Convents Suppression Bill has been finally voted in the Senate by secret ballot. The votes were—53 for, 42 against. The result was received with great applause.

A Sardinian paper says that a project is on foot for finding the King a Protestant Queen in the person of a daughter of the Duke of Cambridge. We presume they mean the sister of the present Duke, the Princess Mary.

It is understood the English Government intends to establish a depot in this country for recruits for the Foreign Legion. Judging from the number of applications made when first this scheme was promulgated, there will be plenty of material found without much difficulty. The idea at present is said to be, merely to enlist in Switzerland and form the depot for training in Piedmont; but, should Austria determine on remaining passive in the present struggle, there is no doubt that the offer which England makes, of complete naturalization and protection, would tempt thousands of young men from the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom to our standard, and that Marshal Radetzky, with all the troops and police at his command, would not be able to prevent their finding their way across the frontier. The Papal States, too, especially the Romagna, would furnish some large draughts of recruits, who, though rather turbulent subjects, under the Austro-Papal rule, would make admirable soldiers when placed

under good discipline and paid regularly. The fact of the Sardinian army being engaged in the same contest with ourselves, and bearing what is recognized as the national flag of Italy, would be an additional inducement to those who are more under the influence of patriotic feelings to join our cause; but it must be a matter of regret to our Government now that this country is not in a position to give a larger contingent itself. It is evident that a kingdom of Upper Italy might have supplied 100,000 instead of 15,000 men in the present war, and thereby very much simplified the European question, and a nation like this, which has shown itself conscious of its high duties and omitted no sacrifice on the part of Government or individuals, might be trusted not to prove a faithless ally.

There was an eruption of Mount Vesuvius on the 5th ult. In one direction the stream of lava was 600 feet in breadth. Thousands of people were standing in front of the advancing flood, for it moved about 50 yards in four hours; when it was likely to cease no one could tell. The *Morning Post* correspondent, writing from Naples, May 14th, gives the following additional particulars:—"Since I last wrote, Vesuvius, instead of ceasing its destructive eruption, has been committing, daily, greater ravages. The mountain still vomits fire—the burning lava still rolls down on the devoted country and villages beneath. Should the eruption continue, the course of the lava will lead it over the railway into the sea. It is to be hoped, however, that it will not reach so far. The summit of the mountain is so riddled, and the surface is presumed to be so thin, that it is feared it may fall at any time; and no person is allowed to advance beyond the Observatory. Indeed, it would be madness to attempt it. The spectacle which the mountain presents at night is remarkably grand. Its sides are covered with the fiery fluid, which one may imagine to be blood, oozing out from the wounded giant."

RUSSIA.

If the latest reports from St. Petersburg are to be relied upon, the Czar is preparing for a "war to the knife." The levy of twelve men in the hundred, decreed for eighteen governments, is enormous. But the re-appearance of old Yermaloff on the scene is more significant still. The man himself can do little; at his advanced age he must be past all hard work, either of hand or head. But he is a type of Russian aspirations in their boldest flight; and he is certainly the most popular man in Russia. When he commanded in the Caucasus, his troops were quite disposed to carve him out an independent throne; and when he appeared afterwards at Moscow, at the same time as Nicholas, Moscovite eyes were turned so much more upon the man than upon the master, that the latter grew jealous, and contrived, under one pretext or another, to keep the too powerful subject out of sight. Yermaloff was in consequence a stranger to the court for the last sixteen or eighteen years of the late reign. His re-appearance now would indicate that Alexander II. has placed himself unreservedly in the hands of his brother Constantine. This growing truculence of the Czar further implies that the two great German Powers have been finally bought off from the Western Alliance. Lord Palmerston may affect to believe—may even persuade himself—that there are still hopes of regaining Austria; but Russia, it is pretty clear, entertains no apprehensions on that score.—*Daily News*.

RUSSIAN LOSSES.—Lord Lansdowne said the other evening in the House of Peers that the Russian loss since the commencement of the war had been 247,000 men. The following are further details:—In the month of January last a report was presented to the Emperor Nicholas, stating the loss of the army at 137,000 men, including those who died under the severity of the long marches and of sickness. A new report was presented to the Emperor Alexander in April, fixing the total loss of the army to March 31 at 250,000. In this report especial stress was laid on the effects of the marches, and some disastrous incidents were particularised. It was stated that an entire company had perished under the snows between Odessa and Perekop, and another between St. Petersburg and the south. An entire battery had been lost in the same manner, with men and horses. The guns were found after the thaw and are now in use.

THE BALTIC.

MAY 20.—Revel has been carefully reconnoitered and will shortly be bombarded. "The Magicienne" has already thrown some shells into the outworks. Admiral Dundas has reconnoitered Sweaborg."

THE "EXODUS" CHECKED; ALARM OF THE "MONIED-INTEREST."

Our daily orbs of light have just vouchsafed to flash the conviction on the public mind, that the annual emigration has fallen off this year a hundred per cent.; that twenty-five per cent of the remainder may be deducted for those returning home, and some ten per cent., perhaps, for removals into the British Provinces! Wonderful discovery, is it not? But still more wonderful are the comments upon the alarming fact. The *Herald* admits the facts, but finds the chief cause of it in the sale of encumbered estates in Ireland, and the consequent social changes in that country. Some seedy Mitchellite or Cockney, who supplies the *Irish* sketches for the *Times*, stoutly denies, in the face of the figures, that there has been any falling off, and gloats with satisfaction over the imaginary circumstance, that no efforts, clerical or lay, have availed to arrest the Exodus.

These are the figures,—87,000 last spring against 40,000 this spring; 20,000 passed into Canada West, and 10,000 returned to Ireland since January last. In reality, then, there are about 10,000 against 87,000, leaving less than one-eighth of the results of 1854.

This is an argument, indeed! Let this only continue in a progressive ratio, for one year more, and we shall soon have the native sea-board capitalists dis-

claiming by energetic acts and words this antipathy to the proscribed, but still profitable foreigners.

The following letter in relation to this subject appeared in the *Times* of Saturday last:—

"IRISH EMIGRATION AND THE IRISH CLERGY."
No. 102 Nassau-street, New York,
Friday, June 1, 1855.

To the Editor of the *New York Daily Times*:
Sir:—In an article headed as above in this day's *Times*, I find the following paragraph:—

"Notwithstanding that parties from this country have travelled through Ireland, lecturing, holding up Washington and Jefferson as no Democrats, abusing this country as the 'Angel Gabriel,' here, abused the foreigners and Catholics, and, as the recognized mouth-piece of the Catholic clergy, warning the Irish not to come to the United States, and exhorting them to go to Canada—still emigration is progressing to the former."

As I believe I am the only person "from this country" who lately lectured in Ireland on the subject of emigration, I will be obliged to you, to do me the justice to say, that my lectures are wholly misrepresented in this paragraph. In accounting for the origin of the parties in this country, I certainly did take the distinction that Washington was not a Democrat, in *their*, the European or French "sense of the term." Jefferson, however, I described as much more near to the meaning currently attached to the term in Europe, since the French Revolution. This distinction I need not say is common to all careful readers of the political memoirs of the United States, and was indispensable to my object, which was to give a fair and clear view of American society.

Whoever wrote the article I have quoted has either been misled by false reports, or has wilfully belied me, in saying that I "abused the country," or "exhorted" future emigrants "to go to Canada." Abuse is not my forte; but even if it were, I should certainly not indulge in it at the expense of the home of the best years of my life.

As to "exhorting" any to go to Canada, I did not. The burden of my song was: "If you can live at home, stay at home; but if you must emigrate, know beforehand what you have to expect in the United States. Do not be deceived; Irishmen are unpopular there; the best days of the Irish in America are over; a newer and less ripened field is better for mere laboring emigrants." This is the spirit of my recommendation, and in this spirit I have written and spoken for years in these States before my visit to Ireland.

Your writer wishes to show that the emigration does not fall off? What are the figures? Up to May 23, of the present year, only 40,000 arrivals against 87,000 in the same period last year. From even the 40,000, deduct 10,000 returned to Europe from this port, Boston and Philadelphia, since the 1st of January, and 20,000—"who have lived for years in the States,"—reported by Mr. Hawke, Agent for Canada West, as having passed into that province, and you get a gain of only some 10,000 against 87,000 last year. Explain it as you may, these are the facts; but in my judgment, it was not clerical or lay lecturers which have brought these facts about. It is the hostile tone of your own profession towards us, foreigners; it is the outrages on Fathers Bapst and Nachon; it is "the Smelling Committee" and Church Confiscation Bills; it is the unprovoked and unpunished murders of Irishmen at Ellsworth, (Me.) Manchester, (N.H.) Providence, (R.I.) Newark, (N.J.) and other places, which have been recorded against Know-Nothingism during the past twelve months. Facts, and not words, turn the current of the Irish exodus; and until the facts are of a different order, it will continue to be averted from these shores.

Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE.

BRITISH CIVILIZATION.—That the following can be a reliable description of the benevolent sway exercised by British officials in India, in this Nineteenth Century, is indeed almost incredible: yet it has been published in our well-informed contemporary, the *Press*—and not contradicted:—

In our last we noticed some results of Lord Harris's Committee of Inquiry into the subject of torture by our officials at Madras. We showed, on the evidence of a letter from the Superintendent of Police to the Chief Secretary to Government at that Presidency, that people were flocking about from all parts of the interior to lay their complaints before the Committee—that three hundred such complainants were then at Madras—and that more were coming in daily. We showed, in short, that such a state of things prevailed there as would have been impossible in any Crown colony, or in any of those parts of India which are subject to the jurisdiction of the supreme courts, and within the protection of Crown-appointed judges. To Indians of course the information was not new. They are all aware of the existence of the practice, and also of the modes in which torture is inflicted. Many of them, indeed defend the practice as one which under the exciting system of government our officials find very useful. The same argument is urged in favour of similar practices by the slaveholders of America, and by the familiars of the Inquisition in Italy and Spain.

The modes of torture commonly used by the British authorities in India are numerous. A frequent one is to take off a man's turban and clothes, and tie him to a stake, deprived of food and water, and exposed to the rays of a burning sun. A second mode is to put a man in the stocks for days and weeks together, exposed to the sun; and not in such stocks as are used in England. The ordinary Indian stocks consist of square holes with sharp edges, cut in a fallen tree, through which the feet are thrust, when a peg is driven in vertically, to prevent them being pulled out again, and which fits close to the ankle-bone. Then, as there is no seat for the Indian stocks, and nothing for the back to rest against, the unfortunate prisoner of them finds his feet raised up and his body thrown into a position which, if long continued, is exquisitely painful. A third mode is to bind the fingers of each hand and the toes of each foot close together with twine, and then drive pegs in between them, which is a process of exceeding torture. A fourth plan is to stretch a man out on his back, and, fastening his hands and feet with tent-pegs to the ground, to leave him with face upturned to the sun's vertical rays, which literally sear the unprotected eyeballs. A fifth mode is to tie a man up by the feet, or, as is more general, to fasten to a bedstead or stretcher, and then stand it on one end against a wall, so as to leave the sufferer, till he confesses, or pays, with his head downwards. A sixth plan, and one which will infallibly make a man do or confess anything, is one which among the police is an

especial favourite. This plan is to tie a man's arms behind him above the elbow-joints tightly, so as to bring them as close together as is possible, and then throw the end of the cord over a bough of a tree, and haul the victim up, till his toes, barely touch the ground. His shins are then beaten with the butts of the police horsemen's riding whips, or with sticks of any kind, which causes him to raise his feet every moment, and throws the weight of the body with jerks upon the cord. The result of this is, a degree of torture and prostration which in the space of half an hour would overcome the firmness of the strongest man. Murders have been confessed to under this process which it was clearly shown afterwards that the prisoner could by no possibility have been contacted with. There are many other modes of torture used too numerous to mention, some of them such as decency would preclude us from describing; but we cannot omit to notice one method more, which is, perhaps, the most cruel and almost the most common. It is the thrusting a man's head into a horse's leather nosebag in which pounded capscums, or in other words coarse cayenne pepper, have been placed, along with burning charcoal, and the smoke from which, entering the eyes and nostrils and mouth, and penetrating to the throat and lungs, is productive at once of semi-suffocation and of the most excruciating anguish possible.

Such are some of the modes of torture in daily and hourly use among the company's officials in India. It will be said in extenuation that they are practised under native governments as well. But they have never been practised under the worst native governments to a tithe of the extent that they are practised in the company's possessions in India. Indeed, the doing so would be impossible, for the subjects of no native State would stand it; it is only a government possessing unlimited and uncontrollable power like the company that can connive at such practices as these with impunity.

PROTESTANT MARRIAGES IN THE LAST CENTURY.

He who has leisure and inclination to turn over the newspapers of early days, will see that it was a permitted thing for a lady wishing to place herself under the nominal protection of a husband, to enter a prison, be married to a felon, and after giving to the latter a very magnificent foe, which he divided with the gaoler, and undergoing some other ceremony incidental to the occasion, go forth into the world, free there to commit untold extravagancies under the name of her convict consort. Nay, in the times of which we are speaking, husbands were in waiting with highly respectable clergymen at the chapels whither ladies were wont to repair who were anxious to enjoy the immunities and impunities of a "femme couverte." The men were married half-a-dozen times a-day, in half-a-dozen varied names, to half-a-dozen different brides. The latter waited nothing more than a certificate of marriage, and the husbands (whom they never saw again) required nothing more than to be well paid for helping them to be furnished with what they most needed. When the law decreed the abolition of this infamy, there was a cry raised against the Government as being guilty of a violent infringement of liberty: permission to marry six wives a day being one of the privileges of a "free-born Englishman!" Clergymen got transported rather than give up the exercise of their sacred rights, and the young gentlemen, their sons, turned comic actors. There were at these chapels so many marriages among the loose people of fashion, that the "lower orders," as all below the line of fashion were designated, construed very mildly both the custom and the consequences. Had the abomination been permitted to continue, the law reports of questionable marriages and questioned issues would soon have become voluminous for a single year than all the now published Law Reports put together.

THE MONEY, OR THE LASH.—The Arabajees (attached to the land transport corps), who are overpaid already, thought that those who were silly enough to give them so much would also give them more, if they made the demand. A combination was organised among them for extorting a higher rate of wages. Friday being the pay-day, they assembled around the pay officer, surrounded the clerks, but obstinately refused to take the money. Their conduct was so riotous that the chest appeared to be in danger, and the police was appealed to. The case presented some difficulty. They could not be allowed to remain, and if they were dispersed without being paid they would have asserted that their wages were withheld, and that they were not liable to further service. The provost-marshal settled the matter, which in the end proved satisfactory to all parties. At all events, it tranquillised the Arabajees and sent them to their work. He singled out the ringleader, and desired him to receive his pay or be flogged. The man elected to be flogged, and the lash was applied accordingly. The remainder—about two hundred—were then told they had to take their choice between the whipping-post and the pay-office. They to a man chose the latter, and went away counting and recounting their money, according to the custom of orientals, who cannot understand that there should be a settlement without a squabble about the odd pence, or how a clerk can possibly pay them the exact amount due to them without even an attempt to keep back a few piastres for his own private use.—*Cor. of the Daily News*.

AN ANECDOTE OF CALVIN.—The late Albert Gallatin, President of the Historical Society, related the following anecdote to the Hon. Gulian C. Verplanck, from whom we get it. Several years ago, a number of Calvin's letters were found among the archives of Geneva, some of which, relating to his domestic affairs, exhibit a curious picture of the daily life of this great Presbyter, and illustrates strikingly his peculiar habits and temper. In a scolding letter to the syndics, or magistrates, of Geneva, he complains that they have filled his cellar with wine of poor quality. "I do not keep open house," he says, "nor do I entertain many guests at my table, and therefore the quantity you have sent me displeases me, as well as the quality. I wish, therefore, you would take it away, and replace it with something that I can drink; I do not want much, merely enough for my own use and that of my family; a few barriques, (barrels of about forty gallons each,) say four or five, will be sufficient for me, once a quarter!" We are afraid the Presbyterians of this century have been tremendous backsliders. When shall we see such men as Luther and Calvin?—*Herald*.