### town but foreign intelligence.

# FRANCE.

The correspondent of the Morning Chronicle makes the following important announcement: "One thing is certain-and it is perhaps the real cause of the increased confidence of the speculators that a change has taken place in the policy of the French Government. For some days past it has been observed that the persons connected with the Government have affected to speak of the present. quarrel between Russia and Turkey as an English much more than a French question. The French question, they said, was got rid of when the question of the Holy Places was settled; and as regarded the political question, it was the affair of England. It now appears that M. de Kisseleff has not only succeeded in persuading Louis Napoleon himself that France ought really not to meddle in the matter, but that the views of Russia are exceedingly moderate."

The Moniteur contains an announcement to the effect that the French and English ambassadors at Constantinople have received instructions placing the united squadrons of those nations at their disposal, and that those governments had decided, besides, that the squadrons should approach the Dardanelles without any further delay. Orders left Toulon and Marseilles on the 4th inst., by the Chaptal and Caradoc, for Admirals De la Susse and Dundas. This measure of precaution, the Moniteur states, does not exclude the hope of a pacific settlement of the actual difficulties.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF AMIENS .- The French correspondent of the Guardian writes :- " The celebrated work on the Droit Coutumier of the Gallican Church has been deemed worthy to occupy a distinct chanter in the Acts of the Council of Amiens. The fifth chapter of the Council, " De quibusdem pravis opinionibus jura Sanctæ Sedis ladentibus," places succinctly under nine heads the opinions which are maintained by the publication, and repudiated as schismatical by the Council. In the first place, it is asserted that the Pope's judgment alone cannot decide the question of what belongs to him and what to the Bishop in the ordinary government of a diocese; the Droit Contumier must be the arbitrator. Secondly, that the Bishops may oppose the abolition of any custom which may exist contrary to the common rule of the Church, though urged by the Pope, unless the necessity of such abolition be clearly recognised. Thirdly, that where there is union between Church and State, it is reasonable to consider only those rules of apostolic discipline as obligatory, which have been promulgated by virtue of the placet of the civil power; and that, therefore, fourthly, the French Bishops in the present day are not bound to consider obligatory those not so promulgated. Fifthly, that a Bishop may legitimately, under existing circumstances, exclude not only provisionally, but absolutely, the Roman liturgy from his diocese. Sixthly, that in many of their recent decisions, the Roman congregations have pursued a course injurious to the French Church. Seventhly, that the necessity of referring to Rome, according to the decision of the congregation of the Council, when a priest is suspended ex informato conscientia tends to weaken the Metropolitan authority. Eightly, that the pretensions of the same Council, under pretence of supplying omissions, to add to the Acts of the Provincial Councils, is unfounded; and lastly, that the movement in favor of the restoration of the Roman liturgy is by no means to be approved of. The whole of the above principles are condemned by the Council as contrary to sound doctrine; and chiefly on the ground of the two following opinions, from which they appear to derive their origin, viz:-First, a denial that the authority of the Sovereign Pontiff is, for the government of mily for enriching themselves by despoiling the Musanother power superior to that authority; and, secondly, because they imply that the solemn decisions of the Sovereign Pontiff, delivered ex cathedra, in matters of faith, are not of themselves irreformable, but only become so by virtue of a certain sanction which is extrinsic to them. The Council prohibits absolutely the inculcation of any such opinions throughout the churches, seminaries, and schools of the province of Rheims."

## HOLLAND.

THE ELECTIONS.—In the Echo Universel of the Hague, we read that the elections of May 17th resulted as follows: -- Anti-revolutionaries, 10; Liberals and Catholics, 24; Reactionaries, 10; Conservatives and moderate Liberals, 18; total 62. Six other deputies were yet to be returned. The consequence is, that the Liberals have lost the legislative majority, and the ministers find themselves in the presence of five fractions, all of which cannot be satisfied at the same time.

We believe that except in Bois-le-Duc, Brabant, and Limbourg, where all the people are Catholic, the elections have resulted unfavorably for the Catholic interest. The present ministry, Protestants as they are, are perhaps more favorable to liberty than the late Thorbecke ministry. M. Thorbecke's policy was pretty much like that of our Whigs, eager to bring everything within the power of the state, and, in particular, to get hold of the administration of Catholic charities.

It appears from the Niewe Roterdums du Courant, that the ministry of the affairs of Catholic Worship had cautiously acknowledged the notification of the establishment of the Episcopal sees, under reserve of taking ulteriorly the necessary disposition relative to these acts. AUSTRIA.

#### SWITZERLAND.

The federal Council has declared that the courtmartial established at Friburg after the insurrection is opposed to the Constitution, and that the sentences pronounced by that tribunal are null and void. The persons who had been tried and condemned are to be handed over to the ordinary tribunals, in case the Grand Council does not grant them an amnesty.

#### LOMBARDY.

The sequestration question will probably be terminated by the return of the emigrants to their homes. RUSSIA.

HOSTILE PREPARATIONS.—A Russian general of the engineers arrived on the 13th at Scontingi, on the Moldavian frontier, and made all the necessary investigations for crossing the river. Active preparations have been going on for the last few days at Leviva for crossing the Pruth.

A letter from Jassy in the Augsburg Gazette, dated 16th May says:-

"The warlike preparations which are being made in Bessarabia exceed anything hitherto seen herethey are on an immense scale; but what creates most interest and alarm is, that the Russians are not only preparing to throw flying bridges over the Pruth, but to build solid bridges, as if the principalities were henceforth to be permanently connected with Bessarabia."

#### SWEDEN.

INTOLERANCE OF THE SWEDISH STATE CHURCH. -The Copenhagen correspondent of the Chronicle writes on June 1st:--

"In Sweden the barbarous intolerance of the State-Church is raging anew. Fresh prosecutions have now been ordered, and petitions to use the old and unrationalised Church formalities have been haughtily dismissed. This despicable oppression is exciting general hatred, and is multiplying emigration immeasely. In fact, Sweden is at this proment governed by the blind, fanatic, unnational, reactionary State Church Hierarchy."

#### CHINA.

Advices from Hong Kong, dated April 11, say :-We have but meagre accounts of the rebellion from the North. The latest date from Shanghae is of the 28th ult., which gives no intelligence that can be depended upon relating to the position of matters at Nankin. All communication with that place seemed cut off. There appeared no doubt of the rebel force investing the city, and a report was current that one of the outer gates had been forced."

### GREAT BRITAIN.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR. - The artisans at the arsenals are busily employed in getting ships ready for ea, and we have been assured, on what appears good authority, that government have given orders for the purchase of several hundreds of artillery horses, forthwith, at the contract price of £24 each horse. sum is clearly insufficient now, when horses of all sorts are dearer than they have been at any former period these thirty years. These expenses will exhaust Mr. Gladstone's surplus, and something besides; and for all this loss the nation is indebted to the profligacy of the course systematically pursued by the Times and the Morning Chronicle against the Emperor of the French. It was the scandalous columnies and gross misropresentations of these journals that led the Russian autocrat to conclude that he might count on the neutrality of England, while he dismembered Turkey. Having seen it constantly asserted by the journals in question that the difficulties of the Eastern question was produced by the French Emperor alone, nd that this country would stand aloof while the Frank and the Russian wasted their strength on the Turkish soil, in conflict with each other, the Czar naturally concluded that the time was come for carrying into effect the hereditary policy and plans of his fathe Church, the supreme power, and the assertion of sulman. Hence the Muscovite aggression, and hence he immense expense to which our own country nov put. - Catholic Standard.

The Postmaster-General has issued notice that, heng about to make arrangements for extending to the colonies the benefits of the money order system, tenders may be addressed to him prior to the 16th of July, by bankers who may be desirous of undertaking the agency in any of the colonies.

Edinburgh is proposing to follow the example of Dublin, and to have an exhibition of Scottish national Industry. A plan has been prepared by Mr. Rhind, architect, and Mr. C. H. J. Smith, landscape gardener for the erection of a building in the grounds of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, to be afterwards used as a winter garden.

THE NUNNERY BILL. - The idea of Catholics submitting to such a measure is quite preposterous and out of the question. We know, of course, full well, that the current falsehoods and inuendoes against convents, upon which this bill is founded, are unmanly and despicable slanders. As for the incessant calumnies against ourselves as a body, and our faith, as a creed, we estimate them at their proper value, and simply despise and scorn them. We are members of that venerable and glorious Church which, based on divine promise, has stood the storms of ages-which has always been, and is to this very day, recognised and loved by the immense majority of the civilised world-and which has contributed, during all time, so vast a proportion of the genius that has adorned, the arts and learning that have enlightened, and the virtues that have purified and ennobled humanity; and this proud consciousness amply suffices for us in the midst of all the ravings and railings by which we are encompassed. But we are British subjects; and we have a perfect right to entertain whatever religious opinions we please; as, also, our sisters and daughters, and other dear relatives, have an equally incontestable right to bind themselves by vows, and live unmolested in religious communities, if they think proper. We fight in the ranks of the British army, and man the Britsh fleet; we pay taxes, and bear all the responsibilities of citizenship; and though we may M. Varga, an advocate, suspected of being in communication with M. Kossuth, has been arrested. Several other individuals have also been taken in customer faces.—Glasmow Free Press.

the responsibilities of citizenship; and though we may to you and your society; notwinsamiling which your faces will never suffer our liberties to be frittered away, and sinners, than with such saints.—I am, &c.,

LETTER OF LORD LANGDALE TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—As you have lately given to the world a succession of articles in favor of the bill lately introduced into Parliament by Mr. Chambers, entitled "Recovery of Personal Liberty," but especially aimed at Catholic Convents, I trust you will not refuse to give the same circulation to a few observations of one so interested in this discussion as the father of two inmates of such establishments and a very near relative of several others in a similar position.

In the first place, I must begin by agreeing in much that you state in your late article upon this subject, in last Saturday's paper, May 28:-" The laws and customs of England," you say,

"Can take no cognizance of any such engagements between British subjects and the Romish Church .-Neither the decrees of the canonical coden or the traditions of Popery can be permitted to have any more weight than the by-laws of a benefit society or the rules of a cricket club. The one sole title of a nunnery to detain a nun consists in that nun's standing consent to the arrangement. As she was free to come, so she must be free to go. Her 'profession' confers upon her superiors or her priests no more authority over her than would be enjoyed by the mistress of a boarding-house over its inmates. Convents, in fact, must be literally boarding-houses, and nothing further. Their inhabitants may practise exactly such as they think proper. They may, if they like, derive their traditions from remote antiquity and their rules from an Italian priest; but these peculiarities will give them no more standing in the eyes of the law han that of a village coal club or that of a district Bible Society."

Now, Sir, I have not one word to say against all We neither pretend nor desire that the "law of England take cognizance of any such engagements." We neither ask nor wish for "any standing in the eyes of the law." It is on this very account that we protest against the law sending commissioners into convents any more than it does into boarding-houses. or interfering with what you call "these peculiarities" any more than with cricket clubs or coal clubs.

But, Sir, let us for a moment inquire what is the character of the bill proposed by Mr. Chambers and Sir Robert Inglis, which is described as "mild."-There are to be commissioners with "annual salaries." These commissioners are to report annually to "Parliament the number and description of houses, names of occupiers," &c.

What, again, are the powers conferred on these salaried gentlemen by which they are to earn their pay? "To visit the houses or buildings, and, if necessary, to make a forcible entry; to examine every part there-of; to see all and every the inmates; and to examine each, either apart and separate from others, or otherwise."

And what is this building into every part of which these paid gentlemen are to pry? Why, the residence of women, of women only—women without a male protector to accompany these inquisitors into their hed-rooms, probably not unfrequently occupied by a sick inmate of these houses.

And again, who are these inmates, to be examined apart and separate from all others," by strangersby men pretending perhaps to be gentlemen? Why, women, perhaps, again occupying a sick room, who have purposely retired from the general communication of the society of the world—ladies as highly bred as the wives and daughters of those who, styling themselves gentlemen, are proposing an indecent outrage upon others, which I should hope that they would have the delicacy of resenting if offered to those under their own protection.

And what is to set this mild proceeding in motion? This paid functionary, who is to report annually for his salary, "is to have reasonable ground to suppose." Why, even before a search warrant can be issued to seek for stolen goods, an oath is required.

No. Sir, let the truth be told, and let these promoters of this atrocious invasion on the decencies of Catholic ladies have at least the manliness to avow that their bigoted hatred of the Catholic religion thus seeks a vent against these helpless and harmless members of its faith, because they have not the courage to adopt a more bold course of persecution against those who would have power to repel their insults.

Yes. Sir, if they succeed in passing the proposed bill, they may, and probably will, succeed in driving from this country some, at least, of these inoffensive establishments. They will, therefore, have the satisfaction of wringing the heart of a father, a Catholic. who can have no hope under such circumstances of ever again seeing his child in this world. Be assured, however, that, though this far successful, their maliclous triumph will not succeed in preventing one of these devoted children of religion from adhering to those pledges which they have made not to man, but entitled to what was considered to be ancestral proto God; pledges which, as the law has not been asked to sanction, so neither is it competent to dissolve. I will not now enter upon what you say is done in Catholic countries, still less within the dominions of of performing those religious trusts, and, by the ancithe autocrat of Russia. It in Catholic countries the ent Hindoo law he became incapable of holding the autocrat of Russia. If in Catholic countries the law be invoked to sanction and enforce the religious the estate he had received. In 1832, an act profession, the same law may make conditions under which such profession may be made. Neither such Christianity should not lose his property: but that act which such profession may be made. Neither such cases nor the despotic interference of an autograf, the extent of which we well remember in the case of the all but martyred Abbess Makrina, are samples of legislation hitherto applicable to England. In spite of the late majority in favor of the introduction of this bill. I cannot yet believe the intensity of religious hatred will be gratified by the introduction into this boasted land of religions freedom of the worst features of continental intolerance.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES LANODALE. Houghton-hall, June 1, 1853.

CANT AND HYPOCRISY .- The following note was written by Lord Oxford, in answer to an application made him to become President of the Norwich Bible Society:-"Sir-I am surprised and annoyed by the contents of your letter—surprised, because my well known character should have exempted me from such an application-and annoyed, because it obliges me to have even this communication with you. I have long been addicted to the gaming-table; I have lately taken to the turf; I fear I frequently blaspheme; but I have never distributed religious tracts. This is well known

Inspection of Religious Houses. - Singularly enough the outcry raised against convents is generally in a locality where there is no convent, whilst in the towns where those dispensers of God's mercies are located, bigotry is silenced. We have an instance of that in this locality. A petition signed by upwards of one thousand females was transmitted from Shields imploring parliamentary influence and supervision. Perhaps no two of the petitioners had ever seen a Sister of Charity, or been in the inside of a religious house, and were merely echoing in their address to the Queen the brutal falsehoods of the press. In Sunderland, where the Nuns or Sisters of Charity may be seen every day, and are seen by a large part of the population, we hear nothing of a similar feeling to that which had been got up at Shields. .

A BISHOP'S PAY AND PERQUISITES .- The Bishop of Durham is in embarrassed circumstances, poor man. His income having been reduced to about \$40,000 per annum (it was formerly about \$120,000,) he finds himself in a state of pitiable destitution, and has ap-plied to the ecclesiastical commissioners for an additional \$5,000 a year or so to pay his "gamekeepers" and "watchers on the moors," and keep his lawns not the lawn he wears, but the lawn around his palacc-in apple-pie order.-The commissioners decline to make the extra allowance, the more especially as the worthy "Lord Spiritual" has already overdrawn his account some \$350,000 since his salary was cut usages in worship, in ritual, in dress, and in ceremony down; or rather, has retained the amount instead of paying it over like an honest prelate. In the diocese of Durham there are dozens of poor curates with wives and families to support, who do not receive £50 sterling per annum, and yet the Bishop, in his schedule of extras, puts down the annual wages of one gamekeeper at £101 0s 6d, and of another at £38 6s 6d. Saving his lordship's game, therefore, is considered a more valuable and important service than saving the souls of his lordship's flock. The estimation in which his lordship holds carnal taxaries as compared with things spiritual is also manifested in another part of his "little bill."-He puts down the expenses of his parks at £100, but modestly charges only £15 for those of his chapel! That blessed institution known as the "Church of England," is based upon a system of monstrous inequalities. If the piety and good works of its humble elergy did not set off the ungodly rapacity of its hierarchs, it would be in peril of the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah.

PROTESTANT EMICRATION FROM SOUTH WALES .-A very large exodus still continues from various districts in the south of Wales. The Mormonite emigration is, if anything, increasing, as large bodies of these people, principally from Carmarthenshire and the county of Glamorgan, still continue to leave their native land for the banks of the Salt Lake. These followers of Joe Smith get to Liverpool, where they emback in the liners for New York.

THE SALINE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA. - Dr. Steven's work, published by Balliere, "On the Nature and Treatment of Asiatic Cholera," is exciting a good deal of attention, from the facts which he has brought to bear upon the value and success of the treatment of this disease by the saline practice. It would appear that some very high marks of esteem have been conferred upon Dr. Stevens for his philambropy and talents, and among these his late Majesty Christian VIII of Denmark extended his Royal munificence to him in a gift equivalent to a liberal independence for life. The discovery certainly appears to be one which claims every attention. The cholera is still producing its deadly effects in many parts of the world, and no human being can tell how soon this fatal scourge may make a third visit to this country. If Dr. Stevens' statement be founded on truth, it is evident that even the collapse stage of cholera is a curable disease; and if so, it is then the duty of the rulers of the land to appoint a fair tribunal of disinterested judges to investigate the statements that have now been put before the world, the merits of which may be easily put to the test .- Standard.

The following debate which lately took place in the House of Lords, is a valuable testimony of the efficacy of Protestant Missions :-

### "AN INDIAN GRIEVANCE,

Lord Monteagle presented a petition, signed by 8401 inhabitants of Bengal, Berar, and Orissa, against act 21 of 1850 of the Indian Government. He stated as a guarantee of the genuiness of the petition, that it ad been placed in his hands to or helbert Maddock lately a most meritorious civil servant of the East India Company.

The act referred to, secured to a Hindoo converted to Christianity all the property he possessed as a follower of the Kindon religion. By the terms of that act, any Hindoo, who would have lost easte, and consequently property, by acts of immorality or the violation of the laws, would be enabled to retain his property. But by the ancient Hindoo law, any person perty held it subject to a religious trust, in respect to certain observances of a religious character; if he lost caste or quitted his religion he became incabable had remained dormant until 1845; when the Law commissioners extended it to all India; and the East India Company sanctioned the act in 1850. The petitioners contend that this act was a violation of the compact into which we had solemnly entered in the earliest times-a compact confirmed by the Imperial Act of 1781-binding us to respect the laws of inheritance, the laws of marriage, and the laws of religion.

The Earl of Ellenborough, following out Lord Monteagle's remarks, with which he concurred, nevertheless thought the grievance, great as it was would practically produce little evil.

Converts to Christianity are not common. He had asked one of the Clergy in Calcutta, why Hindoo Candle-snuffers were employed in the churches—why were not converts employed? The reply was—"We have not got enough of them." He recollected having a visit from an American missionary on one occasion, when he put to him the question, " Do you ever make any converts?" His reply was. "Never, except when we have an office to bestow." (Laughter.) Lord Ellenborough dwelt upon the immoral motives held out by the act of 1850 to the Hindoo, who could commit any immoralities against the Hindoo law, yet it the culprits declared themselves Christians their property would be restored to them. Was this the commencement of an interference with native customs?—The petition was referred to the Indian Committee."—Spectator, 28th of May.