

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

We can state with confidence that neither the creation of the kingdom of Italy nor the means by which the States of that Peninsula have been absorbed by Piedmont, nor the policy which has raised almost a rival of France beyond the Alps, has given satisfaction to the French people. The French Church, of course, reproaches it; all ardent French Catholics—and their number is large—are inimical to it; and with the French army it finds no favor, while it is notoriously condemned by every statesman of any eminence, whether Legitimist, Orleanist, or even Imperialist in France. In or out of the Imperial Legislature there is not a man of eminence who has raised his voice in favor of the policy which has subjected Italy to the rule of Victor Emmanuel, or who does not censure the treatment experienced by the Head of Church. The September Convention was not well received in France, and its bitterness was subdued only by the gilding which was put upon the pill by the de-lights and explanatory statements of Drouyn de Lhuys. What made it endurable was the distinct and positive declaration of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, published in the *Moniteur* with the direct sanction of the Emperor, that the two Governments were bound by it to uphold the Pope in Rome as a free and independent Sovereign, and to maintain his sovereignty in Rome, and the portion of the Pontifical States remaining under the Pope's dominion on the 15th September, 1864, against all ad. easuries; and that France reserves to herself perfect freedom of action—that is, the right to re-occupy Rome and the Patrimony in the event of the revolutionists rendering such a course necessary for the security of the Holy Father. We have no reason to suppose that France has become colder towards the Holy See, or more friendly to the Italian Revolution, since September 1864. Our information leads, indeed, to the opposite conclusion; and if we wanted confirmatory evidence of this, it is to be found in the late mission of General Fleury to Florence, and in the letters of the Roman correspondent of the *Times*, whose statements upon many points connected with the Roman question it would have been prudent for the conductors of that paper to read with attention before publishing leading articles abounding with assertions which the better informed Gallenga knew to be false, and with predictions which the events of the last fortnight have proved to be absurd.

In proportion as the nature of the plan approved by the Emperor for the reorganization of the French army becomes understood is the antipathy of the scheme increasing. At an election the other day in the Pas de Calais of a member of the Corps Legislatif, the Government candidate was opposed by a gentleman who rested his claim to the support of the electors chiefly upon his declaration that if returned he would vigorously oppose the project of law necessary to give effect to the plan; and so deeply did that declaration sway the constituency that the Government candidate felt it necessary to declare that he too would urge the modification of the plan. In Berlin, on the other hand, they pool-pool the scheme as bad in itself, and as inefficient, even if cordially adopted, for the purpose which the Emperor they say contemplates. Even should it give him upwards of 1,200,000 soldiers of all sorts, Prussia, now representing all Germany north of the Main, will have at her command a larger army, and her troops—so the Prussians contend—will be better disciplined, and better fitted for action at any moment. Of the Emperor's journey to Rome the report is dying out. There is, we believe, no doubt that at one moment it had been a thing settled, but other counsels appear to have prevailed, and the visit is at all events deferred, sorely against the wishes of the admirable Empress.

The French army costs about 420,000,000, while the military Budget of Prussia is 170,000,000, and it is asked, why should not the Ministers of War and Finance explain how it comes to pass that an army costs France more than double of what it costs in Prussia? 'Nevertheless,' observes the *Semaine Financier*,—

'The financial situation of the country is such as should inspire security and confidence, excepting those unforeseen expenses which ordinarily disappear at all our hopes. The country, the revenue of which increases at the rate of fifty millions a year, is the same which has passed unharmed through several crises for neighboring nations—the same which has in its bank a metallic reserve of more than 700 millions, and which accumulates deposits in the coffers of credit companies.

According to all appearance, considerable modifications will be made in the army organization project which is now before the Council of State. The article in the *Constitutionnel* the other day, admitting that there was room for improvement in it, and that it was never meant to remain as it now stands, is said to have come from the Emperor's Cabinet; indeed, to have been written by the Emperor himself. Moreover, the Minister of State has been personally told by certain deputies, whose devotedness to the Government is absolute, and on behalf of the majority, that it will be impossible for them to vote for it should it come in its present shape before the Legislative Corps. Seldom has the condemnation of any measure been more general among friends and adversaries than this.—*Times* Cor.

The Pope, in parting, has given the French Emperor a blessing which the Emperor will not forget. A long life spent in the highly delightful pastime of praying aloud for his enemies, coupled with the naturally fine ecumen of an Italian, has given His Holiness an astonishing power of putting in home-trusts, even when he seems to be occupied in his devotion. The French Government had naturally been a little anxious for the final leave-taking to be over.—'Tremblez, Français, nous vous benissons tous,' says the song in the *Beranger*, and of late years in particular the Pope's benedictions have been a chastening as well as an edifying process. Malicious anticipations this week were not at all misplaced, and after a calm survey of Pio Nono's speech to General Montebello critics must admit that the old and venerable Pontiff can be piquant when he chooses. Looking about him in the pauses of his prayers, to discover the French Emperor's tenderest point, with the view of dexterously planting there the little necessary arrow, in an almost inspired moment the Pope bestowed him of the French Emperor's health. Everybody in Europe knows that, during the past year, this has been a very sore subject with the Imperial Government. The rumors which from time to time ooze out about His Majesty's indisposition are productive, it is believed, of serious diplomatic and internal trouble. Accordingly, no Frenchman is permitted to entertain the smallest doubt but that Providence intends to bestow upon the Emperor a long robust life, and French journalists are trained never to hear that His Majesty is so much as looking pale, without immediately contradicting the calumny.—The keen eye of the successor of St. Peter picked out this crevice between the joints of the Imperial armor in a twinkling; and by the way of ingenious torture he determined, not indeed to 'out' General Montebello's right ear, which would have been nothing, but to pray fervently for the health of General Montebello's master. In the middle of his valedictory address, His Holiness paused, 'we are told; for some moments raised his eyes to heaven, and put his hand to his heart;—a symptom at which General Montebello, like Felix, might well have trembled.—After a few minutes' silence, he continued:—'Go, carry with you my blessing and my paternal aid. If you see the Emperor of the French, your Emperor, tell him I pray for him. They say his health is not good; I pray for his health.' They say that his soul is not tranquil; I pray for his soul. The French nation is a Christian nation; its head must also be a Christian.' We rather think that, on receiving this

kindly recommendation by the telegraph, the French Emperor—so far from being 'almost persuaded,' like the Roman Governor, to become one—must have been tempted to employ language about His Holiness of a distinctly secular description. The consternation created in Parisian official circles by this candid and pleasing expression of papal sympathy has been considerable. On receipt of the intelligence, there was an immediate and anxious call upon the services of the 'gentleman in black.'—The gentleman in black is as yet exclusively a French institution, but one which speaks volumes for the good feeling and sensibility of the French press. When anything happens anywhere which it is desirable to keep dark, the gentleman in black makes a little round of the newspaper offices, and does a little gentle violence to the feelings of that sensitive being, a French editor. Accordingly the Paris journals, with one bold exception, cut out, upon invitation, the obnoxious passage from their account of the pontifical oration and left their reader to guess at the contents of an omitted paragraph.—The worst of it is that it is apprehended, now the Pope has hit upon the idea, that all the French bishops, with M. Dupanloup in the van, will begin praying for the Emperor's health, and finishing up with intercessions for his soul. There will be no end to it anywhere, for it is impossible to make it a criminal offence to call down blessings on the Emperor's body and soul. The Pope therefore leaves the Imperial court for the moment very much as Boileau's bishop in the *Lutrin* leaves his enemies—*epardus et benis*.

PETER'S PENANCE IN FRANCE.—The *Times*' Paris correspondent says that on Sunday the 'Peter's penance' was collected in all the churches of Paris, at every mass. To all appearance (adds the writer) the amount obtained was considerable.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE AT JERUSALEM.—By intelligence from St. Petersburg this week we learn that France and Russia have concluded a convention relative to the restoration of the chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The French and Russian representatives in Jerusalem demand that the houses built on the terraces of the church shall be pulled down.

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS FOR COCHIN CHINA.—The transport steamer *Oreus* has just started from Suez for Saigon, having on board troops of the French marine infantry, which raises to about 2,000 the number of reinforcements for Cochin China.

The Bishop of Verdun, after an illness of only two days expired on the 24th inst. His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Rheims, Menseigneur Gousset, died on the 1st inst. The papers say that he was the most celebrated caustic among the French clergy, and a peasant by birth, and began to study theology in his seventeenth year. He became Archbishop of Rheims in 1840, and Cardinal in 1850.

ITALY.

PIEDMONT.—The Italian Budget for 1867 has been laid before the Chamber of Deputies. It is divided into two special balance-sheets, one for Venetia and the other for the remaining provinces of the Italian kingdom. For the Venetian provinces the ordinary receipts are 76,462,091, and the extraordinary receipts, 39,247 lire, against an ordinary expenditure of 42,887,554, and an extraordinary expenditure of 11,414,781 lire. The total receipts are, therefore, 76,502,338, and the total outlay 54,302,335, showing a surplus of receipts to the amount of 22,200,000 lire. The ordinary revenue of the other Italian provinces is estimated at 756,198,818, and the extraordinary revenue at 32,731,260 lire, whilst the ordinary expenditure 93,149,515 lire. The total receipts are, therefore, 788,930,078 against an outlay of 997,566,612 lire, showing a deficit of 208,636,534 lire. The two balance-sheets together show the total revenue to be 865,402,416, and the total expenditure 1,051,868,950. There thus remains a general deficit, as anticipated, of 186,466,534.

FLORENCE, Jan. 10.—It is stated that the Italian Government is willing to release the church property on the receipt of six million livres.

UTAH IN EUROPE.—Sir.—At our late Catholic meeting Lord Arundell of Wardour very pertinently observed that, but for the influence of the Papacy Italy would long ago have become French, or German, or Mahomedan. It seems to me that pretty much the last result would be very likely to arise from the further progress of the Revolution. There can be no doubt that Victor Emmanuel would make a most iligent Turk, as Mickey Free sings; and, while rivalling the Sultan in his domestic relations he is even less of a Christian in his public policy.—Abdul Aziz has lately granted land for the support and endowment of Christian religious communities at Constantinople; while on the other hand, the ruthless myrmidons of the 'Re Galantomo' are turning the monks and nuns of Italy destitute upon the world. Another distinguished missionary of the new Mahomedanism is the Marquis Joachim. Napoleon Pepoli, who, it will be remembered, signed the September Convention in the name of the Italian Government, notwithstanding which he made a speech in Venetia the other day, in which he made it appear how little respect that Government intended to pay to their own obligations in the matter. He talked of the 'social' regeneration of Italy, which, in his mind, probably means the substitution of Mormonism for monachism. If Pepoli gets to Rome, and has his own way there we may expect to hear it called 'New Nauvoo.' I will say nothing of Baron Ricca. I will not accuse him of coveting a multiplicity of wives; but he could teach the Turks a thing or two (far better than their clumsy Bosphorus system) as to how to dispose of one. I also leave out of account the crazy cripple of Caprera, he has had one too many.

With the social example of many of its foremost men, and with all the Pagan abominations which debased and demoralized art is now substituting in Italy for the Madonnas and Bambinos its people used to love, the time is possibly not far distant when all the world will be forced to own that Italy unified is Utah-ised.—*Cor. of Weekly Register*.

Rome.—Order still reigns in Rome. The Holy Father is received, wherever he is thrown among his subjects, either in his walks or drives, with warm manifestations of loyalty and veneration. PETER'S PENANCE.—Denounced in the Sardinian Parliament at Turin, suppressed as a society in France, where it had to be carried on without organization, and ridiculed in England, the 'Peter's Penance' movement has been, in a practical point of view, perhaps the most powerful human agency upon which Pius IX. had to rely, besides exerting a great moral influence in Europe. The hope entertained by the Revolutionary party, after the spoliation of the States of the Church, that the Papal Government would be forced to submit, by reason of a diminished exchequer, and that in fact the Holy Father would be 'starved out' of Rome, was defeated by the tide of free-will offerings which came pouring in from every corner of Christendom; and the wild fury of the Garibaldian faction met with a splendid reply in the burst of genuine Catholic enthusiasm which arose with and accompanied the revival of Peter's Penance.—*Weekly Register*.

Foreign Catholic intelligence from Rome of the latest date, speaks of a rumoured convention between the Mazzinians and the Italian Government, by which it is agreed that there shall be no outbreak at Rome until after the debate on the address in the French Legislative Chamber.

The *Monde* denounces with scorn and contempt the overtures held out to the Italian bishops in the letter of Riccaoli.

But, for all its intrinsic badness, one is puzzled at first to tell in what precise manner Rome is misgoverned, or the Romans themselves oppressed and ground down. There are few, if any, Protestant natives here, so that the impudent bigotry which in

the face of Roman Catholic emancipation in England, forbids the celebration of Protestant worship within the walls of Rome, cannot press very hardly on the inhabitants. The Roman police, so far as I know, are not in the habit of opening letters at the Post Office, or of paying domiciliary visits, or of arresting persons on the most frivolous pretences, or of dragging people out of their beds in order to beat them with sticks—a practice long followed, and up to a very recent date, both by the Austrian and the Russian police. There are certainly no political criminals in the casemates of St. Angelo. There are as certainly no captives for conscience sake in the dungeons of the Inquisition, there are no political convicts in the *bagno* of Civita Vecchia—at least none that I have heard of—save brigands, whose claim to be considered politicians is at least questionable. I have heard some horrible stories against the Papal sbirri, but beyond a fondness for doing nothing, and for cheating anybody out of ten bajocchi when they have a chance, I don't suppose they are worse than other policemen elsewhere. Of what, then, have the Romans to complain? Wherein lies the grievance of their dolence? What is the grinding oppression under which they suffer? Their taxation is not so heavy as it is in free Italy. The Papal tobacco, I again hasten to own, is infinitely superior to the Italian, and at the Debito Regio, in the Piazza Mignanelli, you may purchase genuine Havanas, especially imported by the Government of the Holy Father for the delectation of his faithful children.—As a snuff taker the Pontiff has a fellow feeling for the smoker. King Victor Emmanuel, unfortunately, has an unrefined taste as regards tobacco. The coarsest of weeds are deemed good enough by his Majesty, and his realm is consequently poisoned with bad cigars.

I am aware that a tableau of the actual condition of Rome can be painted in colours far darker than those with which I have set my palette. From Florence, from Milan, from Turin, from Paris you will receive probably very different accounts of what is going on in the Eternal City. There is an influential journal, for example, called *Il Patriota*, and published at Parma. The Roman correspondent of this interesting sheet writes, under the date of the 6th of December, that Rome is in a state of siege;—that cannon are posted, 'al di qua e al di la,' here and there along the Tiber; that so soon as the bells for the *Ave Maria* are heard the streets are deserted; that nightly wayfarers are pointed, or stripped and robbed by the 'brigands' with whom the city is swarming, and who are under the immediate protection of the Papal Government; that the Presidents of the different *Rioni* or districts have *carte blanche* from head quarters, and arrest whom they please in order to satisfy private vengeance; that the gendarmes stop passengers in the streets, and insult them; that the prisons of the Holy Office are full of *poveri infelici* accused of heresy or blasphemy, who undergo the most frightful tortures; that other enormities are rife, which the pen refuses to transcribe; that malversation, vendette, rapes, arrests, robbery and murder are the order of the day, and so forth. The correspondent of the *Parmaese* paper winds up by informing his readers that the *Sanfedisti*, who committed such atrocities in the Romagna and the Marches in '49, are enrolled in a 'secret military legion,' and 'in' due course of time be let loose on the shopkeepers. The *Osservatore Romano* has quietly replenished the letter of the Roman correspondent of the *Parma Patriota*, heading it with the suggestive title, '*Nuove bugie e vecchi bugiard*.'—New lies from old liars! It need scarcely be said that there is not one word of truth in the *Parmaese* chronicle. Rome is just as quiet as Camberwell. Until very late at night the streets are filled with people; carriages full of fashionable ladies drive about with impunity.—There are no cannon visible, 'al di qua' or 'al di la' on the Tiber's banks; and the cells of the Holy Office are in all probability as empty as the Parmesan gentleman's head. This is but a very mild sample of the prodigious lies which are told every day in the columns of the Italian Press.—GEO. AUGUSTUS SALLA, in the London Telegraph.

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.—Nothing could surpass the joy of the Neapolitans at once seeing their faithful Cardinal Archbishop officiating in his cathedral. It having become known that His Eminence would take part in the religious service in the Church of St. Januarius, for the first time since his return from exile, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the sacred edifice was crowded to excess; and as the Archbishop retired from the High Altar of the Mass at which he assisted, 'one of those scenes was presented (says the correspondent of the *Times*) which could hardly be witnessed anywhere else. The crowds threw themselves upon him; one might have fancied that violence was intended; each on struggled with the other to kiss their pastor's hand or his robes; and so, amid the muttered prayers of the Monelli (the honest, faithful people are meant by this term of infidel scorn), and the suppressed hisses of a very few, who, to say the least, with infinitely bad taste, gave expression to their hostility, the cardinal, surrounded by his clergy, vanished from view.' It was a noble Christian sight—a glorious Catholic exhibition— which the hisses of the aimiers of Garibaldi (they were very few, it appears) served to set off in full relief.—*Weekly Register*.

From Palermo we have to-day (in addition to the tortures and wholesale fustilades, without form of trial, inflicted on the unfortunate Sicilians) a sickening account of the cruelties that are now being practised upon the wretched prisoners of the insurrection now incarcerated by hundreds in the Vicaria and other prisons. We shall give details in our next.

SWITZERLAND.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.—By telegram dated Berne, December 12, we learn that the Federal Council has requested the cantonal authorities in the Valais to execute the decrees of 1847 and 1851 against the Jesuits residing in communities or as private persons in the canton of Valais. The above decrees order the expulsion of the Jesuits from Switzerland.

GERMANY.

The Prussians are ruling in Hanover, not only with a very high, but also with a very harsh hand. They have confiscated the King's personal estate on the plea that in his flight he carried off public securities, and now they declare these securities null, and are issuing new scrip. Even the King's horses have been put up for sale by auction, to replace the cash taken by the King when quitting his capital, and in consequence of the rapidity with which the sales have been forced forward, some of the finest horses in Germany have been knocked down at absurdly low figures. The Emperor Napoleon and Baron Rothschild have bought two magnificent stallions, the property of the Crown Prince for less than £50 each. This is disgraceful to the Government that has behaved so meanly and victoriously.—*Weekly Register*.

A TIMES REPRISAL.—The Leipzig journals of late date contain accounts of an extraordinary reprieve of a condemned criminal at the very moment of execution. A tailor, named Kunscher, had been sentenced to death for murder, and on the morning of the 18th was brought on the scaffold and attached to the plank of the guillotine. Suddenly a cry of 'Stay! stay!' was heard, and a messenger appeared bearing in his hand a telegram from the King of Saxony ordering a reprieve. The despatch had been forwarded only three-quarters of an hour before from Berlin, where His Majesty was staying, and without the haste employed by the bearer would probably not have arrived in time. The man had run from the telegraph office across the park to the prison, and being delayed by the crowds of persons assembled around, he raised the cry which was repeated from mouth to mouth until it reached the scaffold, when a passage was made to enable the messenger to reach the spot. The official who directed the proceedings then took the telegram from the man's hands, and read aloud:—'Postpone the execution until further orders. More ample details by post. John, King.'

Pesth, Jan. 17th.—The Hungarian Diet, with remarkable unanimity, desire to break their negotiations with Austria if that Government continues to oppose the wishes of Hungary in insisting on the army organization scheme, and other measures equally oppressive and odious to the people.

RUSSIA.

An imperial ukase, issued on Saturday, states that the relations of Russia with Rome having been broken off, and the Convention of 1847 with the Holy See and all other arrangements in reference to the Roman Catholic Church having consequently lost their value, the affairs relating to the Catholics in Russia are again to be placed under the direction of the authorities who, in accordance with the existing laws, are intrusted with the control of public worship in Russia and Poland. The *Moniteur* says that from the day on which this treaty was signed, Russia has not ceased to violate it.—The entire press of Europe, without distinction of party, was filled with details of the dark persecution rigorously directed in Russia against the Church; of machinations employed to hinder its development; to diminish the number of sacred edifices; to corrupt education at its source; to prevent the filling up of the clergy's ranks; to obtain abjurations by violence and fraud; and to stop conversions. The Sovereign Pontiff was bound to raise his voice against such practices. It is known with what moderation he did so, and how well he knew how to unite firmness as to principle with respect for persons, to that degree, that his moderation has been made a reproach to him, and termed weakness. It is this act which has led, under the name of reprisals, to the declaration of the nullity of the Convention. This step will surprise no one; and, whatever may be the new *reg me* to which the Catholics in the Russian provinces shall be subjected it will be impossible for them to suffer more severely under it than they are doing at present.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 15th.—The question which arose between the Porte and the U. S. Legation here, in regard to the complaint made by the U. S. Consul at Cyprus, against the local authorities of that island has been settled to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

There are rumors of great discontent and threatening insurrections among the Christians in Turkey, and it is certain that the Turks are displaying considerable activity in preparing for an emergency.—They have fortified the Dag Pass, and have concentrated troops in the south of the Herzegovina towards the frontier of the Montenegro. Besides regular troops they have some Christian militia, on which they cannot place much reliance in case of need, and they have lately got together about 600 men of Musulman militia from among the population about Nikisch. The commander of the battalion is at the same time a magistrate, somewhat on the principle which obtains on the Austrian military frontier.—Besides regular soldiers and militia, the peace is kept in the Herzegovina by gendarmes and pandours. The gendarmes or *Zaptie* wear uniform, and are armed and equipped at the expense of the province. They do duty at Mostar and in the larger towns, and their officers are, at the same time, police magistrates.

The Pandours dress and arm themselves at their own expense as they please; they live in huts that have been built for them in districts that have a bad reputation, and along the Dalmatian frontier, which they patrol. Their pay is about 20s a month, but they are suspected of making a good deal more by their connivance with smugglers, and even robbers. The gendarmes are all Mahomedans, but of the pandours many are Christians, especially in the lately insurgent districts along the frontier of Montenegro. In order to gain the support of the poor but warlike population here, the Turks give the heads of the villages permission to keep a large number of dogs, for whom they pay. The chiefs choose young men from their own village to perform the duties of the pandours, which they do admirably, and manage to keep a large surplus of the money allowed them by the Turks for their own use.

The sudden deposition of the Greek Patriarch at Constantinople has been occasioned by the underhand dealings of that ecclesiastical dignitary, alluded to in one of my last, with the representatives of the French and Russian religious interests in the East. From what I learn, he seems to have declared for siding by the Russian religion while his chapter were favorable to reunion with Rome. Exact particulars will not be long in coming in.—*Times* Cor.

ELLEN'S DREAM.

Ellen was a good girl, and worked hard to assist her mother in the support of a young and numerous family. It must be confessed, however, that she was sometimes inclined to grumble at the extreme poverty in which they lived, and she often used to think it very hard that, as the eldest of the children, almost the whole labor of the house fell to her share.

One day her mother said to her, 'Ellen, my child, you must be up before light to-morrow morning, for I have an unusual quantity of washing this week, and I shall not be able to finish it in time without your assistance.'

'But this is only Thursday, mother,' answered Ellen. 'You never want your washing finished before Saturday.'

'The family whose washing I want to finish are going into the country on Friday. I must have their things home upon Thursday evening. That is the reason I want your assistance; for they are good customers, and I cannot afford to lose them, which I should certainly deserve to do if I neglected their orders.'

Ellen said no more, but she thought to herself, 'The children in that family are rich, and happy, and comfortable; they have servants to attend them, and everything on earth they can wish for, while I am obliged to toil hard for a morsel of bread. Even my little brothers and sisters are better off than I am, for they can sleep as long as they like; while I am forced to get up in the cold and dark, long before I have slept off the weariness of a hard day's work.'

Ellen's mother saw that her daughter was vexed, but she took no notice of it, as she was sure she would soon be sorry for her peevish feelings; and she was quite right in this; for, after saying her prayers as well as she could, Ellen crept to her poor bed, and trying hard to repress her fit of ill-humor soon fell fast asleep. Generally, Ellen slept so soundly that she never was disturbed by a passing thought; but it was quite otherwise on this particular night, for no sooner was her head upon the pillow than she dreamed she saw a beautiful angel standing beside it. His robes were of dazzling whiteness, his long hair fell down to his waist, and his wings were so bright that they filled the whole cottage with light and even the miserable table and chairs of the little chamber seemed to drop down diamonds like summer dew.

While Ellen gazed upon him with wonder and delight, he said in a voice of heavenly sweetness, 'Ellen, you have been grumbling this night at your poverty, and envying those who are richer than yourself. I am your guardian angel; and because you are generally a dutiful daughter, and try to conquer your inclination to discontent, it has been permitted me to show you the advantages of the state which you find it so difficult to attain. Get up and follow me.'

Ellen thought she rose and followed him until they were both standing in the open country before an altar dedicated to our Blessed Lady. A crown of thorns and a crown of roses were laid upon the altar, and upon the steps stood a lady of surpassing beauty, whom she instantly knew to be the Mother of God. The angel pointed towards the open country; and following with her eyes the direction of his finger, Ellen saw another angel advancing towards the altar,

and leading by the hand a very young child, whose garments were even poorer than her own, but her own, but whose face was full of content and joy; she knelt down upon the lowest step of the altar; and the lady advanced towards her, holding the two crowns in her hand. Ellen felt quite sure she was going to give the roses to the happy child but her angelic guide whispered softly, 'Not yet; and turning again she saw that Mary had already placed the wreath of thorns among the little creatures curls.—Then the lady disappeared, and the angel drew a little aside and folded his wings over his face as if in prayer; but still Ellen felt, though she did not see it, that he continued to watch over the child, who appeared to be under his care, and who remained sitting alone on the step of the altar. But it was no longer the happy child it had appeared before. A dark shadow seemed to have fallen upon it; its garments were changed into rags, which were quite unable to preserve it from the cold; tears streamed from its eyes, and its round merry face had become pale, and sad, and pinched by hunger. Still Ellen saw that the little hands were clasped in prayer, and that the eyes were often raised towards heaven, and at such times a look of affectionate devotion gave momentary beauty to its wasted countenance, her angel also would frequently draw closer to her, and his presence evidently gave her ineffable delight. Many people now approach to pass before the altar; most of them took no notice of her; but one or two, with a kind of contemptuous good nature, threw her a crust of bread, which she always took with an expression of gratitude. Others, however, were very unkind, speaking harshly to her, and even striking her on the face; but all their ill treatment she received with meekness, and only prayed more earnestly for her cruel tormentors.

Ellen was about to express her indignation at their cruelty, but the angel placed his hand upon her mouth, and bade her look once more, and tell him what she saw. But she could scarcely answer him, her astonishment was so unbounded.

'Her angel is close beside her, and Mary is standing before her, and her rags are all gone, and she wears a robe covered with diamonds, and as dazzling as your own,' she said at last.

'The poverty of this world is the wealth of eternity said the angel. 'Look once more.'

'Mary has wiped away her tears, and her face is more happy and smiling than ever.'

'Happy are they who sow in tears, for they shall reap them in joy and gladness,' returned her guardian, 'now look again.'

'Mary has placed her hands on the crown of thorns and they have budded out into beautiful roses.'

'Even so,' said the angel; 'the thorns of this earth are the roses of Paradise. Now, for the last time,—look.'

'Crowds of angels are around her. Mary takes her in her arms; and Ours is coming now—I may not look upon Him,' said Ellen, sinking on her knees and covering her face with her hands.

'You are right,' answered the angel, 'mortal eyes may not look upon His beauty! Yet, like the child, whom Mary even now places on His breast, He was born to poverty and rags. He walked through the world in obscurity and want, and died a man of sorrows on a shameful cross. Had there been a shorter road to heaven, think you not He would have chosen it? and deem you not He must love those who are poor in spirit and in very deed, since He Himself drank of the chalice that he now holds to their lips? Ellen, as he once said to His followers, so do I now say unto you, 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.' Yea, even on the bosom of their Crucified Saviour.'

There was an awful pause, during which the songs of the angelic choirs seemed receding in the distance; then Ellen, who had not ventured to look up again, felt the angel touch her hand, and found herself once more in her little bed, while he was standing still, close beside her pillow, and his voice sounded more sweet and seraphic than ever in her ears, as he thus addressed her:

'The child whom you have seen this night was once a little beggar-girl, and an orphan from her tenderest years; but by her fervent prayers she obtained a mother in the Queen of heaven, more watchful and tender than mortal parent could have ever been. Through Mary's all-powerful intercession she obtained the grace to receive poverty with patience and contempt with joy; and this very night she has received her reward, for her good heavenly Mother, with crowds of angels, attended her bed of death and bore her happy soul to the bosom of her God, where her tears have been wiped away, and her sorrow has been changed into joy. My daughter, now you know the use of sorrow and of tears. Pray to Mary that you also may have patience amid suffering, and that your death may be like that of the beggar-child who went to heaven this night.'

The angel ceased to speak, and the light seemed to fade from his wings until Ellen was left in total darkness. Just then her mother's voice roused her from her slumbers, and Ellen sprang from her bed a wiser girl than she had ever been before.

'Why, Ellen,' said her mother the next evening in great astonishment, 'you have done more work to-day than you ever did in your life before, and you seem so happy that I should not know you for the same girl you were yesterday.'

'I am not the same girl, mother,' said Ellen gravely.

'Why, what has changed you so much, Ellen?'

'It was a dream I had last night, mother.'

'Dreams are foolish things, Ellen, generally speaking.'

'But mine was not a foolish dream, mother.' And Ellen then told her dream, to which her mother listened very attentively. And when she had finished her account, her mother said: 'Well, Ellen, I cannot say your dream is foolish, after all. And I hope you will think of it whenever you are inclined to grumble at other people being richer than yourself.'

And Ellen did think of it very often. She became the comfort and support of her mother, and though she never was richer, she always continued cheerful and contented; and whenever she heard any one speaking impatiently of their poverty or sufferings, she used to call to mind the visit of her angel, and to whisper softly to herself, 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.'

THE ANT TRAP.—As the season is at hand for those pests, the ants, housewives and others who are troubled with them may probably use the following trap to advantage: Procure a large sponge, wash it well and press it dry, which will leave the cells quite open; then sprinkle over it some fine white sugar, and place it near where the ants are most troublesome. They will soon collect upon the sponge, and take up their abode in the cells. It is then only necessary to dip the sponge in scalding water, which will wash them dead out by tens of thousands. Put on more sugar and set trap for a new haul. This process will soon rid the house of every ant, unless and progeny.

BEAUTY OF IRISH WOMEN.—Mr. Felix Belly, one of the writers of the *Paris Constitutionnel* has been visiting Ireland, and was charmed with the beauty of the women. He says:

'No European race, that of the Caucasus excepted, can compete with it in beauty. The Irish blood is of a purity and distinction especially among the females, which strikes all strangers with astonishment. The translucent whiteness of the skin, the absorbing attraction, which in other parts of Europe is the attribute of one's women in thousands is here the general type. The daughter of the poor man, as well as the fine lady, possesses an oval or milky tint, the arms of a statue, the foot and hand of a duchess, and the bearing of a queen.'