

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

The *Siecle* conveys intelligence from St. Petersburg, which shadows forth, according to this authority, some of the leading articles of the expected treaty:—

"1. Russia consents to the neutralisation of the Black Sea."

"2. Sebastopol is not again to become a war-depot, and the reconstruction of the fortresses is prohibited."

"3. Nicholas is to be reduced to a commercial port."

"4. Russia is to abandon her protectorate of the Principalities."

"5. Russia renounces certain territories in Bessarabia which leaves the navigation of the Danube perfectly free."

"6. A commission to be appointed to trace the new frontiers in this district."

"7. The fact of a Russian soldier passing the Pruth is to be looked upon as a *casus belli* by the contracting powers. The question of the Principalities will also, it appears, be committed to the commission appointed to settle the boundary line.—This commission will probably make its report in August next. It is for the Moldavians and Wallachians to come to a mutual understanding, to lay aside all their antipathies, all their pretensions, and to show themselves reunited, that the commissioners may be able to propose, in favor of this Russian people, so worthy of sympathy, an organisation in harmony with the degree of civilisation of this population, which is the advanced guard of the east.—Our correspondent does not pronounce the heroic name of Poland. We say it with conviction—the Congress will not have fulfilled its grand task, if nothing be done for Poland; and we will permit ourselves to hope, that when the commission returns from the east, at which moment the Congress will meet again, the great cause of Poland will obtain something more than a disdainful silence."

**ACCIDENT TO THE "SON OF FRANCE."**—PARIS, March 24.—The following story is current in certain quarters here:—The imperial heir has scarcely made its appearance on the stage of this life, so full of vicissitudes, when, notwithstanding the minute cares by which he is surrounded, he is already exposed to the same dangers that occasionally happen to his inferiors. The wet nurse has had the misfortune to let the imperial infant escape from her hands, probably while handling him too softly, and he fell to the ground. He was not picked up immediately by her, as she was so frightened that she fainted away for half an hour; but the Duchess of Eslingen, who happened to be on the spot, raised the prince in her arms from his irksome position. As this accident was happily not attended by any serious consequences, the awkward female attendant was quit, this time, for the fright she had experienced.—*Manchester Guardian*.

Seven priests, three of whom are Lazarists, and a number of Sisters of Charity, have arrived at Marseilles, on their way to Constantinople, where the typhus fever is raging. One of the priests has a wooden leg; he wears the cross of the Legion of Honor, and was formerly a missionary in India.

**FRENCH RELIGIOUS STATISTICS.**—It appears from official returns that the number of persons in France belonging to the Catholic religion is 35,931,032; Calvinists, 480,507; Lutherans, 267,825; Jews, 73,975; and other creeds, 30,000.

The *Times*' correspondent writes:—"We have repeatedly read in the French, German, and Italian papers that one of the members of Napoleon's family is about to be nominated Cardinal, and there is no reason for doubting the correctness of the news."

## RUSSIA.

**CATHOLICISM IN POLAND.**—The Russian Government has ordered Prince Gortschakoff to forward to St. Petersburg information as to the state of Catholicism in Poland, in order to enable it to deliberate on the propositions emanating from the Pope touching the Episcopate.

A letter from Berlin, of the 29th March, in the *Constitutionnel*, says:—"A rumor is current here that the Emperor of Russia has given an assurance that, in the event of peace being concluded, he will visit Paris before his coronation."

**RUSSIAN FEELING TOWARDS FRANCE.**—To one of the groups at a recent soirée, composed of members of the corps diplomatique, the Empress of Russia said—"The war has only been an accident, or rather a misunderstanding. It will not have changed in any way the good personal relations between the Russians and the French, who have some remarkable points of resemblance. They have certainly fought too long, but it has been always with courtesy and humanity. The Russian prisoners have been treated by the French, not as enemies, but as brothers; and I have been anxious that proper treatment should be shown to the prisoners whom the fortune of war has thrown into our hands. When peace shall have been signed—and everything leads me to believe that it is about to be so—France and Russia may hold out the hand to each other, may esteem and love each other as in the past; for, although the struggle has been warm, it has been carried on in all honor and without hatred." The Emperor Alexander also spoke in the most affectionate manner of Napoleon III., and did full justice to the acts of his Government and to his love of peace, which, he added, "is as sincere as my own."

## POLAND.

As to Poland, according to nearly all the reports one gets, the Czar means to set about "doing something" in that quarter. The Hamburg journals, in their news from Galicia, affirm that, immediately after the peace, the Emperor Alexander will go to

Warsaw, to be crowned King of Poland; and that directly afterwards the Grand Duke Constantine will be named viceroy, and take up his residence in the Polish capital. The Universities of Warsaw and Wilna are, it is said, to be re-established; bishoprics named to the Catholic bishoprics, and the national army re-organised. If this, or even part of it, be true, it will, in a very short time, help to detach Poland from the sum of hopes of the revolutionary party in Europe.

## SPAIN.

**PROSELYTISM IN SPAIN.**—A private letter from Madrid of the 16th March mentions the following facts:—"We are rather in a curious state here about the Bible—a subject in which the people of England take a deep interest. There have been lately some attempts at Protestant doctrine in Barcelona, which have aroused the Catholic spirit of the people, stronger at this moment than it has been since the War of Independence—a fact the explanation of which I am unable to give, and which I leave to more philosophical or metaphysical inquiries. The Government partake (whether out of conviction or fear) in this revival, and are determined to oppose vehemently all attempts of English Bible or proselytizing societies to introduce the wedge, by which through hammering hereafter 'orthodox Spain' is to be transferred into a 'heretic community.' I may observe that I doubt whether the circulation of the Bible in the Spanish language—of course, the Roman Catholic version—is prohibited in Spain. I have more than once met with copies in the shops and bookstalls of Madrid. I have at this moment before me an edition of the Bible, and from its form intended to be a cheap and popular one, in Spanish. It is a translation by the Right Rev. Philippe Scio de San Miguel, of the Escuelas Pias, and Bishop of Segovia. It was printed in Madrid in 1797, and reprinted in 1824; Charles IV.—no very liberal prince—was the reigning Sovereign in the first, and Ferdinand VII. in the second period, and in 1824 the Constitutional Government had been overthrown and absolutism restored. I may add that the edition of the Bible I speak of is without note or comment."—*Paris Correspondent of the Times*.

## ITALY.

**PROTESTANTISM IN ITALY.**—We read in the *Opinione* the following accounts from Parma of the 18th March, respecting the recent assassination:—

"The Auditor Gaetano Bordini has been stabbed with a stiletto in the street of the Genoeese. He had been warned some days ago to be on his guard. Magawly had received a similar warning. Bordini was struck like him and expired a few hours afterwards. These murders are perpetrated with extraordinary daring. Bordini was followed by a soldier, who had not even time to recognise the assassin. All the judges who sat on the trial of the revolvers of the 22nd July, 1854, are, it appears, doomed to perish by the poniard. Commander Lanati, president of the tribunal, was mortally stabbed. Gobbi, who performed the functions of Attorney-General, was desperately wounded; and yesterday was the turn of the Auditor. Bordini leaves a wife and seven young children. It is rumored that the Minister Lombardini has received notice that he would be the next victim immolated."

The *Genoa Corriere Mercantile* of the 21st of March extracts the following from *Unione*:—

"It is reported that Count Giovanni, President of the Criminal Commission, has been stabbed at Parma. After the perpetration of this new murder the Austrians caused the gates to be closed, and numbers of individuals were arrested and thrown into prison. Terror prevailed throughout the city."

**ROME.**—Several conversions have taken place since the beginning of the winter. One of these had created a great sensation. It was that of the Anglican clergyman of the University of Oxford. He had come to Rome as Protestant English chaplain, and had preached several times in the English Protestant chapel, outside the gate "Porto de Popolo." Divine grace, through the instrumentality of the Rev. Dr. Newman, has brought him happily into the bosom of the holy Roman Church, of which he gives every promise of being a zealous and devoted son.—The Rev. Dr. Newman made but a very short stay in Rome. The conversion here alluded to is said by a correspondent of the *Guardian* to be the Rev. George Oldham, lately curate of Dorking, a Master of Arts of the University of Cambridge, and not Dr. Oldham, of Oxford, as erroneously announced by the Protestant papers.

The Roman Chancery is at this moment negotiating an important affair, with the prospect of a favorable solution. It had asked to be allowed to appoint Bishops to the principal vacant sees in Poland. The new Emperor replied that His Holiness was at liberty to name Bishops to all the sees, the Russian Government reserving to itself the right of presentation and a few other privileges. I am informed that the Courts of St. Petersburg and Rome are on the point of coming to an understanding highly advantageous to the interests of Poland.

The *Univers* states that, according to letters from Rome of March 15th, an important step has been taken towards arranging the misunderstanding between the court of Naples and the Holy See.

## CRIMEA.

Sixteen men were burnt in some wooden huts on the slope above Tadeboa occupied by the Commissariat department. Nothing else of importance had transpired.

(From the Northern Times.)

Prussia, by its conduct in relation to the present war, has earned anew for itself the very expressive character given of it by the Great Napoleon in his recently published private correspondence, that "it could never be trusted as an Ally." Still, if we can trust rumor, our country is on the eve of being closely connected with it by a most im-

portant tie, and all matters relating to Prussia will henceforth naturally assume greater importance in our eyes.—Protestantism and politics combined are in Prussia, framing religion and her pastors very sorely—but, there as elsewhere, there are to be seen visible signs of progress. A well informed correspondent, long resident in Stettin, the capital of Pomerania, sends us the following account of the good cause in that town:—

"This country was the last in Europe to submit to the 'sweet yoke' of Christianity—but, to judge by the ruins of churches and religious establishments—and these ruins are everywhere the fruits of 'Protestant Reform'—the religion of Christ must here have had a glorious reign. In Stettin we still see remaining five of our old churches—one has been converted into a barracks. The Cathedral Church of this diocese was placed in Camin, and was destroyed by fire forty-five years ago. It was a vast and magnificent edifice, dedicated under the patronage of Our Lady."

The present state of what is termed religion is sufficiently depressing. The Protestant people, generally, are absolutely indifferent on this subject, and seem perfectly contented if they comply with certain vain forms, when they have time; and so satisfy what they deem their conscience. This lamentable state causes alarm to their ministers, who try to imitate our Catholic missionaries, and visit from house to house, but with only one result, viz., earning the mockery of both the people and the press. The people are not openly talking infidels—they are merely in a state of dead indifference. Withal they are as obstinately and bitterly opposed to Catholicism as if they held their own views zealously. The superstitious fear of Jesuits, lay and clerical, seems here as strong as it is portrayed in our own so-called religious novels. Seymour himself could scarcely describe a more original story than this one:—A few weeks ago a lieutenant of high rank called on the Cure of Stettin, expressing his wish to receive instructions for being admitted a Catholic. The conversation had lasted fully an hour on the ordinary topics when the officer pulled out a bank order for 750 francs, which he offered to the Priest, to ensure him against future persecutions from the Jesuits. The good Priest saw that his visitor was a maniac, who, from having long resisted the serious convictions of his conscience, had become very miserable, and had imagined the Jesuits to be the cause of his misery.

Protestantism is here as manifold as elsewhere, notwithstanding the efforts of the Government at union. We have, 1st, the "United Evangelicals," who profess the State creed; 2nd, the "French Calvinists," who are mostly descended from families who migrated after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes; 3rd, the "German Protestants," or "Lutherans"; 4th, "Two Different Sects," who pretend to follow the "Original teachings of Luther"; 5th, the "Anabaptists," who have lately subdivided into two bodies, at the instigation of a refractory mason; and 6th, the "Church," of the "Free-thinkers," whose rhapsodies are as fashionable as the teachings of the others. Their general state is best described in the words used by the son of a public functionary:—"At the last census, when they asked me what was my religion, I examined my letter of appointment and answered accordingly."

**THE TRADING CLASSES OF ENGLAND.**—There is something very fascinating to the imagination in the system of justice as administered in the East by Cadiz. How speedily detection follows upon guilt, and punishment on detection! Scarcely has the baker mixed up abnormal ingredients with his adulterated cakes when the Eastern magistrate, attended by four stout acolytes, with goodly staves in their hands, stops, obedient to his matchless instinct, before the offender's shop. The cakes and loaves are handed out, and in far less time than it has taken us to write it the unprincipled tradesman is lying prostrate on the ground. There he remains, bellowing with pain, while the stern ministers of justice are pounding away with their sticks upon the soles of his feet, as cheerfully as though they were employed in the process of beating carpets. The remedy is not always by way of bastinado. Occasionally the ears of a butcher who is found tripping are nailed to his counter; occasionally the erring retail dealer is mounted upon a jack-ass, with his face towards the tail, and paraded through the markets as an object for the missiles of the faithful. These forms of proceeding appear at first sight to the Western student as somewhat summary, not to say severe. They have, however, received the sanction of a majority of the human race. We include, of course, the empire of China in our estimate. The European nations, and especially the inhabitants of the British Isles, have, until quite recently fallen into the opposite extreme. There is not a single article representing the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, and used for the nutriment of man, for his apparel, for his necessities, his caprices, or his delight, which has not been publicly vendued among us in an adulterated, damaged, or noxious state. Our meat has been diseased, we are told, and has induced carbuncles; our whitefish has been green, and our green vegetables white; our sugar has been sand or lime; our wheaten bread potatoes and alum; our mustard has been flour; our beer has been drugged, and our drugs poisoned. The very air which we breathe and the water which we drink have partaken of the universal pollution. The rich, who are enabled by their position and their wealth to deal only with tradesmen of the highest class, have but little idea of the extent to which this adulteration has prevailed. Fine ladies and gentlemen do not amuse themselves by strolling about on Saturday nights in the retailer's markets, thronged as they then are by crowds of anxious purchasers, who are endeavoring to lay in the Sunday's dinner, and the week's provision at the smallest possible expense. We must not, however, for the moment enter upon the general question of the food which is supplied to the poorer classes. Enough is done by the more roguish tradesmen in the way of adulterating our food to call for the vigilance of all. The reports in the *Lancet* first drew attention to the subject, and since then the minds of the most careless readers have been held in continued attention by the disclosures, which have been made before the Parliamentary Committee. Let us confine ourselves for the moment to the one subject of bread. A few years back we heard of nothing but the "big loaf" and the "little loaf." It was, no doubt, desirable to procure as large a loaf as possible for our money; but surely the case of the "sound loaf" is against the "unsound loaf," merits as attentive a consideration. It appears to be as well established as any fact well can be, that the loaf which is ordinarily purchased by the London consumer is mixed up with ingredients, which should not of right enter into its composition. In some cases lime and ground bones have been detected in the composition which is by courtesy called bread. More usually the articles which are employed to depreciate the quality of the loaf are potatoes and alum. The potatoes give weight, the alum color. With respect to the mixture of potatoes with the flour little need be said. Potato flour is not injurious

to health; the only harshness is that we are called upon to pay the higher price for the inferior article. With respect to alum there appears to exist a diversity of opinions among the witnesses who have given evidence before the committee. We will leave it to our chymists and physicians to determine how far it is beneficial to health that the human frame should be well saturated with alum. Speaking as laymen upon the point, we must confess a strong objection to the use of alum as an ingredient in our daily food. It would seem that the evil has attained such a pitch as at length to call down the notice of the authorities. The process of adulteration does not only take place in the baker's sunken; from recent reports we are rather inclined to the belief that the flour is more usually vitiated at the mill. A short time ago a flourdealer residing at Wakefield was fined for having in his possession a quantity of flour adulterated with alum. The Mayor had caused printed notices to be posted all over the walls of the town, cautioning dealers against the adulteration of flour. The practice, however, was so usual, and the habit so inveterate, that the notice was disregarded, at least by a flourdealer named Ginn. The police were directed to search his premises, and there seized 84 sacks of flour. In 57 sacks alum was mixed with the flour, and in 17 sacks in most injurious proportion. For this offence the defendant was fined, and the 17 sacks were detained. Forty bags of flour besides, belonging to the same owner, were reserved for further analysis; the result of the inquiry was, that the flour was found to be so strongly adulterated that they were detained, and the contents cast out to the pigs. A few days afterwards a large quantity of flour was seized on the premises of Mr. George Morritt, of the Steam Mill, Pontefract, and being found to be adulterated with alum, was condemned and sold, after being rendered unfit for human food. At Rotherham, again, Mr. Joseph Crossly was charged with adulterating flour with gypsum, which is composed of lime and sulphuric acid. Samples were forwarded to Mr. Slater, an analytical chymist of Sheffield, and the presence of gypsum in considerable quantities was detected. This proceeding, also, as far as the bench of magistrates was concerned, terminated in a fine; but from their decision the defendant has appealed. These instances, which we take at random from the provincial journals of the last few weeks, will be sufficient to show that the attention of the magistrates has at length been directed to the suppression of this system of adulterating the staff of life.—*Times*.

A writer in the London *Times* draw a sad picture of the state of the Scotch Highlanders. We give some extracts:—

Since the great failure of the potato, in 1846, the poor crofters and cotters have endured ten years of extreme want, in which, with slight exceptions, they have become more and more destitute of means and of hope. Through the efforts of Mr. E. Ellice, jun., M.P., whose occasional residence in the West Highlands rendered him cognizant of the grievous destitution of the poor in those parts, inquiries have been instituted; and by a few extracts from a recent Parliamentary paper, printed on the motion of Mr. Dunlop, it will be seen that the distress of the West Highland poor has been understated, rather than exaggerated by their benevolent friends in your columns.

By the law of Scotland no person, however destitute of the necessities of life, is entitled to parochial relief while able-bodied. The destitute must be disabled by disease or exhaustion before the famine-stricken victims of a barbarous legislation are entitled to relief, when they have perhaps to travel 10, 20, 30, or 40 miles; often intercepted by mountains and by floods, to the residence of a Poor Law inspector, and claim parochial relief, till nourishment and shelter shall again have rendered them able-bodied, when, by the "feelsophy" of the Scottish Poor Law, however destitute of means or of work, their claim to relief ceases. If they have to appeal they have in some instances to travel 200 miles, so that the law in the Highlands is a nonentity. The Parliamentary paper referred to does not discuss such clamant neglect of the depressed but loyal and peaceful able-bodied poor; more destitute than ever the Irish were, who had a claim upon parochial support, but is occupied in proving the inadequacy of the relief granted to those enviable persons in the West Highlands who, having some infirmity or ailment, and therefore being not able-bodied, were entitled to parochial support. A case is mentioned where a man, named Angus McKinnon, a parishioner in Knoydart, on being compulsorily placed by the Sheriff on the poor-roll, was granted 6d. per week; the authorities, defeated the humanity of the legal functionary, by reducing the allowance formerly made to the man's disabled wife from 1s. to 6d. per week, thus splitting the difference, but leaving the results as before.

Again, "the whole support in winter allowed to 28 disabled paupers, chiefly women, whose ages, varying from 50 to 100, averaged more than 73 years, did not amount to 1s. each per week; that, according to the police reports they had existed scantly on potatoes already affected by disease, on seaweed, and shellfish; and that some of the allowances did not exceed one farthing per day." It is not, therefore, surprising to learn that one woman was found to have died through neglect, and one man to have been driven mad through want and cruel exposure. These are but the striking features of the system of neglect and passive extermination pursued in parts of the West Highlands; want and exposure sap the constitution, and a hospitable and loyal population is quickly removed by the hand of death, who, might, by intelligent and humane management, have become their own supporters and the promoters of a landlord's wealth, as well as the honor of the Monarch, which Holy writ assures us consists in "the multitude of people."

"If the Queen sends here by and by for soldiers, she will only find sheep to fight her battles, for they are putting away all the people," was the remark of a gray-haired veteran whom I met in a winter pedestrian itinerary through Glenelg in 1852, for the purpose of giving industrial employment to the poor, and while standing in sight of a number of roofless dwellings, once the homes of a contented, though poor population. Two years have sufficed to bring a fulfilment of the Highlander's prophecy; and you had to remark that the West Highlands had ceased to be, as it once was, a good field for enlisting. Though Sir Archibald Alison points to Edinburgh and Glasgow as containing the human material of war, transferred from the Highlands, no one acquainted with the Saltmarket and the Cowgate will admit that either the physique or the morale of such recruits can compare