

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Feb. 1.—On his arrival in Rome, M. Lavalatte displayed a very haughty attitude towards the Holy See. He lowered his tone in order that the Nuncio might set out for Paris, but Monsignore Chigi had not reached Civita Vecchia before the Ambassador recommenced his endeavors for the reconciliation of the two parties between whom an understanding seems impossible; viz., Piedmont, asking all, and the Holy See, repeating ever that it can yield none of its rights, which are also ours—those of all Catholics. Despite the threatening tone of the despatches, with which you are acquainted, people still persist in their assertions that the evacuation will not take place; that the Emperor has decided on waiting for the decease of Pius IX., at which time the remainder of the Pontifical States might probably be delivered up to Victor Emmanuel, and Rome be declared a municipal republic. I equally persist in my belief that the danger is nearer than is generally supposed.

But a short time back de Persigny tried to negotiate with Monsignore Dupanloup, to the end that his Grace should engage the Pope to make concessions and reforms; now the same minister abruptly suspends these endeavors, saying, "That the march of things is so rapid, and their scope so wide, that there can no longer be means or opportunity for a Bishop to play any part therein." I will, with your permission, cast a glance over events in general, in order to prove to you that my judgments, which you have sometimes thought too absolute, have been mathematically correct. Since the month of October, 1855, Austria has never doubted that she would be attacked. "That the 'Froissard General' had already traversed Venetia in disguise, set free the quadrilateral, and recognised Lombardy; that immediate preparations were made at that time in the cabinets of the Ministers both of War and Marine, and that all was ready for the commencement of a campaign in the month of October, three weeks before the words so abruptly addressed to Baron Hubner—these facts, and those which followed them, and other equally grave impending ones, would have astonished no one who had kept Napoleon's characteristic trait in view, namely, his persevering taciturnity with regard to all his plans. Only yesterday M. de Falloux said to me, 'Mark him well. His invariable practice is to let his real meaning appear from time to time, at long intervals. Then he teigns to renounce it, and to entertain other views, until a fresh occasion presents itself for manifesting it anew.' To go no farther than the Roman question, this 'idea' was displayed on three different occasions: in 1849, by his letter to Edgar Ney; by his famous pamphlet, 'Napoleon III. and Italy'; and, in 1859, by his letter to the Holy Father of the 31st Dec. Between each of these manifestoes we find acts which appear wholly contradictory of them, and which, in fact, were so. To a certain extent inferences might even be drawn implying a modification of his views, or perhaps a recantation thereof. But, if we look more closely, we shall perceive that Napoleon has never withdrawn his words. The intervals, whether short or long, between his spontaneous declarations, were influenced by the advisability of deceiving those with whom he treated, as he has shown at Villa Franca and at Zurich; as he will probably show again. But all his purposes survive; he never parts with them. They remain, like blocks hidden in deep waters, concealed by large waves, but still subsisting, so that at any given time he can elevate his structure upon them until it is high and firm enough to brave all currents. Since 1848, or for even a longer time, the former 'Chief of the insurgents in the Romagna' has cherished the following scheme:—Italy divided into two or three kingdoms, comprising that of Piedmont, the overthrow of which, sooner or later, he always contemplated; the House of Savoy replaced by that of Bonaparte; Murat at Naples; Pion-Plan on the throne of the Medicis, and himself Protector of Italy; Rome occupied by one of his lieutenants; the sovereignty of the Holy City titularly ascribed to the heir-presumptive; the Pope, of course, instantly removed from Rome, perhaps to Jerusalem; no Papal supervision over the French Episcopate; the Clergy subjected to a sort of Gallican Synod, like the Czar's Russian Clergy; until the surging torrent of impiety should sweep away the mere phantoms of a Church and of Catholicism. Then, only Caesarism would prevail over enslaved and corrupted Europe; in a word, a slavery similar to that of ancient Rome. To this end all is tending as certainly as to death. France is infinitely worse than in 1848. Caesarism is the father of socialism. Napoleon has endowed the spirit of Revolution with what it never before possessed—an army of 600,000 men, a budget of two millions, and an entire hemisphere for a battle-field. Unless Europe will foresee this, great evils must shortly threaten her, of which it is my profound conviction that the greatest part will fall on your noble country, which can never have trust or security in a Napoleon.—Cor. of the Weekly Register.

Official reports from the manufacturing districts of France say the distress of the working classes is to be met by public and private charity. At the meeting of the Literary Society—Societe des Gens de Lettres—held on Sunday for the purpose of electing its managing committee for the year, M. Victor Hugo's name was put up, and, though he had not the majority, not less than 50 votes were given for him. As M. Victor Hugo has not been in France for the last 10 years, and as it would be impossible for him to perform the duties of the office even were he chosen, these 50 votes are regarded by many persons as a sort of "political manifestations."

THE POPULATION OF FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* publishes a table containing the classification of the population of the French empire by sex and position, according to the census taken in 1861. The total population of the eighty-nine departments amounts 37,387,325, of whom 18,642,604 are males and 18,734,721 females. There are 10,210,356 bachelors, 7,503,024 married men, 928,724 widowers, 9,487,541 spinsters, 7,457,115 married women, and 1,787,065 widows. The Department of the Seine contains 556,564 bachelors, 411,163 married men, 36,644 widowers, 439,487 spinsters, 410,527 married women, and 9,9185 widows—making a population of 1,953,860.

ITALY. TURIN, Feb. 11.—The *Correspondance Italienne* of to-day publishes a circular of Baron Ricasoli addressed to the Prefect, in which he observes:— "The Government still, formally, the execution of the national wishes, and has formally stated by what means and ways it intends to proceed to Rome. The Ministry alone will decide upon these means, and the opportunity of employing them. The dignity and the interests of the nation alike will not permit of its allowing itself to be preceded or hurried away. It is especially important in the Roman question to obtain a great moral triumph, in which the consciences of sincere Catholics, of the civilized world, and of Italy are interested above all others. The Government has reason to be satisfied with the success it has obtained. The free Church and the free State together will inaugurate a new order of things, of which the Italians may become the originators. In carrying out the programme of effecting a reconciliation between Italy and the Papacy, the Government desires that its labours may not be impeded by inconsiderate acts of enthusiasm and clamorous manifestations. The Prefects should enlighten public opinion, and make use of their authority in order to prevent these popular manifestations taking place."

A royal decree of the "King of Italy" unites the Palatine Library with the great public library (Magliabecchi), and orders that the two shall in future be called the National Library. The Government journals praise the lofty idea of the Minister of Education, De Sanctis, and revile the "Lorraine," the Grand Duke Leopold, for being so greedy of his literary treasures that he kept them to himself, and very rarely, and with great difficulty, let a student benefit by them. After so many annexations one more robbery is no cause of wonder; but the shamelessness of the robbers at Turin, and the impudence of the boosters at Florence, exceeds all bounds. The Palatine Library was the private property of the Grand Duke. It was founded by Ferdinand III., and extraordinarily enriched by his son, so that before 1850, both in printed books and MSS, it was one of the most valuable private collections in Europe. Every book and every manuscript in it was purchased by the Duke, or by his son, with their own money, and paid for out of their own pockets. And he who now appropriates them is neither more nor less than a thief. As for the charge of stinginess it happens to be false, for the use of the Palatine library was allowed both to natives and foreign students, and with that liberality which was the characteristic of the Grand Ducal family. Even it was not unusual for the Grand Duke to allow private individuals to have the books of his private library at their own houses; and we know not of another Prince in Europe of whom as much could be said. But if he had kept them locked up and hermetically sealed, it would have been no ground for reproach; for they were his own, bought and paid for with his own money. But Victor Emmanuel steals them, and the Revolutionary press extols his magnanimity.—*Tablet*.

rest of the people should be too happy in "constitutional" Italy, a tax has been proposed in the Turin Parliament on play-goers. Under Bourbons, and Hapsburgs, and other royal orders and torturers of the people, who figure in the secret societies' literature, the theatres were handsomely helped by those "selfish despots," whereby the refining amusements of the opera and theatre were made accessible to the humblest classes of very poor populations. But in the mid-day blaze of the new enlightenment, whose sun rose from the plains of the Po, and in the honor of which the Piedmontese rowdy monarch, with more than oriental devotion, offered all his cavalry, and Louis Napoleon the greater part of his Zouaves, as human hecatombs, it is to be all work and no play with the newly illuminated people. Far from granting subsidies to the national theatres, tax-gatherers are to be associated in the same treasury-box with the check-takers. Not only must the prices be raised in consequence of the withdrawal of the Government grants, and the working population be thus excluded, but if the better sort wish to recreate themselves amidst the cares and toil of life with an evening's innocent amusement, after doing penance in advance for this "constitutional" excess, in the shape of a considerably increased admission fee, each must drop ten centimes more, as a satisfaction, into the exhausted and exacting treasury of all the lords of the treasury in Piedmont.

If these higher amusements, however, are marked for the destruction, others of a different, and not equally refining description, flourish in the liberty-dew of the annexed provinces. If in them the Piedmontese authorities can succeed in establishing a body of officials to collect a capitation tax on play-goers, they are unable to support the executive with a civil force adequate even to enable them to discharge the most ordinary duties of Government. Burglaries, highway robberies, and all the crimes common in society deprived of all recognised government, are rife in town and country. One's money and one's life are more secure among the red Indians of America than in an Italian town under Piedmontese constitutionalism.

On Sunday week last, a Dr. McCarthy—an Irishman evidently, by his name—a physician practising at Pisa, and who has been long resident in that city, was assassinated in his own house, because he refused to pay for services which he had positively declined. "After 40 hours of agonising torture," writes the correspondent from Pisa who narrates the event, "to which the largest opiates offered no relief, he sank yesterday, and expired at three o'clock—the victim of a system which has now become popularised in the north as much as the South of Italy. Of course no one dreams of the punishment of the assassin, nor is there any likelihood that measure of precaution will follow this foul and infamous murder, though meetings of English residents at Pisa and Leghorn are now convened to address M. Ricasoli on the subject."

Such being the notorious state of things in the "annexed" provinces, M. Ricasoli does not scruple to assert, in an official document, that "everywhere order and tranquillity prevail," and that "the power of the law makes it clear to criminals that neither impunity nor indulgence any longer exist for crime in Italy."

"Such is the state of anarchy in Sicily," writes the correspondent of the *Ami de la Religion*, "that the people have come to wish for an English protectorate. The English will, at all events, give us a government, and anything is better than none."—*Northern Press*.

ROME.—A letter from Rome of the 1st February, in the *Gazette du Midi*, says:—Last night a meeting of the ambassadors of Russia, Austria, Prussia, Spain, and another power, probably Bavaria, took place at the Vatican. The question of the possible departure of the French troops from Rome having been opened, and the great dangers to the security of the Pope and the tranquillity of the city of Rome, which might result therefrom, being carefully examined, the ambassadors declared that, in case of the withdrawal of the French, those troops would be immediately replaced by a division of the German army, charged to watch over the person of the Sovereign Pontiff, and the tranquillity of Rome. There has been a story in the newspapers about a Brief from the Pope, in which the conduct of the Poles is said to have been severely blamed. But there is not a word of truth in the story. Equally false is the report that a deputation of Poles waited on Pius IX., and were not well received. Prince Constantine Ostrozki had two audiences of the Holy Father, in which Pius IX. showed the greatest gentleness and affection, united with extreme caution. Prince Wytold Ostrozki was also received by the Pope, but during the interview no subject of conversation was touched on except the Bulgarians, with whose circumstances the Prince is well acquainted, having spent several years among them.—*Tablet*.

NAPLES.—The *Weekly Register* says:— It has long been evident that the Piedmontese rule can be established only by sheer force. It now becomes every day less and less probable that even force will succeed in establishing it. Yet it is impossible to contemplate with any confidence the prospects of that lovely but most unhappy country. For the real question is, whether the French Government does not design to make use of the state of anarchy to which it has been reduced, for the purpose of founding a kingdom, dependent on the French Empire, for Murat or Pion-Plan. Meanwhile, nothing can exceed the barbarities by which the intrusive Government of Victor Emmanuel is endeavoring to maintain itself. One important circumstance mentioned by our correspondent this week, reminds us of what we know to have been the fact under the Revolutionary Government at Rome in 1848-9. The Revolutionary authorities felt that their greatest danger was from the religious and moral part of the people, and they, therefore, systematically encouraged the sale of obscene and blasphemous books, as the surest way of undermining their enemies, and supporting their own rule. What should we have said in England to a Holywell-street Administration? Our correspondent mentions a case in which this nuisance was put down against the will of the Sardinian authorities, by a popular rising. We are heartily glad to find so much moral feeling in Sicily. It confirms what we already believed, that corrupt as the mass of the higher classes may be, there is a healthy feeling among the peasantry. We sincerely believe that, even in a political point of view, to say nothing of religion and morals, it is a long time since Sicily has shown any symptom so important.

In the Basilicata, Langhina, and the other Bourbonist leaders, whose columns number several thousand men, have gone to the borders of the Capitanata to join and combine their operations with the bands commanded by Zambro, Villani, Mennella, Codipietro and other chiefs; for the Basilicata, a great number of whose communes are completely independent of the Sardinian Government, and the towns of the Gargano in the power of the Royalists, has become, in a manner, the Venice of the Kingdom of Naples. On the 19th, a detachment of Lancers was surprised by a band. Many of them were killed, and their commanding officer wounded. On the 20th, Zambro, at the head of a mounted band of Royalists, came before Apricena. A battalion of the 49th came out of the town to attack him, while two squadrons of Lancers manoeuvred to take him in the rear. But the young Royalist chief, knowing the country perfectly, retired to the hills, where he fought for three hours with the troops, who, fearing at sunset to be surrounded by the bands of the Gurgano, who were coming up, retired, leaving on the ground a great number of killed. On the same day a terrible fight took place close to San Nicandro, at the Cape of Miletto, on the very shores of the Adriatic. The loss of the Piedmontese was enormous. On the 21st three battalions of the Line, who had come from San Serero, on the road to Foggia, were compelled to return to that town after a long and obstinate fight. A poor peasant, arrested in the town, was shot summarily by way of revenge. On the 22nd, other encounters took place on the Fortore, between San Paolo and Serracapriola, and near Foggia. The troops lost considerably in killed, wounded, and prisoners. A letter from Palermo, of the 27th, says:— "Our position is intolerable. An explosion is imminent in the whole of Sicily. Refractory bands overrun the country and villages. We sometimes see half-a-dozen or a dozen of the young refractory conspirators brought in, and they are immediately shot." The Director of the Post-office has been assassinated in broad daylight. Meanwhile, General Pettineo, Victor Emmanuel's Lieutenant, who exercises his functions until recalled, goes every evening on board a man-of-war, not daring to sleep on land. The troops, for fear of surprise, are quartered outside the city.

NAPLES, Feb. 1.—At Messina, as well as in the communes in the neighborhood of this second capital of Sicily, the reaction was nearly ready, and a terrible rising was to take place, when a certain Manzio Caponata, of the neighbourhood of Pistanara betrayed the secret of the conspiracy and, induced by his revelations, the arrest of more than one hundred and fifty persons, not only in Messina and in the neighboring communes, but also in Patti, San Filippo, Millazzo, and other more remote places. The head of the reaction was said to be a former magistrate. Last night Signor Pulejo di Scalletta and the Duchess of San Giorgio were all arrested. At Catania the Government is in the greatest apprehensions, for the whole of the surrounding country is in open revolt, and to prevent a rising in the town, the troops are kept in quarters and the police are tagged to death. All those against whom there is the least suspicion are thrust into prison. Caltanissetta has been the scene of the most serious disorders, the motive of which was the public sale of impious and obscene books which the people wanted to prevent, while the authorities endeavor to protect such a trade. The people rose on seeing such a conduct on the part of the Government, all the bells rang the alarm, and the women ran about the streets shouting "Vengeance against the impious, the Piedmontese who want to corrupt our children, the better to enslave them!" Letters and journals report that on all sides the greatest indignation was shown. The population would have proceeded to the most terrible excesses against the Prefect and the small military force in the town, had not the Prefect, in flight, tardily yielded to the just demands of the inhabitants, and granted all that was required with regard to the hawkers of books, preaching Atheism and immorality.

At Monteleone a great reactionary manifestation of a peaceful kind took place. Numerous bands have shown themselves on the heights about Burgeto; and those formed by the insurgents of Castellammare have joined the reactionists of Calatufini. A fight took place at Santa Margherita, and the troops had to retire without effecting any result. During the night of the 22nd a large Bourbon flag was displayed at Santo Stefano, bearing the inscription of "Long live Francis II. and the Constitution of 1812." Many persons have been arrested, and among them a man called Amato, who declared that he had enlisted 1,500 men.

A letter from Messina of the 27th says, "What shall I say of our province? Everybody is expecting Francis II. Even a well-known Garibaldian has been arrested for bearing a Bourbon flag with the words 'Constitution of 1812.' The arrests, far from intimidating, only increase the general irritation.—Even in the Lipari islands, the present Government is considered intolerable."

Piedmontese women have come purposely from Turin and been installed as teachers at the institutions of the Miracolo and San Marcelino. But these new teachers having wished to change the programme of studies, especially as regards the Catholic doctrine of the obedience due by the Faithful to the doctrine of the Church, nearly every family has withdrawn its daughters from the establishments, especially as Signor Settembrini, the General Inspector, insisted that the female servants should be replaced by men.

The officers of the former Royal army of the Two Sicilies who have been transported to the island of Ponza, are worse treated than ever, and it is in vain that these unfortunate men protest against so barbarous a treatment. The Government turns a deaf ear to their complaints and remonstrances. And yet Garibaldi himself recently said in a letter, speaking of the fate of the brave, honorable and unfortunate gentlemen, "It is an injustice, a shame, and a tyranny." At Aquila, in the Abruzzi, the people rose against the Piedmontese rule, and the Prefect, who is one of the most ferocious of Piedmontist bailiffs, took to a hasty flight. At Bari another Prefect, notorious for his harsh and arbitrary administration, fearing a landing of insurgents, has ordered every boat, however small, arriving there, to be most minutely search-

ed. The reactionary columns continue to range unopposed through the Puglia. At the moment of closing this letter [2.30 p.m.] the last news from Sicily is, that a rather numerous landing of Bourbonists has taken place on the coast of the province of Noto, not far from Syracuse, and south of it; and that fresh disorders have broken out at Girgenti and Caltanissetta. The following telegram is communicated to me: "Sicily is in such a state, that it may be considered as lost. A crowd of men, bearing Bourbon flags, and shouting, 'Long live Francis II!' has fearlessly gone through the streets of Messina, proceeding to the Cathedral, in the midst of the applause of the population."

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

Under the head Latest Intelligence, *La Patrie* publishes the following:—"A private letter from Vienna informs us that his Imperial Highness the Archduke Maximilian, who has been appointed by the Emperor to the command of the Austrian navy, held a levee on the 1st February, which was attended by all the Austrian naval officers actually at Vienna. The Prince informed them that the navy was to be considerably increased and that all his care should be devoted to make it as perfect as possible, a task which required time and perseverance. The same letter adds that the Emperor will pay another visit to Verona in February to inspect the additional fortifications he ordered to be made there recently." Respecting the presumed offer of the Crown of Mexico to the Archduke Maximilian in exchange for Venetia, the *Augsburg Gazette*, after stating that not one inch of territory in Italy will be ceded by Austria, says:—"On this point M. de Scherling shares the sentiments of Count Rechberg and M. de Plener would not hesitate for one moment to decline all the treasures of California if they were to be the price of the cession of any portion of Austrian territory. The offer of the throne of Mexico whatever *La Patrie* may choose to say, will never be looked upon as an equivalent for the loss of the Adriatic. On this point all are agreed, and Austria will resist with a firmness which nothing can bend, happen what may."

The notion of converting Mexico into a Monarchy, and of placing the Archduke Maximilian on the throne as a Constitutional King, is an idea which, as we are assured, was started as far back as last August; but Austria has not yet entered into any diplomatic communications on the subject, though we are told that the Archduke's secretary is already on his way out to Mexico. The Austrian newspapers in their comments on these reports are particularly energetic in their protests that nothing will induce the Government to allow the Mexican question to become in any way connected with the Venetian question, and they treat the notion of making the throne of Mexico the price of the cession of Venetia as an insult. The contradiction of the report that Austria had addressed a note to the Powers, calling on them to require Piedmont to disarm, has been followed by a report that diplomatic conversations between the ambassadors of France and Austria, and the French and Austrian Ministers have been held "on the equalities to which the aggressive proceedings of Piedmont might give rise."

It seems to be expected that if the Revolution really means to venture on the contest against Austria single-handed, the first attack will be upon Dalmatia. The Garibaldian Committees at Genoa and elsewhere, are said to be directing all their volunteers on Ancona, whence they are to cross the Adriatic, and summon the Dalmatians, Serbs, and South Slavonians, to rise in insurrection. The calculation is, that under favorable circumstances, the conflagration would extend to Hungary, and that Victor Emmanuel would then take the opportunity of attacking the Quadrilateral and Venice.—*Tablet*.

There seems to be a lull for the present in the political agitation of Hungary. The taxes are collected regularly, and the new magistrates find no difficulty in enforcing the law; but crimes of violence, murder, robbery and arson, are fearfully rife. The Hungarian Chancellor, Count Forgach, who has been unwell, is working hard and holding Conferences with a view to some definite settlement, and the Rutenians, through their Bishop Munkacs, have presented a petition to the Emperor, praying for protection for their nationality, language, and rites, and have received a favorable answer. Meanwhile the political parties are taking counsel among themselves about their next steps. And of these political parties, we are told, that there are five:—1. The old Conservatives, who take their stand on the Constitution as it was in 1847, and wish to make the Diploma of Oct. 1860, the basis of future arrangements. 2. The Conservative Liberals, who wish for a peaceful compromise, with an observance of Constitutional continuity. This means, we take it, that they do not consent to consider the ancient constitution of Hungary abrogated by the rebellion of 1848, and object to receiving a Constitution as a new creation; but they are willing to accept modifications of the ancient system. 3. The party of Deak, which will recognise and consent to nothing excepting through the Constitutional Hungarian Diet, and insists on the Revolution. Constitution of 1848 in its entirety. 4. The Radical party, which also insists upon the Constitution of 1848, wished to proceed by way of Revolution, and objected to Deak's more moderate plan of proceeding by an address to the Crown. 5. The Democratic or Red Republican party, which desires the separation and independence of Hungary, and relies on foreign war or invasion to effect the overthrow of the Empire.

RUSSIA.

Prussia is believed to have made an important but not unexpected declaration to the Government of Electoral Hesse, in reference to the contest there between the Crown and the representatives of the people.—Prussia has announced this, in the event of any popular outbreak taking place in Hesse, the Government must not expect either moral or material support from the Cabinet of Berlin; and moreover, that Prussia will not allow any other German Power to intervene in the domestic struggles of Hesse.

Once the Russian Government may have been before the people; it is at present most positively behind it, and has lost all influence and all prestige.—There is not one class in Russia which is not discontented—as far as more discontent can possibly go—with the existing system. The Russians have been taught to look to their Government for everything, and they find now that it can give them nothing, and that it is simply a check upon the development of the country. The peasant possesses neither the personal liberty promised to him, nor the free use of land which, though never promised to him, he always expected to obtain. The proprietor, after being assured by the Emperor that his right to the whole of his land was inviolable, finds himself obliged to concede, as a general rule, two-thirds of his estate to peasants who do not perform the conditions on which it has been granted to them, and concerning which neither peasant nor proprietors were ever seriously consulted beforehand. The functionaries are all insufficiently paid, and the best of them are highly dissatisfied with their position—on account, perhaps, of the growing conviction that it is meant to take bribes, while the fact still remains that officials must live, and that the Government does not give them nearly enough to live upon. The merchants are absurd enough to blame the Government for the present unfavorable rate of exchange, and for the utter stagnation into which Russian commerce has sunk. The educated non-nobles, together with many noble young Radicals and Communists, complain that the Government at the present moment is consulting the nobility alone on changes which equally interest the other classes. The personal enemies of emancipation are still full of bitterness against the Emperor for having diminished their incomes. Indeed, whatever other wants the Russians may have just now, it is quite certain that all classes complain very much of want of cash. Some few take a high ground in

their lamentations, and say that Russia has no longer any influence in the councils of Europe; but a great many proprietors go straight to the point, and tell you that they received no money last year from their estates, and that they are not at all sure that they will get any this year. The merchants say that no one pays them; that no one can pay them (if that is not easy for any merchants in Russia to avoid bankruptcy). Finally, you will find more people in Russia than in any other country; except, perhaps, Poland, who say openly that things have now come to their worst, that there is not much hope of their mending; but that any change on which they may enter must be a desirable one.—*Times Cor.*

Comparisons between the positions of France in 1788 and Russia in 1862 are so habitually made in Russian society, and are even touched upon in Russian journals, that not to allude to them would be to omit in my correspondence one of the most remarkable conversational and journalistic facts that I have noticed in this country during the last four or five months. People seem haunted with the notion. The idea that Russia is in a somewhat critical position is familiar enough now to every one in Europe, but it is only in Russia itself (and in Poland, watching like a wolf for its opportunity) that no one speaks of the enormous progress Russia is making, and that all persons who think and feel have a presentiment of coming catastrophe. I do not see, for my part, any very complete resemblance between the positions of Alexander II.'s Russia and of Louis XVI.'s France; for, to begin with, Russia is aware of its danger, France was not; and the best of the Russian public writers study earnestly the means of averting the active anarchy to which the existing passive anarchy, noticeable in every sphere of life may, in the absence of prompt remedies, lead. The whole country is ill, and the Government will not consult the patient, though, if the patient become delirious, the doctor may himself receive very unmedicated treatment.

COCHIN-CHINA.

The *Monde* has a letter from Cochin-China of the 13th December, that would lead one to fear another Catholic Bishop is on the road to martyrdom. The writer says:—

"Mgr. Cuenot, Bishop of Metellopolis, Apostolic Vicar of Eastern Cochin-China, has fallen into the hands of the Mandarins. His Grace had taken refuge in the house of a Pagan, who lodged him in a narrow hiding-place, cleverly contrived in the thickness of a double wall. Whether from a denunciation or otherwise, on the 25th October, the Mandarin sub-prefect came with a number of soldiers and searched the house. He arrested there two pupils, one of whom was a deacon; likewise a notable Christian, whom they had actively sought for. In addition, he found some books and other objects belonging to his Grace. They were then certain that he was in the house, but they could not find him although they searched everywhere, even to sounding all the ground, court, and gardens. At night they occupied militarily the house and neighborhood. On the following day the second great Mandarin of the province came himself to direct the search, but without better success. At length his Grace, being no longer able to support the thirst that devoured him, left his place of concealment, and gave himself up to his persecutors. These barbarians, without respect for the hairs blanched by a thirty-four years' residence in Annam, of which twenty-seven were passed in the rude labors of the Episcopacy, bound the aged Bishop, and constructed a low, narrow cage, in which they transported him to the chief town in the province."

INCONGRUOUS ALLIANCE.—The United States journals are in ecstasies at the "friendliness of Russia." The *New York World*, the most confidential organ of the Lincoln Cabinet, discovers points of close affinity between the Constitution of the United States and that of Russia. "Extremes meet" is an old and approved maxim, and between the wildest democracy and the most absolute despotism there are, we admit, strong points of resemblance. Tyranny, by whomsoever exercised, whether by an individual or a mob, produces the same results; it cramps the energies and prostrates the advancement alike of the people generally and of individuals. The admission of the congeniality of United States institutions to those of Russia, however close it may be, would scarcely have been made the subject of congratulation in the times of Washington, or even in those of his successors, the Madisons, the Jeffersons, the Monroes, the Clays, the Calhouns, or the Websters. It is left to the Lincoln Cabinet, the Seward and the Chase, and their supporters, to proclaim the connection. Their organ, the *World*, thus identifies the principles that govern the one country with those which sway the other.—*Montreal Transcript*.—"There are no two nations on the globe that have so great an interest in cultivating each other's friendship, and aiding each other's prosperity, as Russia and the United States. They are both growing and ambitious nations. Both have a territorial expansion which nourishes unbounded hopes of future greatness; both are inhabited by vigorous races who are yet in the youth of their development. Their governments differ; but each is the purest example of the kind on a large scale—the one of monarchy, the other of democracy. These two great nations are the opposite poles of the political magnet. Both are objects of intense jealousy to the powers of Western Europe."

The Richmond *Dispatch* of the 19th ult., contains the following editorial comments respecting the fall of Fort Donelson:—"If these bloody barbarians, whose hands are now soaked to the elbows in the life blood of men defending their own homes and firesides, dream that they are now one inch nearer the subjugation of the South than when they started on their infernal mission, they prove themselves to be fools and madmen, as well as savages and murderers. They have taught us a lesson, we admit; they have admonished us to be more wary and circumspect, to husband with greater care our limited resources, and not to underrate our enemy. But they have placed between them and us a gulf that can never be crossed by their arts or arms, and a universal determination to die, if die we must, for our country, but never permit her to be subjugated by the most malignant, the most murderous, the meanest of mankind, whose name is at this very moment such a by-word of scorn and reproach throughout Europe, for their combined cruelty and cowardice, that their own ambassadors cannot stand the scorn of the world's contempt, and are all anxious to fly back to the United States. Their success at Fort Donelson, gained only by vast superiority of numbers, will only have the effect of converting the whole population of the South—men, women and children—into an immense army, who will resist them at every step, and everywhere 'welcome them with bloody hands to hospitable graves.' The glorious valor of our troops at Fort Donelson is not dimmed in the slightest degree by their inability to hold their ground against overwhelming odds; but on the contrary, shines through the black clouds of disaster with a radiance which will kindle the whole South into a blaze, and surround their own names with a halo of imperishable renown.

A man who had been imprisoned for poaching in Galloway, recently applied to the minister of the parish in which he resides for baptism for his child. The reverend gentleman peremptorily refused to administer the ordinance, for the reason that the landlord proprietors of Galloway had suffered great loss from time to time through the applicant's destroying their game.

THE WAY TO PASS.—A young candidate for the legal profession was asked what he should do first when employed to bring an action. "Ask for money on account," was the prompt reply. He passed.