

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The following official note is communicated to the *Moniteur*:—"Some persons have imagined that the chapel and vaults of Dreux were comprised in the decrees of January 22nd. It has never entered into the intentions of the government to deprive the Orleans family of this pious possession.

Much is said in political gossip of the intentions of the government to make a new arrangement of the imposts, with the view of throwing the weight of taxation on the upper classes.

MACHINATIONS OF THE SOCIALISTS.—The proceedings now going on in the department of the Hérault produce alarming disclosures as to the state of society in some of the central and southern departments, and the extent of the organisation of secret societies. It appears that it was in the Hérault that the Socialist propaganda had penetrated deepest; and it is stated, in an apparently well-informed provincial paper, that within a comparatively limited space there were not less than 65,000 persons affiliated in the secret societies—in fact, the fighting men.

Orders have been issued that the military commissions appointed to try the insurgents of December are to cease their operations throughout France. They are to be replaced in all the departments by mixed commissions, to be composed of the Prefect, Military Commandant, and Procureur-General, which will decide the fate of the prisoners without delay.

The following letter from the Princes of Orleans has been privately circulated in Paris:—

"TO THE TESTAMENTARY EXECUTORS OF KING LOUIS PHILIPPE.

"Claremont, Jan. 29, 1852.

"GENTLEMEN—We have received the protest which you have drawn up against the decree of confiscation issued against us, and we thank you very sincerely for your efforts to resist injustice and violence.

"We have found it quite natural that you should have directed your attention specially to the question of law, without noticing the insults heaped in the preambles of those decrees on the memory of the King our father.

"For a moment we thought of abandoning the reserve which exile imposes upon us, for the purpose of repelling in our own person the attacks so shamefully cast upon the best of fathers, and we do not fear to add, on the best of kings.

"But, on considering the matter more maturely, it appeared to us that to such imputations a disdainful silence was the best answer.

"We will therefore not lower ourselves to point out how particularly odious the calumnies are, when brought forward by a man, who, on two different occasions received proofs of the magnanimity of King Louis Philippe, and whose family never received anything from him but benefits.

"We leave it to public opinion to do justice to the words, as well as to the act which accompanies them; and, if we are to believe the testimonies of sympathy which we receive from every side, we are sufficiently revenged.

"To the honor of a country to which the King our father has given eighteen years of peace, of prosperity, and of dignity—of a country which we his sons have loyally served—to the honor of that France which is always the mother country which we love—we are happy to observe that these disgraceful decrees, and their still more disgraceful preambles, have not dared to appear excepting under the régime of the state of siege, and after the suppression of all the guarantees which protected the liberties of the nation.

"In finishing, we beg of you, gentlemen, to express our warm feeling of gratitude to the eminent men of all parties who have offered to us the assistance of their talent and their courage.

"We accept that assistance with great pleasure, persuaded that, in to-day defending our cause, they defend the rights of the whole of French society.

"Receive, gentlemen, the assurance of our sentiments of affection.

"LOUIS D'ORLEANS, Duke of Nemours.

"F. D'ORLEANS, Prince of Joinville."

The ex-Queen Amelie has written a letter to M. Dupin, counselling calmness to the adherents of the Orleans family in France.

Each department is to return one deputy for every 35,000 electors, and one more in case of the number exceeding 250,000.

The suffrage is direct and universal, and the scrutiny secret.

All Frenchmen of 21 years of age, in possession of civil and political rights, are electors, and all electors of 25 years old are eligible.

A special law will regulate the mode of voting of the army for the election of the President.

The number of deputies is to be 261.

The electoral college will meet on a Sunday or a festival day, if possible.

No armed force can, without the authority of the electoral college, be present at the sittings, or near the place where the assembly meets.

The electoral colleges are convened for the 29th February.

Forty-two individuals, sentenced to be transported to Cayenne, and detained on board the Duquesclin, at Brest, are set at liberty.

SPAIN.

SPAIN.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times*, writing on Saturday, says:—"It was stated here some ten or twelve days since, and also in Madrid, that a demand had been made by the French government on Spain for permission to establish a dépôt at Mahon, and also a naval station; and that if such permission was refused the very cogent measures

would be at once taken to compel immediate payment of the debt of 115,000,000f. due from Spain to France on account of the expenses of the war in 1823, when the constitutional government in the former country was put down by the Duke d'Angoulême, and Ferdinand and absolutism restored. I have thought it worth while to make particular inquiries on the subject in quarters likely to be well informed, and especially on matters occupying the attention of the Spanish cabinet. It is true that the French government have made a demand for the settlement of the claim in question; but it is not true, or at least not believed, that propositions relative to Mahon have accompanied that demand; it is certain that, even were such conditions proposed, the Spanish government would never consent; and that if they were dangerously pressed on the point, a communication would not fail to be made to England for interference or mediation. It is further stated that, with reference to the demand for the 115,000,000f., too much importance ought not to be attached to it. The same demand was made last year by Baron Bourgoing, and the French government have done so frequently, perhaps every year—with, however, very little expectation of payment, but merely as an occasion of showing that they have a means of pressure at their disposal, and a screw always ready to clap on on an emergency. The present occasion seems to be a general and vague feeling about the low state of things in France, and a desire that Spain should follow in the wake of what is termed the 'counter-revolutionary system of the continent,' and to make her feel that, on account of the claim in question, she is in some degree dependent on her neighbor; but otherwise without any immediate declared object."

Don Martin Merino Gomez, was sentenced to death in the Imperial Court, and the case was immediately sent to the First Hall of audience.

The criminal who made the attempt on the life of the Queen, was executed on the afternoon of the 7th of February.

ITALY.

Accounts from Nice of the 25th state that Italian laborers expelled from France daily arrived in that city. On the 23rd upwards of forty crossed the frontier, and eighteen more on the 24th.

The Pope has named a commission to inquire into the present financial state of the country, and to propose the reforms that may be practicable, with a view to introduce the greatest possible economy in public expenditure.

There is a rumor in Naples that Prince Louis Napoleon had communicated with the Neapolitan cabinet, claiming indemnification for the confiscated personal property which belonged to Murat; the sum demanded, it is said, amounts to 36 millions of francs.

PIEDMONT.—INTERFERENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE CHURCH.—About a year ago, the proceedings of the Campagna di San Paolo, at Turin, a corporate body which has hitherto had the unlimited control of all pious legacies and funds belonging to the Church and to the charitable establishments of Piedmont, excited some murmurs, on account of the secrecy which involved all their operations. This led, on the part of the government, to a proposal to the company, advising them to annex to their body several other members to be named by the municipality, in order to silence the adverse rumors in circulation. The company having refused to submit to this arrangement, the Minister of the Interior has addressed a report to the King, followed by a decree (published in the *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 21st) enacting that the administration hitherto under the control of the Campagna di San Paolo shall pass entirely into the hands of a commission of twenty-five persons named by the municipality. By another decree the Marquis of Montezemolo, senator of the kingdom, is named president of the new administrators. The latter have elected their vice-president in the person of Count Siccaldi, the well-known author of the law abolishing all Ecclesiastical privileges, which has led to the present coldness between Sardinia and Rome.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, JAN. 15.—The question of the Holy Places is on the eve of solution, the arrangements having been concluded between the French Ambassador and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and only awaiting the signature of the Sultan.

The Ottoman government has given its adhesion to the act of the 2nd of December in France.

GERMANY.

In the sitting of the Germanic Diet on Jan. 24th Lord Granville's note, in answer to the application of the Diet on the subject of the refugees, was presented. It was thus summarised by a foreign contemporary:—

"The British government has received from different sides complaints of the conduct of the political refugees at present in England, and has been requested to put a stop to their proceedings. According to the English law the right of hospitality is inviolable, as long as they who profit by it remain within the bounds of legality. The government of the Queen, although not having any intention to propose to parliament changes in the laws which concern refugees, is, however, obliged to admit that the refugees have occasionally abused the hospitality vouchsafed to them. The government will endeavor to oppose a barrier to their irregularities; and, on its side, it expects that her Majesty's subjects, who are not suspected of any malpractices, shall not be any longer disquieted in the territory of the Confederation."

BELGIUM.

The *Bulletin Français*, a journal published at Brussels, has been seized by the government.

It is stated that this has ensued on account of a formal complaint addressed by the French government to this government, wherein the violent attacks of

the *Bulletin Français* against the President of the French Republic are complained of.

SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss journals mention that the Government of the Republic is in a state of great alarm, on account of a new notice which has been sent to it by the French Government. The latter not only insists on the expulsion of all the French refugees who are suspected of plotting against the Government of their country, to which demand the Swiss Government at once, and without the slightest hesitation, gave its consent; but it insists on the Swiss Government closing all unions, and on its employing energetic measures against any popular manifestation which has been got up in that country, for the purpose of forcing the Government to have new elections; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs has intimated to the Ambassador at Paris, that, unless these instructions be followed, the President cannot avoid coming to an arrangement with Prussia and Austria, for the adoption of coercive measures for the purpose of putting down the democratic spirit in Switzerland.

HUNGARY.

The Government is pushing things so far as to erect a monument in commemoration of the Austro-Russian victories.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Hellespont mail steamer, from the Cape of Good Hope, anticipating by six days her expected day of arrival, reached Plymouth on Friday, having left the Cape on the 18th day of December, a passage of unexampled rapidity. The Hellespont brings intelligence from the seat of war to the 15th, and from the Kei district to the 19th ult. The principal movements of the month was an expedition across the Kei, into the territories of Krel, the chief of Kafirland, in order to regain the cattle which had been captured in the colony.—Four thousand men formed this expedition, the main division under Major-General Somerset, the other divisions under Colonel Mackinnon and Captain Tylden. These forces scoured the country about the head-quarters of the Kei, and the continued operations proved decidedly successful, they having retaken above 2,000 head of cattle. This, however, was not achieved without being forced into several skirmishes, in which some Kaffirs were killed, and the enemy defeated.—While these operations were going on, Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre marched at the head of 1,000 men upon Butterworth, the station near the chief residence of Krel. In crossing the Kei he encountered and defeated a large body of Kaffirs under Bookoo, an inferior chief. Forty-three Kaffirs were killed in this engagement, including two nephews of Bookoo. On our side four men were killed or wounded. After arriving at Butterworth, Colonel Eyre made patrols into the neighboring country, where he captured a considerable number of cattle, and again defeated a body of Kaffirs, who fled at the first volley from our cavalry, and suffered a loss of at least 20 of their number. While these successful operations were going on beyond the Kei, the enemy were actively at work within the colony, where they robbed whole districts of cattle and sheep with scarcely any opposition. From one farm alone, they drove off 1,900 sheep, and 250 head of cattle; but 450 of the former were fortunately recovered. In consequence of the absence of the troops, the enemy took the opportunity of making an attack upon the town of Alice and the Fingoe settlement at Fort Peddie. The Kaffirs shot six Fingoes, and carried off about 30 head of cattle, but were eventually repulsed. The Hottentots were also repulsed on the following day, in an attempt to carry off cattle at Fort Hare. His Excellency Sir Harry Smith was still at King William's Town, out of which he had not moved for ten months. The above intelligence, as will have been seen, is strictly speaking *indifferent*; it communicates indeed no disaster, but it is equally silent as to any encouraging success, and in the actual condition of the colony we must reverse the proverb, and say that "no news is ill news," for the empire cannot continue to support the expense of a war in which nothing is gained, even though nothing has been lost.

MEASURES OF DEFENCE AGAINST INVASION.

(From the *Dublin Tablet*.)

We leave the military speculators to determine, as shall best please them, whether London is to be surrounded by entrenched camps; or by an *engine de continence*; or whether, as the *Army Despatch* suggests, we are to muster one army at Chatham and another at Portsmouth, with entrenched camps at Tunbridge and Reigate. We come at once to the question—What are they going to do with Ireland?

In putting this question we are not thinking of the wretched anti-Maynooth gatherings. The gangs of fanatics who crowd those assemblages have now lost their sting. In the universal peace jubilee of last year they might have done something—now they are powerless. Everybody feels that anti-Maynooth meetings and rifle clubs do not harmonise well together.—We treat them, therefore, with the contempt which their vile originators deserve, and pass them by as less than nothing. But we ask again—what will England do with Ireland if a French force of thirty thousand men should land in Connaught or in Munster? Baron Maurice has applied himself to the three points of Bristol, Plymouth, and Rye—the *Army Despatch* speaks of Pevensy and Portsmouth—but none of these gentlemen turn their attention to Bantry or Killala.

What are they going to do with us? Are we to be abandoned to the French? Will they make us over to Louis Napoleon, and leave him to settle the Tenant Question and the Established Church? We ask these questions with all seriousness, and for a very obvious reason. We wish the empire to be strong and safe from invasion. We have no particular fancy for war at anybody's fireside, and still less at our own; and for these ends we desire to have not merely a powerful army but a willing people.

In England, if a French army were to land every

Englishman from the prince to the pauper in the work-house would turn out to maintain the integrity of the soil. In England if there is not an army, at all events there is as good raw material for an army as is to be found any where in the world. All, without distinction of class or creed, would unite as one man to repel the invader, and drive him back into the sea. But in Ireland—how is it? The question which, instinctively, every human being, of whatever party, about Ireland is—what proportion of the peasantry of this country would join a French invader? Would enough of them join him as recruits to swell his thirty thousand into sixty thousand or into ninety thousand? How soon would they join him? What appearance of strength must a French invading army possess to give the Irish peasant courage to join its eagles, and accept its arms and uniform?

These, we say, are the questions that would pass through every man's mind; and the belief of the anti-Maynooth crew, at all events, is and must be that on a certain amount of encouragement, a French invading army might recruit its ranks indefinitely with the best of all possible fighting men in at least three Irish provinces out of four.

This, we are bound to say, is not our opinion, but we will explain very clearly what our opinion is. The peasantry of this country curse and hate the English Government as one studiously hostile to their interests, regardless of their feelings, hating their religion, careless about their lives, and plotting their destruction.—To escape from under—what seems to them—this infernal rule, they are flying in thousands, and leaving the country desolate.

If a French army landed near Pevensy, the war that would follow would be a war of the people against the invader, the English army being only a part of the people. Besides the army, there would be militia, volunteers, rifle clubs, claw-bacons behind hedges, and every sort of that irregular hostility which makes up a vindictive national war.

If a French army landed in Ireland, the war that would follow would be strictly a war of one army against another—the bulk of the people standing neutral. The peasantry, so far as we know, have no special inclination to join the French, and, at all events, would not be such fools as to join them unless and until the English army were beaten. It is our judgment, as a matter of fact, that they would very much prefer going quietly to America to earn their bread rather than take arms against the French and be shot for the honor of being plundered, starved, and demoralised by the English Government. This is our deliberate belief; and it is also our belief that in one year this state of things could be altered, and that, by a simple process of justice, Ireland might be made—what we wish it to be—the firmest bulwark of English power, instead of its weakness and disgrace.

What, then, we repeat, are they going to do with us? An increased military organisation for England—but for Ireland what will they do? Will they abandon, once and for ever, their designs upon our religion? Will they give protection to our industry? Will they establish for the first time in this island some of the elementary rights of property? Will they make it the interest of Irishmen to fight for them, and will they fortify their empire in the hearts of those relics of a nation whom they have not yet succeeded in altogether exterminating? These would be, in Ireland, the best measures of defence against a French invasion.

THE POWER OF THE MILITIA.

(From the *London Spectator*.)

Without meaning to revive a discussion of the once formidable question that cost Charles the First his head, it may not be amiss to say a word or two on the power of the militia, in pursuance of some remarks we ventured to offer last week on the national defences. It is plain from the very various tenor of the martial propositions which daily crowd the journals, that no small degree of confusion exists in the public mind even as to the meaning of the phrase, and there would seem to be some danger that an excuse for a new *sham* may be found in an official use of the word "militia" in its non-natural sense. The hired standing army, which was maintained under that name within the memory of the present generation, answered in no respect to the definition or purpose of a national militia, and is certainly not the force contemplated by the vast majority of the authors of those propositions to which we allude. "A castle of bones" would not be built up by the revival of an institution whose prominent feature was a provision for the idle cadets of county families, and in which service was rendered disreputable by an indiscriminate dispensation from personal service. Yet we should not be surprised to learn, that at this very moment Lord John Russell was preparing to respond to the general demand for a national armament, by drafting a bill for "calling out the militia," with all its incidents of patronage, ballot, and mercenary substitution. Such a measure would be but an augmentation of the regular army with an exaggerated regularity of inefficiency and corruption; and would directly tend to narcotize rather than to awaken the national spirit that still lives among the descendants of those upon whom the "assize of arms" and the "statute of Winchester" were once obligatory laws. If, on the other hand, it be really desired—as we believe it to be by the public mind—to evoke the power of the militia of Britain for the national defence, the fate of Major Cartwright's enterprise must be held in recollection; and the true meaning of the institution must be sought for in the principles of those ancient enactments and of the Anglo-Saxon laws and customs that preceded and sanctioned them. The militia of the olden time was the entire able-bodied population of the kingdom; every man of which was bound not only to aid personally in its defence in the contingency of a foreign invasion, but was also obliged to hold himself provided with arms and equipments suited to his condition, and to parade these for inspection before local officers twice in each year. Let not the drab-colored men of the Peace Congress be alarmed! we do not inuenduate the propriety of reenacting the compulsory militia-laws of the Second Henry and the First Edward. It is not our wish that Mr. Bright or even Mr. Cobden (being both, as we presume, between the ages of fifteen and sixty) should be obliged by statute to keep in their wardrobes a hauberk, an iron breast-plate, a sword and a knife; or that they should be forced to parade these munitions on horseback, before the constables of their hundreds on the morrow of St. Michael and on the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin in every year. We own to no such hard impositions; and, with the correspondence of our own columns and of those of every British journal before our eyes, we say advisedly, we believe no compulsion