FRANCE.

REVOLT OF THE WORKMEN.

On the 25th ult. the workmen of the ateliers nationaux received an intimation that very important changes were to be made; that persons who were receiving money from the State, when they had other means of subsistence, would be struck off the list; and that real and productive labour would be substituted for the play and idleness which have hitherto been practiced. At the same time, some changes were made in the sub-directors and foremen. The turbulent portion of the workmen began to display very unequivocal signs of resistance.

On the removal of M. Emile Thomas, the young man who had been placed at the head of the ateliers nationaux by Ledru Rollin, the workmen declared their intention to go down in a body to the National Assembly to demand that their rights should be respected. But the National Guards were called out in great numbers, and this display changed the determination to attack the Chambers.

On the 28th, the Government paper, the *Moniteur*, announced in plain terms that the national workshops would be dissolved, and that although everything would be done for the relief of the working classes that was possible, any attempt at resistance would be repressed with the greatest severity.

REACTIONARY PLOTS.

The legitimists, or the old Bourbon party, are busily at work in the present disordered state of things, to restore the old days of royalty. It is said that a secret understanding between the legitimists and the Orleans party has been brought about.

When the vote was taken in the Assembly upon the question of the banishment of the Orleans family, 130 members, mostly belonging to the party of the *gauche* in the late Chamber of Deputies, abstained from voting; but among those who composed the majority which carried the bill exiling the late royal family, were several who had been Ministers of Louis Philippe. Among the members who abstained from voting, was M. Odillon Barrot; and among the first who voted for the banishment was M. Duvergier de Hauranne.

FRENCH FINANCES.

The financial condition of France appears to occupy the French and English papers of the week to a very great extent. The receipts on imports which were 12,725,150f. in April 1846, and 10,750,672f. in April 1847, fell to 3,764,590f. in April 1848. In the same month the amount paid on cotton wool imported fell from 1,197,193f. in 1846 to 578,533f. in 1847, and 202,405f. in 1848. Cast iron from 433,597f. in 1847 to 92,125f. in 1848. The fall off in the other branches of the revenue derived from direct taxation, in the month of April 1848, represented as amounting to twenty-three millions of francs.

It is ascertained that the actual cost of the national workshops has nearly reached the sum of fifty thousand dollars *daily*, in Paris alone; and the expense of the National Assembly *per day* is four thousand five hundred dollars.

AFFAIRS AT ROME.

The subjoined letter from Rome, published in the London *Tablet*, the organ of the English Catholics, though of no late date, (April 28,) is interesting and valuable as indicating the tendencies of the times at the Pontifical City.

"If you had, dearest friend, to come now to Rome, you would be moved to tears by the mere aspect of that city, but lately so Catholic, and at present so changed, in the short period of eighteen months, when I saw it last, that I hardly could recognize it again. The clergy are abused, the poor Jesuits driven away; instead of sermons you hear a kind of political speeches uttered from the pulpit. Honest men sink their heads, and expect in a sort of stupor nothing but mischief to faith and religion. The head of the State is surrounded by new advisers, some of whom are even in many respects hostile to Catholicism, exhibiting in the management of public affairs unequivocal signs of inability and discouragement, which affords to the progressive party the most sanguine trust of being soon able to break every curb and go beyond all bounds. Such are the prospects I have had before me since I came here. Yesterday there was a rumor of an intended slaughter of all the Jews by the mob. To-day it is a Jesuit who, on being recognised in the Corso, has been most wantonly outraged by members of the National Guard. Two days ago a Dominican Friar received a blow in the face with a stick, and the suppression of that Order is already talked about. Is all this not sad enough for Rome, which I beheld so short a time ago, bearing the majestic stamp of that greatness and calmness which seemed to raise it far above all these paltry concerns of modern political sophistry? Rome, which appeared to be moved only by the imposing recollections of the past, the sublime instructions of Catholicism and the splendors of art; that very Rome is now turned into a place of disturbance and riots; of journalism and declaration, matching in that respect the foremost of modern cities, and beating them all in absurdity and bad taste. Even the air you inhale seems to be impregnated with revolutionary ferment, striving to overthrow everything. Seeing how they are going here adrift, I am really afraid they will soon run against the paganism of '93, if you except the guillotine and the *noyades*, which the Italians do not precisely require, perhaps, happily, for want of sufficient energy to go to that length."

☞ The latest accounts from Rome state that a collision is imminent. The retrograde party, including a certain number of the cardinals, are attempting to raise the *Transteverini*, and to sow dissensions among the National Guard. For some time past they have been plotting to carry off the Pope to Subiaco, with a view of exciting the sympathy of Europe in favour of His Holiness, and against the people. "God grant," cries the Constitutional, "that blood may not already have flowed in the streets of the Pontifical city."

LATE FROM GREECE.

We are in possession of a letter from a gentleman in Greece, dated May 10th, in which he says:—

It is now about a fortnight since the northern part of the kingdom became involved in civil war. Some fifteen hundred insurgents have been arrayed against the government troops, but they are now said to be closely hemmed in by the latter, and the revolt will, it is expected, be in a short time supressed. These men professedly demand the dissolution of the present Chamber of Deputies, which the opposition contend was illegally elected. But the movement looks further than that, and it would not stop short of as radical a change as has taken place in France. The revolution in Paris made a deep impression here. The King prevented a popular outbreak in Athens by making some concessions which the opposition were loudly demanding. We think there is no personal insecurity except at the seat of rebellion on the confines of Turkey and Greece. The public mind is of course wholly absorbed with the insurrection.

☞ "The second reading of the Jewish Disabilities Bill was moved in the House of Lords on Thursday evening, May 25. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of Oxford were among the opponents of the Bill. The Bishop of St. David's (Dr. Thirlwall) spoke in its favour. On a division there was a majority of 35 against the second reading. The votes stood 128 to 163. The Archbishop of York, and the Bishops of St. David's, Worcester, Manchester, and Bishop Hampden, voted in favour of the measure."

☞ The effects of the singular and unexpected flight of the Emperor can hardly be foretold. The conservative classes of Vienna, alarmed at the success of the students and the populace, loudly called on the Emperor to return. A deputation was sent to urge it; but it seems that the call was not successful. His Majesty assigns, as the reason of his departure, the disorderly state of Vienna, and declares that he will not return till he has had proof that the city has returned to its former allegiance. The Austrian nobles are reported to be following the Emperor to Innspruck, which is becoming unwontedly gay. According to information contained in the Cologne Gazette, the Emperor has taken two bold steps, which cannot fail of being followed by important consequences.—He has invited all the diplomatic corps to repair to Innspruck, and has decreed the abolition of the University of Vienna. No sooner had the Emperor effected his retreat to Innspruck, than he issued a decree for the dissolution of the Vienna Ministry. Upon the Ministers attempting compliance, the students resisted, and were immediately joined by the National Guard and the populace generally. The military retreated, one or two lives were sacrificed, barricades were thrown up at intervals of a few paces in every part of the city, the Exchange was closed, the mails were stopped, and every determination manifested to maintain a deadly struggle. Appalled, as usual, by the attitude of the people, the Ministry, after many hours of uncertainty, yielded to their demands. The order for the dissolution of the University was annulled, the troops were compelled to leave the city, and the victory, in short, on the part of the people, was complete.

New York, June 17.

Accounts received in this city from Dublin, state that after the sentence of Mitcheli, the Irish Confederation published an address, signed by Mr. Smith O'Brien, declaring that a period is rapidly approaching when armed resistance to the oppressors of their country will become a sacred obligation, and advising the people to prepare at once for the protection of their invaluable liberties. The address adds, learn to contemplate calmly the chances of a final struggle, and prepare for that struggle. Mr. Duffy, Editor of the *Nation*, in a powerful article, urges the dissolution of the two Repeal Associations, and the formation of a new one, open to all, without pledge or qualification, and its government committed to a legislative council of 100 Repealers, the foremost in Ireland for capacity and devotion, with an extra committee of 5 to act as the cabinet of the new organization.

An official copy of the ratified Treaty has reached the State Department at Washington. The Senate has confirmed the appointment of Isaac Toucy as Attorney-General, A. P. Bagly, Minister to Russia, and Calvin M. Ingersoll as Secretary of Legation to Russia.

Moses Morris, Jr., has been elected United States Senator from N. H.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, June 15.

Major Graham has arrived from Mexico, he does not bring the exchange ratifications, but confirms previous advices.

A fire broke out at Norfolk, Connecticut, in Ferguson's lumber yard, and consumed 73 houses, including the Bethel Church. The chief sufferers are T. D. J. Tunis, E. Gamage, J. H. Jonston, W. Thustone; Harris's bakery and stables were also consumed. Fire partially checked. Loss estimated at $300,000.

A fire in Baltimore, to-day, destroyed Penderson's rope-walk and 7 houses.

CONGRESS.—A joint Resolution was received from the House, providing for the discharge and transportation of volunteers now in Mexico.

HOUSE.—The Bill to pay Texan volunteers called into service by Colonel Coutes was taken up, and the Senate's amendments were adopted. The House went into Committee of the whole on the Naval Appropriation Bill; a very warm and, at some times, personal debate arose; the Bill was finally reported to the House. The amendment for Dry Docks at Philadelphia, Pensacola, and Kitterry was lost.

CHINA.

At Shanghai there is trouble again between the native authorities and the English. It appears that early in March three English missionaries were attacked, beaten and wounded by some grain junkmen out of employ.

They were rescued by the well disposed Chinese and taken to their boats and returned to Shanghai.

The British consul demanded that the ringleaders should be produced and identified, in order that they might be punished.

The Chinese authorities being rather tardy in complying, the consul finally laid an embargo on a number of grain junks, laden with rice for the North, with a view of forcing the authorities into a compliance with his demands.

On the 19th of March the Childers and Espiegle were before the town, and all English ships had been ordered to be in readiness to assist, and the embargo then continued in force.

It is supposed that the matter would be amicably settled, but lest it should not, the steamer Fury had been despatched from Bombay for the scene of action.

☞ The Quebec *Mercury* has appealed to us for information on the subject of the visit to Canada of the Hon. Messrs. Uniacke, Tobin, and Young. It is, we believe, tolerably well known that these gentleman were empowered to negociate with the Canadian Government on the part of Nova Scotia on certain subjects of mutal interest to the several North American Provinces; and the *Mercury* has been correctly informed that two of of those subjects are the Halifax railway and reciprocal free trade between the Province; the other is the Post Office question. With regard to the railway, the *on dit* mentioned by the *Mercury* as current, is palpably absurd, as without the sanction of Parliament no such understanding as that said to have been arrived at, could take place. But the truth is, that the object of the gentlemen from Nova Scotia was simply to make arrangements for the payment of the expenses of the survey for obtaining certain statistical information which they considered of importance. The *Mercury's* informant, we need scarcely say, has been wholly misinformed as to any decision whatever having been come to by the Government regarding either the Quebec and Halifax, or the Montreal and Portland railway. On the question of reciprocal trade, we believe we can state with confidence that satisfactory arrangements have been entered into. The Canadian government are not prepared to adopt the principle of admitting the manufactures of Nova Scotia free of duty; and they cannot, therefore, give effect by proclamation to the reciprocity clause or the Customs Act.—But they are willing to admit the native products of Nova Scotia free of duty, and indeed they have been doing so since the commencement of the season.

On the subject of the Post Office, most satisfactory arrangements have been entered into, there being an entire concurrence of views between the Government of Canada and Nova Scotia. New Brunswick, it is hoped, will be prepared to co-operate; and we may, therefore, anticipate a very speedy settlement of this question, and the adoption of a cheap and uniform postage over the North American Provinces.—*Pilot.*

ENCOUNTER WITH A SERPENT.

In the vicinity of the barracks assigned to the European soldiers in India, there is usually a number of little solitary cells, where the disorderly members of the corps are confined for longer or shorter terms, by order of the commanding officer. In one of these at Madras, on a certain occasion, was locked up poor Jock Hall, a Scotsman, belonging to Edinburgh or Leith. Jock had got intoxicated, and being found in that condition at the hour of drill, was sentenced to eight day's solitary confinement. Soldiers in India have bedding partly furnished by the Honourable Company, and find the remainder for themselves. About this part of house furnishing, however, Hall troubled himself very little, being one of those hardy reckless beings on whom privation and suffering seem to make no impression. A hard floor was as good as a down bed to Jock, and therefore, as he never scrupled to sell what he got, it may be supposed this sleeping furniture was none of the most abundant or select. Such as it was, he was stretched upon and under it one night in his cell, during his term of penance, and possibly was reflecting on the impropriety of in future putting 'an enemy into his mouth to steal away his brains,' when lo! he thought he heard a rustling in the cell close by him. At this moment he recollected that he had not, as he ought to have done, stopped up an air-hole which entered the cell on a level with its floor, and also with the rock externally, on which the building was placed. A strong suspicion of what had happened, or was about to happen, came over Hall's mind, but he knew it was probably too late to do any good, could he even find the hole in the darkness, and get it closed. He therefore lay still, and in a minute or two heard another rustle close to him, which was followed by the cold slimy touch of a snake upon his bare foot! Who in such a situation would not have started and bawled for help? Jock did neither; he lay stone still, and held his peace, knowing that his cries would most probably have been unheard by the distant guard. Had his bed clothes been more plentiful, he might have endeavoured to protect himself by wrapping them closely around him; but this their scantiness forbade. Accordingly, being aware that, although a motion or a touch will provoke snakes to bite, they will not generally do it without such incitement, Jock held himself as still as if he had been a log. Meanwhile, his horrible bed-fellow, which he at once felt to be of great size, crept over his feet, legs, and body, and lastly over his very face. Nothing but the most astonishing firmness of nerve, and the consciousness that the moving of a muscle would have signed his death warrant, could have enabled the poor fellow to undergo this dreadful trial. For a whole hour did the reptile crawl backwards and forwards over Jock's body and face, as if satisfying itself, seemingly, that it had nothing to fear from the recumbent object on its own part. At length it took up a position somewhere about his head, and went to rest in apparent security. The poor soldier's trial, however, was not over. Till daylight he remained in the same posture, flat on his back, without daring to stir a limb, from the fear of disturbing his dangerous companion. Never, perhaps, was dawn so anxiously longed for by mortal man. When it did come, Jock cautiously looked about him, arose noiselessly, and moved over to the corner of his cell, where there lay a pretty large stone. This he seized, and looked for the intruder. Not seeing the snake, he became assured that it was under his pillow. He raised the end of this just sufficiently to get a peep of the creature's crest. Jock then pressed his knee firmly on the pillow, but allowed the snake to wriggle out its head, which he battered to pieces with the stone. This done, the courageous fellow for the first time breathed freely.

"When the hour for breakfast came, Jock, who thought little about the matter after it was fairly over, took the opportunity of the opening of the door to throw the snake out. When the officer whose duty it was to visit the cells for the day was going his rounds, he perceived a crowd around the cell door examining the reptile, which was described by the natives as of the most venomous character, its bite being invariably and rapidly mortal. The officer, on being told that it had been killed by a man in the adjoining cell went in and inquired into the matter. 'When did you first know that there was a snake in the cell with you?' said he 'About nine o'clock, last night,' was Jock's reply. 'Why didn't you call to the guard?' asked the officer. 'I thought the guard wadna hear me, and I was feared I might tramp on't, so I just lay still.' 'But you might have been bit: did you know that you would have died instantly?' 'I kent that very weel,' said Hall; 'but they say that snakes winna meddle with you if you dinna meddle with them; sae I just let it crawl as it liket.' 'Well, my lad, I believe you did what was best after all, but it was what no one man in a thousand would have done.' When the story was told and the snake shown to the commanding officer, he thought the same, and Jock, for his extraordinary nerve and courage, got a remission of his punishment. For some time, at least, he took care how he again got into such a situation as to expose himself to the chance of passing another night with such a bedfellow."

DAYS WITHOUT NIGHTS AND NIGHTS WITHOUT DAYS.

Dr. Baird, in a recent lecture at Hartford, Conn., gave some interesting facts. There is nothing that strikes a stranger more forcibly, if he visits Sweden at the season of the year when the days are longer than the absence of night. The sun in June goes down at Stockholm a little before ten o'clock. There is a great illumination all night as the sun passes round the earth towards the North Pole, and the refraction of its rays is such that you can see to read at midnight. Dr. Baird read a letter in the forest near Stockholm at midnight, without artificial light. There is a mountain at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, where, on the 21st of June, the sun does not go down at all. Travellers go up there to see it. A steamboat goes up from Stockholm for the purpose of carrying those who are curious to witness the phenomenon. It only occurs one night. The sun goes down to the horizon, you can see the whole face of it, and in five minutes it begins to rise.

At the North Cape, lat. 72 degrees, the sun does not go down for several weeks. In June it would be about twenty-five degrees above the horizon at midnight. The way the people there know it is midnight, they see the sun rise. The changes in those high latitudes from summer to winter are so great, that we can have no conception of them at all. In the winter time the sun disappears, and is not seen for six weeks. Then it comes and shows its face. Afterwards it remains for ten, fifteen, or twenty minutes, and then descends, and finally it does not set at all, but makes almost a circle around the heavens.

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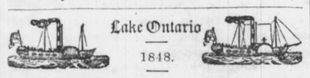

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London, Jan. 1, 1848.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.
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☞ In order to secure the benefit of the present year's entry, it is necessary that all declarations should be signed on or before 25th May next.
By order of the Directors,
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March 22nd, 1848. D. M'LELLAN,
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1848.
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Aylmer, Dec. 29, 1847. P. CLAYTON.
1

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Corner of King and James Streets,
Respectfully inform the public that they will continue the business in the same premises.
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W. W. STREET, Actuary.
London, May, 1847. 1

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