

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The new Minister of the Interior in France has announced that the Government has no yet deliberated on the question of the dissolution of the Assembly. His personal opinion is in favor of the House being dissolved and new elections held in the autumn.

The Times speaks a fair trial for the French Republic in the new phase of its career. It observes that we need not deceive ourselves in estimating the probability of perfectly steady and peaceful development of the Republic which has been formally established, but it would be very unwise as well as ungenerous—in fact, more unwise than ungenerous—to harp upon the difficulties which do, without doubt, remain to be overcome, and to have no word of acknowledgment for the real progress which has been achieved.

Wednesday was the birthday of the Prince Imperial of France. He was born on the 16th March, 1856, and is, therefore, entered on his twentieth year. The anniversary of the family the Bonapartist papers explain, is still the 15th August, which explains the fact that the Prince did not hold any receptions on Wednesday at Chislehurst.

Whatever the nature of the new French Ministry may be in other respects, it is sure to be as honest one as presided over by the late president of the National Assembly. M. Buffet is a man who had made his mark even before 1848 as a lawyer of distinction. In that year he was returned as a member to the Republican Parliament. Under the Empire he remained quiet until 1869, when he became a leader of the tiers-parti in the newly-elected Corps Legislatif, in which capacity he joined M. Olivier's constitutional ministry on January 2, 1870.

The Paris correspondent of the Standard states that though the papers are silent on the subject, talk about the imminence of war is very general. Travellers from Strasburg and the Rheinland talk of great preparations on the part of Germany, and the tone of the German papers is considered as ominously significant. Berlin papers are keeping up a series of articles as to the necessity of preventing French aggression, and Swiss papers are openly discussing the prospects of the next campaign in France. The preparations of Germany are considered in Paris to be distinctly aggressive. There is, the correspondent adds, a good deal of drilling going on throughout France, and the army, he considers, is in a far better condition than that with which France embarked in the last war.

SPAIN.

The government of Spain is at present just a little more wretched than it was in the days of the self-made dictator Serrano, and this is saying a good deal. The Carlists are more troublesome than ever, and promise to become more so as soon as spring shall have fully set in. When Don Alfonso returned, we were told that his would be a constitutional monarchy, but thus far the constitution has not been forthcoming, and so it is quite impossible to ascertain the real mind of the Spanish people.—Don Canovas de Castillo held that everything must remain as it is, pending the suppression of the Carlist "rebbellion." He forgets that the first Carlist war lasted seven years, that the present one has as yet only lasted half that time, and that there is no prospect of its being brought to a close by a traitorous convenio. Spaniards are in the habit of saying manana, "to-morrow," to everything, but surely the young man who is now occupying the shaky throne of Charles V. cannot afford to steal time by procrastination. Let him beware of the morrow which is not his own. Both his grandmother, Dona Cristina, and his mother, the ex-Queen Isabella, might teach him a wholesome lesson on the subject. They could both tell him how they used to leave things in suspense, and were in the end suspended and removed from their offices and dignities. If Don Alfonso wants to wait until the Carlist war be decided, it is ten to one that it will be decided against him.—The Univers.

GERMANY.

The National Liberal Press, and the newspapers belonging to the Social-Democratic Party, continue to discuss the Encyclical and probable conduct of the Prussian Bishops with respect to it in a way which would be amusing, were it not for the very serious interests which are involved. A paragraph had appeared in the Germania stating that the Bishops had consulted among themselves as to the advisability of formally promulgating the Encyclical. The Frankfurter Zeitung lays hold of this paragraph, and seeks to deduce from it that there is a certain amount of antagonism on the part of the Bishops and Catholic laity of Prussia towards the Encyclical. It asks, whether the Bishops agree with the Encyclical, or whether they only feel themselves constrained to abide by it. "The solution of this question," it contends, will be furnished by the episcopal publication of the documents or abstracts from publication. Upon this the Germania observes that the Frankfurter Zeitung is in error, as it is a matter of the utmost indifference whether the Bishops publish a formal declaration or papers on the Encyclical which is already known to the whole world. That is a question which concerns only the depart-

ment of the Attorney-General. If, however, the Bishops have not resolved upon an official publication of the Encyclical, it cannot be deduced from this that they are not thoroughly in consonance with it. Any one who looks at the affair with an impartial eye will see at a glance that the Holy Father in his letter of 5th February has done no more than repeat what the Deputies of the Centre party had already said hundreds of times, and what the Right Reverend Bishops had declared in their Collective Note to his Majesty the King and the two Houses of the Landtag. The Holy Father says to every one whom it concerns that the *May Laws are null*. But can it be pretended that the Catholic citizens and the Bishops of Prussia ever at any time looked upon them as valid? If this had been the case they could never have taken up generally the position against which the present conflict (*Culturkampf*) is directed. If they had considered those Laws as valid they were bound to carry them into execution. Now, however, Bishops, and priests and laymen can oppose the State, precisely because they regarded those Laws as unjustifiable, and they would not recognize in the supreme authority of the State any competency to enact such Laws.

Either the Law are invalid, and then they claim no obedience; or they are valid, and then they ought to be obeyed. Any one can see the evidence of this alternative.

The Frankfurter Zeitung, as well as the Norddeutsche Allgemeine, divide human society into two classes; a legislating majority of masters and a minority of slaves. So long as such a classification exists there can be neither peace nor a *modus vivendi*, but only the order of slaves or a servile war.

It is reported that 80 Ecclesiastics are imprisoned at Posen, and that the Papal delegate who has been acting as Archbishop of Posen since the arrest of his predecessor has also been arrested.

The Liberal papers of Rhenish Prussia, which are ordinarily well informed, relate the news that the President of Dusseldorf has proposed to the Government to suppress all Religious Orders, as Franciscans and others, that yet remain in his district as well as all female congregations employed in hospitals and in attendance on the sick, and other Christian works.

ITALY.

STATE LAWSUITS IN ITALY.—The Budget for 1875 contains an item of half a million of lire for estimated cost of lawyers and lawsuits. The cost of lawsuits sustained by the administration in the three years of 1871, 1872, and 1873 was 4,301,294 lire, being an average for each year of 1,433,764 lire. The lawsuits pending up to 31st December, 1872, were 17,011, and in 1873 they amounted to 19,000! In every corner of Italy are salaried lawyers retained for the Crown.

How different the piety and religion which animated this enlightened king, from that which pervades this "enlightened" monarch of the present day. King Ethelbert was firm in the belief that there exists an Almighty God, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, to whom he was bound to render due allegiance. And he believed, moreover, that Almighty God, though unseen by mortal eye, was as truly a personal being as himself, and as really existing and present on earth.

Such was the faith and such the action of King Ethelbert, and how prominently do they stand forth in the deed, which we have translated.

Strong in the confidence that there exists a personal God, he gives his hand immediately to Him, recognizing St. Augustine as His representative or attorney; and conscious of its acceptance by Him, and of the awful wickedness of those who, having given, take back their offerings, he binds himself and his successors to the perpetual observance of this deed of gift, not only under the penalty of being held amenable to the temporal laws of his kingdom, but of being subjected to eternal condemnation and punishment by Almighty God.

CHURCH AGAINST BARRONS.—The new penal code article 153 proposes to punish offences or outrages committed against the religion of the State, or any other tolerated by the State, by imprisonment not exceeding three months and fine not exceeding 1,000 lire. Outrage or violence committed on a priest or minister during Mass or divine service is punishable with four months imprisonment and fine up to 2,000 lire. Whoever by means of the Press insults the Senate or Chamber of Deputies is punishable with imprisonment for two years and fine of 2,000 lire (Article 159). Threats or acts of violence against public officials or agents of police sitting in court incur the penalty of from four months to two years of incarceration. According to the new code it will be a lesser crime to insult the priest or the Catholic religion. The greater crime will be that of insulting the Parliament or the Courts of Law.

And He can enjoy the usufruct of any that is given to Him only during the pleasure of secular rulers.

Such are the days in which we live—days when Christendom has ceased to exist; when national dignity is supported and maintained, not by fraternal love and mutual respect, but by the brute force of armies—days when envy and selfish ambition rule the hearts of kings, instead of piety and knightly honor, and when personal godliness, morality and honesty is made a mock of by rulers and legislators; and an infidel liberalism is applauded and fostered by legislative enactments.

These signs of the times so ominous of evil, are not less discernible in our own country than in others apparently less favored. Amongst us the seeds of destruction and dissolution have been widely sown, and already they are springing into life and sowing their future fruit.

It is discernible in our popular literature, whether so-called religious, or secular; in our toleration of immorality and lewdness, whether as presented in our public prints, or as forced upon our gaze, and that of our children, from the windows of our shops and the bulletin boards on our streets.

THEN AND NOW.

As an evidence of the spirit which animated crowned heads in the early days of Christendom, when kings and subjects alike believed in the existence of a personal God, and of the Holy Catholic Church, to whom they were responsible, we publish the oldest authentic record of English religious and political history extant. It is nearly thirteen hundred years old.

I, Ethelbert, King of Kent, with the consent of the venerable Archbishop Augustine and of my nobles, give and concede to God, in honor of St. Peter, a certain portion of the land, which is mine by right, and which lies to the east of the town of Canterbury, to the end that a monastery may be built thereon, and that the properties hereinafter named, may be in full possession of him who shall be appointed thereof.

- I, Eadbald, son of the King, have adhered.
I, Hamigisile, Duke, have approved.
I, Hocca, Earl, have consented.
I, Augimundus, Refendary, have approved.
I, Graphio, Earl, have said it well.
I, Faugisile, Regis Optimas, have confirmed.
I, Pincio, have consented.
I, Gedde, have corroborated.

When a fund is rendered untenable in consequence of improvements made on the adjoining lot, the owner of such cannot recover damages, because he had knowledge of the approaching danger in time to protect himself from it.

A day-book copied from a "blotter" in which original charges are first made will not be received in evidence as a book of original entries.

THE GREAT LOOK OUT IN SOUTH WALES IS NOW IN THE THIRD MONTH OF ITS PROGRESS, AND BOTH SIDES ARE REPRESENTED.

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