

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE REVENUE.—The indirect revenue of France is increasing to a remarkable degree; whilst the produce of January, 1852, as compared with that of the corresponding year (1851) showed an increase of two millions of francs, that of March, 1852, as compared with March, 1851, showed an increase of nearly five millions. The *Débats*, in allusion to this notice, remarks that, though it is undoubtedly very gratifying to find that the revenue is in so satisfactory a state, it would be much more so if, instead of giving the information in so off-hand a manner, the usual monthly returns had been published. Since the *coup d'état* these returns have been suppressed, for reasons which have never been explained, but which may probably be guessed at.

The President ordered that no official reception should take place during the Holy Week, either at the *Elysée* or at the residence of any of the ministers. The *Elysées* follow the example of the chief of the state, and have of late rather surprised the Parisians by the regularity of their attendance at the Church of the Madeleine.

Whether it be from a superstitious feeling, or from great firmness of character, Louis Napoleon is said to be as confident of his position, present and future, as he is that he exists; and he is under the impression that were he to proclaim himself Emperor to-morrow he would meet with no obstacle at home; and from abroad, it may be, a protest, but nothing more. Whether this be self-delusion or not, it is believed to be the fact.

The correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on Wednesday week, says:—

"Among the reports which go far to confirm the general expectation of the proximate establishment of the empire, by no means the least significant is the statement that the President has dissolved his illicit connection with Miss Howard, and reconciled that lady, by the condition of a handsome settlement, to retire from a position which becomes more scandalous in proportion to the elevation and splendor of the power to which it is attached by a forbidden link, and from which it receives a glaring reflection. Matrimonial alliances of all sorts are talked of in connection with this subject, and a report spread by the *Gazette de France*, that the Russian Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael are expected on a visit to the *Elysée*, is supposed to have reference to similar projects. On the other hand, the fusionists declare that if Russian leanings are to be judged by the deportment of the Grand Duke Constantine to the Count de Chambord at Venice, they are decidedly unfavorable to the permanent establishment of the Prince Louis Napoleon's power, as the representative of the elder branch is treated in all respects by the Czar's son as if he were the King of France. Besides the objection already stated by M. de Kisselef to the assumption of the title of emperor, the Czar entertains, no doubt, some misgivings that the warlike aspirations of the French under the restoration of the empire will defy the control of the new emperor, whatever his peaceful professions may be. The notion of a marriage with the Princess of Sweden, spoken of some time ago, is dropped, because that princess has embraced the Protestant religion. The Orleanist alliances with the houses of the Spanish Bourbons and the Portuguese Braganzas are equally impediments to matrimonial negotiations in those directions. As to the talk about a daughter of the Duke of Rianzares, it is evident the Emperor of France would not stoop to such an obscure connection.

The Paris Correspondent of the *Commercial Advertiser* says:—"It seems possible that the Government may have to struggle with the most dangerous of all enemies before the year is out, a short crop. From time immemorial, in France, the Government has been the first to feel the effect of a famine, from the fact that it has undertaken to regulate the whole matter of alienating the cities and great commercial centres, by inventing what are called 'systems of supply.' This they do by fixing the number of butchers, bakers, sellers of cooked meat, &c., &c., in each large town; by regulating the price of bread, and numerous other ways. Naturally enough, when the supply is short the Government is held responsible. The accounts from the provinces are unfavorable. The crops sown late last fall have turned out badly. Of course all this may be corrected by a fine season, but it is worth mentioning. I may add that there is great scarcity of both grain and potatoes throughout the Tyrol, Westphalia, Cassel, &c., &c. In Posen the peasants have turned highwaymen, and rob for bread and meat. Detachments of cavalry scour the country to prevent their depredations. In Sweden the people are in a starving state. At Wermeland and Oetant, they live on the bark of trees and chopped straw. But this scarcity is the result of a short crop last year, not the forerunner of any deficiency in the harvest of this."

SPAIN.

DECREE RELATIVE TO THE PRESS.—An important measure respecting the press is published in the Madrid *Gazette*, of April 5th, of which it occupies, with the ministerial exposition, nearly four pages. The chief features are, that the jury which is to take cognizance of political offences of the press is to be sorted in Madrid from the 100 highest payers of direct taxes, from 60 in the provincial capitals of first class, and 30 in the rest.

PORTUGAL.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE CORTES.—In consequence of the adverse vote on the 29th ult., which threw the ministry into a minority of 38 to 50, on the Reform Act, the Duke of Saldanha and all his colleagues tendered their resignation. The Queen declined to accept it, and authorised the Prime

Minister to take any measures which he might think proper under the existing circumstances. After an ineffectual attempt to induce the majority to come to a compromise and nullify the vote, it was finally resolved to adjourn the two chambers to the 20th of May, when they are again to meet and continue their labors for two months. This interval will afford time for the elections to fill the vacant seats, by which the administration hopes to gain a little more strength. But an impression exists that this adjournment is only the prelude to a dissolution. It is a melancholy fact that the Cortes separate without having passed a single measure for the benefit of the country. The whole time has been consumed in speculative discussions on reform, when all admit that the charter stands much more in need of being faithfully executed than of any theoretical improvement.

ITALY.

The relations between the French and Roman authorities continued to be excellent. On the 23rd the Ambassador had given his official dinner to Cardinal Mathieu, and Cardinal Antonelli was present. On the 25th Cardinal Antonelli received at dinner M. de Rayneval, General Gemeau, and the Cardinal-Bishop of Besancon.

SWITZERLAND.

Letters from Berne of the 2nd state that the Government had the preceding day handed to the Minister of France a reply to the last note of March 6. In it the Federal Council endeavors to show by facts that it has done all it could do in the affair of the refugees, without, however, sacrificing the right of asylum, which it considers one of the most precious privileges of civilised nations. Upwards of 50 refugees, 30 being French and 20 Germans, have been sent away from Switzerland within a short time. About 20 others have been directed to live in towns in the interior. The answer declares that the Federal Commissioners, MM. Kern and Trog, have acted in the circumstance with both energy and prudence.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The General Screw Steam Shipping Company's ship *Proponitis*, Captain Thomas Win Glover, left Cape Town on the 3rd ult.

No intelligence of any military operations of consequence had transpired during the last month. General Somerset's and Colonel Eyre's patrols were yet in Caffreland, destroying the enemy's crops and devastating their country.

Sir Harry Smith has published a memorandum, dated Head-quarters, King William's Town, February 21, in which it is stated that an amicable arrangement has been concluded with the Trans-Keian chief Bokoo, his son Mapassa, and their tribe. In answer to his message for peace Kreili was told that Sandilli and the Gaikas must first vacate the Amatolas and cross the Kei.

Another memorandum, dated February 22, says that the patrol under General Somerset had destroyed nearly the whole of the cultivation of the Gaika district.

Colonel Eyre's despatch of the 18th of February says that he has destroyed Sandilli's kraal and extensive crops near the Kieskamma River and in the Helebi Kloof. The enemy offered no resistance.

Mr. Davison, surgeon, 43rd Regiment, and three men of that regiment, were killed on the 14th of March by Caffres on the last day of the truce—that is, on the 14th of March. A communication states that "some waggons which were proceeding with an escort of the 43rd Regiment from King William's Town to Colonel Eyre's division in the Amatolas, with supplies, were attacked at night at Bailey's Grave, and, after firing for several hours upon the party, the enemy succeeded in shooting Surgeon Davison and three men of the 43rd Regiment. One of the waggons, it appears, stuck there, and occasioned delay."

No certain intelligence had been received from General Somerset's division. It was rumored that he had been attacked on the 19th of February, and that the 74th and 91st had suffered; firing was heard in that vicinity at the time, but a letter dated at Gwali, on the 19th, does not mention the attack, but states that the crops of the Caffres were nearly all destroyed. However, the enemy still maintains an attitude of defiance, and the Tambookies are assembling to assist Macomo in the Waterkloof. A rumor had spread that Jan Poekbaas and his brother had been shot. This is somewhat confirmed by the fact of the wife of a patrol having gone into the camp, and mentioned the circumstance.

The information from the Mancenana Camp is to the 16th, from which we learn that that district is again infested by the enemy. Captain Stevenson, in returning from Fort Beaufort, where he had been for some time, captured one horse and six mares from Hottentots at Staden's farm. Lieutenant Rutherford and 12 mounted Burghers killed eight Hottentots and took three prisoners. The same day an outlying picket of Captain Ainslie's levy engaged the enemy in Doorn Kloof, killing four Caffres, but were beaten back.

The three captives state that the Tambookies, with their cattle, have been pouring into Waterkloof for some time back to assist Macomo; that they muster from 2,000 to 3,000 men, and are well supplied with ammunition; Macomo has very little; Sandilli sent him a small supply a short time since; the Hottentots are strong in Waterkloof, and are commanded by Jacob Pratorius and Spilman; they have no ammunition, and have sold most of their guns to the Caffres for victuals, but Macomo will supply them when General Somerset reappears in Waterkloof; Macomo is glad that the troops destroyed the "mealie" crops of Sandilli, as he (Sandilli) will now have to join him.

The *Graham's Town Extra* of February 24 speaks favorably of the news per military post that

morning. The proceedings of Colonel Eyre and Colonel Michel are producing a powerful effect upon the Caffre mind. Umbala had sent 100 cattle, but the Governor, requiring 200 at a time, returned them, much to that chief's surprise. Several friendly chiefs continued to send in the cattle secreted by hostile tribes. In relation to the failure of the burgher muster, this paper, on the previous day, the 23rd, said,—"The enemy, it is now ascertained, had resolved to continue the strife. Sandilli and Seyolo hold the fastnesses of the Keiskamma and Amatola. Macomo is strongly entrenched in the Waterkloof, a natural fortress, well garrisoned and amply provisioned; while Stock retains a lurking-place in the Fish River Bush, where about 70 head of colonial cattle are consumed per week. Holding all this vantage ground, does there seem any likelihood of the terms of a conqueror being enforced upon these Caffres? The Commander-in-Chief seems likely to fail in uniting the colonial burghers and in bringing them into the field. It need not be repeated that when his Excellency's proclamation of the 6th was published the people of Graham's Town manifested great readiness to take the field; but now, on application being made through the Board of Defence for forage for the burgher's horses, and ordnance arms to such as were not provided, his Excellency refuses to render the slightest assistance,—a decision which we are utterly at a loss how to account for."

THE FLOOD AT THE GOLD MINES.—WANT OF EMIGRANTS.

No European journal, however brilliant may be its corps, is so interesting just now as an Australian contemporary. The very ink in the latter seems golden to the reader—he sees everything through a yellow veil. Both in New South Wales and Victoria the general success of the miners seems to have been uninterrupted; but it is in the latter colony that the most striking results have been realised. In the week ending the 12th of December the amount of gold brought to Melbourne under escort was 23,000 ounces, and, coupled with what was also brought by private hands, the total value was supposed to have been equivalent to little short of £100,000. New deposits of great riches had been discovered, and it was found almost impossible to retain any one at an ordinary occupation. A recommendation from the Lieutenant-Governor of a large increase in the pay of all the inferior Government employes had been carried by a vote of 17 to 12. Instances of disappointment, it is alleged, were hardly known. The daily influx of new comers, however, promised to put the permanent nature of the yield to a strong test. Under the circumstances the Government had resolved to double the charge for license fees, and it was now therefore raised to £3. It was also to be enforced from all persons in profitable employment at the mines, such as tent-keepers, cooks, &c., irrespective of their not being engaged in the search for gold. Some doubt was entertained whether these alterations would be submitted to, and it is obvious that even if such should be the case for the moment there will be ultimately great risk in carrying attempts of this kind too far. Mr. Hargraves, the original discoverer, had returned to Sydney on the 12th December; after an absence of six months on a tour of exploration, during which he had gone over about 3,000 or 4,000 miles. His report was in the hands of the Governor, but its nature had not transpired. Among some new regulations issued by the Government was a clause specifying the terms upon which, as regards license-fees, steam might be employed in working a claim. An engine of one-horse power was to rank as equal to the labor of seven men. The amount brought to London by the *Alert*, which arrived on Monday, is £128,000; and large sums would follow by each succeeding opportunity.

The Melbourne arrived on Tuesday, bringing £200,000, which, added to £128,000 brought by the *Alert*, and £50,000 by the *Blackfriar* and *Bolivar*, makes a total of £378,000 just received; while another ship, the *Hero*, which sailed previously, is daily expected with a further sum of £160,000. The latest dates are to the 22nd of December, and it appears that owing to the increasing quantities thrown upon the market, the price of gold dust has fallen to £2 17s. per ounce. Those, therefore, who have already sent out sovereigns from England, will be likely to realise large profits. It is evident, also, that the want of a Mint will be severely felt, and will lead to many losses, from the needless transmission of the metal backward and forward on a four months' voyage, in the shape of dust from one country and coin from the other. The reports of individual successes at the gold-fields at Mount Alexander, which is near Melbourne, are astounding. Of course the gains of some are much greater than those of others; but it is confidently stated that the least successful there are earning high wages. There are now about 20,000 people at Mount Alexander, and hundreds still flocking there. At first the yield of gold was not very great, but it would appear that they had commenced at a spot not near so rich as one that was afterwards discovered. At Ballarat (the gold-field discovered before Mount Alexander) and where miners had to sink very deep before they came on the gold; but at Mount Alexander it is found about six inches below the surface, and a very great deal on the surface also. Instances are recorded of seven men obtaining 500 ounces in three weeks, and another party of two men 400 ounces in the same time. A letter from Melbourne says,—"This town is in a most deplorable state from the gold discovery, and presents at first sight the anomaly of a place without any laboring population. All the refuse of Adelaide and the convicted blackguardism of Van Diemen's Land are pouring in. The place is in a state of complete confusion and embarrassment, and, unless

relief from extensive emigration shall come to our aid, stock property will be sacrificed, and many persons will be ruined."

The Melbourne *Daily News*, of December 18, says,—"We inspected three letters received on Saturday from the mines, fully corroborating the most extravagant accounts yet received. We take the following extract from one, the writer of which is a gentleman of the highest integrity:—

"You or any man who has a pair of arms to work with are mad to remain in Melbourne. I fully expected you up here before this time. You are toiling away like a galley slave to make a few pounds in the year, while we are turning it up here some in twenty ounces and some in twenty pounds daily. Unless you were on the spot it is perfectly impossible that you could have any idea of the extraordinary, the maddeningly exciting prosperity of the multitude. And such a 'mob' too, fellows that were working for twenty shillings a week, are now in possession of fortunes in a few days, some in a few hours,—many of the lowest class as well as of the best have acquired an independence that they never could have accomplished under years to toil by any other pursuit. The usual consequences are beginning to show themselves. The ore is beginning to lose its value in their eyes, and I saw one fellow yesterday give away an ounce of gold for about a quarter of a pig of tobacco! It is wonderfully abundant, and every man who will work is doing wonders. Wages in Melbourne will inevitably be monstrously high, and even that won't answer. I conscientiously assert that when the truth is known in Melbourne (and it is too extraordinary to be believed at first) that not one servant, or indeed anything in the shape of a man, will be left to refuse an engagement. An old California miner, as 'cute as a con,' a fellow that would pick the gold out of your teeth, (if stuffed by a certain Melbourne dentist,) tells me that the Sierra Nevada at California, 'is nothin', no how,' to this, and that if the Yankees knew of this 'crop' they would pour in here like a swarm of bees,—has just come up, having received before he left Geelong, a cheque of £1,800, the produce of five days. You will recollect that about a month ago, he had not money enough to buy fat for a flea, I am doing the trick, and intend to hold out until baked by the heat."

The Melbourne *Argus* estimates the amount of gold procured from the ground within three months, as worth £730,242!! On the 29th of September, the announcement of the first large yield in Victoria was made known, and since then wonders have daily thickened, and where it is to end, no human being can guess. The field is reported to be limitless, the indications of gold extending over scores of miles, and each last found digging apparently eclipsing all before it. All accounts agree that the auriferous grounds, which can be profitably worked, will never be dug over for years to come by any number of people that can by any possibility reach them:—

"To the good people of Great Britain," says the *Argus*, "we commit the consideration of these statements. We beg to remind them, that even before this discovery burst upon us this was one of the finest and most prosperous of British colonies. Let the gold-fields cease their yield to-morrow, and we still retain all the elements of national wealth and national greatness. Those who venture to share our wealth may venture boldly, for boundless plenty smiles side by side with countless wealth. Our splendid harvests are now whitening for the sickle, with no men to reap them. The same land which is thus pouring forth its mineral treasures is still feeding the finest sheep and cattle that have hitherto been that shameful waste, the melting-pot."

"It is a land literally flowing with milk and honey. It wants but population to give it a degree of progress unequalled in the history of the world. But we regret to add, that it has been trifled with by the shuffling and insincere Earl Grey; that through his agency its energies are depressed; its very prosperity rendered dangerous by a Government faithless and incapable to a proverb. Let the overcrowded of the mother country come freely and fearlessly. We can make room for them by thousands or tens of thousands; but let them bring with them some of the modern reforming spirit of their Humes, and Brights, and Cobdens, and come prepared to help us to sweep off the cobwebs which at present darken the surface of this splendid country."

The most important announcement that we have by the last arrival is the discovery of gold in New Zealand, in the settlement of Otago. The authority upon which this important piece of news is founded is unexceptionable, being that of Mr. McGill, the commissioner of crown lands at Dunedin, who has received specimens found in several localities, and affording indubitable proof of the existence of the precious metal in the southern island. Most of the specimens were taken from the estate of a gentleman at Goodwood, and a quantity of gold dust had been received from the same quarter. A gentleman connected with the Otago Agricultural Association had duly tested the quartz specimens, and reported that they took the tests, which consisted of nitro-muriatic acid and quicksilver. We have no authentic information as to the quantity of the precious metals that is likely to be found, though, judging from the extent of country abounding in quartz, it will probably be considerable.

INDIA.

Advices from Bombay are to the 16th ult. The Burmese expedition consists of 6,000 troops, two vessels of war, and thirteen steamboats. Additional forces from China were expected. The departure of the expedition was to take place from Calcutta and Madras on the 19th of March. The forces were to rendezvous at the mouth of the Cass, or the eastern branch of the Irawaddy.