

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The 'Moniteur' has given the laconic speech of the Emperor to the Diplomatic Corps at the reception on New Year's-day. It has said nothing about the few words which, I understand, were addressed on the same occasion by His Majesty to Mr. Dayton, the Minister of the United States. They were to the effect that His Majesty regretted greatly the continuance of the civil war, but that he hoped that before next New Year's-day matters would be settled. This was said with a sort of smile, and may be interpreted either as a pious wish, or a prediction or even an indication of something still more significant. To another person, who the same day expressed an earnest hope that the late affair at Fredericksburg might be the last of the battles between the Federals and Confederates, the Emperor observed that he desired so too, and added that he hoped the war would be at an end by next spring. This incident has given rise to a good many conjectures.

On passing near the place where the Senators stood the Emperor signified his wish that their approaching debates should be marked by more calm and moderation. I cannot say whether a similar admonition was given to the Deputies; but, as their mission ends in six months, it was probably thought that the fear of not being re-elected would operate as a sufficient check on the liveliness of this branch of the Legislature. There are five or six vacant seats now in the Legislative Corps; but I hear it is not the intention of the Government to fill them up before the dissolution.—Times Corr.

The Minister of War has issued a circular, which will further reduce the army on active service, and produce a considerable saving. He has instructed all commanders of corps that the 7,000 men who received leave of absence for six months from November last shall be immediately transferred to the reserve, and that a certain number of others at present on furlough for various terms, but particularly those whose services are wanted for the support of their families, shall likewise be transferred to the reserve.

France at last has begun to recognise that her vast armies are a terror to herself as well as to surrounding nations, and it is but just to say that her Emperor loses no opportunity of unpressing on other countries the belief that he is sincerely peaceful. Seldom has a New Year's-day passed away more quietly than the last, and the few words uttered by Napoleon in reply to the congratulations of the Diplomatic Body were of satisfaction at the quiet of Europe, and of hope that peace would be preserved in the year that has just begun. Some interest was felt in this year's reception at the Tuileries, for it was known that on many subjects the Emperor had something to say, and could, if he chose, put all the Exchanges in trepidation. He might announce an Ultramontane decision on the Roman question, or, on the other hand, cut to the heart the Nuncio who stood before him by a few bitter and ominous words on the obstinacy of the Pope. Then his intentions with regard to America have been the subject of some anxiety. It was thought that he would not have gone so far unless he intended to go further, and the recent victory of the Confederates might have given him occasion to intimate his future policy.

Words of menace dropped on one or two past New Year's-days have made both diplomacy and commerce very excitable just at this period.—All, however, has gone off well this time. The Emperor tells us briefly, but explicitly, that, as far as France is concerned, the peace of Europe will not be broken in the year 1863. Rome may be obstinate, Italy irritable, Austria defiant, but there will be no angry response on the part of the Emperor. Gratiated ambition, the consciousness of having gained for himself a place in military history, combine, with the respect which is shown to him on all sides and the advance of age, to make him pacific in his tastes. The great maternal progress of France and the increased centring of all continental civilization in her capital cause the people to be every year less desirous of war with the neighboring Powers even to secure territories which were until lately always in the minds of patriotic Frenchmen.—Not that the old passion has entirely passed away. The Emperor is too full of Bonapartist traditions absolutely to forego military enterprise. In his theory of supplementing by the Second Empire everything in which the first failed, the design of founding transmarine dominions seemingly holds the first place. We see the effects of this in the expedition to Cochinchina, and in the still more important and costly invasion of Mexico. But such a diversion of policy is a gain both to France and to us. To France the possessions which may be gained beyond the ocean are likely to be more profitable than the "ideas," the realization of which are the only reward of European war. And to us, as a maritime and commercial people, it is a great thing that France should address herself to the regeneration of distant regions. If she gains possession of the mines of Mexico, or establishes a flourishing colony in Easter Asia, we shall be as much benefited by her energy as we should be harmed by a forcible extension of her limits in Europe.—Times.

The Lancashire distress has been described as unparalleled in the vastness of the calamity, in the patience of the sufferers, and in the abundant generosity that has hurried to their relief. It is but too true that, in France, the efforts of public benevolence at relieving the distress have not, up to this moment, been so fruitful as they have in England; but the national calamity under which the labourers are groaning on the other side of the Channel is hardly less lamentable, and their fortitude is not less worthy of admiration. About eleven months ago the workmen in the Seine Inferieure had much ado to find employment—to be employed now is, for the most part of them, next to impossible, and in many places, absolutely impossible. How mournful the transformation undergone by so many rich towns and happy valleys! No longer is that cheering noise to be heard which testifies to the development of a busy life in our cotton mills. The fires are extinct. The workmen have dispersed. The looms are silent. One may form an idea of the number of families doomed to starvation by the reflecting that, in the department of the Seine Inferieure alone, the cotton trade sets in motion more than the fourth part of the whole number of spindles that are worked all over France. Day after day, night after night, the country is scourged by bands of unfortunate people who creep along from door to door, asking for bread and shelter. Railway stations are besieged by poor half-naked children, with emaciated faces, imploring the assistance of the traveller. All this misery is to be seen. How much more affecting still the unseen distress of those who had rather die than beg, and of those too, who, having either to attend an aged parent or to nurse a baby, are, as it were, imprisoned in their wretched dwellings. The following figures will enable you to judge of the extent of the evil. There are in the Seine Inferieure 2,200,000 spindles, 14,000 looms, 32 chintz manufactures, and 64,000 hand-loom. Well, in ordinary times, the manufactures employ 50,000 working men. Now-a-days they employ 20,000. Consequently, 30,000 are out of work. Each hand-loom must occupy a man, and a woman or a child, in all, 123,000 hands. Since the crisis, five weavers out of six stand still for want of work; in other words, there are about 102,000 weavers in a state of starvation. Nor do those fare much better whose work is, either directly or indirectly, connected with the manufactures; so that the number of persons in utter destitution round Rouen is reckoned at 260,000. As the night comes on, all the by-roads are swarmed with famished spectres. In the surrounding country, little boys wander up and down in quest of a few potatoes. Sometimes they are obliged to go so far in order to get that they cannot come back home but the day after. In many a "commune," withered leaves are burnt in lieu of wood or coals. No bed, no linen, are to be found there. The children sleep on a bit of rotten straw, the patients on a plank.—Spectator.

La France gives a decimal to the statement published in some French papers that Victor Emmanuel is about to journey to Paris. ITALY. We (Weekly Register) believe there is no doubt that some diplomatic communications are passing between the Pontifical Government and that of the Emperor of the French,—partly with regard to reforms in the civil administration of the Roman Government, and partly with reference to the future state of Italy. Upon the question of internal reform we understand that the two Governments are nearly if not wholly agreed upon, the measures matured by the Pope's Minister being considered in Paris as comprehensive, and calculated to carry out the beneficent intentions of the Holy Father. But the Italian question presents a difficulty which is much harder to solve. The French Government adhering to the programme of Villafranca, from which the Emperor Napoleon has never shown any disposition to recede, recommends a Federal Italy; but that Federation as now proposed is something different from the proposal of Villafranca. Then the King of Naples was in possession of his throne; the territories of Tuscany, Modena, and Parma, were still un-annexed to Piedmont, and the impious revolutionists had not yet dared to lay violent hands upon the States of the Church. Lombardy was virtually severed from the Austrian Empire, but Victor Emmanuel had not received it in exchange for Nice and Savoy. The Federation then proposed was consequently very different from the arrangement which it is understood that the Emperor of the French now suggests as the means for restoring peace and order in Italy. By this arrangement, if assented to by the Sovereign Pontiff, the Two Sicilies will be restored to their normal condition as an independent kingdom, with the right reserved of electing their future Sovereign, who must not however be a reigning monarch;—Piedmont will retain Tuscany, Parma, Lombardy, and Bologna, but give up to the Pope Umbria, Romagna and the Marche, bearing also its proportion of the debts of the Holy See, and paying a pecuniary indemnity for the robberies it has committed,—France will undertake the permanent maintenance of the Temporal Power and the Papal States, against any future aggressor,—and Austria and Prussia, if they think fit, may enter into the confederation, which would thus become quintuples in virtue of their Italian possessions. As a complete overthrow of the Revolutionary Italians, and as a heavy blow and a great discouragement to the backers of those impious anarchists in this country, we should, we confess, feel a pleasure in the realization of this scheme, the bare proposal of which is a sharp rap on the knuckles of those Ministers who have laboured so strenuously to exalt Victor Emmanuel and humiliate the Pope. But though the address of the Holy Father to the French Army in Rome on New Year's-day was in its tone and matter such as to fill all France with exultation, yet we must still hold to the opinion that some better solution of the Italian question must be found than the Federation which is said to be now proposed. The same cogent reasons that impelled the Pope to oppose his non possumus to all former proposals of this sort, seem to us not to be at all weakened by the present proposal. His Holiness, as a trustee for the Church, cannot alienate any portion of the territories which belonged to the Church when he was raised to the Chair of St. Peter, and it is upon this ground, and not for any miserable, selfish reasons, to which his great heart is a stranger, that Pius IX. has hitherto resisted all the influences that have been brought to bear upon him in order to force or persuade him to sanction by his subsequent assent the sacrilegious spoliation of which Piedmont has been guilty.

A rumour is current of an approaching movement on the frontier of Umbria to re-occupy the provinces misgoverned by Piedmont. It is spoken of as possible in the military circles, but I fear it is to good to be true, though there is little doubt that there is a growing feeling against the annexation in the Papal provinces. Reaction has long commenced there, and can scarcely avoid showing itself in a more marked form ere long, and a return to the old order of things is desired by all who have a stake in the country. The impost is now doubled, and will be heavier yet if the new loan is obtained, and the centralisation of all influence at Turin is most unpopular with the cities so long accustomed to be small capitals, with every advantage of local administration. No people are so attached to municipal institutions as the Italians, and therefore unity is with them when the gloss of the new toy is gone off, a loss of self-government, of political consequence, and of a tradition so venerable it can never be uprooted. There is a local noblesse in every Italian city history, a local history, a past with which no other place has anything in common: feuds and friendships that will never be blotted out as long as a war-worn tower or a mouldering palace stands to witness their memory; great men that were essentially Florentines, Bolognese, or Roman, and who had no link save that of common language—not an eternal one, if we may judge by the events taking place across the Atlantic.—Tribune.

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Many Protestant papers have indulged in a deal of declamation about Passaglia's preaching in Milan.—The facts of the case are very simple. The faithful of Turin having totally abandoned his pulpit, he endeavored to procure an auditory in Milan. He commenced his lectures on the first Sunday of Advent, without the due license of the ordinary. The ecclesiastical authorities at once imposed silence on him till he should obtain the necessary authorisation. The unfortunate man appealed to the Governor of Milan, invoking his protection to continue his lectures. The reply of the Governor was an express order to quit the city and district of Milan within twenty-four hours. Thus is Passaglia treated by those in whose service he has prostituted his talents and religious principles.—Morning News.

Rome.—The Roman correspondent of the Monde gives the following as the text of the speech made by the Holy Father to General de Montebello and the officers of the French army in Rome, on New Year's day:—

The Pope said:— I am much impressed, General, by the wishes which you address to me in the name of the French army you command so worthily. I am very glad also to take this opportunity of expressing to you my gratitude for the support you give to the rights of the Church, which are the rights of justice and truth. The French army is glorious on the field of battle because of its valour; it is glorious also in time of peace because of its discipline. But allow me to say that it is much more glorious because of the mission it now fulfills—that of defending the Vicar of Jesus Christ against the efforts of revolutionists and the impious, who are the enemies of religion, of justice, and of God.

When God created the ocean, He willed that its waters should not go beyond the limits He had traced for them, and He said to those waters, 'Usque hinc venies et non procedes amplius, et hic confringes iumentis fluctus tuos.' [Thus far shalt thou come and shalt thou not proceed further, and here shalt thou break up thy swollen waves.] Thus, my dear children, does God use your arms to prevent the impious from passing beyond the limits they would wish to infringe so as to make of Rome the capital of I know not what kingdom; the impious who have despoiled the Church of her property, imprisoned so many excellent Bishops, and Priests, and thrown into the streets so many Nuns who are dying of hunger. But this is not all that they are aiming at. They would wish to possess themselves of the entire dominions of the Church, and take from the Holy Father the temporal administration, so much needed for the exercise of his spiritual jurisdiction, and even, if they could, wholly destroy the Catholic religion. While from every part of the earth too many efforts are being made to attain this sacrilegious end, you are placed by Providence as a defence for this city, which is justly called the Eternal city—of this city embathed with the blood of so many martyrs; (here the Pope's voice gradually rose to tones of the deepest emotion; and he continued) 'of this city which God from the beginning of Christianity, has intended to be the residence of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, and that Vicar of Jesus Christ I am, who am now speaking to you. And, although I am unworthy of it, I dare to say to you that God gives to me the spirit of Counsel, the spirit of Wisdom, and the spirit of Fortitude to combat the adversaries in which the revolutionists have placed me.' After a pause, the Pope added, 'I bless you with a paternal affection; I bless France, the Imperial family, and in an especial manner the young boy (The Holy Father translated by the French word le jeune garçon, a street and familiar appellation in Italian, fanciullo) who is bound to me by spiritual bonds; I bless the brave episcopate of France, and its distinguished clergy. I bless so many millions of Catholics who love me and succour me with their devotion to the Holy See. I bless, in fine, the Catholics of the whole world: for they are my sons, as I am their father.

Pius IX. added, by a sudden impulse of wonderful Apostle-like eloquence 'But why should I not bless even the impious and the revolutionists? I remember the fact of a Saint of the Old Testament, of the patriarch Jacob, who had struggled all night long, cum viro, with an unknown man. When the sun dawned, he saw that it was an angel; he prostrated himself to the earth and said to him that he would not leave him until he had received his blessing, non relinquam te nisi benedixeris mihi. Let us pray then Almighty God that He may deign to enlighten them; for they know not that they are struggling against the angels.

The emotion, we may say the awe, of those present was general when Pius IX., making the grand gesture of the Pontifical blessing, which always produces so deep an impression, concluded by saying, 'I raise then my arms, and pray the Almighty Father to bless you with his omnipotence; I bless you in the name of the Son, whose Holy Name the Church celebrates on this day, the name of Jesus, of Jesus before whom Heaven, Earth and Hell must bend the knee; and in the name of the Holy Ghost, that he may give you the spirit of charity.' We must declare, to the credit of our officers, that this sublime language found a response in their hearts.

Roman correspondence, dated the 31st ult., in the Gazette du Midi, says:—"Certain journals are trying to attribute to foreign influences the initiative of the reforms which the Sovereign Pontiff is about to grant, and to take the merit of them from him. Now, I repeat on this matter what I said in my last letter; namely, that the discretion of the French Government in these latter times, and the modification of its policy with regard to the Holy See, have done much more towards bringing about reforms than the officious advice and previous importunity of its representatives. The concessions of the Holy Father are spontaneous. It is useless to seek the reason for his conduct in the pressure of the French Government, or the calculations of a worldly policy, perfectly foreign to him who relies on God alone. It must be sought for where it alone exists really, in the great heart of Pius IX., in that heart where the pure and holy love of liberty forestalled long beforehand the feverish and erroneous aspirations of our times.

The Armonia publishes the following letter from Rome, dated on the 30th ult.:— The telegraph announced to you with perfect truth that the whole of the Sacred College presented its usual good wishes to H. M. Francis II., but the act was a natural one; for this unfortunate Prince is honored here, on all occasions, as if he still possessed his crown. The French Ambassador is believed to have done the same as the Cardinals. France has always treated Francis II., with great courtesy, which he reciprocated towards France, although, in truth, the fruits have hardly corresponded with the blossoming of French civility.

La Patrie publishes the following:— Our advices from Rome confirm the news already given by the telegraph of the visit of Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne to King Francis II. It results, however, from our information that the visit was purely of a private character.

It has been observed that M. Odo Russell, the semi-official agent of the British Government at Rome, has since his return from London, had frequent and intimate conversations with the Pope and with Cardinal Antonelli.

NAPLES.—From the two Sicilies the news is much the same as usual; a record of murder, rapine, and conscription. La Marmora has asked for ten thousand more troops, making an aggregate of one hundred and thirty eight thousand men, besides one hundred thousand National Guards, and with this force he can only just hold the country.

Fumes has shot nine more peasants at Cosenza, and is no doubt in full enjoyment of his usual sport. The reaction goes on apace; fresh bands springing up in every province, save those touching the Papal frontier, and hottest of all in Capitanza, where the encounters are daily. Prince Alfred has arrived in the Bay of Naples on board the St. George, and will remain two or three days. The party of action has followed up their demonstration at St. Carlo by opening a subscription to buy a palace in Naples for Garibaldi, who is shortly, it is said, to visit the city from Caprera, and whose presence, like the stormy petrel, will be an infallible signal of serious agitation in the unhappy country to which any change will offer a chance of escape from tyranny unendurable. Nicotera, Ricciardi, and the other deputies who touched on the fearful state of the southern provinces, have none of them touched the real root of the question—national independence, which the Sicilies will never willingly resign.—Tribune.

THE QUEEN OF NAPLES.—Our readers are aware that the infamous calumnies invented by the foul insinuation of Italian hired scribes, have been eagerly repeated by several organs of English 'Liberal' opinion.

We find from the Correspondence de Rome that the organ of the late Count Cavour, the Opinions of Turin (which, by the way, like many other Italian 'patriotic' journals, is owned and edited by Jews) on the 11th of December, with newly invented details, the story of the Queen of Naples having stabbed one of her Ladies of Honour, whom the Opinions states to have been a daughter of General Starella. The Opinions states, as the reason of this 'return to its vomit,' that 'the recent condemnation of a Captain of Pontifical Zouaves to twenty-five years' penal servitude by a French court-martial, has brought before the public one of the chief heroes of that bloody adventure.'—The Correspondence de Rome, a French weekly journal published in Rome, not only declares that no Pontifical Zouave or Zouave officer, has ever been judged by any French court-martial; but states that the Lady of Honour, said to be a daughter of General Starella, must be a similarly imaginary personage, as the Countess Starella Berio, the widow of the General, writes expressly to the Correspondence to state that, thank God, all her daughters live to declare along with her that 'the narrative in question is, in every point, false and calumnious.'

GERMANY. According to an official document in the Vienna Gazette, the public debt of Austria amounted at the end of June, 1862, to 2,445 millions of florins. The debt belonging to the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom is comprised in that sum for 70 millions of florins. The debt of the land infantry amounted on the 1st April last to 491 millions of florins, and is not comprised in the above-named sum.

The Austrian Budget for 1863 fixes the total expenditure of the year at 367,087,743 florins, and estimates the total revenue at 304,685,094 florins, leaving a deficit of 62,502,649 florins. To cover this deficit, partly taxes are to be raised, partly a lottery loan sold; and over and above this a loan of 12,000,000 florins is authorised.

It is not enough for the King of Prussia and his Ministers to quarrel with their House of Commons and to throw down the gauntlet to the Liberals who, whatever their faults or their designs, have undoubtedly a majority of the electoral body on their side, but they must needs pick a quarrel with Austria at the same time. Perhaps this bluster towards Austria may be intended to justify the King in keeping up the army at a higher standard than the Prussian taxpayers approve. If that be the object, we question if it will succeed. From the words attributed to the Prussian Minister at a recent interview with the Austrian Ambassador it would seem that Prussia aims at a second Kisarship in Germany, and demands of Austria to abstain from all interference or influence at the Courts of Northern Germany, these Northern Kingdoms and Principalities and Duchies being the Corinthian columns that are to support the new empire at Berlin. But suppose Austria treats all this with contempt, what then?—Weekly Register.

The Pays says:—"It is asserted that Herr von Bismark Schonhausen said to the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin, Count Karolyi, 'Affairs cannot remain much longer as at present between Austria and Prussia. The influence of the Cabinet of Berlin must predominate in Northern Germany. Austria must cease to annoy Prussia by means of the small German States, and must especially abandon her project of delegates. If not, Austria must be responsible for the consequences. The first steps taken by Prussia would in that case be to recall her representative at the German Diet.' 'Then,' added Herr von Bismark, 'we shall see what will follow. If things come to a crisis in Hanover and Hesse, the Prussian troops will at once occupy these States without further warning.'

The Pays adds:—"The above speech of Herr von Bismark Schonhausen is given almost verbatim in his own words; but the incident will nevertheless, have no further consequences."

A letter from Baden says that nothing has yet been done in the matter of the gambling tables. The Chamber left it in the hands of the Government to give or not to give the notice which would close the bank (without its having any claim to indemnity), in November of this year. A very general feeling has lately manifested itself in various parts of Germany against these licensed hells, the objection to which, it is considered, has been greatly increased by the introduction of railways, and the consequent facility for reaching, at small cost of time and money, Baden, Homburg, and other places of the kind. The character of these places has been completely changed by the improved means of locomotion. Thousands now repair thither, where formerly only hundreds went, and the seductions of the gambling table are fatal to the comfort and well-being of innumerable families of the middle classes. Seductive advertisements, cheap excursion trains, cunningly fabricated tales of immense sums won by bold and fortunate players, are put forward as seductions to travellers. The reverse of the picture is kept carefully out of sight. The letter remarks:—

'Only those who themselves witness it can form an idea of the masses of money dragged in by the bank, of the amount of misery occasioned, and of the lives sacrificed. In the year 1861 the contractors for the play at Baden divided among themselves no less than 1,400,000 (456,000 sterling) as the gains of the summer season. If we reflect what expends the bank has, how high a tribute it pays to the State, how many salaried servants it has, what heavy charges for advertisements and for propitiating the press; also, that it gives splendid balls and concerts and theatrical performances, to say nothing of many a thousand franc note employed to purchase the silence of families whose father, or brother, or son has deprived himself of life, we may be very sure that the net profits of the establishment are not one half of the gross income. Three millions of francs! How much wretchedness, how many tears, what countless courses of mothers, wives, and children, clinging to the coin! Suicide is here condemned to speciality, and only the bank employe, especially charged to hush up all troublesome complaints and lamentations productive of scandal, can tell how often his services are required by cases of it, and how much such silence costs the Baden bank. Some of those who survive their ruin are in a manner doomed to oblivion; and few know that an Englishman of high family and a chamberlain of the Ducbes—still languish in the debtors' prison, because they ruined themselves at Baden. The question of gambling has been discussed till it is threadbare. It is not whether gamblers have a right to play, but whether a Government that respects itself and its people ought to protect and privilege a bank like that of Baden, and to place it, with all fascinations, its mysterious existence, and its frightful consequences, in the middle of the high road.'

The Baden Government had up to the present

month to take its decision. Whether that be favourable or not to the gambling table is still unknown, but, whichever it may be, there exists in Germany such a growing antipathy to the institution that in a few years, in all probability, it will be swept away, in spite of the unwillingness of certain Governments, whose revenue it greably swells, at the cost, for the most part, of foreigners.

SPAIN.—The Presse of Paris says.—Letters from Spain mention an extraordinary movement in the political world of Madrid, relative to Gibraltar. The cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece has awakened old hopes. The Spaniards begin to speak of the cession of Gibraltar to Spain as a necessary consequence of the cession of the Seven Islands to Greece. We should add that these hopes are encouraged by news which the Madrid Cabinet appears to have received from London.

MADRID, Jan. 7.—In to-day's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies Senor Mon spoke in support of the amendment referring to the entry of the Spanish troops into Vera Cruz, which he said had been the first cause of the dissatisfaction of France. He asserted that the Spanish Ministry was aware of the intention of France to overthrow the Government of Juarez, and to establish a monarchy in its stead.

Senor Mon continued thus:— The French Government had communicated to Senor Calderon Colantes its scheme of putting forward the Archduke Maximilian as candidate for the Throne of Mexico. It was not for General Prim to constitute himself a judge of the intentions of France. The claims of the allied Powers were settled by the convention of Soledad. The conduct of General Almonte ought not to have occasioned any apprehension in General Prim.

GREAT BRITAIN. ENGLISH BIVOUAC.—A protracted inquiry into the case of the death of an infant has just been closed in the pretty and romantic town of Tenby, Pembrokeshire, and a verdict of wilful murder has been returned against Ann Thomas, seventy years of age, and her daughter Jane, of 22 years. They lived together, with an old and decrepit man—the husband of the one, father of the other—named William Thomas, alias Unton, in a couple of uncomfortable rooms in a four-roomed house in a locality called Chimney Park. They occupied the ground floor, the upper portion of the dwelling being rented by a woman named Hannah John, alias Davies, alias Diddle'em, and her family. The place is horribly filthy—scarcely any conveniences there. Two beds are huddled into one small, unventilated room at the back; attached to the house is a pigsty. The approaches to it are in a shocking sanitary condition. The child said to have been murdered was the illegitimate offspring of Jane Thomas, who was delivered of it some two or three months ago. The child became unwell and it was attended by Mr. Charter, surgeon. On the 1st of November it expired under circumstances which called for a judicial investigation. The contents of the child's stomach was sent to Dr. Herraph of Bristol, for analysis, and he had given evidence that death has been caused by strychnine. The coroner's jury, after hearing his evidence, returned a verdict of wilful murder against the two women, and they were removed to Hereford-west, to await their trial. Additional interest, and importance were attached to the inquiry, in consequence of the suspicious circumstances attending the death of three or four children born of daughters of the Thomases during past years. The whole family has lived immorally, and it feared that the parents have subsisted for a quarter of a century on the profligacy of their daughters. Two of the sons are however, respectable working men.—Northern Press.

THE BISHOP'S SABBATH AND THE POOR MAN'S SABBATH.—To the Editor of the London Times.—Sir—In your journal of the 20th inst. there is a copy of the memorial from 27 of our Bishops and other persons to the directors of railways, entreating them to discontinue running excursion trains on the Lord's Day. It strikes me this is an attempt to interfere with the pocket and the freedom of the laboring man. If the laborer is married and has a family depending upon him for daily bread, the only day he can take them into the country is the Sunday. I presume the 27 Bishops take the fourth Commandment as their guide for keeping holy the Sabbath Day, and I wish, therefore, to ask whether or not any one of them ever tries to keep the Sabbath Day holy in accordance with that Commandment; whether or not they only keep the Sabbath Day in a conventional way, and so as not to interfere with their own comforts; whether or not, in defiance of the fourth Commandment, upon their coming downstairs on cold, frosty mornings, they, in compliance with their orders, expect the manservant or the maidservant to have the fire lighted, the water boiled, and the breakfast ready; and if on a Sunday they go to the cathedral, or to church, whether or not they employ the cattle and manservant to drive them there in their carriages? Until these queries can be satisfactorily answered by the 27 Bishops, they had better alter their own mode of life, and not endeavor to abridge the comforts of intere with the recreation of laboring men.—I am your obedient servant, Dec. 31. A LABORING MAN.

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH.—There are in England and Wales 28 bishops, 30 deans, 72 archdeacons, about 17,000 clergy. In Ireland there are 12 (Protestant) bishops, 32 deans, 1,536 benefices. In Scotland 7 bishops, 161 clergy (of the Episcopal church), with 156 churches. There are 40 Protestant bishops in the colonies, and 4 missionary bishops, and 1,751 clergy. The senior English bishop, the Bishop of Winchester, was a bishop so long ago as 1826; but the Protestant Bishop of Connecticut was consecrated in 1819, when George III. was King.

CRIME IN ENGLAND.—There has been a great excess of crime in England within the last eight or ten days. A horrible murder has been committed in a colliery at Wigan, where one of the foremen was killed by some of the workers, the body subsequently being consumed in a huge fire. At Birmingham, a man named Rose, the keeper of a public house, assaulted another man, whose name does not appear in the account from which we write, and inflicted injuries on him from the effects of which he died immediately. In the same town a man named Griffiths has been returned for trial to the assizes on a charge of attempting to murder his wife. At Newcastle, a woman has been barbarously murdered, and a man named Vass is in custody on the charge. At Poplar, a man named Fenterman attempted to murder his wife and a man with whom she was in company, and he then jumped into the Thames, from whence he was rescued alive, but only to live for a few hours. In London, on Wednesday, a man named Goodwin cut a woman's throat and then his own; the bodies were taken to the hospital, and the death of both was hourly expected. These, we believe, are not the full number of murderous crimes committed within a few days in England; but we do not care to complete the record.—Nation.

A LADY TURNED TO STONE.—A gentleman residing in Clifton, who has some unsophisticated country girls for servants, sent them to London to see the International Exhibition just before it closed. They expressed themselves very much pleased with their trip on their return, and on being asked what they liked best amongst the collection, they said it was all very beautiful, but 'the poor lady, sir, who was turned into stone from eating cod and dumplings was the most curious.' 'A lady turned to stone from eating cod and dumplings?' naturally asked their master, 'with much surprise. 'Oh! yes, sir,' they replied, 'was very very sad. To be sure, but curious.' 'After a little he discovered they were alluding to the tinned Venus, and inquired how they came to hear it was a lady turned into stone by such strange diet. 'Please sir, it was the policeman at the Exhibition as told us

month to take its decision. Whether that be favourable or not to the gambling table is still unknown, but, whichever it may be, there exists in Germany such a growing antipathy to the institution that in a few years, in all probability, it will be swept away, in spite of the unwillingness of certain Governments, whose revenue it greably swells, at the cost, for the most part, of foreigners.

SPAIN.—The Presse of Paris says.—Letters from Spain mention an extraordinary movement in the political world of Madrid, relative to Gibraltar. The cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece has awakened old hopes. The Spaniards begin to speak of the cession of Gibraltar to Spain as a necessary consequence of the cession of the Seven Islands to Greece. We should add that these hopes are encouraged by news which the Madrid Cabinet appears to have received from London.