

Queen went there the other night, and spent it on the mountains. The last three or four eruptions have always taken place on the other side, and consequently have been difficult to get at, and but little has been seen from Naples. This one, if it goes on, will do a great deal of damage, as there are three villages between it and the sea, and the ground is much cultivated. I shall be able to tell you more about it in my next letter, as I have not given you much of an idea of what a grand sight it is. The fact is, it would be very difficult to do so, as any description would fall very far short of the reality. I had heard a great deal of the effect of eruptions, and pictures representing them are not scarce, but I can assure you that nothing I had seen or heard gave me the slightest idea of what it really is."

FRANCE.

The increased prices of which I spoke last week are becoming matter of public discussion and alarm. The *Constitutionnel*, in an article on the *cherie dans Paris*, shows the height to which it has risen. "Articles of food," it says, "with fire and lodging, have become objects of luxury. Restaurateurs, lodging-house-keepers, and proprietors, all seem gone mad. From the 1st of May the price of furnished lodgings has been doubled; the table d'hotes have been raised by one or two francs: the old restaurant of two francs threatens to disappear, and the dinner at three or four francs, which is no better, to be substituted for it. Since April term, house proprietors have been known to demand, for six months, the amount of a year's rent, to be paid in advance. Upholsterers have furnished empty apartments to be let at exorbitant prices; one of them is known to have offered 60,000 francs for an hotel worth not more than 20,000, besides leaving the rich furniture to the proprietors after the Exhibition. The commonest joints of meat cost one franc a pound, the better three francs, and many butchers have declined to accept this price, expecting they will reach four. Poultry is inaccessible—game is worth its weight in gold. Mackerel has risen to one franc twenty-five centimes a piece; the better sorts of butter to three and a half francs a pound. Onions are dearer by 400 per cent; potatoes are risen to two francs twenty-five centimes the bushel; small haricots have doubled in price, &c." with a long list of almost famine prices.

SPAIN.

A bill has just been agreed to by the Parliament of Spain for the sale of Church property which is exciting terrible alarm among the Popish ecclesiastics. The active aid of the Pope was obtained against the bill to prevent its final sanction by the Queen, but all to no purpose. The particulars are significant; and are thus stated:

After the bill had passed through Cortes, it was sent down to the Palace of Aranjuez for the Queen's signature. Shortly afterwards, the police informed Espartero that Monsignor Franchi, the Pope's Nuncio, had also gone to Aranjuez; that he had immediately obtained access to the Queen, and was then closeted with her. Espartero instantly ordered a special train, and set off, with his Aide-de-camp Gurra, for Aranjuez, and there he found the tempter at his work, like the Serpent at the ear of Eve, and the trembling conscience-stricken, superstitious woman, shrinking under his menaces. Franchi, of course, retired, and the Queen told Espartero that the Pope had sent him to threaten to refuse to give her absolution on her death-bed if she consented to ratify the "accursed spoliation deed." She entreated Espartero to allow her a few hours to consult with some of the most learned and pious fathers of the Church from whom she had been wont to seek for counsel in her troubles. Espartero replied that any delay might be fatal to the stability of the Throne, and that no Bishop, however learned or pious, would have the right to thrust themselves between a Queen and her people.

The news of these events travelled like wildfire to Madrid. Nearly one hundred deputies assembled hastily in one of the committee-rooms of the Cortes. A member of the Government informed the deputies that Espartero would resign if bigotry should prevail, and the deputies responded that they would support Espartero against the Queen. Senor Ribero proposed that the Throne should be declared vacant should the Royal sanction to the bill be withheld. Things were beginning to assume an angry look, when a telegraphic despatch was brought in, announcing that the Queen had yielded to Espartero's remonstrance; and in another quarter of an hour a second despatch told that the bill was signed.

The difficulties of Spanish Finance are curious. Recently, the "Votes and Proceedings" of the Cortes did not appear because there was no money to pay the wages of the printers, and the Cortes could not sit at night in consequence of the gas having been "cut off."

The tunnel between Syracuse and the Island of Ortygia has been at length entirely re-opened, and is found to be twelve feet high by six wide, and is about an English mile in length. The tunnel said to be quite equal in all respects to that under the Thames, was built during the occupation of Sicily by the Greeks.

UNITED STATES.

The Baltimore Patriot of Saturday says that rain had been falling in that city with slight intermission

since Thursday. And, in connection with the rain, the Patriotic gives a pleasing incident which occurred on Friday night, at the close of the Episcopal Convention. As is usual, the Bishop closed the exercises with prayer, and at the conclusion gave full vent to that one returning thanks to the Giver of All Good for the refreshing showers. Just at that moment the rattling drops increased in number and force, until the whole audience were electrified, as it were with the coincidence. It is said that the members of the Convention from the country gave one of the loudest and most heart-gushing Amen's to the prayer that ever was heard in old St. Patrick's.

**Errors of the War.**—The New York Herald in a lengthy article respecting the effects of the war upon the business of the United States, remarks—

"As soon as England and France have exhausted all their discernible means, they will begin calling in the debts due to them, and as we are becoming their largest debtors, we shall be the first to feel the pressure of the screw. The immediate effect of the exhaustion of the means at present at the disposal of the allies will be the suspension of specie payments in Europe. The same result followed close upon the commencement of the last Continental war. It is the inevitable consequence of belligerent Powers being compelled to pay in specie for the supplies which they draw from other countries for the support of the armies which they are obliged to keep on foot. For this purpose the allied governments will be under the necessity of draining the vaults of their banks of their gold, and of resorting to a paper currency for the transaction of all business within their own limits. In calling in, as they will be compelled to do, the debts due by the United States, they will oblige us to pay them in gold and silver. In the course of a little time the effects of this continual drain will be to undermine the extended currency of this country, numbering at the present moment over eleven hundred banks, most of which are weak enough as it is. Thus it will be seen, that although the first effect of the demand for breadstuffs which has been created by the war may benefit certain special interests here, it can last but for a brief season, and that should hostilities continue for any considerable period, they must have a most injurious effect not only on our commercial relations, but on all the home interests that are now flourishing."

CANADA.

**Toronto Post Office.**—A young man of the name of Robert C. Backus, an employe of the Toronto Post Office, has been committed to take his trial for abstracting money letters. Suspicions had been raised that several money letters on their transit through the Post Office were there detained, and a decoy letter containing ten one-dollar bills was mailed for Brampton. It was soon missed from the package where it had been deposited; and, on a search, the envelope was found in a water-closet. The money was afterwards found concealed in the corner of an empty room. The prisoner confessed his guilt. He is said to have felt deeply the melancholy position in which he was placed, and up to the discovery, had borne an excellent character in the department for probity and industry.

The Canadian Legislature was prorogued on Wednesday last, after the unprecedented long Session of seven months. The proposal of the Colonial Secretary that a grant of Canadian Crown land should be given to the soldiers enlisting in the Foreign Legion, has been reserved for future consideration.

The bill to abolish postage on newspapers in Canada came into operation the 1st inst.

Editorial Miscellany.

Telegraphic despatches via New York, convey news from the Crimea, of great importance. It would seem that a change has at length taken place in the fortune of the war, and that relieved of the incubus of Austria, and under the influence of more determined counsels, the allies are at last destined to prevail over all the adverse circumstances which have clogged and crippled their energies. Kertch has been taken, and with it the command of the sea of Azof, and a number of merchant ships and steamers—a prize of no inconsiderable value to the brave fellows engaged in this service. The desperate battles fought in the vicinity of Sebastopol, are also signs of progress, although they are at the same time manifestations of a stubborn spirit, contesting inch by inch with the allies the occupation of the territory. We look with much painful feeling for the details of these sanguinary struggles, in which the loss on both sides must have been immense. As the next steamer will bring dates five or six days later, we may hear of important movements, if the allies are able to follow up their successes. The whole country is in fact, by this time, a fortification at every available point, and the Russian retreat which is spoken of, appears to have been undisturbed by pursuit. They have, no doubt fallen back upon other strong positions, and the news by every packet, for some time to come, will most likely be a record of hard contested fields of battle—of which the result, although may exhibit a deplorable loss of life, can hardly be doubtful. We hope that the vigour of these proceedings will demonstrate to Russia the futility of the contest; and that Austria, left to her meditations,

will see cause immediately to throw her weight with the allies against Russia—a conclusion that would hasten peace, and preserve its blessings to Europe for another century.

An adjourned Parish Meeting of St. Paul's Parish, took place on Wednesday, to hear the report of the Committee appointed at a previous meeting, concerning the Church, after which it was resolved, as the most feasible plan to ensure the object, that the sum of £600 be assessed upon the Parishioners. This is perhaps the fairest way of apportioning the amount required, although it is a revival of the objectionable principle of assessment—the only satisfaction in the contemplation of which, must be a belief that those entrusted with the business, have exhausted every other means of realizing the object sought to be attained.

We understand that the Commander-in-Chief reviewed the garrison on Thursday morning, for the last time previous to his retirement from the command. It was a brilliant spectacle, although a dull day somewhat clouded the scene. The General, we believe, takes his departure in the Steamer, on the 21st, and no commander-in-chief will ever have left our shores more beloved, or whose family have had more claim to the general esteem. He and Lady Gore, and they, will carry with them the hearty good wishes of all classes, for their future welfare; and many a prayer that Divine Providence will watch over and protect them, and so order their lives, that they may devotedly and faithfully perform their several duties, domestic and public, each in the appropriate spheres to which destiny may call them.

Thursday the 14th inst. was observed in New Brunswick, as a day of general prayer and humiliation, on account of the war.

A letter from Mathewtown, Inagua, of April 18th, says that heavy rains have destroyed the prospects of salt for the next few months. About 60,000 bushels were then on hand at 25 cents.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in Council, has been pleased to appoint Alexander Peter Ross, Esq., to be one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Picou.

Charlotte Town, P. E. Island, has been incorporated by Act of the Legislature, passed at its last Session. The first civic election is to take place next August.

Telegraph communication is to be again established between the Island and mainland. An advertisement appears in the Charlottetown papers for tenders for taking up the submarine cable, and relaying the same across the Straits between Capes Tormentino and Traverse.—*East. Chron.*

The sum of \$10,000 has been appropriated by the Government of British Guiana for the purpose of establishing regular steam navigation between that Colony and the United States.

An act is about to pass the Legislature of Barbadoes, by which that colony and the Canadas bind themselves to interchange their respective productions free of duty.

It is intended to concentrate the Foreign Legion enlisted in British America at Shorncliffe, where also a large number of Swiss volunteers will be encamped. The Poles and Germans will be quartered and disciplined at Heligoland.

Wheat was first sown in the North American Colonies in the year 1602. Not less than 150,000,000 bushels are now raised within the same limits.

Barnum's Tom Thumb, the celebrated little great man, was married at Webster, on Thursday last, to a Miss Vinton, of Bridgeport, Ct.

CONTINUED LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS IN AID OF THE CHURCH AT BRIDGEWATER.

William Cunard, Esq.,	20	0	0
William Hare, Esq.,	2	10	0
John Fay, Esq.,	1	0	0
W. N. Silver & Sons,	0	15	0
Nepean Clarke, Esq.,	1	0	0
Fritch & Harvey,	1	0	0
Judge Blist,	2	10	0
T. A. Brown, Esq.,	1	0	0
Edward Albro, Esq.,	1	0	0
Capt. T. N. Hill,	2	0	0
A Friend,	1	0	0
Mr. Wier (Erm Albro & Wier),	0	10	0
[and keg of Nails.]			
Mr. R. Patillo,	0	10	0
J. C. Allison, Esq.,	1	0	0
S. S. H. Smith,	0	5	0
F. Charman, Esq.,	1	0	0
Collected by Miss Pyke.			
Mrs. Stephen Rogers,	0	10	0
Mrs. Newton Binney,	0	5	0
Miss Yocum,	0	5	0
F. Twining, Esq.,	0	2	6
A Friend,	0	2	6
His Worship the Mayor,	2	0	0
Miss Cogswell,	1	0	0

(To be Continued.)