

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The price of corn continues to rise in Paris, and in all the departments of France. The high price of bread, combined with the stagnation of trade and the inclemency of the season, creates great suffering among the people, and it is feared that some disturbances will take place. Several of the manufactories in the provincial towns have partly suspended their operations, and are only working short time.

According to the Paris *Pays*, the disposable force of the French army is nearly 300,000 men and 60,000 horses. The artillery force ready for battle is 360 guns.

Appearances here are warlike. At a great military hospital in Paris the attendants are daily exercised in the ambulance duties; and, under the inspection of the medical officers and hospital sergeants, go through all the evolutions that would be required of them in action—such as picking up the wounded men on the field, transporting them to the hospitals, constructing hospitals.

It is stated positively that the French government has accepted as a *fait accompli* the engagement of Austria to a strict neutrality.

BREAD AT A HALF-PENNY PER POUND.—Considerable sensation has been created by the announcement of a discovery which, if real, is almost miraculous. A person in Paris pretends to have discovered a process of making bread in such a way as to cost only 19 centimes the 4lb. loaf, or rather less than one sou per pound, whereas the average price in France is at this moment more than five sous. He has made several loaves for the Government, and for scientific individuals, and yesterday I saw and ate some of the bread. It is white, glutinous, and appears to be made principally from wheat flour. The inventor, who has not taken out a patent, but keeps the process to himself, asserts that the economy is in the process, and is not obtained by the admixture of inferior substances. Indeed, there is no farinaceous substance sufficiently low-priced now for bread to be made from it at one sou per pound. It is possible that there may be less gluten in the bread made by this person than in that sold by the bakers; but, judging from the taste and the appearance, I should say that the nutritious properties are not 10 per cent. at the outside less than in the regular bakers' bread; whereas the economy in price is four-fifths. The statement of the inventor appears incredible; but he has offered to prove the reality of his announcement, and is in treaty with the Government for the sale of his secret.—*Paris Correspondent of the Globe.*

POLAND.

A letter from Warsaw, dated the 7th Jan., has the following:—

"The chiefs of the districts of the kingdom of Poland have received the order to draw up a list of all able unmarried men, from the age of 18 to 40, and to watch them carefully, not to permit them to leave their districts, because the recruiting, which takes place usually at the end of the year, will take place this year in March. This measure has caused a veritable desolation in this unhappy country, scarcely recovered from the extraordinary levy which took place last month.

Letters from St. Petersburg speak of a fanatic feeling which extends throughout the whole Russian empire against the Turks and their allies—a feeling which the Russian government has done its best to excite and to influence. It is now said that the Russian clergy have offered 60,000,000f. to the Emperor; the government of Kowno 1,500,000f.; that of Moscow 3,000,000f.; and the average amount of voluntary gifts from the seventy-two governments is estimated at about 2,000,000f. each. The same letters state that the views of the Czar are less directed towards Europe for territorial aggrandisement than to Asia.

ITALY.

The accounts from Italy are deplorable. The scarcity of food and the audacity of the brigands is seriously affecting the population in several parts of the Papal and Austrian territories. At Faenza the theatre has been deserted, through the alarm excited by the banditti; and the inhabitants hail the presence of the Austrian troops as a blessing. The Romans were thrown into an ecstasy of delight by the successful lighting of the Eternal City with gas—a luxury which they owe, as we are well assured, to the energy of the Holy Father himself, whose liberality and determination are highly eulogised by the friends in this country of the Company who have obtained the concession of this valuable privilege.

In the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom Marshal Radetzki is tempering justice with as much clemency as possible. Political prisoners are constantly obtaining their liberty, as circumstances permit the gallant old Marshal to do acts of grace.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.—Preparations, on a considerable scale, are being made for arming and manning the Norwegian fleet, which is to go to sea in the Baltic in the spring. Sweden is not behindhand in her preparations; and the members of the Diet are anticipating the Royal wishes with respect to financial projects.

Private letters from Stockholm, dated the 10th ult., state, that it will be very difficult, if not absolutely impossible, for Sweden to maintain a neutrality in case of war, by reason of the extremely hostile feeling that pervades the entire nation against Russia.

TURKEY.

The *Oest Deutsche Post* and the *Lloyd* contain Constantinople letters of the 5th ult. By the correspondence of the former we learn that the duty of the allied fleets will be to protect the Turkish coasts and flag; but should the Russian naval force attack any Turkish vessel within three sea miles and a half

of the Turkish coast, or any ship belonging to the protecting Powers, "then offensive proceedings are immediately to be taken."

UNITED STATES.

CONVERSION.—Mrs. Francisco Elisa McDonnell, was solemnly received in the bosom of the Catholic Church at Marges, Carroll Co., O., on 30th of Jan., 1854, by Rev. D. M. Winands, Pastor of that place. *Cath. Telegraph.*

Doctor Brownson's late visit to St. Louis, was not very welcome to the Parsons. Some thirty or more of them met together and tried to contrive some plan, to concoct some scheme, to neutralise the influence of his lectures. The Parsons knowing that the Doctor was not likely to descend so low as to notice them, and knowing also, that even if he were so disposed, he had not the time to spare, bethought them to challenge him to a public controversy. Well, they met together and drew up a challenge, which, together with the Doctor's answer, we published two weeks ago. Among these challengers, there was one, who less than two years ago, uttered in his meeting house the following three fold LIE. First, that some years ago in the city of Philadelphia, a certain curse was pronounced by the Bishop of that Diocese against a certain Apostate from the Catholic Church. Second, that the above statement was not denied by the Catholics at that time. Third, that there were living witnesses in St. Louis, by whom he could prove the two foregoing assertions to be true. The *Shepherd of the Valley*, denounced the first part as a lie, and called for the proof. It proved the second part to be a lie, by quoting the *Catholic Miscellany*; and the preacher after being called upon for several weeks to make the third part good, endeavored to find some witness by whom to prove his assertion; but every one to whom he spoke about it told him the assertion was a lie.—The preacher has not yet retracted the slander. Another one of the challengers, the nominal editor of a Presbyterian paper in St. Louis, published and defended the aforesaid calumnies, and has not yet retracted them. Another, the editor of a Baptist paper in St. Louis, not very long ago, refused to pay a Catholic servant girl that he had in his employ, her wages, because she would not become a Protestant.—The Preacher had to be sued, and the amount of the wages was recovered by an action at law. Moreover, the champion, whom they challenged Mr. Brownson to meet, is a notorious scamp, who some years ago in Kentucky, was convicted of libelling a Catholic Priest. "Who," says the *Shepherd of the Valley*, "Who," is Rice and who is Baird that one should be the chosen champion, and the other the chosen challenge bearer in such a contest. Dr. Rice, in the first place, is not a gentleman. We speak of him in his professional character as a lecturer. He stated publicly,—to give some instance out of many,—in his last public lecture, that if a Priest should command his penitent to cut a man's throat, the penitent would be compelled to do so before he could obtain absolution.—Now this is a notorious and infamous lie—Could Mr. Brownson meet in serious controversy the unscrupulous wholesale slanderer who, for weeks, has been poisoning the ears of the citizens of St. Louis, with false and foolish statements such as these against their fellow citizens? Mr. Baird our readers know; they know something of his character for veracity, and how we had to teach him English before we could hold any kind of correspondence with him. Mr. Baird is, we believe, a very good practical Printer, and, as such, was well selected for his post; since there is an abundance of Parsons to help him out with his editorial labors; since where lying is a habit, as it is with Presbyterian Parsons writing against the Catholic religion, Mr. Baird's blunders count for very little; and since the principal object is to have a Presbyterian paper here any how, and to have it issued cheap, and to save the expenses of a foreman is a greater object than to have a man of ordinary ability and acquirements for nominal editor. But though a good printer, Mr. Baird is not the sort of second to send to an unconquered and unsullied dispirant with whom it is proposed to arrange the preliminaries of a passage at arms.—*Western Tablet.*

ADDRESS OF THE "ITALIAN PATRIOTS" TO MGR. BEDINI.—A writer in the *N. Y. Herald* says of it:—"Unfortunately for this document, however, only about four of the signers are known to the public as having any positive existence; one of those it is well known has not been out of the United States for the last ten years, therefore must speak from hearsay; and another from his own pusillanimous character, (he having more than once expressed contrition for his participation in the Mazzini outrages,) must have signed under fear of the stiletto; the rest are all Macaroni, Lazzaroni, and Curranjelli. "That glorious patriot G. F. Secchi de Casali, in his zeal for the cause, signs it three times: first as 'Guiseppe Secchi,' next as 'F. Casali,' and last, not least, as 'G. F. Secchi de Casali.' What a treasure such a patriot would be in a closely contested election."

THE REVIVAL OF STREET PREACHING.—This nuisance was again revived on Sunday last in a vacant block in 14th street. Two or three persons, who attempted by shouting or hissing to drown the voice of the speaker, were knocked down by those who supported West and Parsons, and who were present in great numbers. There were others taken up by the police and put in prison, but only retained for a few hours, and then let go by the magistrates. No investigation was held of the transaction, so we cannot at present say more. We understand that Parsons and West are to hold forth on Sunday next in the same place, and we again caution all Catholics to keep away from the sound of their voices.—*N. Y. Freeman.*

AN FLOP.—The Rev. Isaac Kimball, pastor of the Lutheran Church, at Athens, New York, ran away with Mrs. Elizabeth Payne, a devoted member of his flock. The husband pursued and overtook the parties—the clergyman endeavored to make himself scarce—and not succeeding, finally compromised the matter by paying to the injured husband the sum of \$100, and walked off with the woman. The Albany *Knickerbocker* says, Kimball is a man between 45 and 50 years of age, and has a wife and six or seven children; some of them are married. The heart-broken Mrs. Kimball, we understand, is at present staying with a relative at East Albany. The runaway wife was married to Payne about 21 years since, and had lived contented and happy with her husband, although they never had children. She is a woman about 36 years of age, with nothing particularly attractive in her appearance.—*Boston Pilot.*

The last *Stanstead Journal* says that Rev. William Rankin, a Methodist preacher, formerly of Potton, but recently a resident of Patterson, N. J., was arrested at Potton last week charged with the murder of his wife at Patterson a short time previously. He was committed to Montreal Jail to await a requisition from the Governor of New Jersey. Report says that a Grand Jury in New Jersey have found a true bill against him, based on the fact that a post mortem examination of the body of his wife showed that she died from the effects of poison.

DIVORCE AND ITS ABUSES.—A correspondent writes us from a village in Indiana that in said village lives a mother who had a husband whose name she does not bear, who has two daughters, each of them divorced wives, one of whom obtained her bill while her husband lay on his death-bed; while in the same village resides a man who has two wives living (one of them divorced), and that these wives are *mother and daughter!* Some of the Western States are notorious for the facility and liberality with which they grant Divorces wherefrom a harvest of lewd Marriages, Licentiousness and Immorality may be expected to result in due season. As population grows dense and habits more luxurious, these States will have ample reason to rue the recklessness wherewith they are undermining the moral basis of Society. Perhaps some of them may be warned in time to avoid the worst consequences of their error.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

MRS. SWISSHELM ON POLYGAMY.—A new question is alike to arise in politics. "Shall the Mormons, with their polygamy be admitted into the Union?" We wish to commit ourselves in advance, and say yes, certainly, to be sure, why not? we have thirteen States now in which polygamy is practised and provided for by law. We have an administration whose chief business it is to defend, spread and perpetuate the institution. Now, we like variety, and as those thirteen States have all one kind of polygamy, and the Mormons another, we want the Salt Lake folks to make up a collection. We have long been in national communion with a set of men who keep concubines and sell their children. We should like a specimen of those who educate and support their offspring. To our mind a plurality of wives is decent and proper compared to purchasing mistresses like sheep, as do our brethren of the South, or yet the licensing brothels and gaming and drinking houses, as do the 'fathers' of our eastern cities. While men are sole legislators they will always provide for their own vices, and we think the Mormons have taken by far the most decent course. The present members of this confederacy have not been and are not so very circumspect in their own morals that they need be very prudish about their company.—*Saturday Visitor.*

TERRIBLE SCENE.—A slave, residing near the City of Natchez, it seems, struck a white man, at least such is the ostensible crime given in the papers; and, instead of being tried by the laws, made and provided in such cases, he was sentenced by Judge Lynch to be burned. The Natchez (Mi.) *Free Trader* gives the horrible particulars as follows:—"The negro was taken and chained to a tree, immediately on the banks of the Mississippi, on what is called Union Point. Faggots were then collected and piled round him, to which he appeared quite indifferent.—When the work was completed, he was asked what he had to say. He then warned all to take example by him, and asked the prayers of all around. He then asked for a drink of water, which was handed to him; he drank it, and said: "Now set fire, I am ready to go in peace." The torches were lighted and placed in the pile, which was soon ignited. He watched unmoved the curling flame, that grew until it began to entwine itself around and fix upon his body, and then he sent forth cries of agony painful to the ear, begging some one to blow his brains out, at the same time struggling with almost superhuman strength, until the staple with which the chain was fastened to the tree (not being well secured) drew out, and he leaped from the burning pile. At that moment the sharp ringing of several rifles was heard, and the body of the negro fell a corpse on the ground. He was picked up by some two or three, and again thrown into the fire and consumed, not a vestige remaining to show that such a being had ever existed. Nearly four thousand slaves were collected from the plantations in the neighborhood to witness the scene. Numerous speeches were made by the magistrates and ministers of religion to the large concourse of slaves, warning them, and telling them that the same fate awaited them, if they should prove rebellious to their owners.

THOSE WHO JOIN THE CHURCH AND THOSE WHO LEAVE HER FOLD.—The *Catholic Mirror* says:—"We are satisfied that no small share of the bitter hatred now manifested by Protestants against Catholicity grows out of the facts of which we have just cited examples—the best Protestants become Catholics, the worst Catholics become Protestants. There is something exceedingly significant in this—those who leave our Church now, are as they were in the days of dean Swift, "weeds thrown out of the Pope's garden," those who come to us are the purest and best flowers that have ever grown upon Protestant soil. Those who depart from us are what St. Cyprian called chaff, or straw, blown away by the wind while the wheat remains with us, and, thus, he says, "the faithful are tried, and the unfaithful exposed; so that even in this world the separation is made between the just and the unjust, the elect and the reprobate, even before the day of Judgment."

HUMANITY VS. LAW.—Mr. Dooley, of the Merchants' Exchange Hotel, was fined ten dollars, at the Police Court in this city last week, for humely giving a gentleman, who was suddenly attacked with cholera at his house, a few drops of alcohol.—*Boston Pilot.*

The *Boston Post* says:—"It is believed among the knowing ones that it will be impossible to keep the price of flour at the present high rates."

EXTRADITION.—The President of the United States has ordered the extradition of D. W. Van Arznum to the Canadian Government. Mr. Van A. is charged with having passed forged papers at Brantford C. W.

CRUELTY TO A SLAVE.—Two white men named Thomas Motley and William Blackledge, have been sentenced to be hanged at Charleston, S. C., for hunting down a runaway slave with bloodhounds, and putting him to death, by the most prolonged and cruel tortures.

ARREST OF MADAM RESELL.—This notorious woman was arrested on Sunday by Capt. Walling of the Eighteenth Ward Police, on a warrant issued by Justice Stuart, in which she stands charged with producing abortion upon a young female who had fallen a victim to the snares of an individual living in the fashionable quarter of the City.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

RUSSIAN DESIGNS ON INDIA.

(From the *Assemblée Nationale.*)

All the French and English journals have successively reproduced the news of the taking of Khiva by the Russians. This news has even caused a certain sensation in consequence of the present state of the relations between England and Russia, and some persons have already fancied that they see a Russian army arrived at Khiva to march on British India. Things have not come to this point; it appears to us at least very doubtful that the Russians are established at Khiva.

What is Khiva, that the English in India and Europe place such importance in knowing in whose hands it is? In itself Khiva is a poor town or about ten thousand inhabitants, and the country of Khanat, of which it is the capital, contains at the utmost a million. It is situated to the south of the Lake or Sea of Aral. The inhabitants of the Khanat or Khiva, of Turcoman race, are, by their nature, always at war with their neighbors, for they scarcely live otherwise than by pillage. The Russians have, in all times, suffered from their excursions. Under Peter the Great they made an attempt to subject them, but it did not succeed. Another expedition sent against them more recently, in 1840, had no more success. The circumstances were sufficiently singular to deserve to be mentioned. The Russians went to Khiva by the steppe which separates the Caspian Sea from Lake Aral. It is a country of a sandy soil, in which the heat in summer attains the same degree as in the Sahara of Africa, and in which, on account of the great height, the cold in winter is equal to that of Siberia. Portable water almost completely fails. It was believed that snow could be made a substitute for water, and accordingly the expedition was undertaken in winter. But the cold (the thermometer descended to 35 centigrade) was not less fatal to the Russians than thirst would have been; and, after having sustained considerable loss, they were forced to abandon their attempt. It appears that they have this year executed a new one, since they have possessed themselves of the fortress of Achmetbet. The position of this fortress indicates that this time the expedition took place to the east of Lake Aral. We have no other information.

Steamers, drawing little water, are said to have been sent from St. Petersburg, and to have arrived by rivers in the interior of the empire and the Volga to the Caspian Sea, from whence they were sent to Lake Aral, by rivers long blocked up with sand, but which sand has been removed. The Russians now possess vessels which navigate on Lake Aral, and are thus doubly in a position to march when they please on Khiva, which, deprived of its ramparts of deserts, will be incapable of opposing an efficacious resistance. It is this perspective of the occupation of Khiva by the Russians which disquiets the English, as it is from that and the adjacent countries that invasions of India were made by Alexander the Great, Tamerlane, and Nadir Shah. But the difference is great between the disquietude by prudent foresight and imminent danger. Even were the Russians established at Khiva, with the design of attacking India, and had they terminated all their preparations, they trust, in following the road which the English General Evans indicates in his "Designs of Russia" as the easiest, ascend the Djihoun (Oxus of the ancients) to Balk, cross the chain of the Hindukosh, which leads to Cabul, and from thence proceed to Peshawar, from which two roads lead to the Indus—the first goes to Attock, the other to Koubere. According to the itinerary which we have just indicated, the Russian army would have 1800 kilometres (more than 1100 English miles) to traverse before arriving on the Indus, and when it had crossed that river it would still not be on British soil. We have not spoken of the material obstacles which would have to be surmounted.

Thus, geographically speaking, English India is still very distant from the military enterprise of Russia; politically speaking, these enterprises do not appear to us near at hand. We cannot adopt the opinion of the Swedish general, Count de Bjornstjerna, who considers the success of an invasion of India by Russia as impossible. This opinion appears to us formally contradicted by history; but we believe that Russia, although called on by the nature of things to attempt this invasion in future, cannot think of it at present, unless she be strongly and obstinately provoked. We will appeal on this point to the authority of the celebrated Sir John Malcolm, who in a report addressed in 1830 to the East India Company said, "It is impossible to believe that the Court of St. Petersburg wishes to pursue any speculation or any hazardous plan of aggrandisement in the East, as it would be accompanied with many dangers for it—unless indeed you excite it by a vexatious and irritating policy." No one will misunderstand the sense of the word East employed here by the English writer; it is evident that he wished only to speak of Asia and of India.

We will say nothing more on this subject, which circumstances will, no doubt, force us to resume. What precedes is sufficient to cause to be understood the emotion which the least movement made by Russia in Asia excites both in India and England. If to this we join the observation made some days ago by a German journalist, namely, that the trade of Trebisond is almost entirely in the hands of the English; that it has an importance of not less than 50,000,000f. a-year; that it is by that port that English goods are sent to Upper Asia, and that the hostility of Persia and Russia threatens to close that port; no one will be astonished at the passionate interest which the English public takes in the difference on the Bosphorus and in the Black Sea.

A writer in the *National Intelligencer*, an American Protestant Journal, gives a correct version of the circumstances attending the death of the infamous Ugo Bassi:—

"M. Bedini has been charged by persons who have come to this country from Europe since the political troubles of 1848, '49, and '50, with having been the cause of the death of Ugo Bassi, who is represented in this country as having fallen a victim to the cause of liberty. After a careful and impartial examination of the facts I am compelled to pronounce this charge utterly unfounded and having not the slightest semblance of reality. But I must not stop with the mere denial of the charges. I will give you the facts themselves in answer to the accusation. M. Bedini was, at the time of the capture, trial, condemnation, and execution of Ugo Bassi, at Bologna, the Papal Pro-legate at that place. The country was in the military possession of the Austrians. The Austrian General Gorzkowski was the commandant, and had, by the *Legge Stalaria*, published on the 6th June, 1849, declared martial law. All the ordinary tribunals were pro-