

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

POSITION OF M. DE MONTALEMBERT.—On Wednesday, the 19th, instant, there was a reception at the house of M. de Montalembert, who is now the leader of the independent party in the legislative corps. M. de Montalembert declares that he is not systematically hostile to the government of Louis Napoleon, but that he considers it his duty to prevent him falling into abuses which would be destructive not only to the existing government, but to France. He is now the centre round which the personages assemble who have not thrown up all interference with politics in disgust, and refuse to meddle in public affairs at all. Among those who attended the reception were M. Guizot, the ex-Chancellor (Duke Pasquier), M. Dupin, M. de Barante, &c. Several of the most influential deputies were also present, and among others the members of the committee on the budget, M. M. de Flavigny, Hallez-Clapere, Ancel, &c. M. Cornudet and some councillors of state also attended. M. de Montalembert's position is at the present moment an important one. He is very generally looked upon as the statesman predestined to influence the future march of events, by assuming a firm bearing in presence of the violence and absurdities into which the ordinary advisers of Louis Napoleon seem disposed to lead that personage.

THE ORLEANS CONFISCATION.—The number of councillors of state who show a disposition to decide against the legality of the decrees confiscating the Orleans property is daily increasing; and it is very doubtful, notwithstanding the dependence of the council on the President, if the majority of the sanction du contentieux will be in favor of that measure.

THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.—The papers daily report numbers of refusals to take the oath of allegiance, on the part of officials of respectability, members of the Councils-General, &c.

General Bedeau has written the following letter to the Minister of War:—

"Monsieur le Ministre.—A decree fixes the delay within which the oath imposed upon soldiers ought to be taken. Deprived of the benefit of the law since the 2nd of December, I might abstain from responding to this injunction. I am unwilling that my silence should be misinterpreted. My actions have had always for principle and aim the respect and defence of the laws. I have been for this cause alone violently arrested, imprisoned, and proscribed. Injustice and persecution do not change the convictions of an honorable man.—I refuse the oath.

"BEDEAU, General."

The Duke de Broglie has resigned his seat as a member of the Council-General of the Eure and of the Municipal Council of Broglie.

The Viscount A. de Bremond, deputy-Mayor of St. Florent, has also resigned, as well as M. Faillly, member of the Council-General of the Deux Sevres, having refused to take the oath.

M. Odilon Barrot is declared to have forfeited his seat in the Municipal Council of St. Quentin, not having taken the oath within the time prescribed by the Constitution.

Count Charles de Laferrouays has resigned his seat in the Municipal Council of Bourg, in the Oise, rather than take the oath prescribed by the Constitution. Viscount Henri de Trevenne, late member of the Legislative Assembly, has likewise resigned as a member of the Council-General of the Côtes-du-Nord. The Prince de Berghes and M. Urban Puntous, members of the Council-General of the Haute-Garonne, have refused to take the oath to the Constitution, and have consequently resigned. The Marquis de Moray, Count H. de l'Aigle, and M. Viet, ex-Mayor of Compiègne, members of the Council-General of the department of the Oise, have also refused to take the oath.

QUESTION OF THE REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.—The commission charged with the examination of the project of law on the budget of 1853 has entered on the question of the effective strength of the army. This effective had been fixed for the year 1852 at 369,000 men. This was the result of the credits voted by the National Assembly at its sitting of the 12th November, 1851; but that effective has been modified by several decrees which the President of the Republic issued in the month of December last, in virtue of the full powers with which he has been invested. The effective was advanced to 400,000 men, which produced an increase of 31,000 men, with an additional expense of 23 millions. The government has maintained the effective 400,000 men for 1853. The commission has demanded the reasons of this increase. Why 31,000 men more? The following argument is proposed to be put to the government commissioners. The government has saved France with 370,000 men; why is not that army more than sufficient now that France is saved? The commission has not yet adopted this resolution; but nobody will be surprised if it resolves the suppression of the increase in men and money, which are the results of the decrees published subsequently to the 2nd December.

THE LEGITIMIST PRESS.—Louis Napoleon is beginning to exercise a severe system of restriction against the Legitimist press. For some days past orders have been issued to the departmental prefects in the middle and west of France, to put down, or at all events to silence, the most accredited organs of the Legitimist party in the principal cities, such as Bordeaux, Marseilles, Toulouse, Nantes, and Montpellier. According to the present law, the prefect, after giving two successive avertissements, has it in his power to suppress a journal altogether. Legitimist newspapers in the provinces are fast vanishing (those of the capital have not yet been attacked, but their time is coming); and poor men who are placed be-

tween fidelity to their principles and the loss of their bread are yielding to the necessity of looking to the loaves and fishes.

ITALY.

The case of Mr. Murray, which gave rise to this discussion, is imperfectly known to the world, and though some interest has been excited in his favor, what is known of him is not very favorable to his character. He is the son of a British officer, but, we believe, he had become an officer of police under the Papal Government at Ancona, and whilst in this post he is said to have formed a connexion with a gang of criminals. The weightiest charge against him is, that Count Severido, and another partisan of the Pope, who had been imprisoned by the Republican faction, were murdered in prison while they were in the custody of Murray, and this at the very time when an order had been given by the Governor of that place that they should be released. We know nothing of the truth or falsehood of this charge, and the British Government has certainly no inducement to rescue men of bad character from the fate they may have incurred by their crimes. But we have some right to require that, even in a country where justice is administered with as much fairness and corruption as unhappily prevail in the Roman States, a British subject should have a fair trial; and to that extent the protection of the Crown is due to a man in this sad position. The appeal made to the Pope by the English residents in Rome is, however, merely a supplication for mercy in favor of Mr. Murray; and we observe that no attempt is made in that document to dispute his guilt, though the sufferings he has already undergone in the Roman prisons may perhaps plead in his favor and deter the Papal Government from inflicting the last penalty of the law.—Times.

THE RUSSIAN GRAND DUKES IN NAPLES.—On the 10th ult. the two Grand Dukes, Michael and Nicholas, of Russia arrived at Naples from Rome by land. The greatest honors were paid them all through the Neapolitan territories.

At the Naples railway station the King received his visitors in the uniform of a Russian colonel, the Minister of War, and all the chief dignitaries of the state being present, and as usual a considerable display of military. From thence they repaired to the royal palace, where they were welcomed by the Queen and royal family. They then retired to the Russian embassy, where they took up their quarters.

On the 13th a sham battle and review was held in the Campo di Marte. Twenty thousand men and thirty-two field pieces were drawn out. His Majesty and the Russian princes were surrounded by a brilliant staff, composed of officers of divers nations, Russians, Austrians, and others. After the review the King and princes left for the Palace of Caserta. The attention shown these young scions of Russia is extraordinary. His Majesty of Naples, attired in the uniform of a Russian colonel, is all day conducting them from one place of interest to another.

On the 14th they visited the arsenal and government dockyard; all the ships had their colors out, the yards were manned and salutes fired for the Russian flag.

The Russian Grand Dukes are said to travel (as the Italians say) watch in hand; their route, time of stay, place of residence, &c., &c., being marked out for them by parental forethought. A great many Russian families of distinction have followed them from Rome to Naples.

THE FRENCH FLEET AT NAPLES.—In the afternoon of Sunday, the 9th, the French fleet, under the command of Admiral Lazure, east anchor before Naples. It is the largest French fleet that has appeared in the Mediterranean for some time past. Upwards of 800 guns and nearly 10,000 men. Naples is regularly inundated by French naval uniforms.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN SARDINIA.—The correspondence from May 15th to the 21st is full of details respecting the ministerial crisis which has just taken place in that cabinet. The Marquis d'Azeglio, the President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, had placed his resignation in the hands of his Majesty. The crisis had been hastened by the election of M. Rattazzi as President of the Chamber of Deputies, in place of M. Pinelli, recently deceased. M. Rattazzi is the leader of the Centre Gauche, or Democratic party, and was one of the chief authors of the senseless war carried on by Charles Albert to gain the crown of upper Italy. The election of M. Rattazzi was consequently a defiance thrown in the face of Austria and the other powers. It was brought about by the influence of M. de Cavour, Minister of Finance, who hoped, in the event of M. d'Azeglio's resignation, himself to succeed as the President of the Council. It appears, however, that the King would not accept a Centre Gauche ministry, and M. d'Azeglio was commissioned to construct a new cabinet, which, however, can hardly be more than a merely transitional one. Of the members of the former cabinet, three, besides M. d'Azeglio, will preserve their respective portfolios—viz., Pernati, Minister of the Interior; Palocapa, of Public Works; and La Marmora, of War. M. M. Galvagno, Cavour, and Farini (the well-known Romagnol refugee, Minister of Public Instruction) definitively retire. The successor (ad interim) of M. Galvagno, in the department of justice, is the Chevalier Carlo Boncompagni, one of the two vice-presidents of the Chamber of Deputies. The Chevalier Luigi Cibriana, a senator, succeeds M. Cavour (ad interim) in the finance ministry. The new minister of instruction is not yet named. M. Boncompagni was Minister of Public Instruction in 1848, in which capacity his policy was little to be depended on by the Catholic party. He was also in favor of the Siccardi laws, which does not look like a disposition to reconciliation with the Holy See. M. Cibriana (according to the Opinione of Turin, M. d'Azeglio's organ) "is one of the most

distinguished of Sardinian authors. His history of the house of Savoy is known throughout Europe."

GERMANY.

THE CZAR AT BERLIN.—The presence of the Emperor (writes the Berlin correspondent of the Daily News, on May 19th) produces here a very marked sensation. Not only is he the eldest and most experienced great European monarch, but, whatever one may think of the Russian political system, he certainly distinguishes himself as a man of eminent clearness and firmness of purpose; thus increasing, by his personal predominance, the prestige of his imperial powers. He understands very well, too, how to hit the tone of popular cordiality, especially among the soldiers. Of this he lately gave a signal instance. When the officers of the Potsdam garrison were lately presented to him, he addressed them as follows:—"How I rejoice to be at length once again among you. You know my sentiments, and that I have always been your faithful comrade. (The Emperor is nominal colonel of a Prussian regiment.) My whole heart was with you during heavy times. You have stood the proof; you have remained true as you have always been. I appear among you unchanged, as you are unchanged. Let us remain always good friends, and stand faithfully by one another. Will you promise that? "Yes, surely, your Majesty," was the unanimous response. "Well, I accept your pledge, and rely upon you: it is agreed. We remain for ever what we have hitherto been—good friends, and true comrades." These words, coupled with the Emperor's martial bearing, could not fail making a deep impression on officers who look up to him as the very mirror of military dignity. Even the common soldier strains every sinew to do credit to his vocation when he has the honor of exercising before the Czar.

AUSTRALIA.

A letter from Port Philip gives the following graphic description of the state of that colony, consequent upon the discovery of the gold mines:—

"Melbourne, Jan. 1

"In my opinion this place is inevitably and irretrievably ruined; I cannot see it in any other light. Still the matter is a vexata questio. Some are sanguine that all will be well; I cannot see how. The gold fields are inexhaustible. Last night a statement was made that two men had just arrived from Gipps' Land with the intelligence that new gold fields were discovered there, which leave the Mount Alexander fields altogether in the shade; that they had brought in £10,000 worth of gold, and there was a supply for the whole world. With these facts before us, how can the place be otherwise than ruined? What is to be done for labor? Suppose 100,000 laborers came out here during the next year, will any of them remain in the city or farms, at a few shillings a-week, when they can go to the gold fields and make their £50 a-day? It is idle to suppose it. At this moment I cannot get a pair of boots made or mended in Melbourne, if I were to give any money that might be asked. I get my bread at Collingwood by sufferance. The baker will not undertake to supply me regularly, but will do the best he can. I pay 5s a load for water, and 30s for a single horse-load of wood. It is with difficulty a dray can be obtained to carry a box, and if obtained the charge is ad libitum. I cannot at any price get a man to chop my wood, and I think myself fortunate if I can prevail on the black gins to work for half-an-hour.

"The judge's servants are all gone; he has put down his carriage, and his sons clean the knives and shoes—this I assure you, is true—and wheel their afflicted father about in an invalid chair. In this state he goes to his court of a day. The men from the gold fields are rolling in gold, and so perfectly reckless of it, that the anecdotes told of them are not only amusing but astonishing. One man put a £5 note between two pieces of bread and butter, and ate it up as a sandwich. Another rolled two £5 notes into a small ball, and swallowed it as a pill. Another went into a confectioner's to eat a few tarts, put down a £5 note, and would not accept the change. They seem to have no idea of the value of money, and take their losses and robberies as complacently as philosophers, merely remarking—'Well, there is plenty more.' This was the remark of a man at the bank when he had been robbed of a check for £149, and which had been cashed before he called about it. If the gold fields were limited in extent, and would only suffice for a certain number of fortunate diggers, or if they were in their nature exhaustible, I should say that the misfortunes of this place would be limited only to time—that it would be, in fact, only a question of time; but the fields are unlimited in extent, and inexhaustible in their treasures. What hope is there that we shall have labor, good, wholesome, reasonable priced labor here? It is madness to suppose it. The prices of all things, necessities as well as luxuries, will never go down again, and here we shall be living in the most expensive place in the world, in the midst of all the reckless vagabonds from all parts of the world. The merchant, the trader, wholesale and retail, will do very well, because he makes his profits commensurate with the state of things around him; but it is the man with a settled defined income who will suffer. However, time will make manifest all things, and in 12 months' time we shall see the result, or the probable result, of all this wonderful change.

"It will be the ruin of Adelaide. 1,200 people arrived here on Saturday and Sunday from that place; eight shiploads were on their way, and 12 more loading at the port. Sydney people are coming in shoals, and I suppose Americans will be sending Yankees, revolvers, bowie-knives, and Lynch law. However, I do not hear that these latter gentlemen will meet with much sympathy here, for I believe, upon the whole, the diggers are well conducted."

IMPORTANT FROM THE ARCTIC OCEAN.—The following is an extract from a letter dated Hong Kong, March 28:—There have been here no less than thirty seven whalers from the Arctic seas. It may interest you to know that they almost all believe that Sir John Franklin is safe, and that he has got through the ice barrier into inner waters; where he will not be reached until a mild season arrives, which they say the present will be. Most of them have now departed. They say Franklin will not suffer for want of food. They give strange accounts of the Esquimaux vibrating

from the Asiatic to the American continent and back again, carrying their boats, made of skins and whale-bone over the ice, and launching them when they meet with open water. They all confirm the fact that the whales found in Behring's Straits and in Baffin's Bay are the same species, proving the existence of a passage; for a whale of the Arctic species, they say, has never been seen to the south of 22 degrees of latitude, so they cannot have doubled either of the Capes (of Good Hope or Cape Horn); and the whale is under the necessity of making his presence known by coming to the surface to blow.

DEATH OF A PROTESTANT.

Few men have been more notorious for their Ultra-Protestantism than Tom Paine, the subject of the following memoir, written by Bishop Fenwick to his brother, at Georgetown College, giving the account of a Protestant death-bed:—

A short time before Paine died I was sent for by him. He was prompted to this by a poor Catholic woman, who went to see him in his sickness, and who told him among other things, that in his wretched condition if any body could do him good it would be a Roman Catholic priest. This woman was an American convert (formerly a Shaking Quakeress) whom I had received into the Church but a few weeks before. She was the bearer of the message to me from Paine. I stated this circumstance to F. Kohlmann at breakfast, and requested him to accompany me. After some solicitation on my part he agreed to do so, at which I was greatly rejoiced, because I was at the time quite young and inexperienced in the ministry, and was glad to have his assistance, as I knew from the great reputation of Paine that I should have to do with one of the most impious as well as infamous of men. We shortly after set out for the house at Greenwich, where Paine lodged, and on the way agreed upon a mode of proceeding with him.

We arrived at the house; a decent looking elderly woman (probably his housekeeper) came to the door, and inquired whether we were the Catholic priests, "for," said she, "Mr. Paine has been so much annoyed of late by ministers of other different denominations calling upon him, that he has left express orders with me to admit no one to-day but the clergymen of the Catholic Church." Upon assuring her that we were Catholic clergymen, she opened the door and showed us into the parlor. She then left the room, and shortly after returned to inform us that Paine was asleep, and at the same time expressed a wish that we would not disturb him. "For," said she, "he is always in a bad humor when roused out of his sleep; 'tis better to wait a little till he be awake." We accordingly sat down, and resolved to await the more favorable moment. "Gentlemen," said the lady, after having taken her seat also, "I really wish you may succeed with Mr. Paine, for he is laboring under great distress of mind ever since he was informed by his physicians that he cannot possibly live, and must die shortly. He sent for you to-day, because he was told that if any one could do him good, you might. Possibly he may think that you know of some remedy which his physicians are ignorant of. He is truly to be pitied. His cries, when he is left alone, are heart-rending. 'O Lord, help me!' he will exclaim during his paroxysms of distress. 'God help me! Jesus Christ help me!' repeating the same expressions without any the least variation, in a tone of voice that would alarm the house. Sometimes he will say: 'O God! what have I done to suffer so much!' then shortly after: 'But there is no God!' and again a little after: 'Yet if there should be, what will become of me hereafter?' Thus he will continue for some time, when on a sudden he will exclaim as if in terror and agony, and call out for me by name. On one of these occasions, which were very frequent, I went to him and inquired what he wanted. 'Stay with me,' he replied, 'for God's sake, for I cannot bear to be left alone.' I then observed that I could not always be with him, as I had much to attend to in the house. 'Then,' said he, 'send even a child to stay with me, for it is hell to be left alone.'" "I never saw," she concluded, "a more unhappy man, a more forsaken man; it seems he cannot reconcile himself to die."

Such was the conversation of the woman who had received us, and who probably had been employed to nurse and take care of him during his illness. She was a Protestant, yet seemed very desirous that we should afford him some relief in his state of abandonment, bordering on complete despair. Having remained thus some time in the parlor, we at length heard a noise in the adjoining room across the passage way, which induced us to believe that Mr. Paine, who was sick in that room, had awoken. We accordingly proposed to proceed thither, which was assented to by the woman, and she opened the door for us. On entering, we found him just getting out of his slumber. A more wretched being in appearance I never before beheld. He was lying in a bed sufficiently decent of itself, but at present beset with filth; his look was that of a man greatly tortured in mind; his eyes haggard, his countenance forbidding, and his whole appearance that of one whose better days had been but one continued scene of dejection. His only nourishment at this time, as we were informed, was nothing more than milk punch, in which he indulged to the full extent of his weak state. He had partaken undoubtedly but very recently of it, as the sides and corners of his mouth exhibited very unequivocal traces of it, as well as of blood, which had also flowed in the track, and left its mark on the pillow. His face to a certain extent had also been besmeared with it. The head of his bed was against the side of the room through which the door opened. F. Kohlmann having entered first, took a seat on the side, near the foot of the bed; I took my seat on the same side near the head. Thus in the posture in which Paine lay, his eyes could easily bear on F. Kohlmann, but not on me easily without turning his head.

As soon as we had seated ourselves, F. Kohlmann, in a very mild tone of voice, informed him that we were Catholic priests, and were come on his invitation to see him. Paine made no reply. After a short pause, F. Kohlmann proceeded thus, addressing himself to Paine in the French language, thinking that as Paine had been in France, he was probably acquainted with that language, (which was not the fact,) and might understand better what he said, as he had at that time a greater facility and could express his thoughts better in it than in English.

"Monsieur Paine, J'ai lu votre livre intitulé, l'Age de la raison, ou vous avez attaqué l'écriture sainte avec une violence sans bornes, et d'autres de vos écrits publiés en France; et je suis persuadé que—" Paine