

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the Nord states that M. Baroche has brought before the Council of State a project containing the revision, to the most liberal extent, of the principal tariffs of France.

M. Emilio Girardin's pamphlet, 'L'Empereur Napoleon III. et l'Europe,' has at last appeared. The impression was seized at the printer's on the 15th of November, the day before its intended publication.

A Paris letter in the Nord connects the warning given to the Opinions Nationales for its article against the temporal power of the Holy See, with the presence of Mgr. Sacconi at Compeigne, and argues thence that a more friendly feeling has arisen between the French Cabinet and the Court of Rome.

"During Mgr. Sacconi's stay at Compeigne he has come, it is said, to an understanding with the Emperor as to the conditions on which the Pope will enter the Congress."

THE ANGLI-FRENCH ALLIANCE.—The Constitutionnel thus alludes to an effort made by those who have an interest in the estrangement of the two governments to excite a sentiment of hostility against France:—

"Our London correspondent has called our attention to one of those discreditable petty intrigues to which the enemies of the Anglo-French alliance often have recourse when they are bent on exciting or disturbing the public mind. The trick to which we now allude consists in attributing to certain French officers a pretended letter full of gross abuse of England, of which Simon Bernard had sent to him from Paris, as a document now being circulated in the barracks there, and which he should endeavor to get published in certain English newspapers.

Several provincial journals have been prosecuted for publishing from the Ami de la Religion the fabricated letter from King Victor Emmanuel in reply to one from the Emperor Napoleon.

The sailing frigate Forte quitted Cherbourg on the 7th inst., for China, with 400 men of the 1st Regiment of Marines, and 200 seamen drilled to the use of the musket. The Andromaque, Vengeance, and Perseverante had previously sailed with an equal number of soldiers and seamen. The only ship now to sail for China from the Ocean ports is the screw steamer Rhone, which is at Brest, and has on board the 2d battalion of Riflemen. It is expected that the Rhone will sail immediately.

The Emperor having been informed that 800 men had been embarked on board a frigate for China, saw that the frigate must be inconveniently crowded, and ordered that a steamer should be at once despatched from Toulon to bring her back, in order that the men might be sent in detachments of 400 each. No French newspaper has, we believe, alluded to the fact. Is this silence a proof of the liberty of the French press, that no one ventures to mention a fact which redounds to the praise of the Emperor, lest it might be considered implying blame to the Minister of Marine, and which perhaps would be followed by an avertissement?—Times Cor.

THE GAYENNE EXILES.—Advices had been received from Cayenne down to the early part of November. They announce that the Imperial decree, granting an amnesty to all persons transported for political offences, had been published by the governor. Fifty-nine individuals had been released in consequence, and were about to return to France on board the Ceres, which had received orders to that effect.

ITALY.

The Modena Gazette of the 6th contains an official article in which it is stated that the publication of the Sardinian Constitution and code of laws in the Modena provinces had led to a memorial on the part of the bishops of the said provinces, protesting against those provisions which related to the Church; that this memorial had received an official reply from the Government, and that the whole transaction was intended to be kept private; but that the bishops having given to their act publicity in their sectarian journals, the Government no longer considers itself bound to keep silence, and consequently publishes all the authentic documents relating to the affair. We accordingly find in the above number:—

1. A letter, dated the 31st of October, with which the Archbishop of Modena accompanies the memorial alluded to, and in which he particularly calls the attention of Dictator Farini to the impropriety of re-introducing civil marriage and rendering it compulsory, although the old Modenese law which allowed it had been happily abrogated under the old Government.

2. The memorial itself, signed by the five bishops of the Modena provinces, and couched in violent terms, almost directly accusing the new Government of irreligion for having suppressed convents, revived civil marriages, seized upon the administration of all benevolent institutions and foundations formerly in the hands of the clergy, &c., and, above all, for enacting penalties against such of the clergy as might refuse to conform to the law on marriages.

3. The reply of the Minister of Justice and Public Worship to the Archbishop, in which it is stated that the Dictator is animated with the most fervent respect for the Church, but that it was his duty to publish the constitution and laws of Sardinia, adopted by the nation, and also to protect them from violation by penal enactments. The letter concludes with assuring the Archbishop that the Government is disposed to act with leniency in all cases in which reasonable excuses may be pleaded in favor of the delinquents.

This reply bears date the 3d of November.

It seems that it has been settled in Turin that Buoncompagni is to come to Florence as Regent, pro-Regent, or Governor-General of the League of Central Italy. The four States comprising the League are to assume the denomination of provinces—dependencies on the North-Italian kingdom. The Trans-Appennine districts—Parma, Modena, and Romagna—will be considered as one province, under the rule of Farini, the man who projected and carried into effect their union. Tuscany will be governed by the present Ministers, with Baron Ricasoli at their head. Buoncompagni's functions are to be purely diplomatic and military. He will form the

connecting link between the Emilia and Tuscany, and between both of them and the Piedmontese Government, and he will have the supreme administration of the troops of the League—only of the contingents of the respective States, however, for Tuscany insists on having a separate portfolio of the war, and the Trans-Appennine Provinces must of necessity have a Minister of their own.—Times Cor.

Persons who profess to know what is passing behind the scenes affirm that England will be signally defeated at the Congress, "it being definitely settled that the Dukes shall be reinstated." Notwithstanding these assertions, which obtain full credence in the financial world, I am still of opinion that no member of the House of Hapsburg-Lorraine will ever reign again in Tuscany and Modena. A Tuscan, a staunch adherent of the Grand Ducal family, a few days ago informed a friend that the Grand Duke Ferdinand would have little or no chance of returning to his States if Sardinia renounced her plan of annexation. "The exiled dynasty," says he, "has few real friends, but it can hardly fail to acquire numerous and influential partisans if King Victor Emmanuel persists in his attempt to absorb Tuscany. The Tuscans, that is, full two-thirds of the population of the Grand Duchy, wish that a Kingdom of Etruria should be formed with Florence as its capital." As has before been stated, Austria is not in a position to interfere directly in Central Italy, but she indirectly does so, as she permits the agents of the Pope to recruit here and in other parts of the Empire. Foreign agents continue to enlist His Majesty's subjects, and to send whole troops of them to the Papal States, or elsewhere.—L.

The Times' correspondent, writing from Florence under date of the 7th ult., gives some insight into the nature of the Liberal Government of Central Italy. A "reign of terror" has in short been inaugurated; and the friends of freedom pretend to find in the vices which they attribute, perhaps falsely, to the expelled dynasties an excuse for their brutal acts and the model of their governments. Thus the Times' correspondent writes as under:—

You heard from me, five or six weeks ago, of several arrests which had been made by order of the Tuscan Government, who had got on the scent of a treasonable plot concocted between some reactionary partisans of the departed Austro-Lorraine dynasty, in league with men known as Red Republicans. Most of the arrested persons were set at liberty, from inability on the part of the Government to substantiate any evidence against them. Some of them, however, as you are aware, were not released at the time; among them I mentioned the Avvocato Andreozzi, who was in 1848 one of the most ardent partisans and active agents of Guerrazzi. I hear now that the Government have proceeded against Andreozzi and three of his accomplices in an "economical" way (in via economica); that is to say, the Prefetto of Florence, the head of the police, has tried these prisoners en famille, convicted them, and condemned them, some say to six months, some to two years' confinement in one of the State fortresses, and all this has been done so smoothly, so privately, that very few people indeed have as yet heard of the fact in Florence; and many persons, among them your own correspondent, have felt for some time the greatest reluctance to believe and report it.

This "economical" mode of proceeding against political offenders was a recent contrivance of the Ducal Government, which, since 1848, in order to avoid the eclat of a state trial, directed the chief police magistrate to deal with offences against the public tranquillity in a secret summary, and irresponsible manner, enabling him to issue a sentence even to the extent of three years imprisonment. It was an outrageous abuse of absolute power as the lettres de cachet of which the French Bourbons were guilty, or those Regi Biglietti with which the Savoy Princes aped their Royal cousins of France; for despotism in Tuscany, though perhaps milder, and, at any rate, more oily and hypocritical, was, in fact, more prying and searching, and, above all things, more arbitrary than any either in Europe or Asia.

The present Liberal Government found this terrible engine of the "economical tribunal" in the arsenal of ancient absolutism, and did not shrink from the odium incurred by so irregular a piece of ultra-Venetian inquisition. "There was law for it," Andreozzi was by the public voice reported guilty. He seems to have expected the nightly visit paid to him by the police; his house door was strongly bolted and barred; his room had to be taken by storm, the assailants entering by a breach they had made in the wall, as they would into a beleaguered citadel. The breathing time thus gained was by the conspirator employed in destroying a quantity of papers, out of the ashes of which public rumor trumped up such a cock-and-a-bull story of Ministers to be murdered, ruffians to be disguised as National Guards, &c., as made of the prisoners so many Guy Fawkeses or Maljets of the deepest die.

Whatever the real extent of their guilt might be, however, Andreozzi and his accomplices were certainly entitled to be heard, and their condemnation even to a few years' or months' seclusion, resolved on in the numerous audience-room of a police court with closed doors, after a mock trial, without either counsel or witnesses, carried into execution without any intimation to the public either of the nature of the prisoners' offence or of the real severity of their punishment. It is more than the most disciplined and submissive people would submit to. Not a murmur, or even a remark, however, escapes from the lips of this wonderful Tuscan population. Hardly one out of a thousand in Florence seems to have heard a syllable about Andreozzi's destination; and even those who are aware of the event are only anxious to hush up any talk on the subject; they aver that a trial of that nature, if public, would be calculated to create a great deal of popular agitation; that it might compromise persons whose enmity would jeopardise public tranquillity; that it was necessary to quash the whole affair; that "there was law for it," and that the Government was perfectly justified in guarding liberty by one of the most flagrant deeds of tyranny for which the worst of despots was ever held up to public execration.

AUSTRIA.

The Augsburg Gazette has the following singular article on the state of public feeling of Austria in general, and of Hungary in particular:—

"As the national feeling of the Hungarians is becoming unbearably fanatical, it is natural that people in the Danubian city (Vienna) should think of giving a constitution to the other races of the empire, in order that a fraction of its population should not become preponderant. If we are well informed, there is at present in Austria—as well among the Germans as among the Slaves—such a very bad (pejorative) feeling, that people do not object to the encroachments of the Magyars, as they hope through them to obtain reasonable concessions from the State. Every patriot must hope that the Imperial Government will give a constitutional reform to the whole empire rather than an exceptional position to the Hungarians. Government must be able to depend on the support of the whole empire, the patriotism of which can only be roused by a fitting representation, as powder and ball are palliatives to which recourse cannot be had except in extreme cases."

His Majesty, being of opinion that example is better than precept, has given orders that the greatest economy shall be observed in the Imperial household, and this his behest is said to have caused a panic in more than one of its superior departments. The Court lives very simply, and receives hardly any company, but still its expenses are large, as the money expended is often injudiciously employed. I, says the Times' correspondent, have received the following interesting letter from Pesth:—

PESTH, Dec. 7th.—"A piece of news so extraordinary has reached the high political circles of this city that it is not without hesitation I venture to commu-

nicate it, and yet these circles have excellent means of obtaining the earliest and best information. The news is, that the Emperor of Austria contemplates abdicating the crown in favor of his son, a child born the 21st of August, 1858, and appointing as Regent his brother, the Archduke Maximilian, formerly the Governor of Lombardo-Venetia. The reason assigned for the projected abdication is that the Emperor sees with dismay that Austria is going to wreck and ruin, and shrinks from the risk of figuring personally in history as 'the last of the Hapsburgs.' On the other hand, he will not consent to make the important concessions to the different parts of his empire, and especially to Hungary, by which alone the dangers now impending over Austria could, perhaps, for a time be averted. There is yet another reason, and that is, freed from the cares of Government, His Majesty could devote himself with ardor to the two pursuits which form the passion of his life and the object of his highest ambition—the slaughter of game and the tailoring of the army.

RUSSIA.

THE question of the enfranchisement of the serfs is causing, at this moment, considerable agitation in St. Petersburg. The deputies of the nobles require to be allowed to decide themselves on an affair which interests them greatly. In consequence, they wish to form a deliberative committee, and they put forth this pretension in terms which cause the Government to fear that this is only a starting point, and that if the demand were accorded, they would make others.

A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 5th Dec., informs us that the difficulties which have arisen between the committees appointed by the provinces which desire to constitute themselves into deliberative assemblies and the Government, which is opposed to such a measure, have not yet been arranged. The deputies lately renewed their demand in an address to the Emperor himself, in which they expressed their determination to engage themselves on honor, and if necessary by oath, not to occupy themselves with any question but that of the emancipation of the peasants. The Emperor has not yet made any reply. In the meantime the idea is spreading among the population that they have a right to a share in the government of the country, and is gaining ground in the most distant provinces of the empire. The Government is proceeding with calculated circumspection and delay in its political and social reforms.

SWEDEN.

The Times correspondent sends the following details of the progress of morality and of civil and religious liberty in Protestant Sweden:—

MARRIAGE IN SWEDEN.—The following rather singular project has just been presented to the Chamber of Nobles of the Swedish Diet. Baron Oretz proposed that, from the age of 15, young girls should be allowed to answer for their accord, yes or no, to any suitor for their hand. M. Montgomery opposed the project, declaring that at the age of 15, love, though strong, was too blind, and that the age of 25 was indispensable to be able to see clearly on so important a question. Baron Alstroemer treated such an objection as madness, and proposed to the Chamber to decide who was in the right, Baron Oretz or the Apostle Paul. The Baron replied that the words of the Apostle applied to paternal authority, which was very severe among the Jews and the Romans, and could not now be invoked when manners and customs had so much changed. Baron Alstroemer said that if the Chamber were to adopt the project Mormonism would become general. Baron Oretz replied warmly that it was ridiculous to talk of Mormonism, that his project was a serious one, and calculated to have a salutary effect on manners and ideas. The project was referred to a committee.

A resolution has been submitted to the Swedish Diet by a clergyman named Jansen, enacting that the entire Swedish clergy shall henceforth have complete control over all printed papers or pamphlets circulated by hawkers, and that, moreover, severe punishments shall be inflicted on all laymen who shall discuss religious subjects without first having been examined and authorized by a Protestant clergyman. The proposition was unanimously adopted, and some members proposed even more stringent measures.

ENGLISH POLICY IN ITALY.

The following article on "English Policy in Italy" is from the Ami de la Religion, and is signed "O. F. Audley."

"From whatever side we contemplate the mutual position of France and England, it is impossible to avoid a recognition of its gravity. The alliance still subsists, the two nations are even on the eve of a combat, under their united standards, in a distant clime, and nevertheless all mutual confidence seems to have disappeared, inquietude is felt on both shores of the narrow sea which divides the two countries, each is arming itself, fortifying itself, measuring the other with hostile eyes, as though ready to precipitate itself anew into a fierce strife, and to commence one of those inexplicable wars that Pagan antiquity welcomed with rapture, and that Christian Europe should repulse with horror. Are these vain alarms? Surely no—hear the language uttered almost every day by certain journals. They seem, for some time, to obey a signal—now, in attacking the institutions and the policy of England, and, anon, in revealing her weak points; accusing her of arrogance, perfidy, of what not? To these are united other publications, which have the reputation of greater independence, and whose language for that very reason, is more violent and bitter. These latter do not fear to preach a veritable crusade against Protestant England; as if, once she were overturned and humiliated, an era of universal peace would ensue, in which all peoples and governments should fraternally embrace, at the feet of the Sovereign Pontiff; all heresy should be destroyed, and all Parliamentary institutions abolished.

"We might very easily allow all these declamations to pass unnoticed, were there no real danger for the two countries, and no legitimate ground for the complaints of France. Let us see where the part of the blame lies.

"When Lord Palmerston's Cabinet succeeded Lord Derby's, all the French papers which claimed to represent the mind of the Government, celebrated the event as a victory. According to them the entente cordiale had again succeeded to difficult relations, created and maintained by the preceding administration. We knew at once what lay in the distance of this perspective, and the apologists of the Whig Cabinet were no more ignorant of it than we, but they affected to hope against hope. Soon, however, the reality declared itself. Lord Palmerston was at first obliged, by the current of public opinion in his own country, to continue the work of his predecessors and prepare the elements of national defence. Already this was a peculiar method of evincing alliance; but of course, every country has the right, and acknowledges the duty of providing for its safety, should it be supposed compromised. France had done and was still doing so, and as yet no one had complained, except perhaps the tax-payers of the two States, who had to bear the weight of the situation. "The great question, Italy," remained. France spent her blood and her treasures in chasing from the Peninsula the Austrians—from the Alps to the Adriatic, in ruining their influence, in order to found upon a solid basis Italian independence. Every one knows how this programme was fulfilled—how, after brilliant successes, the Emperor was obliged to stop short—he has said so himself—before an imminent revolution, before complications grievous to the interests of his people.

"And what was England doing? Her statesmen, her orators, her most renowned journalists rivalled each other in proclaiming that the sympathies of all—Whigs, Conservatives, Radicals—were with Italy, but that Great Britain ought not to spend a shilling,

or a man, for the triumph of her cause! 'Who knows even,' they said, with an air of mystery, 'whether the Emperor of the French is not going to establish his own supremacy in the place of that ratified by the Treaty of Austria? France and England, you will not be, Italians; you will only have changed your master, and you will have a King of Etruria: the agent of the Court of the Tuileries, as you had a Duke of Modena, and a Duke of Tuscany, proteges, if not stipendiaries of the Cabinet of Vienna.' This was said, repeated, and is repeated again, when the French arms have evacuated Italy, when peace is made, when Prince Napoleon has returned from an expedition to England, as if to show the inanity of these accusations.

"Is this all? No: the public mind in France, forcibly turned from internal affairs, has thrown itself with all the more energy into others, and has brought to bear upon them at once exaggeration of the national character, and a little of that ignorance which is inseparable from a superficial study of the facts. Public opinion saw—or thought it saw—England seeking allies on the Continent, preparing the elements of a new coalition against a near eventuality. We all know the handle made by certain journals of the interview between the Emperor of Russia and the Prince of Prussia. And we must acknowledge that there appears some foundation for the supposition, for more than one British writer has boasted of it as an authentic fact. In London, at least, the public, habituated to these exaggerations of the Press, could not understand the increasing irritation which this has caused on the other side of the Channel.

"Is this all yet? Certainly not, for the bitterness and frenzy with which England has rushed, head downwards, to the attack on 'an old Priest' who is the venerated chief of all possessing a Catholic heart have awakened, not only in France, but all over the Continent, the liveliest and most honorable susceptibilities. This too, we might pass over, if it dealt merely with a question of doctrine, in which Protestantism had been concerned. But, no, we have seen the thousand-and-one sects, which swarm like ants on their hill over the British territory, unite and coalesce. What for? To maintain upon the confines of the Pontifical States pseudo-religious committees, charged with the organisation of disorder, and the fomentation of insurrection in the Romagna. No matter about anarchy, insurrection, murder—down with the Pope! No matter if we make the Italians unbelievers, indifferent to all religious faith—down with the Pope! No matter if these populations finally roll in that perpetually revolutionary orbit in which Central America has been struggling for half a century, so that the Roman Pontiff succumb! A noble result truly, and worthy of a nation so illustrious as England.

Do we exaggerate? Are we porchance, talking rhetoric? A few days since, a Times correspondent related (God knows in what language) the joy he experienced in contemplating a Protestantised Italy but hypocritically Protestant, for the sole purpose of attaining a political end. Three months ago, another correspondent sent to a serious and Catholic Review these lines, written from Perugia:—"The agents of the Bible Societies have established at Rome a propagandist branch, which corresponds with the central committee in London. I myself, have talked a long time with an agent, commissioned to go, on horseback, to Rome, passing by Perugia and other places, to distribute Bibles, but also to foment the disorders, in the States of the Church. All last winter was passed in organising these troubles.

"Is this clear? And will our neighbours finally comprehend the profound indignation with which the most pacific men in France learn these details, these underground proceedings against the Supreme Chief of their religion? Will they finally understand that these are precisely the class of things which will make a war with England unusually popular? Will they understand that, to many a Frenchman, this question is much graver than reprisals for Waterloo, or a revision of the treaties of 1815?

"It is useless to say that these foolish manifestations are made by private societies, whose acts are beyond restraint. Yes, we know that, but we also know they impel the Government, not, surely, in need of additional impulses, to follow and assist in their action. We know that Lord John Russell and Palmerston find a support, and an element of popularity in assisting the propaganda; we know that Lord Chancercarde, a man so compromised by his measures that a seat in the Cabinet is to him an impossible good, has just gone to Italy, charged, probably, with recommending the progress of agitation made by Lord Minto in 1848. This we know, and we also know that the attitude assumed by the British Cabinet apropos of the future Congress, that attitude, blowing hot and cold almost at the same moment, to-day affecting an extreme arrogance, and to-morrow a still more suspicious spirit of conciliation, results, in a great degree, from a desire to flatter the evil passions, and to respond to the most fatal instincts of the nation.

What a time, too, to pursue this policy, proud and facile at once. We must return to the days, before the first Pitt to find such a disarray of parties, such an absence of direction in Power. Can we believe that the peace might not be better employed in reorganising, on a solid basis, a respectable ministry, in re-establishing the credit of Parliamentary institutions, a little compromised, it must be confessed, by the spectacle of impotence which they present to the eye of astonished foreign nations? Instead of running a tilt at this poor old priest, would it not be more honorable and more useful for all, to put an end to the shameful electoral corruption of which we have learned such disgraceful details, from the inquiries, at Gloucester and Wakefield. Instead of attacking by indirect means the pastor of six millions of your own subjects, were it not a sounder policy to put an end to the ills of that Ireland, which is your eternal wound, and which threatens to become, in the eyes of civilised Europe, your eternal blemish?

England has this precious advantage over most nations; she is accustomed to hear rude truths, and her own children are the first to unmask her faults. This is far better than that puerile vanity which hides it, indeed, it does not vaunt its imperfections. Thus we can foresee the moment when England will blush at the policy of isolation which she has pursued on this occasion, and for which her traditions had by no means prepared us. If Mr. Cobden and the Manchester School triumph now, all the nation will be humiliated by the rule of the effaced, which the Whig and Tory force her to play. There is something indescribably ridiculous, and at the same time hurtful, in dictating conditions to each Power. When England repeat ad nauseam that she has not spent either men or money in the cause of the independence of Italy, she has against her, whatever her self-laudation, the opinion of all Europe, including that of the Italians themselves, whom she pretends to support.

"Must we give all our thoughts words? The day is not distant, perhaps, when on the other side of the Channel, a change in opinion will take place, a return of justice and equity towards the noble old man whom England applauded in 1848, and who only arrested the progress of reform, when confronted by assassination. We do not think we deceive ourselves by adding, that when the English shall enter frankly into these ideas of true dignity, and political justice, all sensible minds in France will be calmed, and will repel the thought of war between two countries worthy of marching abreast at the head of civilisation. It is true, that neither Lord Palmerston nor Lord John Russell will be ministers.

TRUTH.—It does not embrace the world like the great tidal wave, sweeping along in majesty, calmness of power, and filling every creek and estuary; it rather descends in many fertilizing rills, from the mountain sides; and it is better that it descends for the present even so, than that it shall flow in one broad river, leaving an arid desert over all the land save on its immediate banks.

UNITED STATES.

Preparations are in progress, under the auspices of the Catholic Aid Association, for an aggregate meeting in London of the Catholics of England, to adopt an address to His Holiness the Pope. The meeting is expected to take place in January, when London will be full in anticipation of the opening of Parliament on the 24th. A number of Catholic peers and members of the Commons are expected to be present and the professional and mercantile classes will be numerously represented. Delegates from Catholic meetings in the provinces will also be present. The manifestation is already looked forward to with much interest, but the day has not been named.—Cor. of Telegraph.

The Witness, Scotch dissenting paper, has the following:—"Romish Seminary in Dundee.—Mr. Theibault, merchant, has set aside upwards of \$1,000 for erecting an institution for the residence of a number of teachers designated the Morris Brothers, who will undertake the education of a large number of Roman Catholic boys. Several other Roman Catholics have also met and subscribed a sufficient sum to commence the building of a school in connection with the institution.

[The Morris Brothers are no other than the "Marist Brothers who are well known as most skillful and efficient instructors of youth.]

Parliament will be called upon in the next Session to decide a very delicate and important question. We cannot help foresee that the differences of opinion will be great, the debates long and vivacious, and the result perhaps disappointing to the originators of the scheme. As it is a matter which will also excite no little attention abroad, there is every reason that it should receive a long and calm deliberation before the final resolve is taken. The public may well be invited to consider the question during the few weeks which must elapse before the Session. Be it known, then, that the Commission on Fortifications will probably recommend works of defence for the Dockyards of the kingdom, and that the sum of ten millions sterling is set down as the necessary cost of these. A still larger amount has been named but it will no doubt, be thought that this is enough, and ten millions will most likely be asked for next year by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Against any such expenditure there will of course, be a loud outcry from some quarter of the House. To expend so vast a sum in providing against a danger which will never threaten must rouse the indignation of the Peace Society, while many who do not share their opinions will think that it scarcely becomes the mistress of the seas to accept beforehand the position of a menaced and blockaded Power.—Times.

CHAPLAINS IN HER MAJESTY'S ARMY.—A Royal warrant has been issued, whereby chaplains of the Presbyterian and Catholic persuasions are put precisely on the same footing as those of the united Church of England and Ireland. It provides that the pensions to be given to the widows of chaplains shall be at the rates granted to the widows of officers of corresponding rank. According to this warrant the relative rank of chaplains shall be as follows, with the undermentioned classification and rates of pay:—Chaplain General to the Forces as major-general; chaplains of the first class, as colonels; chaplains of the second class, as lieutenant-colonels; chaplains of the third class, as majors; chaplains of the fourth class, as captains. 1st Class.—After 30 years, 22s 6d; allowance for lodgings, fuel, and light, £100 per annum; allowance for servants, 1s a day at home, and 1s 6d abroad. 2d Class.—After 21 years and under 25 years service, 17s 6d; after 25 years and under 30 years service, 20s; for lodgings, fuel, and light, 3s a day; for servants, 1s a day at home, and 1s 6d abroad. 3d Class.—After 14 years and under 21 years service, 15s; for lodgings, &c., 3s a day; for servants, at home, 1s a day, abroad, 1s 6d a day. 4th Class.—On appointment, 10s a day; after seven years and under 14 years service, 12s 6d a day; for lodgings, &c., 2s 3d a day; for servants, at home, 1s a day, abroad, 1s 6d a day. The rates of half-pay shall be regulated according to the following scale:—Five and under 14 years service, 6s a day; after 14 and under 21 years service, 7s 6d a day; after 21 and under 25 years service, 10s a day; after 25 and under 30 years service, 12s 6d a day; after 30 years service, 17s 6d a day.

The aggregate traffic returns of the United Kingdom for the week ending 26th November shows an increase of £46,050 over the same time last year.

SEIZURE OF SHEEP, CHEESE, AND FLOUR.—Three members of the Society of Friends residing in or near Mony Ash, Derbyshire, have suffered the loss of four sheep, seven cheeses, and a sack of flour, of the total value of £12 15s., for refusing to pay Church-rates amounting to 66s 6d., only £2 7s. 6d. being returned. The sack of flour was taken from a working man, for a rate of 2s. 7d. only.—Weekly Register.

The Record states that the notorious Hugh Allen is to be presented by the Lord Chancellor to the Rectory of St. George's, Southwark, his appointment "being connected with a desire to remove him from the scene of the riots in St. George's-in-the-East.—Weekly Register.

Ten children are reported in the last weekly return of the Registrar-General to have "died from suffocation in bed, apparently by accident." Four are returned expressly as "murdered."—Weekly Register.

A droll instance of the effect all our paraphernalia of law exercise on the savage mind occurred on Friday at the Old Bailey. A wild Kuffir, who had escaped, I suppose, from some menagerie, had taken to Highgate Woods, where he was discovered regaling himself on the carcass of a newly-slain sheep. After a long chase he was captured, and "brought to book" at the Central Criminal Court, as above stated. He remained quiet during the very unnecessary ceremony of reading the indictment; but when called upon to plead, the Zulu, supposing that his usual exhibition was expected by the assembled audience, commenced one of his wild dances in the dock, accompanied by a guttural and monstrous drone, which some imaginative people might call a song. The judge looked at the jury—the latter at the judge; and the unconscious Kuffir was cut short in his antics by being at once removed with a caution that he should be taken care of. The scene, short as it was, excited no little amusement and amazement in a crowded court.

Considerable interest will attach to the trial, conviction, and sentence of Dr. Smethurst, at the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, on the charge of bigamy. He was accused of marrying Miss Isabella Banks, his first wife, Mary, being alive at the time. Mr. Clark prosecuted, and Mr. Leigh defended the prisoner. The Judge was Mr. Baron Bramwell. After evidence had been adduced to prove both marriages, Mr. Leigh contended that the prosecution had failed to show that the first wife of Smethurst was a woman capable of forming a valid marriage. Upon this ground he wished to show that there was no case to go to the jury. Mr. Clark contended that the question of the invalidity of the first marriage was one which rested with the defence, and the Judge decided that the jury must pronounce. Mr. Leigh then addressed the jury, chiefly urging upon their attention that they must dismiss all prejudice against the prisoner. The jury found Smethurst guilty, and, before passing sentence, Mr. Baron Bramwell retired to consult Mr. Justice Byles. On his return, the Judge remarked that the prisoner had been found guilty of bigamy, and of bigamy alone, and that the point in which he had consulted his learned brother, was about the false oath which Smethurst, a man of education, must have taken when he married a second time. The sentence was one year's imprisonment with hard labor. And thus the Smethurst business is at an end so far as the public is concerned. It only remains, we think, to add that the trial of Wednesday is satisfactory, the question at issue not having been mixed up with another question with which the court had nothing to do.