

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE LIMITS OF FRANCE.—A very important pamphlet, entitled *Les limites de la France*, has lately appeared in Paris, professing to come from the pen of a M. A. Le Masson. This is said to be a pseudonym, but the *Journal de Bruxelles* states that such is not the case, but that M. Le Masson is an artillery officer of French origin, who was engaged in the service of Piedmont during the late Italian campaigns. In this pamphlet the idea of "the natural frontiers" of France is set forth with small regard indeed to the jealousy of the surrounding countries and of Europe in general. The writer says:—

"A nation does not alone fall because it degenerates or remains stationary whilst its rivals progress; but because it advances less rapidly than they do. Such was the case with Venice, Holland, Spain, and Turkey, and such is the fate that menaces France, because her relative force constantly decreases (*va toujours en décroissant*). The only real means to avoid this fate is to extend the French territory, at least to its natural limits. It would be an augmentation of some nine or ten million of square hectares (say twenty-six or twenty-seven million acres) of populations, which, besides giving greater frontier solidity, would maintain France in a respectable position *en attendant* greater changes in the state of Europe. It is a question of vital interest, not of ambition, which requires that France should not too long delay the advancing to the Alps, and on the other side at least to the Rhine."

Elsewhere he says:—

"With a numerous steam fleet, the passage of the Channel, either openly or by surprise, is not more difficult for a French army than the passage of the Rhine."

The *Journal de Bruxelles* remarks on this:—

"Undoubtedly the appearance of this pamphlet is an event under existing circumstances. Language so little disguised cannot but awaken the attention of the great powers, and in this point of view we would merely have to congratulate ourselves on the pamphlet, if the author did not outrage our national feelings so far as to pretend that if France wished to possess Belgium, among other countries, she would find her ready to second her." The heroes of Risquons-Tout spoke in no other fashion."

The following appears in the *Moniteur*:—"There have recently appeared several works, and, among others, one entitled, *Des Limites de la France*, the object of which seems to be to flatter the tendencies which people believe to be those of the government. The government repels all solidarity with the authors of these works, the spirit of which is as remote from the intentions of the Emperor as from his loudly declared policy."

The correspondent of the *Univers* considers that there is no foundation in a rumor which had been current in some political circles, of a convention concluded by the Holy See with Austria for the maintenance, during twelve years, of the forces kept by this power in the northern provinces of the Pontifical States. There is alone no foundation for another rumor, occasionally circulated of the French army being about to retire from Rome.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—

"A good deal is said of the private and remarkably friendly interview between the Emperor and his cousin, Prince Napoleon Jerome, previous to the official visits. They were together for half an hour or more; and on announcing to him his nomination as Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, it appears he took the riband from his own person and placed it round the shoulders of his cousin. Napoleon Jerome is said to have made many protestations of his adhesion and devotedness to the Emperor, as of his repentance for the violence of the language he was wont to use when a member of the Mountain. So far as words go, there is little doubt of his being repentant; but there are those who suspect that the Emperor has not so completely forgotten, however he may have forgiven, the past."

Although the Emperor professed to make no speeches on the occasion of the New Year's-day receptions, he thought fit, on the appearance of the diplomatic corps, to say a few words, which it is hoped will have the effect of calming the apprehensions of war entertained by all the other Powers of Europe. In answer to the congratulations addressed to his Imperial Majesty, in the name of the whole of the diplomatic corps, by the Pope's Nuncio, Louis Napoleon concluded a short address with the following words—"I hope, with the Divine protection, to be able to develop the prosperity of France, and to ensure the peace of Europe."

It will be seen from this that Louis Napoleon has once more proclaimed his pacific intentions, and declared that his policy is to be one of peace and progress. His speech to the diplomatic corps is, in fact, a repetition of the Bordeaux speech in another form.

SWITZERLAND.

It is not the Catholics alone who believe that the re-establishment of the French Empire is to exercise a great influence upon that country. The Radicals also feel the same thing. They do not enter the path of justice; but they are less ardent in oppressing;—not that they abandon their projects, but they hesitate.

Several facts, however, have just shewn that the people of Switzerland, as soon as they can do so, act in a proper Catholic manner. The Radicals could not as yet corrupt them. In the *Valais* the conservatives succeeded in getting into the new Constitution an article which constrained the government to conclude a Concordat with the Holy See upon religious affairs. At Friburgh the municipal corporation had decided upon pulling down the collegiate church of

Notre Dame, but at a meeting of the inhabitants that revolting decision was annulled, and the canons of Notre Dame will have the church restored at their own expense.

At Soleure, the government had proposed to suppress the Convent of the Capuchin Women; but the Great Council, in conformity with the wishes of the canton, rejected that proposition, and voted by a great majority the preservation of the convent. The Bishop of Bale addressed on that occasion an energetic letter to the council of state, and women of all classes of society signed a petition in favor of the religious. At last public opinion made itself felt in such strong antagonism to the project of the government that the Great Council was constrained to reject it. These three facts show that the Catholic population, even in the cantons where Radicalism reigns, have remained profoundly attached to the cause of the Church.

If the Catholic cantons could be delivered from the oppression of the Radicals, the spirit of order and that of love for religion would soon be dominant. But as long as the sect of humanitarian philosophers—the coterie of the free-masons—the faithless placemen and the allies of the propagandists of London, are permitted to exercise a boundless terrorism, the good tendencies will remain useless, or will scarcely be perceived in a few isolated facts which will have the only effect of irritating the aggressors. Thus, it is announced that the measures against the chapter of Soleure will be resumed next spring, and that the adherents to the faction called "La jeune Suisse" are actively engaged in the project of causing the new Concordat, wished for by the Canton of the Valais, to be rejected.

The Comity of Potieux having been suppressed by order of the Government of Friburgh, M. Charles, the president of that comity, has just published an appeal to the people of Switzerland in favor of the Canton of Friburgh. Unfortunately, nothing can be expected from that manifestation. The City of Berne will not listen to the just claims of the Catholics. But the question is, will it be heard at Vienna or at Paris?

ITALY.

The *Savoy Gazette* states that the King of Naples is fortifying Gaeta, and that Austria is displaying great activity in fortifying the coast of Zara as far as Cettara.

PIEDMONT.

THE CIVIL MARRIAGE BILL.—The following is the conclusion of the Pastoral Letter, issued by the Piedmontese Episcopate against the Civil Marriage Bill, which was happily rejected by the Senate. We translate it from the French version given by the *Univers*:—

"Resting on the doctrine of the Faith, on the infallible teaching of the holy Catholic Church, Apostolic and Roman, the one and only Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ; knowing that whosoever heareth not that Church is already an infidel, as the Gospel declares, and that he is as such already condemned; after having invoked the Divine succor and the powerful intercession of the Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary, as also of the Holy Apostles, our Fathers in the Faith, we all, with a unanimous voice, declare the points which follow:—

"1. Nothing, in virtue of any civil law, can ever be considered as innovated, changed, or annulled, of all that on the subject of the Sacrament of Marriage, is found to be sanctioned, regulated, and defined by the Church, principally by the Holy Council of Trent, whether as to married persons and their obligations, or as to the number and nature of the impediments, as well prohibitive as diriment, or as to the motives of dispensation, and the means of obtaining them, or, finally, as to the Ecclesiastical judgments in causes matrimonial.

"2. Whosoever, among our diocesans, shall profess, defend, or teach, on the Sacrament of Marriage, doctrines contrary to those which are taught and fixed by the Holy Catholic Church, and particularly defined in the canons of the Holy Council of Trent, and in the dogmatic constitution *Auctorem auctori*, will by such acts voluntarily separate himself from the communion of the Church, and will incur all the penalties which she has fulminated against the heretics and authors of heresy.

"3. Whosoever, among our diocesans, shall contract marriage in any other form than that which is prescribed by the Holy Church, will, *ipso facto*, incur the greater excommunication.

"4. Consequently, those who shall render themselves guilty of offences foreseen and determined in the foregoing second and third articles, will be deprived *ipso facto* of all participation in the Holy Sacraments, as well during their life as at the hour of death, unless they have first suitably retracted their errors, repaired their misdeeds and their scandals, and caused their marriage to be legitimated according to the prescriptions of the Church, or unless they have separated themselves from the person whom the Church could merely regard as a concubine.

"5. In like manner, every person guilty of the aforesaid offences who shall come to die, without being first reconciled with God and with His Church, will be deprived of Ecclesiastical burial.

"6. The children born of a marriage contracted otherwise than according to the rites of Holy Church, will be considered as the offspring of a real concubinage, and treated as illegitimate with reference to all the advantages which, according to the rule of the holy canons, cannot be derived except from marriage validly contracted.

"Nov. 18th, 1851."

AUSTRALIA.

There are about 8,000 miners at work on all the various goldfields; but the *Sydney Empire* is of opinion that not less than 200,000 persons would find profitable employment on the large tracts of aurifer-

ous country, hitherto unworked, which the colony is known to possess. The New South Wales miners are all of them "doing well."

GREAT BRITAIN.

VISIT OF CARDINAL WISEMAN TO LEEDS.—The members of the Catholic Literary Institute of Leeds have resolved to hold a grand *soirée* at the latter end of the present month, which will be attended by his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.—*Morning Chronicle*.

THE QUEEN V. DR. NEWMAN.—The rule for a new trial in this celebrated cause will be argued in the ensuing term. It stands the last but one in the list of new trials, No. 20 in the cause paper. It is understood that the expenses attendant on the proceedings of this affair will amount to about £10,000. The present Attorney-General is for Dr. Newman.

THE ANGLICAN BENCH.—It is stated on good authority that the new government has already received the adhesion of the entire bench of Anglican Bishops, without an exception. We can firmly believe the report; for, apart from the merits of Lord Aberdeen, their "Spiritual Lordships," in the first place, are great admirers of the powers that be; secondly, they love coalitions and compromises; and thirdly they carefully eschew extreme opinions either way, both in politics and theology. Hence we are disposed to give credit to the rumour to which we allude, and not only this, but we venture to infer from it a high probability in favor of its stability. If any persons "know which side their bread is buttered," it is their lordships; and we may be sure that they are far too worldly wise to throw their lot in with a sickly and perishable cabinet.

JEWISH DISABILITIES.—We are enabled to state that the Earl of Aberdeen, who was a conscientious opponent of Jewish emancipation, has within the last few months, seen reasons to change his opinions on the subject.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

FORTIFICATION OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—Forts are now erecting at Freshwater, Niton, and Sandown, at the back of the Isle of Wight. At Freshwater a large number of men are employed on the erection of the fort, and the work will shortly be accomplished. At Sandown the old dilapidated fort will be restored. A body of soldiers are already stationed there. Branch railways will, it is expected, be formed between all these places, and the main trunk line through the island, not only for general traffic, but for the purposes of government such as conveying troops, &c.

PROPOSED TELEGRAPH BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.—A project has been formed for constructing a submarine telegraph between Great Britain and the United States. It is proposed to commence at the most northerly point of Scotland, run thence to the Orkney Islands, and thence by short water lines to the Shetland and Faroe. Thence a water line of 200 to 300 miles conducts the telegraph from Iceland; from the western coast of Iceland another submarine line conveys it to Kioige Bay, on the eastern coast of Greenland; it then crosses Greenland to Juliana's Hope, on the western coast of that continent, in 60° 42', and is conducted thence by a water line of about fifty miles across Davis' Straits to Byron's Bay, on the coast of Labrador. From this point the line is to be extended to Quebec. The entire length of the line is approximately estimated at 2,500 miles, and the submarine portions of it from 1,400 to 1,600 miles. The peculiar advantage of the line being divided into several submarine portions is that, if a fracture should at any time occur, the defected part could be very readily discovered, and repaired promptly, and at a comparatively trifling expense. From the Shetland Islands it is proposed to carry a branch to Bergen, in Norway, connecting it there with a line to Christiania, Stockholm, Gottenburg, and Copenhagen; from Stockholm a line may easily cross the Gulf of Bothnia to St. Petersburg. The whole expense of this great international work is estimated considerably below £500,000.

NEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—It is the impression in naval circles, as letters have been received by officers who formerly served in Arctic expeditions requesting them to state to the Admiralty if they were willing to serve again, that one if not two expeditions will be sent to the Arctic regions early in the present year, and both well appointed with steam and sailing vessels. One of these expeditions will be sent to Smith's and Jones' Sounds, to follow up the discoveries made by Commander Inglesfield last year, in his remarkable voyage of four months in the Isabel auxiliary screw steam vessel. It is also expected that that enterprising officer, having accomplished so much at his own expense, will be promoted to the rank of captain, and be appointed to the command of the new expedition, and that an efficient steamer will be made ready to proceed with the expedition for further exploration in the open sea he discovered during his last voyage.—The other expedition will proceed to Behring's Straits, with the object of aiding Captain Collinson's expedition, as all eyes are now turned in that direction, in the expectation that some intelligence will be learned of Sir John Franklin from Captain Collinson's party; and the *Rattlesnake*, at Sheerness, is fitting to proceed as a storeship, under Commander Trollope, to Behring's Straits.

HUNGARIAN SERIP.—An importation has taken place at Liverpool of several cases of Hungarian serip, to the amount of upwards of one hundred thousand debentures, issued by Kossuth, with his portrait and autograph, at New York, in February last, and payable one year after the establishment, *de facto*, of Hungarian independence—hide your diminished head, ye Greek calends!—either at the National Treasury, or at its agencies in London and New York. We have not heard of any scarcity in the money market, arising from the appearance of these promising securities, which were, we understand, permitted to pass the Custom-house free of charge, owing to a difficulty which the officers felt in fixing the *ad valorem* duty. The best plan, perhaps, would have been to assess them, like other prints, at a penny a piece, as pictorial representations of Mr. A. Smith.—*John Bull*.

FATAL EFFECTS OF JUVENILE INTemperance.—A very extraordinary instance of juvenile intemperance, attended by fatal results, occurred at Redding Muir on Saturday last. Three children, all under eight years of age, had contrived to obtain a bottle of Whisky, and, unconscious apparently of the nature of the effects it would have upon them, drank the entire contents of the bottle amongst them. All the three were taken seriously ill, and on Monday the eldest girl died. The other two are recovering from the effects of their fatal frolic.—*Falkirk Herald*.

ORANGE RIOTINGS IN GREENOCK.—We regret to find that a series of systematic assaults arising out of religious differences, have been again prevailing on Saturday and Sunday evenings for some weeks back, and with such organization as, in almost all cases, to enable the real offenders to escape. We are informed, it is now the practice for the young members of the Orange body to assemble at street-corners, and when any unfortunate Irishman who does not belong to that politico-religious party passes, he is savagely attacked and maltreated. The plan adopted is to have some boys along with the skirmishers, and whenever the object of their ill-will passes, the boys make a run at him, which, as a matter of course, at once collects a crowd, and before the victim can get disentangled from the mass, unseen or unknown hands have completed the work—the poor creatures being frequently disfigured very much, as may be conceived from a specimen of a skull-cracker taken from the person of one of them on Sunday night, which was composed of strands of rope plaited and twisted round a mass of iron or lead, the opposite end forming a loop for the hand, and the whole constituting a most formidable and murderous weapon. Last night "St. Patrick's bank" held a concert in the Mechanics' Hall, Sir Michael-street, for the purpose of raising funds to pay for their musical instruments. About the hour of meeting, an ill-assorted group of boys and youths gathered in the neighborhood of the hall for the purpose of annoying parties going to the concert, by hooting and jostling, and cries of "Down with the Pope." At intervals the heavy showers of rain helped to keep the motley band in check; but about nine o'clock the crowd assembled at the foot of Ann-street, and came along Tobago-street in the direction of the hall—the police, a body of whom was stationed at the institution, hearing the noise, came down the street, and drove the mob back to the foot of Ann-street, and partially dispersed it; but as the officers retired, they were assailed with groans and missiles. Captain Mann gathered all the force at hand, and charged the crowd, which was again passing along Tobago-street, and one of the policemen got himself seriously hurt in the face in the melee, being knocked down with a stone. The mob rallied again at the foot of Sir Michael-street, and kept the officers in constant employment for some hours. The shop of Mr. Mays, Pawnbroker, was attacked by one of the bands that were scattered up and down; and he, it is said, threatened to use a pistol for his protection, which had the result of enraging them still further, and in a few moments his windows were broken in, his shop ransacked, and his goods thrown about and destroyed. In the course of the evening several men got themselves cut and hurt, one having three teeth knocked out by a stone.—*Greenock Advertiser*.

PROTESTANT POOR HOUSE CHARITY.—At the police-court on Monday, a case of the most refined cruelty was brought under the notice of the magistrate. It appears that, some weeks back, a pauper-nurse named Oldham had taken a poor child, about 4 years of age, put a live coal from the fire into its hand, closed it, and held it in that position till the coal was cold, at the same time holding a cane over the child with her other hand to prevent its screaming. On the schoolmistress coming into the room, the brute told her what she had done, adding, that it was to prevent the child from playing with the fire—a lie on the face of it, as he could not get near, a large screen being in the front. The schoolmistress had a police put on the hand, but made no report to the medical officer, the master, or any of the authorities. The child was instructed, on its entrance into the rooms of the visiting committee, to place the wounded hand behind its back; and thus things went on for nearly four weeks before it was discovered, when the chairman of the board, on a representation from the master of the house, gave the woman into custody, and she was taken before the magistrate and remanded for a week. The matter was brought before the guardians on Thursday last, and a discussion ensued on it, Mr. John Wade very justly moving the suspension of the schoolmistress. No remarks were made on her cruelty and neglect in not immediately informing the medical man; it was called a piece of youthful indiscretion; and yet she is allowed almost the sole control over more than 90 children. The brute who committed the offence is a pauper-nurse, from whom much feeling, probably, might not be expected; the schoolmistress is a paid servant, and winked at the cruelty; and the poor child, a mere pauper, who was not considered in the matter, we are pretty certain (notwithstanding all that was said on the subject) has lost the use of his hand and two fingers for life. The guardians must reconsider the matter, and no doubt, from the manner in which Mr. Wade took up the subject, he will not allow it drop.—*Kentish Mercury*.

THE MORMONS.—Three hundred members of this Protestant sect from Norway and Denmark, arrived per Lion, from Hamburg, on Tuesday night, and were forwarded by Mr. R. J. Cortis, the agent, to Liverpool, en route for New Orleans and the Salt Lake. Two missionaries from America have converted 2,000 persons; the remaining 1,700 follow in the spring.—*Eastern Counties Herald*.

EXECUTION OF HENRY HORLER.—REMARKABLE DECLARATION OF THE CRIMINAL.—This wretched man, who was convicted at the December sessions of the Central Criminal Court for the murder of his wife, Anne Horler, under circumstances of great atrocity, suffered the extreme penalty of the law yesterday morning, at eight o'clock, in front of Newgate. In the course of conversation with the Rev. Mr. Davis, on Saturday, he made a remarkable admission, which will probably shake the faith of some of those gentlemen who are just now loudly urging the propriety of abolishing the punishment of death. After expressing the great fear he had of undergoing the actual pain of a violent death, he stated that he did not think his crime would have cost him his life—that he expected he should have been imprisoned for life or transported, and that if he had looked forward to the punishment of death as a probable contingency he should not have committed the crime. The remarkable statement made by the prisoner that if he had known his own life would have been the penalty he would not have committed the crime, will scarcely surprise those who remember that the following capitally-convicted murderers, tried at the Old Bailey, have had their sentences commuted to transportation during the last ten years:—Wm. Stolzer, October, 1843; Edwin Dwyer, Nov., 1843; Mary Farley, 1844; Augustus Dalmas, June, 1844; John Smith, August, 1846; Wm. Newton Allnut, December, 1847; Mary Anne Hunt, August, 1847; Annette Meyers, February, 1848; Wm. Tomkins, May, 1848; George McCoy, Dec., 1849; S. A. Jordan, October, 1849; Anne Merrett, April, 1850; and Wm. Smith, Nov., 1851.—*Times*.