

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Parisians are in favor of peace with Russia, and believe and hope to see it concluded. They are for *this* peace, but disposed for *some* war. What war? That is the question.

Nous avons tirés les marrons du feu assez longtemps pour les autres, they say openly now. The English may regret not having destroyed the Russian fleet as they imagined they would have done in the spring campaign. But France had no wish to weaken her present enemy by giving such strength to her present ally, who may become one day her enemy. For that plain and simple reason France must have peace whatever England may do to prevent it. The Russians are brave soldiers, say the French. They respect us and hate and despise our allies, *à qui la faute?* We cannot continue a war to please England and keep Lord Palmerston a Minister. *Milord Palmerston* may be a very good Englishman, but he does not love France better now than when he signed the order that consigned Napoleon I. on board the *Bellerophon*. Our army reaped honor and glory in the campaign—not one single officer asked to return to his country “*for urgent private affairs*”—not one single soldier refused to follow his officer. If the English have not proved themselves good soldiers, it is not our fault. This is the style of reasoning in almost every class of society. The Victoria medals that ornament the coats of the soldiers, have not gained their heart; nor have the garters and crosses won over the generals. To a French ear to-day, in spite of the alliance and in spite of the war, *les Anglais* is a harsher and more grating sound than *les Russes*—and the Parisians are only waiting for the proclamation of peace, to cry out with enthusiasm—“*Vivent nos amis les ennemis.*”—*Paris Cor. Nation.*

PEACE CONFERENCES.—The Ministers whose high and honorable task it is to represent Great Britain in the approaching conferences at Paris may well be excused if they enter upon their arduous and responsible task with deep anxiety and not without some misgivings as to the result. Clouds and darkness are over the face of the future into which they are about to fling themselves. The negotiations of the past year, and the different feelings and wishes of the allied Powers on many points, may reasonably check any feeling of over-confidence in which the Ministers of this country might feel disposed to indulge. France and Austria are closely united, and may be expected not to hold on all points language exactly identical with that which will be employed on behalf of Great Britain.—*Times.*

The *Constitutionnel* has an article which indicates that indemnification for the expenses of the war, will not be one of the points of stipulation embraced in the 5th point. The article shows that the increased commercial development of France and England in the East compensates for the sacrifice of the war.

A Paris letter in the *Indépendance*, of Brussels, states that the municipal authorities of Paris have already given orders for a magnificent cradle to be got ready for the expected infant of the Emperor and Empress. It will surpass, it is said, in taste and exquisite workmanship the famous one presented to the King of Rome.

DEATH OF SŒUR ROSALIE.—This wonderful person expired on the 7th ult., in the house of the Sisters of Charity, in the Rue de l'Épée de Bois. She was born in the commune of Laneran, in the Pays de Gex, in the old diocese of St. François de Sales. She entered the Order at fifteen, and had completed her 69th year on the last Feast of the Nativity.—*Ami de la Religion.*

The *Univers* alludes, among countless acts of heroic charity, to the occasion of her saving the life of one of the *Garde Mobile* in 1848. The mob followed him into the house. “We will have no killing here,” said Sœur Rosalie. “Non, ma Mère,” they answered; “not here; but we will have him out and shoot him in the street.” “Then you shall shoot me too,” said the Sister, covering him with her body, and at last rescuing him from their hands.

There was a “row” lately at a lecture by M. Nisard at the Sorbonne in Paris. Police agents in plain clothes were present; they made a mark with chalk on the backs of the most uproarious of the students, so that they might be known and arrested when they left the hall; the students detected the manoeuvre, and rebuked the police-agents: when the officers left the place, the *Sergent de Ville* arrested them, lodged them in prison, and kept them there for a day and a night.

A LOTTERY SCHEME.—The *Journal du Loiret* relates the following scheme resorted to by a young damsel in order to procure a husband:—“A young lady, pretty and well educated, residing in the arrondissement of Pithiviers, has conceived the idea of putting herself up to lottery. There are to be 300 tickets at 1,000f. each, and to the fortunate winner she will give herself and the 299,000f. by way of dowry. The lady has attached some very prudent conditions to the purchase of tickets. She will only sell them to persons whom she may think will suit her, and, in order to ascertain that point, she exacts a half-hour's *tête à tête* conversation with each applicant. There is no limit of age imposed, but more than one ticket may be taken by one person. The lottery will be drawn on the 25th of November next at the Mairie at Pithiviers. No married men are allowed to take tickets. It is said that a number of Englishmen have already become purchasers, and applications are coming in from all quarters.”

A GOOD STORY.—“A bear and its leader,” says the *Courrier de Lyons*, “lately arrived towards night at a village near this city, and the latter sought admission into the only public-house of the place. The host at first declined to admit the strange pair,

not knowing where to place the animal, but finally he consented to receive them. The bear was placed in a pigstye, and its occupant, a fat pig, which was to be killed on the morrow, was let loose in the courtyard. In the middle of the night cries of help proceeding from the pigstye aroused the house, and the host, his wife, and the servants at once ran to the spot. It was then ascertained that a thief, excited by the splendid condition of the pig, had determined on eloping with it, and had entered the pigstye with the laudable intention. The bear, displeased at being suddenly awakened by this enterprising individual, rewarded him with a fraternal hug, which caused the would-be thief to cry out so lustily. The man was delivered from the paws of the bear, but only to be handed over into the hands of justice.”

GERMANY.

VIENNA, Feb. 9.—It is very generally believed that the preliminaries of peace will be signed as soon as the Peace Conferences begin, but there is good reason for supposing that such will not be the case. The Western Powers and Austria desire that the fundamental conditions of peace should be as precise as possible, and few persons who have attentively read the propositions recently accepted by Russia can have failed to remark that the sense of certain passages in them is somewhat obscure. England will naturally wish to give greater precision to the fifth proposition, and this Government may desire to make some slight changes in the others. In short, it is highly probable that the five points will be subjected to a very strict revision before they are accepted by the various members of the Conference as the irreversible basis of the future negotiations for peace. The armistice, which will not be concluded until the preliminaries of peace are signed, will hardly be for a longer term than a month or five weeks. What the future will bring forth is naturally as little known to me as to the rest of the world, but my sources of information are so various that it is not difficult for me to foretell what kind of interpretation will ultimately be given to the fifth point. Austria, who was formerly at the feet of Russia, has now thrown herself into the arms of France, and therefore the representatives of England would be likely to find themselves in a minority should they attempt to make a *sine qua non* of the disarming of the eastern coast of the Black Sea.—*Times Correspondent.*

The Emperor of Austria is reported to have declared that henceforth no man in Austrian Italy shall be called to account for his political behaviour during 1848 and 1849. “It is my desire,” said the Emperor, “that the events of those years should be buried in oblivion.”

BERLIN, Feb. 3.—The *Gazette de la Croix* says that Prussia will maintain her neutrality in the face of the Conferences, that she will enter into no engagement tending to support the projects of the Western Powers against Russia, and that she will await the march of events. The amount of Bank notes will be augmented by ten millions.

ITALY.

A letter from Rome, dated January 26th, says: “A great deal of ill-founded alarm as to the probabilities or possibility of a revolutionary movement in Rome has prevailed in other parts of Italy of late, and the consequent remonstrances of the Papal government have prevented the French garrison from being reduced to the effective force of merely 3,000 men, as was proposed a year ago. The French forces here and at Civita Vecchia are still about double that number, added to which the Swiss regiment, and the Roman battalions of chasseurs and infantry in the capital, are more than sufficient to put down any attempt to change the existing state of things, should such an attempt be made—of which, under present circumstances, there is not the most remote probability. Meanwhile the foreigners render Rome extremely gay, and shopkeepers, hotel-keepers, and cicerones prosper in consequence.”

It is known that the authorities at Turin have taken the schools out of the hands of the Frères Chrétiens. Till the year 1850 nothing was ever said against them. From every side came testimonials to their valuable services. In that year, however, the revolutionary party attacked them, and their system was made the subject of inquiry. All, however, passed off satisfactorily. Fresh persecutions arose, and at last the party against them became so strong that a decree of council was obtained to send them away. M. Nuytz, the heretical professor, charged with the drawing up of the report, on which the proceedings were grounded, acknowledges the soundness, sense, and moderation of their teaching. The one bugbear on which only the cry against them is sustained, is, that having superiors at Paris they must needs be “*Jesuits*,” upholders of Ecclesiastical authority in opposition to the temporal, &c. The sons of La Salle found able defenders in the Count de Revel, Baricco, the theologian; the Senator Giulio, and others, but in vain. The public indignation amongst the poor and the religious of the population was immense. At the very moment of their expulsion they had not only kept up their schools of children, but had opened gratuitous night schools for poor workmen.—*Univers.*

The Dames du Sacré Cœur of Chambéry having some time ago opened a school without having, according to law, passed the requisite examination, legal proceedings were commenced against them at the suit of the Government. The *Savoy Gazette* announces that these proceedings had ended in the condemnation of the Sisters, by the tribunal of Chambéry, to a fine of 50fr. each, besides damages and costs, and the suppression of their school.

RUSSIA.

Great preparations for war are being made, despite the prospect of peace. It seems as if the arsenals were working twice as hard since the decision of the

Czar. The Grand Duke Constantine, Prince Menschikoff, and some of the superior officers of the navy, are continually inspecting the dockyards.

The Emperor Alexander II. appears, nevertheless, resolved to abide by his pacific intentions, but the news from the interior causes him some annoyance. Moscow and the Boyards grumble at his decision.—If the hopes of peace are realised, it may be said that the towns situated on the sea coast, especially the manufacturing towns, will evince real satisfaction, whereas the cities that have no commerce, and the country places—the dwellings of the Priesthood and nobles—will show dissatisfaction.

RUSSIAN CONCESSIONS TO CATHOLICS.—The Czar has informed the Pope, by an autograph letter, that he has restored four Catholic Bishops in Poland, and created six bishoprics in Russia.

The *Militär Zeitung* learns from Bakshiserai that the news of the coming armistice had produced a great sensation on the Russian army, as preparations were being made for “*alarming*” the advanced posts of General Autemarre’s division. The attack, which was to have been made by way of Jansale and Kolutuz was naturally countermanded.

So confident are the Russians of peace that many who had been hitherto residing at Brussels have already come to Paris.

THE CRIMEA.

The *Times* correspondent writes under date the 1st inst.:—“There is no variation to note in the health of the army, which continues excellent.—What a contrast between last year and this! Last week’s return gives 18 deaths (of which 5 are in the Land Transport Corps) in an army of 53,000 men, our present strength in the Crimea, exclusive of the Highlanders, &c., at Kertch. In the corresponding week last year the army here was about 29,600 strong, and there were 538 deaths! 18 deaths in 53,000 is about 1 in 3,000, or 1-30 per cent. per week, or at the rate of 1 22-30 per cent. per annum—about 17 per mil, which would be a low average of mortality in an English population of the same age, all males of, say, between 18 and 45 years old. After this who shall venture to talk of the noxious climate of the Crimea? Winter is, of course, noxious in any country, if men are exposed to it without proper food, clothing, and shelter.”

“The rage for proselytism has found its way even to the Crimea. An Englishman, here, apparently as an amateur, but who is said to be the authorised agent of a religious society at home, has been distributing Italian bibles among the Sardinian troops, and attempting to convert them. General Della Marmora complained to General Codrington, who was rather puzzled what to do in the matter, and, as I am informed, told the Sardinian Commander to deal with the peison in question, should he be caught repeating the offence, according to the Sardinian law and regulation. The missionary in question, notwithstanding that his labors are facilitated by a perfect acquaintance with the Italian language, has not been very fortunate in their results. I am assured that he has not effected a single conversion. The Sardinians take the books, just as the Spanish smugglers, and muleteers, and gipsies took the tracts which a more celebrated missionary, Bible Borrow, pressed upon their acceptance; but it is much to be doubted whether they read them, and it is quite clear that they do not profit by them to the extent of embracing Protestantism.”

SISTERS OF CHARITY IN THE EAST.—This thought of peace suggests to us the discharge of a pleasing duty. In a former pastoral we spoke in you of the devotedness of our chaplains in the East, the number of whom, we rejoice to say, has for some time reached the full complement allowed us of fifteen. Circumstances seem to call upon us to pay unwillingly a public tribute to another class of laborers in the Aceldama of the Crimea—our humble but laborious nuns. The charity which springs up suddenly in the world, and reflects credit on itself, the world will take care to requite, to honor by loud praise, to exalt by exclusive applause, to commemorate by lasting monuments. The charity which, long nourished in the midst of the cloister, has been for years strictly exercised amid the infected lanes and plague stricken courts of cities, and only changes its scene, not its objects—its intensity, not its motives—when it braves the perils of the sea to nurse the soldier instead of the pauper—this is a virtue which neither asks, nor has reason to expect, even the passing tribute of one generous word from those whose mouths are open to praise charity. This may have been painful to us, for it would have rejoiced us to witness any just and honorable manifestation of feeling towards such untiring ministers of religious charity, but it is better for them, who look only to their Father, who seeth in secret, for their reward, and would shrink from receiving any portion of it here below. But, as that very silence, systematically observed, might easily lead some of the faithful to suppose that our pious Sisters of Mercy had abandoned the field of charity to secular zeal, we have great consolation in assuring you that not only do they still continue their labors, both in the more distant hospitals and in those at the seat of war, but that additional numbers have just been sent out, to meet the increased demand which experience of their unremitting and efficient exertions has produced.—*Cardinal Wiseman—Lecten Pastoral, 1856.*

AUSTRALIA.

THE AUSTRALIAN BAR.—An important question, in reference to the colonial bar, has been raised by the application of Mr. Keafer, a member of the Canadian bar, to be admitted to that of Victoria. The rules of court are decisive. No one but a member of the bar of England, Scotland, or Ireland is eligible to practice in the courts of Victoria, without three years’ residence, after notice given, and being subjected to an examination. Mr. Keafer, it is said, intends to seek the authority of an act of the local legislature to secure his admission to the Victoria bar.—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette.*

THE CHEVALIER BUNSEN.—Who has not heard of this celebrated champion of Protestantism? He was Prussian Charge d’Affaires at Rome at the time the late King of Prussia was at variance with the holy Archbishop of Cologne, on the subject of mixed marriages. On that occasion his Prussian Majesty was

unreasonable enough at home, but the conduct of his Minister at Rome was insolence itself; and to such excesses did he allow himself to be carried that his government were at length glad to recall him. It would now seem, from a leading article in the *Univers* of January 27, from which we borrow these details, that Protestantism, which he long served so assiduously, is at length ashamed of him. While Ambassador at London, he was mainly instrumental in procuring, in concert with our government, the establishment of a Protestant Bishop at Jerusalem; and shortly afterwards he published several works all breathing the purest and most exalted pietism. It is, indeed, more to his zeal than to the piety of the late King that Prussia owes its new and amended liturgy, which is supposed to embody in its pages all the peculiar excellencies of both Lutherianism and Calvinism. He was in short looked upon as one of the main-stays of German Protestantism in general, and the especial apostle of that form of it adopted, improved, and recommended to the public by royalty itself. Things are sadly changed to-day. M. Bunsen has just published a book which has caused his former friends to hold down their heads. His volume, apparently and professedly levelled against Catholicity, utterly demolishes all that is positive in Protestantism.

The Protestant journals are furious and assail their former friend in no measured terms. The *Moniteur Ecclésiastique Evangélique* says:—“For the honor of Bunsen we are sorry to say that his book contains things which we would rather pass over in silence. According to him the divinity of Jesus Christ the personality of the Holy Ghost, Justification by Faith, are not fundamental doctrines. He alleges that the standard around which all Christians should gather is the Bible; and that the only duty of the clergy is to preach the Word of God. Now, who does not see that to admit such a principle is to abandon the vineyard of the Lord to wild beasts.”

We may observe here, this admission of a Protestant journal, that to read the Bible and to preach does not of itself make a religion. Another Protestant journal, the *Gazette Patriotique*, asserts that Mr. Bunsen has no claim to the title of Christian, inasmuch as his Christianity solely consists in what he calls the “*speculative opinions of St. Paul and St. John.*” He disdains to allude to miracles, he denies “*personal immortality,*” and he holds that the whole host of unbelieving philosophers, with Spinoza the Jew at their head, form a part of what he calls the Church. “*Such,*” says the *Univers*, “*is the man who only a few short years ago was the most valiant champion of Prussian evangelisation. As a diplomatist he has been so unsuccessful that the Germans, when they speak of persons who involve things in confusion, say sneeringly that such and such a thing has been Bunsened alluding at once to the German word *Bunsare* and to the notorious name of the chevalier Bunsen.*” We hardly think this fair, for, in reality, Mr. Bunsen is only guilty of drawing those consequences from the first principles of Protestantism, which naturally and logically flow from them; and his book, called “*Signs of the Times,*” is merely one of those very “*significant proofs*” of the incoherence of the doctrines built on private judgment, and of the utter inconsistency of what is sometimes called “*Positive Protestantism,*” as if these very terms themselves did not themselves imply a contradiction.—*Northern Times.*

PELISSIER AND THE SORCERER.—It appears that while on service in Africa, being then only colonel of a regiment of the line, Pelissier, now Marshal of France, Commander-in-Chief and Grand Cordon, was one day waited upon by the doctor of the regiment to consult with him what had best be done to stop the moral epidemic which was then raging amongst the men, and which was leading them by scores to the hospital, and thence to the grave, without any perceptible disease.—“I have found out the cause,” said the doctor, “from a young conscript who died this morning; you must find the remedy. It seems that these foolish boys have been suffering their imaginations to be tampered with by a fellow from Brittany, who pretends to sorcery, and who for a few sou’s will show them their home, and call up before them the forms of the dead or absent amongst those they love best on earth. The feelings of the soldiers cannot stand this: nostalgia and marasm are killing them—you must put a stop to this, colonel, or you will lose them all.” Pelissier, in alarm at the idea of the effect, but without the least dread of the cause, immediately sent for the culprit, a sober, grave, and serious young man, from the *landes* of Brittany, named Coetquen, who formerly had been a shepherd of the *landes*, and had marched as *remplaçant* to his brother, who had been unwilling to leave his aged mother, of whom he was the favorite son. The colonel was resolved to be stern with the culprit. “What is this I hear?” said he. “What are these lies thou art propagating in the regiment?” “Of what I am accused, *mon colonel?*” said Coetquen, respectfully; “I have failed in my duty with the regiment—have I once omitted to fulfil my service or disobeyed an order?” “Tis not of that thou art accused,” replied Pelissier, somewhat embarrassed, “but of a graver crime; in short, tis said thou art a sorcerer?” “I am,” replied Coetquen, calmly. “Pshaw; seek not to impose upon me—tis said thou hast made foolish lads believe in ghosts and spirits.” “They have seen them?” answered Coetquen, still unmoved. “I have but one motive thus displaying the power I inherited from my fathers, that of buying a *remplaçant*, and returning to my beloved *landes*. The money I obtain from my comrades is hoarded for this purpose.” The colonel scratched his head in perplexity. “Well, then, if that is the case, here is a bargain; show me the spirit I wish to have called up, and thou shalt have this piece of gold; but if thou shouldst fail in the attempt, by all the powers of darkness, so surely will I blow thy brains out.” The colonel suited the action to the word by drawing the pistol from his belt with one hand while he pulled forth with the other the piece of gold. Coetquen gazed wistfully at the latter, and said, with great cheerfulness, “The bargain is struck, *mon colonel*, to-night, at the entrance of the little wood at the bottom of your garden, at midnight, fear not, I will be there.” “Once more,” said Pelissier, owning now, without shame, that he was becoming to feel rather excited, “remember it is time to retreat. I have no wish to see spirits, therefore confess that the boys have been deluded, the influence will be withdrawn, and you shall have the gold piece all the same.” “Never,” exclaimed the sorcerer, for the first time roused into emotion, “you have defied me, *mon colo-*