

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Sept. 27.—Prince Napoleon left Paris yesterday by special train for Warsaw, accompanied by several officers of his household. He is expected back on the 5th or 6th of next month. A less important incident occurring at a season when politics are in a lull—when the Court is far away at the seaside—when our most distinguished politicians are justifying, and when no scandals of any note are abroad—would excite curiosity among the news-mongers of the Bourse and the boulevards. Military manoeuvres on a large scale are to be executed, under the eye of the Czar himself, on the plains of Warsaw, and the Prince who stands in such close relation to the Imperial Throne must not miss the opportunity of witnessing as a friend the simulated war which he saw in reality, and as a foe, in the Crimea. Some believe that the journey of his Imperial Highness is simply an act of courtesy in the name of the Emperor, his cousin. Had the Czar been at Brussels, or Turin, or Berne, or London, or Madrid, it might be understood, but Warsaw is rather distant from Paris. Then we are told of matrimonial views, of which Prince Napoleon is the object, and for which the Czar's influence is most desirable, and most potent when German Princes and Princesses are to be matched. On the other hand, it is rumored that the Prince has gone to Warsaw to invite His Russian Majesty to pay a visit to Paris. It is said that when the Emperor Alexander received a similar invitation last year he softened his answer on that occasion by stating that he might visit France on some future day. Every one knows the anxiety of the Emperor of the French to see foreign Sovereigns at his Court. It is perhaps one of the weak points in his character. It would seem that he is hardly considered a bona fide monarch until this craving is satisfied, and the presence of the Emperor of All the Russias in the capital of the French Empire, dwelling under the same roof, and partaking of his bread and his salt, would be a triumph to his vanity. To overcome any repugnance of the Muscovite Autocrat to figuring at the Tuilleries would be a great point gained. We were but half satisfied with the flying visit of the Grand Duke Constantine, who no doubt thought it an act of condescension on his part to come even alone. What a triumph, then, if the Czar, and especially the Czarina, accepted an invitation from his bon ami and frere! Whether Prince Napoleon is really intrusted with such a mission I do not affirm, though I should not be surprised if he were. There is another version more popular among those who profess to see very far into the future. These, of course, treat with contempt the ordinary explanation of a mere act of courtesy from one absolute Sovereign to another. They believe that the journey of Prince Napoleon is for no less an object than promoting an alliance between France and Russia, of which the Mazarins and Richelieus of the day have already laid the foundation, and which the Imperial Prince is expected to complete. The Russian tendencies of some eminent statesmen may be all they are described, and they may think that Russia or France is the only country for a thorough gentleman to live in.—But I have some reason to suspect that if any one were to be charged with such a mission Prince Napoleon is not the man. Unlike some of the master-minds who are vulgarly thought to have a great part in the direction of State affairs, the sympathies of the Prince are, to all appearances, far from Russian. His real sympathies he makes no secret of, and these are not at St. Petersburg. The Prince has invariably appeared most anxious to maintain the alliance with England, and on a very recent occasion expressed himself to that effect when the rumor to which I allude reached his ear. I cannot say whether his visit to Warsaw is at all connected with politics; if it be, I am assured it relates to Turkey, or Italy, rather than to a Russian alliance.—Cor. Times.

It appears that besides the works undertaken at Cherbourg and Brest, others are to be executed in all the other Atlantic ports. Plans have been drawn out, and credits fixed, for putting all of them in a respectable state of defence. The sums which will be expended for Havre will amount to about 150 millions, of which 80 will be at the charge of the Minister of Marine, and 70 of the port. The town of Havre will really realise the necessary sum by the sale of the land. The military port of Dunkirk will be put into a state of defence by the outlay of 17,000,000fr.; and 7,000,000fr. are to be devoted to Dieppe; and 1,800,000fr. to Fecamp. Works will be afterwards executed at Calais and at Boulogne.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE.—The correspondent of the Manchester Examiner writes:—"It may be worth mentioning for just what it is worth, that I was told the other day by a friend who has just returned from the south of France, that it is whispered at Biarritz that the Empress Eugenie is again in a condition to afford hopes that the Imperial dynasty of France may cease in due course to hang on the single life of the young prince. There is no doubt but the birth of another prince is the object of the Emperor's most ardent desires."

AN INTERESTING RELIC.—In an old house of the Rue Thievenot, there has lived for many years a remarkable person:—The dressmaker of the Countess du Barry, once the famous mistress of Louis the Fifteenth. This aged lady, born in 1757, worked for the Countess up to 1793, when the ill-starred favourite went on her last walk to the scaffold. She lives in good circumstances, having an income of 15,000fr. Of fourteen children to whom she gave birth, three only are living, the youngest of whom is seventy-five years old. Her diet is very simple, consisting of two meals a day, with only water for drink. In February, 1848, at the outbreak of the revolution, she had chairs and tables placed in the yard of her house, and entertained the insurgents and all who would be her guests. On being asked why she did so, she answered, "Ca me rajeunait joliment, ca me rappelle 1789." M. Rataille, a friend of the old lady, is about to publish her biography in one of the weekly Paris journals.—Atheneum.

LACORDAIRE ON THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY.—The current number of Le Correspondant contains a terminal oration, addressed by the great religious orator of France, to the students of the College of Sorbonne. He aims in it at fortifying the minds of his youthful auditors, of whom the majority are heirs to landed property, against Socialistic theories. He prefaces an exhortation as to the duties of proprietorship, with an eloquent refutation of the wild notions constituting what is called communism; a doctrine that, ten years ago, so nearly unhinged French society; and which appears still to possess, to a lamentable extent, the minds of the masses. As is usual with Continental errors and follies, those theories appear likely to gain ground here just as they are beginning to be exploded in the country of their birth. We have, somewhere, heard mention made of "Catholic Socialists," but the Church, although she permitted and even enforced by a miraculous penalty the community of goods under the exceptional circumstances of the primitive ages, and has perpetuated the principle in the religious state—the continuation of primitive charity; yet has never countenanced, in a political sense, any interference with individual proprietorship. In France the Church is the uncompromising opponent of the theory that the land belongs to the State, and ought to be held by it, as in trust for all the citizens at large; and the theory which embodied in the startling formula, "La propriete est le vol" banded men of all parties into the phalanx of order in 1848; and, in fact, gave birth to the pre-

sent Imperial regime, with its iron security and its uneasy compression. For ourselves, the arguments of the Catholic orator may seem unnecessary; but it may be neither useless or uninteresting to have them briefly sketched out: Socialism is very plausible; its books are widely circulated amongst our working classes; and at the next recurrence of any serious stagnation in trade, and consequent diminution of employment and of wages, we shall probably hear more of its teachings, and their results.

Lacordaire argues that the possession of land by individual citizens is the source of the ideas of patriotism, of domestic ties, of civil liberty, and of the chief security that mere human arrangements can give for the purity and stability of religion. "Man dies, but the earth is undying. Ages and generations write no wrinkle on its brow." As Adam saw it, so we saw it. It is always young in its antiquity, the more fruitful the more it gives; inexhaustible source of sustenance, of wealth, and of beauty, it still bears out the apostrophe of the Roman poet:—

Satura, magna parens frugum Saturnia tellus, Magna virum.

Parent of men, because the land influences in a wondrous manner the human heart, engraving thereon the lineaments of manly strength and virtue. "Thus it is a grand thing to possess land: that man should, even on God's earth, set his foot, and say this soil is mine; nay, that even from the cold obstruction of the tomb he should be able to dictate its possession, and live again in his heirs! Such is the right of proprietorship. A right it is; and, as Bossuet has said, 'There is no right against a right.' Why is it a right? Who made it so? God, or man? necessity, or the will of lawgivers? Those should be able to reply who have property to maintain, and its duties to fulfil.

There is no nation without proprietorship in land. The first act which makes a people gives them a property in land—a territory; in other words, takes from the whole human family a portion of its heritage, and makes it exclusively theirs. Their possession of it is the condition of their nationality. A nation unable to hold by force of arms the territory it calls its own has ceased to be a nation. National proprietorship is the basis of patriotism; if it be a wrong, then patriotism is based upon a wrong. Destroy national proprietorship, and a nation has no country. It becomes a mere vagabond horde, to roam on the face of the earth with its cattle and its tents. Even where it halts, the ground, for the brief space it sojourns, must be its property."

GERMANY.

The protracted and now avowedly permanent incapacity of the King for affairs has brought about a crisis in Prussia which, in itself unavoidable, may be immediately productive of immense results. The degree to which the Prussian Government of late years contrived to lower itself in consideration by abject vacillation and an utter want of dignity has rendered public opinion abroad so listless to the political situation of the country that now it is little aware of the peculiar circumstances of the moment. There is no doubt that their satisfactory solution can and must be mainly affected by the personal character of those who may hold the reins of power from the authority attaching to the Sovereign in Prussia, partly out of loyalty and partly through the constitution; but it would be a mistake to suppose such a satisfactory solution, if brought about, to be merely the result of inspiration from above on a dead and apathetic mass. There is a strong and widely disseminated opinion in favor of reform as involved in the adoption of a consistent and national policy.—This feeling has of late not been much manifested in public efforts, for it found itself precluded from becoming dominant in the old Chambers, which were packed by Court influence, while loyalty disinclined to revolutionary means, and confidence in the Prince of Prussia's manly sense encouraged hope in the future.

ITALY.

The French garrison at Rome is to be reinforced by a detachment of cavalry and a battalion of Chasseurs. This is just what was wanted to make that garrison a complete army-division, ready to take the field, instead of doing garrison service. The measure, therefore, cannot have been adopted from an apprehension of an outbreak at Rome. It can only have reference to eventual complications with States whose territory borders on the Papal States—say Austria or Naples. That the relations between France and Austria have not improved of late is a well known fact. The Danubian Principalities have already proved too tempting for their rival diplomacy, and, for aught we know, Italy may prove the same in a short time. But who, in these bickerings, is the actual aggressor?

There is good reason to believe that the assertion, that the French garrison in the Eternal City is about to remove to Civita Vecchia, is without the slightest foundation. The account given of a conflict between the Roman and French soldiers is set down here as a gross exaggeration. That there have been brawls is very possible. Indeed, where wine shops are abundant, it would be surprising if scuffles did not occasionally take place. Even at Versailles, near Paris, duels and regimental fights among the men of different corps have been of frequent occurrence. It would, therefore, be more than could be expected were such little tiffs not to occur at Rome. But, to magnify them into events of political importance is an absurdity.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS TO CHINA.—A letter from Rome, in the Brussels Independence, states that the opening of China to Christian Missionaries is the absorbing theme in Rome; and the Pope, it is added, is about to organise a grand collection throughout Catholic Europe, on behalf of special missions.

RUSSIA.

The Vienna correspondent of the Times alludes to the difficulties attending the emancipation of serfs in Russia. It is a financial as well as a political question. The writer says that if the slaves are not soon emancipated they will take the matter into their own hands, and persons well acquainted with their character anticipate excesses if their expectations are not completely realised.

The great question of the Emancipation of the Russian Serfs makes little progress. It is the Emperor's will that the mighty social revolution shall be peaceably accomplished within the next twelve years. But the difficulties are immense. On the one hand, the mere notion that their condition is about to undergo a change, unsettles the minds, and fires the imaginations of the Serfs; and in various provinces symptoms of the most alarming kind have appeared already. Emancipation is no unmixed good when the emancipated classes lose the advantages of their former state without the knowledge or the means of availing themselves of their freedom.—Some will murmur at the change as altogether beneath their expectations, and complain that they have been defrauded. Some will clamor for the ancient order of things under which they were at least secure of food and clothes and shelter. The population directly affected by the measure amounts to three-and-twenty millions, and there is a further difficulty for which the advisors of the Czar have as yet devised no remedy. The taxes of Russia are paid by the landed proprietors, and the value of the landed property depends upon the number of their Serfs. How shall they pay taxes when the source of their wealth is cut off? The Emperor Alexander has claim upon the sympathies of the civilised world for his good intentions, but with millions of Serfs waiting for emancipation, and thousands of landed proprietors who see their ruin in the measure, he is of all Potentates in the least enviable position. The French papers magnify the destinies of Russia, and advocate a close alliance between it and their own country. The Russian territory is extended by acquisitions from China, Russian commerce is developing in the Mediterranean, Russian diplomacy is busily

engaged at Warsaw; but there is no portion of the world in which Great Events which may easily prove Great Disasters, are so probable as in Russia.—Globe.

SWEDEN.

THE CHOLERA IN SWEDEN.—Letters from Stockholm state that the cholera is raging there. On the 18th Sept., there were 74 new cases, and 31 deaths. Up to that date there had been altogether 511 cases, and 217 deaths. The authorities had ordered that the dead from cholera should be buried beyond the city walls.

INDIA.

The following message has been received at the East India-house:—"East India-House, Sep. 28. "TO J. D. DICKINSON, ESQ. "Supplement to Mr. Secretary Edmonstone's Message, dated Aug. 26, 1858."

"On the 26th of August Sir Hope Grant sent a force across the Goomtee at Sultaopore, and occupied three villages in his front. "Benares Division.—Captain M'Mullen, with his Sikhs, fell in with rebels at a village near Rataan Ghazee, Pooken district, on the 23rd August, and drove them out, killing and wounding 60. "Allahabad Division.—Captain Dennehy, with a detachment of regulars and a party of military police, came up with Wunjab Singh, of Rewa, at Bearroh, on the 28th August, and killed about 200 of his men.

"CENTRAL INDIA.—The Gwalior rebels, after their defeat on the 14th of August, fled in a south-easterly direction, giving out that it was their intention to enter the Bombay Presidency viz Mundisore. However, on finding this line of retreat was menaced by the force from Neemuch under Colonel Franks, they turned north towards Bheelwarra. On the 28th of August reached Jalpa Patteen, which they surrounded after some days' fighting with the Rana's troops. They obtained possession of the town, which they have plundered. The Rana fled, and is now in Colonel Lockhart's camp at Soonsnee. Soonsnee is 55 miles north of Cojein. A column under Colonel Hope left Indore on the 3rd instant to support the one which had been previously despatched under the command of Colonel Lockhart, Her Majesty's 92nd Highlanders. The rebels are in full possession of Patteen, repairing defences and throwing up breast-works on the roads approaching. Adil Mohamed has moved from Jerouge, and taken possession of Poorassa; the movement threatens Balsah, and towards Goojerat. A small force from Ahmedabad attacked and dispersed a body of Munkrans and Bheels at Mandeli on the 22d of August. The rest of the Bombay Presidency is quiet.

"D. L. ANDERSON, Secretary to Government. "Bombay Castle, Sept. 7, 1858."

"P.S.—The following message, dated Kurrachee, September 4, has just been received:—"Major Hamilton writes from Moortas (?) that at noon on the 31st ult., the 69th and 62nd Native Infantry and the Native Artillery, all disarmed, broke out and tried to seize the guns and arms of the Fusiliers. They were repulsed, great numbers slain, and the rest driven from the cantonment to jungles towards the river. Our loss was four men of the Royal Artillery, and, regret to say, Captain Miles, of the Fusiliers. Major Hamilton heard of the intended outbreak in time to warn the military authorities. He had, with the Police Battalion, already arrested 90 of the fugitives."

"D. L. ANDERSON, Sec. to Government. "Bombay Castle, Sept. 7. "Received at Malta, Sept. 28."

"V. MONTANARO."

Canton is not to be evacuated until after the complete execution of the treaty—so far, that is to say, as regards the entire payment of the indemnity to England and France.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The Atlantic Telegraph, and all that relates to it—the best kind of rope to be used, the best means of getting it down, and the best way to work it when it is down—the whole scheme, in fact, seems to be slowly drifting back again into those realms of theory and speculation from which it has only so recently emerged.—Already there are many competitors and projectors in the field, some to work the old rope, some to make a new. It is not cheering to find that public attention is almost instinctively directed to the consideration of the latter project, and that to the hopes and expectations of the majority, the present wire—laid at such a cost, and with such risks—is already regarded as virtually lost and useless. Among those who have come forward with remedies for overcoming the difficulties of the Atlantic, in case a new rope is required, is Mr. Rowett, who, that there may be no mistake about the matter, expresses himself as willing to contract to lay the rope from Valencia to Newfoundland—everything included—for as small a sum as £182,000, or some £200,000 less than the capital expended by the Atlantic Company. Such an offer has naturally directed some attention to Mr. Rowett's plan, which is simply that of a rope-covered electric wire instead of the old mode of proceeding by a wire-covered rope. Mr. Rowett's idea is to have the conductor well and safely insulated with gutta-percha, and then simply enclosed without further preparation in the strands of a common hemp cable about an inch in diameter. A piece has already been made—not with a view of displaying what would be necessary for the Atlantic depths, but to illustrate the peculiar advantages which such a mode of construction gives over the wire cable.—This specimen is certainly as light, as flexible, and as strong as could be desired, and these three qualities must be the very sine qua non with all future Atlantic telegraphs. The cost of such a cable would be only, as Mr. Rowett alleges, £86 per mile, its weight about 9 cwt., and its breaking strain 4 tons, or nearly twice as much as could ever come upon it while being submerged—no matter what the state of the weather, or how the vessel might be plugging.—To this particular rope, as we have said, a certain amount of attention has lately been directed, owing no doubt, to Mr. Rowett's offer to take it in working order across the ocean to America for a regular contract price per mile. But, beyond the feeling due to an offer of such magnitude, and made with such confidence of success, neither the proposal nor the rope deserve the notice they have attracted. Mr. Rowett's idea of a rope-covered wire is by no means a new one, and, what is more to the purpose, the cable is almost without exception far inferior in most important requisites to others that were designed some time before this was thought of. It is light, strong, and flexible, but so are all such ropes, and so even is the present Atlantic cable (if we may still call it so) in a very high degree. The difference between Mr. Rowett's rope and others of the same kind is, that in the former no adequate protection is given to the gutta-percha, and never can be given by his method of stranding the hemp, whereas with all others this important point is carefully considered and provided for. For these and for other reasons which show the cable to have been designed and constructed by a person unacquainted with what a submarine telegraph requires, it is of its kind an inferior cable, though it has certainly done good service in directing attention to the general question of rope-covered wire, for the purpose of deep sea telegraphy. All the experiments in very deep seas tend to show that the principle of a rope-covered wire is the right one, after all. For any depth under 1,000 fathoms a wire rope is the best and cheapest; for great depths, 2,000 and 3,000 fathoms, it becomes the dearest, because the worst and most difficult to submerge. No man who has ever seen a deep sea wire laid but must have been convinced that covering the rope with wire was only making a difficulty which required all the costly apparatus of paying-out machines, breaks, and check tackle to contend against, and which in but too many instances it has been impossible totally to over-

come. Any one who has ever crossed the Atlantic would engage to pay out a piece of common whip-rope—without breaking it, from Ireland to America; because in such a case there would be no strain on it, and it could run out as fast as it chaps. This ought to be the principle in which all very deep sea ropes should be laid down everywhere. A rope-covered wire, light enough to be very cheap, and because light therefore strong—with such a coil running from a steamer going 10 miles or so an hour, a dozen cables might be laid across the Atlantic in a twelvemonth if no other difficulties exist. It has been urged that such ropes, if moved by currents at the bottom of the sea, would chafe through at once; but, besides that this objection applies equally to wire, there exists proof positive that in the greater depths of the ocean the water is as motionless as bottom as the rocks on which it rests. During the soundings taken by the Gorgan shells of the most delicate texture, and so small that it was impossible to perceive them without the aid of magnifying power, were brought up. Yet these shells, even to their finest ridges, were uninjured, and had evidently lain without movement in those tremendous depths for ages. Another proof is that whenever the strain upon the sounding-line prevented bottom being at once discovered, and some 100 or 120 fathoms more line were payed out after the lead had touched, it was always known to the foot what surplus had gone over, as the line invariably sunk on the spot where the lead had grounded, and came up in a tangled mass like a ball of cord. Such results could never have been obtained had there been any motion far below the surface. But a question arises with regard to rope-covered wire, and, indeed, submarine cables of all kinds if laid at very great depths, and that is how far the pressure or weight of the superincumbent mass of water affects the gutta-percha insulator. We may doubt the question whether water increases in density or whether it is compressible, but none can deny that it has weight, at least, and that this weight comes upon the bottom of the ocean and whatever rests there. The very minute and perfect shells being found at the bottom does no more to disprove such a supposition than an empty egg-shell shows that there can be no such thing as an atmospheric pressure of 15lb. to the square inch. In both cases the pressure of water and air is equal inside and out. But in the case of the gutta-percha insulator it is not so, and the water pressing with immense external force would penetrate in many places where the guard hemp was at all injured, and so gradually permeate the substance of the gutta-percha as to reach the copper wire and seriously weaken its conducting powers. We do not say that such an action does take place, but it is even possible it would at once do away with the feasibility of such rope-covered wires as Mr. Rowett proposes. In any case his plan of constructing his rope is, as we have said, inferior to many others of the same kind.

CONVERSION OF AN ASIATIC POTENTATE TO ROMANISM.—Although late events in the East have brushed up the popular knowledge of geography, we fancy most of our readers will be considerably puzzled by the announcement in to-day's paper that "a son of the King of Cambodia, one of the divisions of the empire of Annam, has been converted to the Church of Rome." Annam is scarcely known to the European world, though the name of Cochinchina, the principal province of the empire, is perfectly familiar to us; but who the potentate may be whose son has just become a Christian, we profess ourselves wholly ignorant. However, it is but right to wish the Church of Rome joy of its illustrious convert. The event is not so unimportant as might at first be supposed; for, notwithstanding the zealous and devoted labours of missionaries of all the churches of Christendom, the progress of the true religion in the East is admitted to have been hitherto remarkably slow. That an Eastern Prince should have been induced by its servants to abjure Paganism is therefore a signal victory for the Church of Rome; while, at the same time it shows how strong is the influence which Western civilization is beginning to exercise in those countries from which it has till now been excluded. One cannot but think that the comparative success of Roman Catholic Missionaries, of which this conversion is a striking instance, ought to teach our Protestant Churches to make better choice of instruments in the work of converting the heathen. It is pleasant to rail at the Jesuits, but certainly the thorough training in the art of governing mankind by means of superior knowledge, which the disciples of Loyola undergo, fits them to encounter and overcome the difficulties of a Missionary life. We are fully convinced that it requires a gentleman to convert a savage, and that the polished eloquent scholar who can adapt himself to the ways of those whom he seeks to rule, and yet make manifest to them by his conduct his superiority in manners and morality, will easily drive out of the field the ardent but ignorant Missionary, who is so intent on preaching the Gospel that he is heedless whether or not he gives offence by blurring out, at all times and seasons, fierce anathemas and denunciations of all that his hearers hold sacred. Now, although there are many Protestant missionaries who are by no means obnoxious to the reproach that they have undertaken a work to which they are unequal, yet, as a body, they appear to command less respect than is paid to their Roman Catholic rivals; and in Mr. Wingrove Cooke's letter from China there are one or two anecdotes which painfully show how easy it is for missionaries, whose intellect has not been sufficiently cultivated to keep them out of such danger, to adopt the low tone of morality that is prevalent among those whom they seek to convert, and thus to bring humiliation upon their order. But this event not only suggests reflections of interest to the religious world, it is also of some political importance. There is no gainsaying the fact that missionaries, despite their peaceful profession are often the pioneers of conquest. The spiritual advisers of a Sovereign who has just been reclaimed by them from heathenism, and who is naturally devoted to the man who has plucked him from the burning, have in their power the whole management of the temporal affairs of the kingdom. When this power is placed in the hands of disciples of the ambitious encroaching Church of Rome, it is not to be expected that they will have the humility to attend slowly to their own special duties. The only Roman Catholic monarch who has any influence in the East is the Emperor of the French: and to him the missionaries of China and Cochinchina look for support and countenance. In conjunction with the English, the Emperor Napoleon has made war on China, not like us Mammon-worshippers, to extend the trade of France, for France has no Chinese trade, but to protect and encourage the missionaries of the Catholic faith. Gratitude for his disinterested exertion would alone induce these missionaries to do all they can to spread the fame of the Emperor among their converts. In China they cannot hope to effect much to his advantage for some time to come; but this conversion of the Prince of Cambodia seems to open out a path for the advance of French influence in Annam. Singularly enough, it happens that just at this time a French expedition is fitting out, or perhaps has sailed, against Cochinchina. The ostensible object of the expedition is to avenge the murder of some missionaries by the natives; but it is just possible that, when they find the living missionaries getting on so well and are so powerful at court, the French may be persuaded not only to forgive past offences, but to accept a territorial cession from the ruler of Annam, in token of the sincerity of their friendship.—Manchester Guardian. (Protestant.)

CHRISTOFORO BUONO CORA, the foreigner who has, under the above title, exhibited himself for some time past in the Ashburnham grounds Cremorne, appears in England to test the advantages of a dress which is stated to be impervious to fire, and which will preserve the body though in actual contact with flame. The mode of proceeding adopted by the exhibitor is as follows:—"Two iron cages are framed to intersect each other, about fifteen feet long, by opening or doorway. These are completely surmounted and covered with light brushwood, which is dried; and when the whole becomes as it were one body of flame, he coolly enters; traverses the several narrow burning avenues, passing in and out at each opening with apparent ease; and perfectly unharmed. During the period the performance takes place the heat of the fire is so great that none of the visitors can approach within a distance of 30 feet, and then only by partially shading the face. The public are not in any way restricted as to examination or point of sight, so that no deception can be practised; and it would appear that M. Cora has proved what he has asserted, 'that life and action can be maintained without injury in the midst of fire.' The exhibitor has served in the Neapolitan army, and has spent much of his time in Egypt, where his attention was drawn to considerable loss of life and property from fires which appeared to him to admit of a remedy. Repeated experiments during four years resulted in a success for which he was very handsomely rewarded by Said Pacha; but, becoming involved in political intrigues, he was necessitated to take refuge in England, where he seeks to benefit by an invention which certainly seems calculated to be of considerable importance. The dress is of a light, portable material, made in a sacklike form, over a portion of which is worn a kind of hood, with glasses to shelter the eyes.—Star.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A somewhat remarkable meeting was held, in St. Martin's Lane, on Thursday, the 23rd ult. A considerable number of English and French democrats assembled together on the invitation of 'the Central International Committee,' to commemorate the establishment of a Republic, and the overthrow of monarchy in 1792. The hero of the recent State trial, Dr. Simon Bernard, presided, but both he and M. Felix Pyat, the principal orator of the night, spoke in French, so that the majority of the audience could not understand them. M. Pyat depicted the present state of France in very dark colours. Only one Englishman spoke, (and he was a Scotchman), a Mr. Mackay, who attributed the failure of the first French revolution to the murder of the 'immortal' Robespierre by the middle classes, and expressed his distrust of the leaders of the revolution of '49—Lamartine, Louis Blanc, and Ledru Rollin. According to the speaker Louis Blanc ought to have shot Lamartine, and, as he did not do so, he has forfeited the confidence of all the democrats. It is but right to say that the meeting did not sympathise with Mr. Mackay's ultra views, and true in expressing their probable stood in a minority of one.—Star.

On Friday, the 24th ult., the Bishop of Oxford's Commission to investigate the charges against the Rev. Richard Temple West was opened in the Town Hall at Reading. The Commissioners were Dr. Phillimore, Chancellor of the Diocese; the Ven. James Randall, Archdeacon of Berkshire; the Rev. J. Austen, Leigh, Vicar of Bray, and Rural Dean; Mr. Charles Sawyer, of Heywood Lodge; and Mr. J. Hibbert, of Braywick Lodge. The enquiry excited intense interest; the Court was crowded with the resident clergy of the neighbourhood; among the former were Mr. J. Walter, M.P., of the Times, Mr. P. Grenfell, M.P., and several County and Borough Magistrates.

Mr. Cripps appeared for the complaint, Mr. Coleridge for the defence.

Mr. Cripps having stated the case, called Mrs. Arnold, who, on cross-examination, admitted irregularities of life sufficient to justify the surmise of her neighbourhood that she had probably broken all the commandments but one. She admitted also that the Rev. Mr. Shaw, the instigator of the prosecution, was paying her bills. The rest of her evidence, as well as that of Mrs. Ellen, varied little from the accounts our readers have already had before them.

Mr. Coleridge, in an eloquent address, commented with force on the manner in which public opinion and its organs had dealt with this case. He declared that Mr. West emphatically denied that he had ever alluded to confession in the interrogatories he put to Mrs. Arnold, or thought of or wished it; or that he had ever advocated or practised a system of habitual confession. He contended that even if they believed the woman's evidence, there was no ground for further proceedings, and that had it not been for the prejudices which were fanned by the public press, the charge would never have arrived at its present importance. Mr. Coleridge dwelt with particular severity on the articles in the Times, from which he read extracts; and having concluded his address, during which he was frequently interrupted by the cheering of the audience, he proceeded to call witnesses for the defence.

Mrs. Lucy Lawrence Curden proved that Mrs. Arnold had told her Mr. West "was just the right sort of person to visit a sick person," that he had gone through the Commandments with her, and that she had told him what she had done, adding, "I always think when we do anything wrong, the least we can do is to tell it; I always tell my children so." She said she had received comfort from Mr. West's visits; that she liked him better than the previous Curate, though she liked him; that he did not say a word about Confession or Absolution, nor that she could not go to Heaven unless she was confirmed; nor that she was not to tell her husband.

Mrs. Ann Smith gave similar evidence, contradicting Mrs. Ellen's statement that Mr. Arnold seemed upset after Mr. West's visit. She stated that Arnold was at home during Mr. West's last visit but one to his wife.

John Winch deposed that Mrs. Arnold had told her "it was a d—d lie that Mr. West had given her half-a-crown, or had told her not to tell her husband," but that it was a made-up tale between Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Ellen, who were offended with her for sending her child to All Saints' Church to be baptised.

Thomas Miles said Mrs. Arnold had told him that what she had said was not true; that it was a d—d lie, and she would tell Mr. Gresley so. He added that Mrs. Ellen had urged her not to have her child christened at Boy-n-hill, but at Bray Church, or Cawley Corner Church, in which case Mrs. Ellen would stand godmother. He would not believe Mrs. Ellen on her oath.

Thomas Martin would not believe Mrs. Ellen on her oath.

Frisilla Woodford deposed that Mrs. Arnold had said to her, "They say he talked improperly to me, but I never said so."

Captain Lee said Mrs. Arnold was his tenant; she had told him she was not crying on account of any questions Mr. West had put to her, but from pain.

The Rev. Mr. West was then called, and stated the particulars of what passed between him and Mrs. Arnold in his visit to her. He said, "When I had explained to her the spirit of that Commandment, and she denied having broken it, I told her that it contained more than the letter." He denied having said that if she was not confirmed she could not go to Heaven, or that she was not to tell her husband.

The Commissioners, after the replies of the learned counsel, retired. In half-an-hour they returned, and stated that they were unanimously agreed that there was no case for further proceedings. The charge rested solely on Mrs. Arnold's evidence, which was, moreover, rebutted by credible testimony.

A PROMISING HUSBAND.—A farmer, residing not one hundred miles from the picturesque village of Henbury, having persuaded his fair one to fix the day attended last week at the parish church to have the ceremony performed. Lacking courage, however, to meet the great event on strictly temperance principles—for to some timid bachelors the marriage day possesses almost as many terrors as would the day of their death—he fortified his spirits with those yet more deadly. The result was he not only drove away his bashfulness, but also his clearness of perception,