

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The French Government continues its preparations for the struggle with great activity and perseverance. Orders have been despatched from Paris for the Brest fleet to put to sea at once, and it was understood that the admiral was under orders to proceed to Toulon, Algiers and Civita Vecchia, for the purpose of embarking the corps to Turkey. The discovery of a Greek conspiracy in the dominions of the Sultan had induced the French Government to address a note, couched in strong energetic terms to the Government of King Otho.

The Emperor Napoleon wrote a short time ago an autograph letter to the Czar, proposing a treaty of peace on the basis of the Vienna Note, modified by Turkey, and that negotiations take place direct between the Russian and Turkish Plenipotentiaries.

The Paris correspondent of the *London Morning Chronicle* says:—The answer to this letter is expected in the course of a few days, but I must say that very little hopes are entertained here of any favorable change to be produced by the correspondence in the views and intentions of the Emperor Nicholas.

It appears that Louis Napoleon's object in writing the letter was not so much that he hoped any good effect from his letter, as to show the people of France that he left nothing undone that could contribute to the maintenance of peace.

AUSTRIA.

During one of the interviews between the Emperor and the Envoy Extraordinary, his Majesty is said to have acknowledged his great obligations to the Emperor Nicholas; but, at the same time, Count Orloff was reminded that the first duty of a sovereign was to care for the welfare of his country.

The Austrian Government proposes to send Prince Windischgratz on a mission to St. Petersburg.

Advices from Vienna of the 6th ult., announce the mobilization of a corps of 25,000 men on the frontier of Lesser Wallachia.

The *Journal de Frankfurt* publishes an article in which it is said that "the German powers have firmly resolved, though unwilling to make their resolution the subject of a treaty, to preserve a strict neutrality, whatever may happen."

SWEDEN AND DENMARK.

The *Dagbladet*, a Danish journal, states that Russia has refused to recognise the declaration of neutrality, and has, on the contrary, insisted that Sweden and Norway shall keep their ports closed against the belligerent powers. The Swedish government has replied by a refusal, and the Danish government has done the same. Large armaments are being prepared in Norway and Sweden.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

It is still feared that the Russians will muster all their strength to strike a decisive blow on the Danube before any force—French or English—can render assistance, or even reach the spot, and that, simultaneously with that apprehended calamity, a renewed attempt will be made to revolutionise the Slavonian subjects of the Porte, which would place the Sultan at the mercy of the Czar, and terrify him into any conditions he might think proper. "The Czar," they say, "has little or nothing to lose."—He can keep his Black Sea fleet in port, and the impossibility of victualing his troops on the Asiatic territory, or sending reinforcements, is not such an evil as would counterbalance his successes in another direction.

300,000 Russians are en route from Moscow to Bessarabia.

The Russians are committing dreadful excesses on the peasants of Wallachia, who had refused to submit to the burdens imposed on them. The women and children of three villages had been massacred.

A letter from Krajova of the 4th of February states the expedition against Kalafat, which was put in motion on the 28th January, was countermanded, because the Ottoman troops were menacing the most easterly points on the left bank of the river. The Russians have 41,000 foot, 12,000 horse, 3,000 sappers and miners, and 120 guns in Little Wallachia. The reserve at Siatina is amount to 15,000 men.

The period of 40 days allowed by the Porte for the Russian acceptance of the terms adopted by the Turkish Cabinet expired on Thursday, Feb. 8, and the Porte and its allies will be justified in taking, without further notice, any measures they may now think necessary.

The British contingent for the defence of Turkey will amount to 20,000 men, with 40 guns; 250 picked men in each battalion are to be armed with Minie rifles, and brigade commands will be conferred on young colonels.

ROME.

JAN. 24.—Whatever the difficulties of investigation into the secret plans for the insurrection intended to have broken forth in Rome the 15th August last (during the celebrations for the Assumption,) it is satisfactory to know that the proceedings preparatory to a definitive trial have lately been terminated. The amount of documentary evidence thus collated is said to be considerable and most important, extending over the entire interval from August, 1847, to August, 1853, and, therefore, conveying revelations of the secret history of the late vicissitudes from the earliest to the last of their more alarming phases as affecting the Roman States. Mazzini will be mortified, that his autograph has been found, in not fewer than three MS. instructions among the effects seized in the residence of one among the arrested for the affair of August. Since that date, and also since the end of November, other arrests have taken place on political imputations.

The *Courier des Etats Unis* asserts positively that Russian agents are, and have been for some time, actively employed engaging American privateers to accept Russian "letters of marque" to cruise against British merchant ships. Such a proceeding on the part of the Americans would not surprise us, nor need we expect that the Government which was too weak or too dishonest to repress the rascally piratical expeditions against Cuba, will be able to do much towards compelling its subjects to observe the terms of treaties with other European States. Proclamations may very probably be issued from Washington against privateering, but most certainly they will never be enforced. We give an extract from the article of the *Courier*:—

"Not only is an active enlistment of sailors, instead of soldiers, quietly going on in New York and various other ports of this Union, but that the object for which they are to be used is not the formation of regiments, but the manning and equipment of privateers and cruisers!

"The assertion may seem to be a daring one; it would in any case be less remarkable than that of which we spoke above. But we have reason to consider it well founded.

"The affair has been managed throughout with a discretion which savors, in the highest degree, of European diplomacy; but for which, we freely confess, we had not been prepared by the barefaced conspiracies that we have from time to time been called upon to renounce. But, for this very reason the peril is the greater and more imminent.

"A small number of agents, selected with extreme care and skill, have been first bought over and enrolled and then set to work among the host of seafaring and other adventurers with which the Union has been swarming for some years past. Through them it has been cleverly ascertained what would, in certain cases, be the reception accorded by certain individuals to categorical propositions openly inviting them to act against the French and English shipping. Conferences, of a more or less explicit nature, have been brought about with particular parties, varying in their character according to the person thus approached; lists have been drawn up; tables of crews and equipments prepared, and the very ships selected which would be the most likely to suit! So thoroughly has this work been done that, upon the receipt of intelligence that the first cannon-shot has been fired in the Black Sea, nothing would remain to be done but the filling up of letters-of-marque, in order to cover the Atlantic with a fleet of American privateers carrying the Russian flag at their mast-head!"

The best appreciation we have met with, of the results of the negotiations of the last six months, is in the following *quizz* from the *Paris Charavari*:—

Secret instructions of Nicholas to Gen. Gortschakoff.

GENERAL: You have heard the news of the entry of the combined fleets into the Black Sea; you need not be hindered in your operations by this event.

It has just whatever importance or signification that I may choose to attribute to it.

The entry of the fleets has been signified to me; I have replied that I did not consider it as a *casus belli*, that I did not even know what it meant, and that I desired an explanation on the subject.

They will make a reply to my reply, and to this reply I shall reply again, and there is no reason why we should not exchange stamped paper with each other for ages together. Upon this ground the Eastern question is nothing but a matter to be treated by notaries, and the fleets and diplomacy have nothing to do with it.

I gain time, and this is all that I want. The time that I gain is so much lost by my adversaries.

England and France make levies of men and armed vessels at their own expense. I do not add a yard of rope to my fleet at Sebastopol. England and France promenade their flags in the Black Sea. What difference does that make to me? My army in the Danubian Provinces is maintained at the expense of the Moldo-Wallachians, and does not cost four roubles to my exchequer.

Concentrate your troops, and prepare a general attack upon the Turkish line. Cross the Danube, and advance into the heart of the Ottoman Empire.

When we shall have accomplished another Sinope on land, which will naturally happen one day or another, what will come to pass?

The fleets will enter into the Sea of Azoff. Very well, let them enter. What then?

They will notify me of their entry. I shall reply that I do not consider it a *casus belli*, and shall ask for explanations.

England and France will reply vaguely, I shall reply more vaguely still, and the notaries will work away with their stamped paper with more ardor than ever. The fleets will continue to sail tranquilly up and down the Sea of Azoff.

You, all this while, will push towards Constantinople.

Let us admire in company, my dear Gortschakoff, the long sufferings of the allies of Turkey. The Sinope affair happened rather by chance; we consider the land as the real scene of the fight. What do the allies do, nevertheless? They send a fleet into the Buxine, to protect the Turkish fleet, which has been destroyed at Sinope.

The business is done; let the fleets in.

On land, nevertheless, the war continues with extreme vivacity. We have against us here the Turkish columns, who have beaten us hitherto, but who must naturally succumb before force and numbers. An English and French army might baffle our operations here, but where is there such an army? The combined fleets cannot stop us from passing the Danube. I trust they will have fair winds and good luck. If they were cruising in the waters of Senegal, they would serve the Turkish cause quite as much.

Onward, then, my dear Gortschakoff, take up the offensive against Omer Pacha, as soon as you have received reinforcements, and enter boldly the Ottoman territory, while England and France are looking for us upon the Black Sea, where, of course, they will not find us.

Before the Allies shall have come to any decision, we shall be at Constantinople; and when once people get into Constantinople, they do not leave it so easily. The Turks have been there for centuries.

We shall have on our side the advantage of a *fait accompli*—a fixed fact. The fleets will have the satisfaction of having navigated a sea where they rarely go. This is my solution, and if everybody else is satisfied with it, I am sure I am. Your affectionate Master and Emperor,

NICHOLAS.

Translated from the Russian.—CLEMENT CARAGAO.

THE CATHOLIC PRESS IN CANADA, PAST AND PRESENT.

We have been requested to insert the following communication, which originally appeared in the *American Celt*:—

TORONTO, February 10, 1854.

In resuming a place in the columns of the *Celt*, I hope it will not think me altogether out of place in turning essayist. The establishment of an Anglo-Catholic (not an *Anglo-Saxon*) press on this North American continent, is the great moral phenomenon of the day, and deserves more than passing attention.

The foundation of a Catholic press here in Canada, seems now laid, and hence the particular reason for the present essay.

The *American Celt*, (under His Holiness Pope Pius the Ninth) takes a leading place in attributing to the Catholic press of the day a majestic and glorious prerogative. For my part I see in this rapid organization of a Catholic press the sign of the day. It is the best of antidotes to the corroding bane that is ever and anon working its way in the spirit of the community. In fact, I think that every observant man who has noted the *manias* of the last few years in the United States, and their finales must feel this. I would then plead for a pure, persevering Catholic press, an exalted opinion in the minds of our people. I would urge that every good Catholic in the land should join, heart and hand, to maintain it, to exalt it, and render it powerful.

I like and love the press—my newspaper, my magazine, and my review, are my comfort and my enjoyment. The duties of an Editor, indeed, are arduous, and reapeth little worldly gain; but, should Dame Fortune ever think me deserving of any of her favors, I should say to her—rank me amongst the votaries of the press—make me a true papistical Irish Editor; for I love conquer all obstructions. But "impatience," says Lamartine, "is the tyranny of good intentions." So I must keep cool and retain my little thunder yet awhile.

Now, I have to present facts and dates. Until of recent years, Catholic and Irish papers (they are synonymous, or very nearly so,) came and passed away like comets. But now, happily, in the United States, the Catholic press is organized and active; working away brightly and bravely; the majestic and logical review of Brownson leading the way—being the basement. Then follows in the front rank, the bold and bottomed *Celt*, the fearless *Freeman*, and the keen and broad-brimmed *Pilot*.

My chief business here, however, is with the Catholic and Irish press of Canada; past and present.

Since the last time I presented my initials in the *Celt* three new candidates for Catholic favor have made their appearance in Canada. I shall speak of them hereafter separately. In order as far as possible to trace a succession, I commence with a retrospective view at the Catholic and Irish press of the past, in Canada. Until the founding of the *True Witness* by Mr. Clerk, in 1850, *The Catholic*, published in Kingston first, and in Hamilton afterwards, by the Very Rev. Wm. P. McDonald, V. G., was the only purely Anglo-Catholic journal published in the Canadas. *The Catholic*, like the *True Witness*, was owned and edited by a Scotsman, but the former, unlike the latter, was conducted by a clergyman. And he was a clergyman—a fine old Highland priest, who had served and sung in the camp as well as in the cathedral. It was his wont, like his co-religious cotemporaries of the day, to deal largely in the field of controversy; and in his little quarto sheet, he defended the dogmas and discipline of his holy faith in this western wilderness with all the earnestness and enthusiasm of a fervent faith, with an accomplished and erudite mind, and a forcible pungent style. The poor *Catholic* presented its "valdeictory" to its readers in 1844, after having existed about five or six years. The writer, who was then young "devil" enough, first felt type in its office in '42, and used to feel richly proud when the "saintly old vicar" would pat him gently on the head with an encouraging word in his slightly perceptible Highland accent. The venerable priest did not long survive his paper; approaching dissolution was stamped upon his frame—the shade of nearly four score winters hung upon his brow. He did not, however, "shuffle off this mortal coil" without experiencing a happiness which it is given but to few of "God's anointed" to know—a sort of earthly beatification—a second ordination. Yes, the Catholic church had counted fifty years of his faithful service in feeding her flocks with the divine bread of life. But a couple of years, afterwards saw the ordainer (Right Rev. Dr. Power, Bishop of Toronto) and the ordained, in a cathedral vault, under the roof of St. Michael's; the much-beloved Bishop having heroically fallen a martyr to that dreadful plague, the typhus fever, which in that year (1847) swept into ghastly graves so many thousands of our poor immigrant countrymen; and which must forever keep Grosse Isle memorable (for horror) in our minds in company with Skull and Skibbereen. The Rev. Editor's death was a matter of the deepest and bitterest sorrow to the Catholic community, but more particularly to the Catholics of Hamilton, among whom the last years of his life were spent, and where the church experienced signal service from his ministrations. I can never forget the deep, deep emotions displayed by both pastor and people when the Very Rev. E. Gordon, his worthy successor, announced to his congregation the melancholy fact of his demise. Well might they—the "saintly old vicar" had been a fond father to them all! Such is a short imperfect sketch of the pioneer of the Anglo-Canadian Catholic press.

I have already mentioned that until the appearance of the *True Witness*, *The Catholic* was the only paper purely Catholic. But we have had *Hiberno-Catholic* papers. I can go back no further than the times when George Pepper published in New York his *Irish Shield* and *Monthly Mission*, that brilliant repository of history, drama, poetry, and Nationality. About cotemporary with the *Irish Shield*, the *Irish Vindicator* made its appearance in Montreal. This was in 1829. It was conducted by two gentlemen, the chief of whom was Mr. O'Callaghan, a writer of much talent. The *Vindicator* vindicated nobly the cause of old Ireland—the cause of civil and religious liberty. National feeling at the time, between the French Canadians and the British population of Lower Canada, ran deep and bitter. The *Vindicator* entered boldly on the lists on the side of its natural allies. The Catholic Canadians—generally speaking, the columns of the *Vindicator* exhibited "the warmth of the Irish spirit, the glory of Irish patriotism, and the lucid emanations of a cultivated genius and a lettered mind." I am not aware of the date of its suspension. Mr. O'Callaghan took an active part (if I am not mis-

taken) with Papineau, in the rebellion of '37 and '38. He is now a resident of Albany, and is celebrated as the Historian of the State of New York.

The *Freeman's Journal*, published in Quebec, by Mr. Flanagan, existed for some years, and I believe was allowed to die out in 1849, in consequence of the preference of Mr. Dominick Daly, the "everlasting secretary" of several Canadian governors. Mr. Daly, who has recently been announced as Lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick (at present governor of Tobago) was a Catholic, but was very unpopular amongst his own countrymen, on account of his Tory predilections. In 1848, there were published in Quebec, two rival sheets, the *Emigrant* and *Spectator*, in the Irish interest, but they seemed to be without any other particular purpose than that of having an existence, and like the Kilkenny quadrupeds, were allowed to eat each other into nothingness. After them all the late lamented McCoy, started a semi-weekly paper called the *Irish Independent*, but after one or two numbers it followed the fate of its predecessors. In Montreal the *Irish Vindicator* had two successors; another *Vindicator* and the *Irish Shield*, but I believe neither of them was long-lived nor of much worth.

Leaving Lower Canada, the next paper that comes in view possessing some of the qualities of a *Hiberno-Canadian* journal, was one whose title is characteristic, the *Canadian Freeman*, published in this city by Mr. Francis Collins, for some years prior to the year 1837, the year of the commencement of the present *Toronto Mirror*, which succeeded it. Mr. Collins was an able writer, independent and bold. He had little preference for either of the Canadian political parties; alternately plunging into the "Family Compact," and the "Saddle-bags." He was a sort of O'Connell in giving nick-names to public characters, and some of his titles to our public men are yet in vogue, holding good to their living representatives.

W. H.

PLATFORMS FOR THE TIMES.

(From the *Toronto Leader*.)

Of all the fantastic forms which these rude structures have been made to assume, we recollect nothing so remarkable as that turned out of the *Globe* office on the 25th of February, 1854. The purpose of this new construction is abundantly evident. Indeed there is no mystery or concealment about the matter. Mr. Brown, a baffled, defeated, and disconsolate politician, is tired of his isolation; and he plainly and openly makes an overture to one wing of the Tories. The faction played for are described as having been "heretofore found voting at the elections in favor of high church candidates;" we are told that upon occasions they are "thoroughly conservative;" but it is alleged that they see the error of having supported the claim to dominancy of two churches over all the rest; and are therefore presumably in favor of an equal division of things temporal among all the sects. At any rate we are told that between these active supporters of Tory candidates and "the great mass of reformers there is little difference of opinion." When the phrase "great mass" has been translated into George Brown, its true meaning, the correctness of the description may be admitted; the record of views will be pretty nearly unanimous. This supplicant for admission into the ranks of the Tories goes so far as to offer terms on which the compact shall be based in the snug little platform proposed as their mutual standing ground. Just take a view of its exceedingly liberal proportions:

1st. The entire separation of Church and State, including the abolition of all clerical endowments, Roman and Anglican. 2nd. Representation by population. 3rd. An effective National School system, free from Sectarianism; and 4th, uniform legislation for both sections of the Province."

This is certainly not a creed that has ever been professed by the Reformers of Canada. White haired reformers are to be sent to the Brown, school to learn what their principles are. The separation of Church and state is indeed a cardinal principle of the reformers of Canada. This is plagiarised from the liberal creed; but it is obvious that it is only used as a peg on which to hang a proposition, the entertaining of which by the liberal party would effectually defeat all their attempts to sever the connecting link between the state and certain religious sects. The reformers of Upper Canada will, we suspect, demur to the proposal that they should form themselves into a band of marauders and make a descent upon the property of the Roman Catholic Church in Lower Canada, the gift of individuals, and which never was, in any shape, the property of the public. Observe the mild phraseology in which this infamous proposal is couched—"the abolition of all clerical endowments, Roman or Anglican. Abolition does not express the true meaning of the operation intended. Fancy Mr. G. Brown at the head of a motley gang of repentant high church conservatives, armed with "muskets and scythes and spades," making a descent upon the monastic institutions of Lower Canada; paying his respects to the convents, and stripping them of their private endowments, and turning the owners into the streets to find shelter as best they might from the pitiless blast of a Quebec winter. Follow him in his glorious work of reclamation till he has made the tour of all the religious institutions in Lower Canada and confiscated their private property, returning laden with the spoils of endowments amassed from the gifts of private individuals, to spend his days in Edinburgh, in the advocacy of liberal political sentiments and high protestant principles. This is the operation intended; to whomsoever its execution may be entrusted.

That there is no analogy whatever between the secularization of the Clergy Reserves, and the confiscation of the private endowments of the Roman Catholic Church, in Lower Canada, few of our readers need to be told.

What would justify the secularization of the Clergy Reserves would by no means justify their confiscation. Indeed such confiscations are the results of revolutions, political or religious. In a time of profound peace; in the absence of any well founded complaints against such establishments; when there is no revolution of religious opinion; when the people among whom these establishments exist regard them as a necessary part of their religious system; in such a state of things the confiscation of the monastic and other endowments of the Roman Catholic Church, in Lower Canada, would be a piece of unparalleled public robbery."

One of which however Protestants have often been guilty; and will be again, when they have the power. "In the days of Henry VIII., much monastic property was confiscated. But that was a time of