

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE IMPERIAL POLICY.—The *Constitutionnel* has a long article showing that peace is the policy of the Emperor. The following is an extract:—

"When France is satisfied the world is at peace." Thus Napoleon III. expressed himself at Bordeaux in that magnificent harangue, which was the programme of the second empire. Facts now confirm this national and prophetic language, which, while promising peace to Europe, raised the action of France so high. France is satisfied, because she no longer fears the spectacle of Communism, because she has morally recovered from the disasters of 1814 and 1815, because she has crowned the man of her choice, because she has re-established a popular dynasty on the throne, and raised on its basis a patriotic government, and she is satisfied because the world is tranquil. Let a glance be thrown over the map of Europe, and let us be told on what point of the horizon the slightest cloud can be seen. Across the strait which separates them, England extends a friendly hand to France, a reciprocal esteem has replaced the mutual feelings of enmity; their rivalry has become emulation. Now, as formerly, France and England dream of fresh conquests and of new struggles, but these conquests and these struggles are not those which entail ruin on nations and decimate the people. All the ardor and intelligence of the two nations are turned towards the pacific battles which civilization wages against barbarism in the vast fields of science and industry. Doubtless the vessels of England and of France may meet on the same seas and on the same shores, but it will be no longer to combat and destroy each other. To explore seas, to colonize countries, to civilize people, to work mines, to clear land, and to open markets—that is what the fleets which leave the ports of the Channel will henceforth seek to effect; they will carry more workmen than soldiers, they will be less laden with arms ammunition than with instruments of labor and with bales and merchandise. On this ground the victory will belong, not to the strongest, but to the most intelligent and most active; and what will result from this competition will be no longer the ravages and misfortunes of war, but the advantages of industry and the conquests of civilization, which always turn to the profit of the human race. In the south and in the north there is nothing which threatens Europe with those complications which are circulated to excite a fear that the peace of the world may be disturbed. We everywhere see the most profound repose—a repose which each government employs to consolidate order and strengthen authority, and which each nation devotes to develop the sources of its riches and to increase the sum of its intelligence. Spain, Portugal, and Italy, under different characters and with different means, exert all their efforts to this twofold object, to conciliate at home the spirit of conservatism with the spirit of progress, and to ally abroad the national honor with European peace.

Thus Prussia, Austria, and Russia, after the example of the powers of the second rank, hail in the Emperor the elect of a great nation and the saviour of Christian civilisation. It is no longer looks of terror but of benediction which Prussia, Austria, and Russia direct towards the government of France, and they well know that this government has spared them from one of those terrible struggles which no one is ever sure of surviving. Europe is neither so blind nor so ungrateful as not to hail with sympathy the government which preserves it, and the man who saves it; it is, on the contrary, as clear-sighted as grateful, and it proves it by the sincerity of the marks of esteem and of friendship which it gives to France in the person of her Sovereign. There is, therefore, not the slightest germ of war either in the present or in the future, and, except in the case of one of those unforeseen events which disconcert all the provisions of human wisdom, civilised Europe is assured of one of those durable periods of peace which give time for great ideas to ripen, and for great things to be accomplished, for grand works to be completed, and for grand enterprises to fructify."

It is believed that the disappointment with respect to the Princess Carola Vasa was near costing the French minister (M. de Lacour) his place. It appears that the diplomatic agent was, to the last moment, unacquainted with the unfavorable turn matters had taken, and of the probability of the preferred suitor being Prince Albert of Saxony. A letter from Vienna received in Paris mentions that a person connected with the German Court wrote, about two months since, to the French minister at Vienna, in order to warn him of what was going on, but that, owing to some unfortunate accident, or, as is also alleged, by design, the letter did not reach its destination. The matter was managed with so much caution and secrecy that the party most interested was not aware of the fact, and the French minister remained to the last persuaded that the Princess Vasa was to be the future Empress of the French.

Although the French nation has undergone as many political revolutions in the course of the last sixty years as a South American Republic, no country has gained less in the shape of substantial reforms. The burdens of taxation have been unrelaxed in a long period of peace; the military establishments, supported by the conscription, continue to claim 80,000 recruits every year from the youth of France; the existing law of mortgage has eaten into the substance of the peasant proprietors; and the tariff of Customs' duties remains to this hour the most barbarous and prohibitive in the world. The truth is, that although no country has produced political writers or statesmen of greater capacity than those of France, the sum of practical political information and judgment in the mass of the community is still incredibly small.

PRUSSIA.

We learn from the *Augsburg Gazette*, of the 8th ult., that the German Catholic Church, founded some years ago by the notorious Ronge, has at length expired. The Prussian and other Protestant governments, it may be remembered far from opposing, rather protected it than otherwise and in several localities—Arnstadt, for example—the Protestant ecclesiastical authorities gave the German Catholics every assistance in their power. But by degrees the contributions of the members towards the support of their ministers became scantier and scantier, till at last they were barely sufficient for the maintenance of one minister, Dr. Bergmann, at Erfurt; and latterly even this poor supply failed, and Dr. Bergmann, after spending nearly 8,000*fl.* of his own to defray the rent of the buildings where the meetings were held, has at last been obliged to exchange his pulpit for a place of travelling agent for a life assurance company. At Weimar and Arnstadt the late members have joined the Protestant Church; in some other localities a few of them still meet privately for devotional purposes.

The Second Chamber of Prussia, on the 8th ult., elected, after three ballots, M. Waldbott, of the Catholic party, its Vice-President. A motion previously presented by that gentleman, for the admission of the Jesuits into Prussia, was referred to a committee.

SWITZERLAND.

The *Basle Gazette* of the 11th ult., announces that the National Council met on the 10th, and was opened by a speech delivered by the President. The Council of the States also held its first sitting on the same day, and chose the members of the Railway Committee.

We read in the *Constitutionnel*:—

"For some time past serious difficulties have existed between Austria and the canton of Ticino. It will not be forgotten that, in November last, the Radicals of that little country, intolerant like all revolutionists, expelled the Capuchin monks from their convents of Lugano and Mendrisio, and among them were several Austrian subjects. This brutal expedition took place in the night. The monks, to whom only an hour was given to prepare for their departure, were dragged to the frontier like criminals, in spite of humanity, of international law, and even the laws of the Canton. By a decree of 1848 the Canton fixed at 65 the number of native or foreign Capuchins who might reside on its territory; and yet in the convents of Lugano and Mendrisio there were only 22 monks, the greater part of whom had been more than 20 years in the country; Austria is offended at the insult done to her subjects, and she remembers that during the war in Italy she found the Ticinese disguised enemies. By a note addressed to the Federal Council she has demanded reparation from the Canton, not only for having ignominiously driven away peaceable men, but for having despoiled them of the sums paid by them for their novitiate. It would seem that justice might be easily rendered, and that on such a subject no discussion is possible. We learn, however, from the *Gazette de Basle* that, in its reply to the Cabinet of Vienna, the Federal Council has declared that the grievances of Austria are unfounded, and that it hoped that reprisals would not be exercised against the Canton of Ticino. On the other hand, the German journals announce that Austria is determined to take the most rigorous measures against the Ticinese radicals. The *Augsburg Gazette* says, that the patience of the Austrian Government is nearly exhausted, and the *Cologne Gazette* states that the Cabinet of Vienna has invited the French Government to act as a mediator in the affair. We do not know whether or not the *Cologne Gazette* be well informed, but assuredly the prudent firmness of the two powers will easily enable them to master a small band of agitators."

The *Lausanne Gazette* states that the members of St. Bernard are about to revive their claims against the cantonal government, Napoleon III. having given them positive assurances of support.

ROME.

Accounts have been received from Rome up to the 4th ult. The new letters of credence of M. de Rayneval had been received, and were to be presented to the Pope on the following day. The suspicions of the Roman police have been for some little time past excited against certain individuals who had been pointed out to them as being engaged in counterfeiting paper money. On New Year's Day several agents placed themselves on the watch in one of the small alleys of the Transtevere. After waiting for several hours, they at length saw all the persons who had been pointed out to them enter a small house one after the other. The police immediately broke open the door, and surprised the parties in *flagrante delicto*. Four notes, of one piastre each, were found completely finished, about thirty others nearly so, and 17,000 in course of preliminary preparation. The men, six in number, who all belong to the working class, were arrested and conveyed to prison.

A letter from Rome states that the Pope has raised the Bishop of Agram to the dignity of Cardinal.

PIEDMONT.

We read in *L'Echo du Mont Blanc* that Piedmont has been lately visited on every side by Englishmen, who travel on account of more or less official motives. A considerable interchange of despatches is made between Piedmont and England. General Chas. Fox, the resident minister of England, and Lord Elliot started for Sardinia, in order to accomplish, they said, a pleasure trip. The facts are differently interpreted in the private circles of the capital.

When we consider these circumstances and the unheard of efforts made at this moment by England to Protestantise Piedmont, we can but see that the

Machiavelism of English statesmen is throwing its nets over Piedmont. Genoa beware!

SWEDEN.

We learn from Dr. Huss's recent work on the Endemic Diseases of Sweden, that the returns from the militia enlistments prove the youth of Sweden, to be rapidly degenerating both in height and vigor, the number of exceptions for being under the standard and for general debility having greatly increased during the last ten years; and the increase of crime, suicide, and insanity, is also too decided to admit of any doubt as to its connection with the increasing intemperance of the people.

A most terrible experiment of this kind has been going on for some years in a large proportion of the Swedish population, amongst whom potato-brandy has come to be employed as the regular beverage, and the result has been, according to the testimony of Sweden's most distinguished physician, Dr. Huss of Stockholm (which is based on the reports of the medical profession throughout the country), a gradual deterioration in the condition of the peasantry, both physically, morally, and socially, together with the development of a peculiar disease, to which he has given the name of *Alcoholismus chronicus*, or the chronic alcohol disease.

PROTESTANT NORWAY.—A new sect called Readers, because its members pass nearly all their time in reading the Bible, but calling themselves True Believers, is rapidly spreading in Lapland and the Northern parts of Norway. Their fanaticism is excessive. At Cantonkeino, in the district of Gaparando, they wanted to make two tradesmen adopt their creed, and on their refusal, murdered them and set fire to their houses and stores, not leaving until the latter were reduced to ashes. The wives and children of the victims only escaped on abjuring their worship and adopting the new one. When news of this lamentable affair reached Drontheim, in Norway, troops were sent off to prevent further excesses.

AUSTRALIA.

Lieutenant-colonel Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, had just arrived from that colony and has brought with him a diamond of good form, and of the finest water, weighing three-quarters of a carat, found at the gold diggings at Ophir, West of Bathurst. Sir Thomas has presented this specimen, as also one of the sapphire found in the same locality, to the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn street.

THE ADELAIDE LABOR-MARKET.—This was never worse supplied than at present. Even during the panic in January and February last, labor was to be had at such a rate as not materially to interfere with the prosecution of profitable industrial operations. Now, however, it is either not to be had at all, or not without such an advance in the rate of wages as is perfectly paralyzing to the employer. Several causes have contributed to this. First, the continued absence of a number of the less successful of our laboring population at the Victoria gold-diggings. Second, the indisposition of those who have returned with the means of supporting themselves without labor to return to their former accustomed occupations. Third, the withdrawal of so many persons to the South Australian or Echunga diggings, at a time when the labor-market of the colony was suffering under an excess of depletion. Fourthly, the rise in the price of provisions, and most of the other necessities of life, rendering it difficult, if not next to impossible, for persons to feed and clothe themselves at the former rate of wages. And, fifthly, the feverish excitement which the expectation of becoming successful gold-diggers constantly keeps up, and the ease with which parties, whatever their former employments, can transform themselves into this character. No one not on the spot can adequately conceive the effect produced in Adelaide by the reported discovery of gold in workable quantities in Echunga. In less than three days the 2*lb.* loaf was up to 8*d.*, and wood and water were at double their former price. For tin dishes, the former price of which was 7*s.* 6*d.*, £1 was asked and obtained. Shovels, invoiced at 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*, readily sold at 8*s.* to 10*s.*, and picks and most other tools went off at a like advance. Of course, there were great complaints against the vendors of these articles, but they justified themselves in return by referring to the daily-increasing price of wages. This is mentioned with the view of showing the deep necessity there is for a constant stream of emigration from the United Kingdom being kept up. Nothing else can save the colony from utter prostration. There is at this moment a million sterling lying idle in Adelaide for want of hands with which to employ it. Tradesmen and artisans of every description, no less than shepherds and agricultural laborers, would find instant employment at remunerative wages, without troubling themselves about the gold-fields. Whatever powers the Commissioners possess, therefore, that power they should exert to direct the stream of emigration as far as may be to this colony. The present rate of two ships per month is totally inadequate. It should without delay be made double, or, if possible, treble that amount.

UNITED STATES.

THE KANE EXTRADITION CASE.—WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The U. S. Supreme Court were divided as to the regularity of the proceedings in the case; one-half the members of the Court considering that they had been regular, and the other half, that there had been some informality. The Court decided that the Circuit Judge was irregular in sending the matter to the Supreme Court, and it has been remanded to him for decision, on the proof presented. The Judge has fixed the 1st of April for a hearing in the case.

The Cincinnati papers state that the liquor stand or bar in the new mail boat *Telegraph* has been rented at \$5,000 per annum, or \$14 per day.

The *Daily News* announces the prospect of an early visit of Kossuth to America being made, hoping thereby to secure the intervention of the Democratic party.

A TRAGÉDIAN TAKEN FOR CHAPLAIN.

On the 28th of January, two young men, aged 19 and 20, were hanged in New York, for the murder of a ship's watchman, whose vigilance they were trying to deceive. The one was a Catholic, the other a Protestant, and the contrast of character resulting from the difference of religion was manifested in the last moments of the condemned.

Young Howlett asked for and received with resignation, the consolations of religion. On the morning of the execution he heard Mass which was said for him in one of the cells of the prison; received the holy Communion and then went to the scaffold, without bragadocio, yet with courage. He made no address to the people, but gave himself up entirely to the prayers and exhortations of the two worthy priests who accompanied him. Young Saul had also listened to the exhortations of a minister; but on reaching the scaffold, he endeavored to retard the last dread moment, by engaging in conversation with those near him,—he asked for drink,—he reproached the Doctor with refusing him Rum; he complained that the rope was drawn too tight; he asked if all hope of pardon was gone. At last, seeing near him a tragedian, Mr. Clarke, who had probably come to study the emotions on the visages of the condemned men, Saul uttered the words which we copy from the *Herald*.

Saul.—If I had taken warning, Mr. Clarke, by your piece of the "Six Degrees of Crime," I should not be here.

Mr. Clarke replied, that he was sorry that he had not taken to heart the moral taught in his performance. Saul.—I wish I had. If I had done so, I should not have been here now. It is now too late.

Mr. Clarke then shook hands with him and bade him farewell.

Such were nearly the last words of the unhappy Saul. A Catholic would have lamented his neglect of religious precepts. A Protestant, for whom the words of a minister are but human words, makes no distinction between the preacher in the pulpit, and the player on the stage. He even finds the moral of the latter the most attractive, and he adopts seriously the antique saying, *Casligal ridendo moras*.

Even the Reporter of the *Herald* appears to have been struck by the contrasted manners of the two unfortunates, for, in speaking of the execution, he says:—"Arriving under the beam, Howlett smiled and looked up; but Saul's eyes were intently fixed upon the crowd before him." It is because one was thinking of the earth, while the thoughts of the other were fixed upon eternity.—N. Y. *Freeman's Journal*.

* The *Courier* and *Enquirer* reports him as saying to the Physician "I wish you were hanging there instead of poor Howlett."

EXTEMPORE PRAYER.

Queer things are said in Protestant meeting houses when the brethren attempt to pray. The following specimens are extracted from the *Western Recorder*, a pseudo-religious journal. They are communicated by a brother willing from Burksville, Tennessee:—*Shepherd of the Valley*.

MR. EDITOR.—I think the following too good to be lost. A staunch democrat in this neighborhood, during the Mexican war, was called upon to pray at a regular church meeting, upon which he perpetrated the usual form upon such occasions, with this addition:—"Oh, Lord, be with our army in Mexico, whether it be right, or whether it be wrong; bless it. We of the democratic party are charged with making war for conquest, but we believe it to be a war of defence.—But, oh, Lord, we would not enter into argument of the subject before you, but for further particulars would refer you to the President's Message."

This was brought to mind by hearing the same brother before an association, a few days since, make the following speech:

"I would urge upon you brethren, the taking of the *Western Recorder*," turning to a delegation from a church in Tennessee—"and you, brethren, ought to take it too, as the interests of the Church in Kentucky and Tennessee are very closely allied, and will become much more so upon the completion of the Danville and McMinnville Railroad, which, I pray God, will not be long, as I have about \$15,000 involved in that enterprise."

PROGRESS.—On last Saturday night a torch-light procession passed through the streets of Cincinnati, in honor of T. Paine, the famous infidel writer of the last century.

There was any quantity of lights, transparencies and inscriptions—such as "no kings," "no priests," "Thomas Paine," "Liberty, wealth, and enlightenment." There were also some speeches and toasts on the occasion. Among others, Mr. Clark, a colored gentleman, spoke as follows:—

"It is not, however, the man we honor to-night so much as the great truths he represented. The mind of the world is bound by priest-craft. Martin Luther struck the first blow; but his effort is no longer felt. The Protestant churches have become worthless—they are merely quarreling about forms and names—the only hope of freedom and religion now is in the Liberals."

Among the regular toasts there was one to Thomas Paine; one to Frances Wright; one to Louis Kossuth; and one to our Common School System.

We learn from the Times that there are two Infidel Clubs flourishing in this city—the one German, numbering about 500, and the other of English Liberals that has about 100 members. There is also a German Infidel paper with a circulation of about 3,500. Luther struck the first blow.—*Catholic Telegraph*.

PANAMA.—The only local news of importance is the arrival, a few days ago, of a party of Jesuits, expelled from Ecuador, who were sent up here in an Ecuadorian vessel of war, and landed under a guard, previous to being sent across the Isthmus, to embark for our land of freedom. It appears that these men who were brought here against their will, wished to charter a vessel to go to Costa Rica, but were prevented by the government. The act of landing them by compulsion, and forcing them, under the surveillance of the police, to cross the Isthmus, and their being prevented from holding any communication with the people here, was considered by the foreigners as rather an arbitrary act, and slightly at variance with the neutral character of the Isthmus. They are to be embarked for the States, and we wish you joy of their company. It is contrary to the law of New Granada for Jesuits to enter the country, and this is the excuse of the government for their conduct; but when we consider that their coming here was an involuntary act on their part, it does appear rather a harsh proceeding.—N. Y. *Herald*.