

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Moniteur contains the following:—Several journals have announced that the Tribunal of the Seine has before it a demand for partition of property in consequence of the demise of his Imperial Highness Prince Jerome, presented on behalf of M. Jerome Bonaparte Paterson and of his mother against his Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon, the sole heir of his father. These journals have dwelt on the subject with incomplete and erroneous explanations. The First Chamber of the Tribunal of the Seine is, in fact, in possession of this demand, which again raises the question of the validity of the marriage contracted in America in 1803 by Prince Jerome—a marriage protested against by Madame Mere on the 3rd Ventose year XIII., annulled by two decrees of the Emperor Napoleon I. of the 11th and 30th Ventose year XIII., and to which two decisions of the Imperial family council of the 4th of July, 1856, and 5th July, 1860, have refused all effect, admitting that the union of 1803 was null and as it did not exist, and that it even could not, in the circumstances of the cause, allow the defendant to take advantage of the 201st and 202nd articles of the Code Napoleon, attributing to the annulled marriage the civil effects of the marriage when it was contracted in good faith.

A memoir of M. Berryer, to which a premature publicity has been given, and the terms of which we do not wish to judge, has been distributed. It contains documents, the authenticity of which is contested. M. Allou, advocate of his Imperial Highness, has confined himself to distributing a simple collection of the correspondence and official documents relating to the affair. His Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon has not wished to decline the competence of the ordinary tribunals by invoking the jurisdiction of the Imperial family. In this state of the question it will be understood that a feeling of common conventional decorum commands the greatest prudence, and imposes the necessity of waiting for the pleadings which will throw complete light on this question and the new decision of the tribunals.

It appears from the Memoire that Prince Jerome married a third time; for by a will, dated July 6, 1852, he leaves a life annuity to "the Marchioness Bartolini," whom he declares he had "married in presence of the Church"—meaning that the religious ceremony only was performed.

The Patrie says:—"A rumor is current that England, France, and Russia are on the point of coming to an understanding in order to bring about a solution of the Danish question by amicable means."

M. Jourdan, a writer in the Siecle, and usually a strong partisan of the English alliance, and laudator of British institutions, has written a highly indignant article on the constant and generally underhand and treacherous methods pursued by the English in endeavoring to undermine and counterwork French influence, and to raise up a hatred against the French name in all parts of the world. Amongst other things, he affirms, on what authority I know not, that Sicily is now swarming with English agents, whispering calumnies against France, and persuading the Sicilians that their true interest lies in handing over their island to British protection. Of course, these fellows would be solemnly disavowed, if caught in the act; but the statement is the more likely, as it is well known the possession of Sicily has long been a darling object with Lord Palmerston. Nothing but substantial evidence would have moved an Anglo-maniac like Louis Jourdan to reveal this plot; and it is the more provoking as France certainly has no designs in regard to Sicily at all, save to help Sicilians, as well as other Italians, to their independence and the government of their choice.

The Debats publishes the following from Gaeta:—

"The fire was finally suspended at nightfall of the 8th. During that day it was so terrible that one would have supposed the town would have been reduced to ruins, especially when we consider that it occupies such a small space as in ordinary times to be only capable of receiving (the suburbs included) a population of between 3,000 and 4,000. The houses, it is true, have greatly suffered, the fire having been directed against them as much as against the bastions; but luckily they are not built of large stones, so that balls have gone through the walls without knocking them down. Many of the houses are however so shaky that a new bombardment would cause them to fall. The number of killed in Gaeta does not amount to 20 and that of wounded is smaller, which is really surprising.—Some Spanish officers, who occupied a position in the roadstead which enabled them to see the Piedmontese, estimate that the latter had infinitely more killed or wounded. In the batteries of the place two cannons burst, and one of them threw an artillery man into the air. On the whole the besieged are well pleased with what they did on the 8th. None of them displayed any weakness, and the moral effect was so far as I can perceive, excellent. In all parts of the town the population are almost as much exposed as the soldiers, but they do not utter the slightest complaint, and, as to the troops, they are in high spirits."

The Moniteur de l'Armee, a semi-official paper, publishes the following letter from Gaeta, which contains some special facts of more than ordinary interest under existing circumstances:—

"The fortress of Gaeta have received immense supplies within the last 20 days. All the sick and wounded have, moreover, been sent away, so that all the troops that remain are effective. On the 12th the King, accompanied by the Queen, reviewed the troops. He told them that in a short time the struggle would recommence more warmly than ever. He added that he did not wish any man to serve against his will, and that anybody who wished to quit the fortress was free to do so. I am assured that three officers and 150 men accepted the offer, and quitted Gaeta the following day. There

remain 8,600 excellent troops, which are more than sufficient for the defence. I have already described the defences on the land side. There are more than 400 guns mounted. The Monte Securo, which performed so important a part during the siege in the year 1806, no longer exists. The Monte Securo was a hill 500 yards from Gaeta, and commanded it. The French under the command of Massena got possession of the hill, established their batteries on it, and captured the fortress. The attack by sea is only practicable from the roads—that is, from a creek on the left of the bay. Such an attack cannot produce such a serious effect as is generally supposed. The sea is always heavy on that coast until spring. No bombardment is possible, except during a profound calm. Again the anchoring ground is exposed to the fire of numerous batteries, which must have the advantage over ships, for these, being in motion, cannot fire with the same precision as batteries. The fleet, however, can interrupt the communication with Gaeta, and force it by famine to surrender after a certain time. On the other hand, the Piedmontese, by bringing 150 of their guns on the land side to bear on one part, must inevitably destroy the town."

A private telegram from Marseilles, dated 2nd inst., announces that the fire had been opened, and that the rest of the French fleet was signalled off Toulon. It is said here that King Francis II. intends keeping the fortress some weeks yet, with the idea that Garibaldi will resume hostilities against Austria about Easter, and that then the invasion of Lombardy by the Austrians will force Cialdini to raise the siege, when His Majesty will be left master of the situation. The shells of the Piedmontese will probably decide the affair before them. There are some sanguine spirits who are sure that Gaeta will surrender in a fortnight at the utmost; and there are others who believe that it will hold out for ten months to come, and that Italy will not remain united for that time under the hand of Cavour.

It is announced that orders have been given to supply, between this and the 1st of March, all the batteries of rifled cannon required by the entire French army. There are already 600 rifled field guns of 4 and 12 pounders delivered. This is the explanation given of the great number of guns for some time past transported by the Northern Railroad.

THE FRENCH HIERARCHY.—Monsieur de Saint Marc, Archbishop of Rennes, has started the public by his announcement, from the pulpit, on Sunday last, of his intention to depart immediately for Rome. "I can resist no longer," said the venerable Archbishop in taking leave of his congregation, "and feel impelled to hasten and lay at the feet of His Holiness my own personal protestation against the odious attacks to which the Holy Pontiff is subjected, together with the assurance of my irrevocable attachment, and the homage of fidelity and the ardent sympathy of my diocese." The departure of Monsieur de Saint Marc has caused a great sensation amongst the Catholic Clergy, as it is deemed the first of a series of determinations of the same nature. Already are the names of several members of the high Clergy of Paris given out as being about to follow the example of the Archbishop of Rennes, and the old conviction of the resignation of Cardinal Merlot for the same purpose is again revived.

"The Religious question," says a correspondent of the Independent Belge, "becomes every day more envenomed in France. I am told that in a central department on the borders of La Vendee the Bishop instead of paying a New Year's visit to the prefect, as the custom is, contented himself with sending his card. The prefect wishing to shut his eyes from the sight, called upon the Bishop shortly afterwards, and in the course of conversation said he regretted not to have been at home when the latter did him the honour to come to the prefecture. Thereupon the Bishop told him plainly that he had merely sent his card because he did not wish to see him. The prefect asked the reason, but the study prelate refused to give any explanations, leaving the civil functionary to put his own interpretation upon the conduct complained of. A few days later the Bishop gave a grand official dinner to which he did not ask the prefect; and thereupon the latter was sent for to Paris by telegraph to confer with the ministers on the event."

ITALY. A strange affair has occurred in Turin. The Municipal Council had resolved to present King Victor Emmanuel, on his return, a gold circlet, representing oak and laurel leaves. But there were only six days to prepare one, and Italian workmen were not active enough to prepare one in so short a time. A Jew presented himself, and offered, for 6,000*l.*, a magnificent crown which he had by him. His offer was accepted and the money paid; but lo! the discovery was afterward made that the circlet, in question had been bought at a sale of the effects of Fanny Elssler, the celebrated danseuse, and as proved by an inscription inside, that it was given to her after a performance in London, by an Englishman who was a fanatical admirer of her dancing. Judge of the effect this created.

Garibaldi took his leave of his countrymen about two months ago with a strong adjuration that they should have one million, or at least half a million, of men ready to take the field in February or March next, at the latest. Now, although the King's Government have most certainly strained every nerve to muster up strong a force as human efforts could contrive, they have not more than half the smaller of those two numbers of men under arms, and of these by far the best part are now toiling to accomplish to work which Garibaldi himself had only half believed—the final conquest and pacification of the two Southern Kingdoms.

FURTHER SACRIFICES.—M. Valerio, Royal Commissioner in the Marches, has like his late colleagues in Umbria, issued a decree suppressing all religious corporations and monastic establishments, only excepting the Sisters of Charity, the Lazarist missionaries, the Scolopians fathers (or fraternity of pious schools, the great adversaries of the Jesuits), the Fate-Bene-Fratelli (or "Do good Brothers," a charitable fraternity), and the Camaldulensian monks of Monte Cativo, in the territory of Serra Sant'Abondio, both out of respect for the memory of Dante Alighieri, who stayed there some time, and because the monks of the convent have constantly testified their reverence for the great poet, while at the same time, in the wild region they inhabit, they cultivate letters and science, and practice hospitality. Liberals! Liberals! so if Dante had not stayed there, and if the monks living there in 1860 had not been of Danteque taste, you would have felt it your sacred duty to confiscate their property, and turn them out of their home!

Rome, Jan. 19 (via Marseilles).—The reactionary movement in the districts surrounding Ascoli has been suppressed by the Piedmontese. Several prisoners were shot.

A letter from Rome in the Gazette du Midi, alluding to the recent elevation to the Episcopacy of Mgr. Steins, V.A., of Bombay, recalls the fact that St. Ignatius Loyola, in imposing on the Society of Jesus the renunciation of ecclesiastical dignities, made an exception with regard to foreign missions, because in those countries the episcopal dignity "est non titulus honoris sed operis."

NAPLES, JAN. 19.—Numerous arrests have taken place.

Many Royalist officers have been dismissed. Letters received from Naples to the 15th inst., and published in the Corriere Mercantile, state that reactionary bands numbering several thousand men, had attacked the Italian troops at Tagliacozzo, in the Abruzzi, and that the latter, yielding to superior forces, were compelled to retire on Avezzano. Reinforcements had been despatched to join them.

A letter from Rome to the Lyons Courier says, the state of the Abruzzi and the Calabrese provinces resembles that of Spain from 1808 to 1814. The town and district of Teramo is the theatre of a vast reactionary movement. The authority of Francis II. is completely re-established, and the Bourbon flag waves over the public buildings. A young officer at the head of 300 disbanded Royalist soldiers, has driven out the Piedmontese garrison. He issues decrees in the name of Francis II., recommends respect for persons and property, and condemns those acts of vengeance to which an excitable people are too prone. A similar rising has taken place in the district of Aquila.

In the Calabria provinces the reaction is organizing itself. The old soldiers recently discharged by the King are drawing together, and two battalions thus composed form the centre of the operations of the guerrilla bands of Volunteers.

The Times' correspondent, writing from Naples, says:—"I must confess that such is not only the disorder, but the complete disorganization of the country, that I do not see how it can be restored to a normal state with a very strict regard to constitutional principles. I believe that the attempts at reaction in the capital and elsewhere on the 1st and 2nd Jan., were of a much graver character than I represented in my last letter. Some people talk of an attempt having been made upon St. Elmo, but it is mere talk, I think, as that fortress is without cannon, and has been emptied of all its ammunition.—Several generals were arrested, and indeed, all the old officers and soldiers of the Bourbons, even those who have given in their adhesion to the actual Government, are suspected, and give cause of apprehension. This is an evil of larger proportions than might at first be imagined; for great numbers have entered into the pay of the present Government, really holding themselves at the orders of Francis II.

In a subsequent letter dated January 9th, he is again compelled to warn our English Libera's against the delusions which the Times has propagated, and in which Lord Palmerston and his Liberal supporters have been indulging. After mentioning the overthrow of the Piedmontese Council in Sicily, he says:—

"These transactions, as well as much that is passing in the continental provinces, are calculated to awaken grave apprehension for the future of Italy. They all show an indisposition to receive commands from that vigorous and youthful power in the north of Italy which has done so much for its redemption. A term of modern coneege calls it 'unmanliness'; but, though used as a term of opprobrium, it nevertheless expresses an undeniable fact, and one which it will be very difficult to overcome, more especially in Sicily. Again, everything that passes in Southern Italy shows political and a social condition utterly different from that of the North. As soon as ever Francis II. quits Gaeta with the permission of Louis Napoleon, Victor Emmanuel will find himself under the necessity of pouring his troops into Southern Italy and Sicily in order to restore order; and it may be doubted much whether Piedmont is in a position to do this—to make a conquest of 3,000,000 people, and yet maintain her position in the North against all the dangers which threaten her from her gigantic enemy. It may much be doubted, too, whether the character of Victor Emmanuel as a constitutional Sovereign—*il Re Galantuomo*—would survive the use of such means as I oppose to be necessary to reduce this afflicted country to order.

The reactionary movement in the Abruzzi is directed by the Dowager Queen and Count Trapani. Several members of the San Fedista party have left for the Abruzzi, whither arms and ammunition have been sent from Rome, in charge of Ricci, the chief of the San Fedista.

The correspondent of the Irishman says:—"The month of March is coming on—a date at which the Sardinian forces, as many persons believe, will be called to other duties. Even, already, the army of Cialdini is much weakened by the necessity of detaching large bodies of troops to crush the reaction all over Naples. It is true the sanguine telegraph-workers of Turin have lately announced, that 'the reaction in the Abruzzi is suppressed.' It is not true. On the contrary, the Neapolitans have gained one considerable victory; and the Sardinian officers declare they cannot now march against them without being reinforced. Not only in the Abruzzi, but also in Terra de Lavoro, Molise, Capitanata, and farther, Calabria, the said reaction is carrying all before it; and ten populous towns have thrown off Piedmontese authority. If Gaeta shall hold out, therefore, for three months, and if war should take place elsewhere, requiring King Victor Emmanuel's utmost exertions, King Francis the Second may yet recover his kingdom. And, if the people like to have him for king, why not? Certainly, it was not his own people who drove him from his capital, but Garibaldi, with bands of Hungarians and Piedmontese: it is not his own people who are now besieging him in Gaeta. Every body knows, by this time, that, but for the Sardinian army, he could very soon have quelled the *emute* raised by Garibaldi.

Admiral Barbier de Tinan has prevented the departure from Gaeta of a steamer laden with cannon and soldiers, destined to aid the reactionary movement in Calabria.

The Times predicts that the subjugation of the Neapolitans by the Piedmontese, will not bring peace to Italy. If "Victor Emmanuel has to a great extent consolidated Italy," the Times admits that he has done so "in spite of the natural bent of the people;" and he adds:—

Even after their final pacification, however, these Southern kingdoms, if they do no further harm, will, it is to be feared, achieve but little good for the Italian cause, which they so vociferously promised to aid. Of the 120,000 men whom the Bourbons held in his pay, and who were expected to swell the ranks of the national army, not quite a few hundreds have been available, and the fleet has supplied Northern Italy with little more than the bare hulks of the late Royal Bourbon navy. Volunteers are not forthcoming either for land or sea service, and only civil and military officers are clamouring for the continuance of a pay for which they neither can nor will do any work. The maintenance of public order will necessitate the presence of a large force in the newly annexed provinces, and the Italian army will thus be crippled and weakened in any action it may have to engage in against Austria. Again, instead of drawing from the South any pecuniary resources, the North will have to tax itself, as it has done lately, by sending ten millions of francs from Turin to Naples to be employed in the furtherance of public works there and the relief of the suffering population. Half a million is destined as a compensation to those patriotic martyrs who suffered persecution under the Bourbon dynasty. You have not forgotten that Garibaldi, during his short Dictatorship, had by one of his last decrees consecrated 6,000,000 ducats for that patriotic, retributive purpose, and that his measure was abandoned, as equally ruinous to the State and impolitic. It seems now strange that his successors should fall back upon the idea which they then scouted, and that they should hope to appease the hunger and thirst of selfish patriotism by a paltry sum, which will only whet the appetite it is intended to glut.

There now remain at Gaeta the Papal Nuncio and the Ministers of Austria, Spain, Bavaria, and Saxony. The Piedmontese Government is said to have

made very advantageous proposals to the besieged, if they will go off; and from Gaeta we learn that vessels have been offered to enable them to land wherever they may please, and other advantages to the garrison which are not always accorded to an enemy. King Francis, however, has been encouraged in his resistance by Austria, and, if all accounts be true, by the Spanish Ambassador.

The Times menaces the Neapolitan patriots with military execution, and wholesale massacre, should their King prove stubborn:—

The course to be adopted by the King is of a great deal more consequence to himself than to any other person in the world. The option is not left him whether or no he shall fall, but whether he shall leave Gaeta, free to go where he will, with fair terms concluded for his garrison and his friends, or risk the utmost extremities of war without the slightest hope of deliverance, and with the certainty of captivity or death. To the Emperor Constantine Paleologus was offered the same alternative. With a courage to which posterity has scarcely done justice he met the Turks valiantly in the breach, and perished amid the ruins of a dynasty and an empire which he was unable to save. His self-immolation availed nothing, and for four hundred years the Crescent has been planted on the Cathedral of St. Sophia.—Let not the King of Naples suppose that a brighter destiny awaits him if he determine to brave the utmost rage of bombardment and assault. He may get credit for personal courage, but he will buy the distinction dear. The helpless inhabitants will perish in thousands, the troops who have remained faithful to him have little more to expect, and the tragedy of an assault on Gaeta would probably be deeper than any that even his unhappy family has occasioned. But the example would have its effect. The scene of blood and fire would not be wasted on a nation the great mass of which are far more easily ruled by their fears than by their reason or their conscience. The King of Naples would have forced upon his antagonists that teaching by means of terror which the mildness of a Constitutional Government forbids it, except under the most desperate compulsion, to employ. The fall of Gaeta would teach the turbulent but cowardly populace of Naples that they have at last got a master.

Of the new despotism set up by Victor Emmanuel the Times correspondent writes:—

Before venturing on any criticisms on the new system of government, I prefer waiting to ascertain what are the opinions of the Neapolitans, but I have no idea that it will satisfy the people. In Sicily a new Government has been formed. Indeed, both there and here, it is my opinion that the feeling against Piedmontese domination is on the increase, and I shall not be surprised at some reaction in this sense. It is impossible to say what might have been the result had the great experiment which is now being made had a fair trial, but French intervention has prevented any settlement of affairs, and furnished all parties with abundant opportunity for intriguing. Alas, poor Italy, which has ever suffered less from internal dissensions than from the protection of pretended friends and the hostilities of open foes! To return to Sicily, where the settlement of the Ministerial question, though good as far as it goes, is of comparatively trifling importance—I hear it stated that the thieving, gently called speculation when committed by public men, was something enormous; no less than 1,000,000*l.* are said to have been spent for secret naval service! The figures come from a high military Piedmontese authority, but, allowing for a little animus in such a quarter, it has been openly stated for months that the sums appropriated by a few of the patriots were almost incredible.

The Republicans are active in the provinces, and their journal is full of addresses proposing candidates, and stirring up an anti-Cavour feeling. Indeed, their electioneering tactics appear to be to recommend Garibaldi as the Governor of Southern Italy, and the formula is "Either Cavour or Garibaldi." These are the watchwords of the combatants. I shall not be surprised at the Republicans, especially since their fusion with the Comitato Popolare, obtaining a larger number of representatives than is generally imagined, and their conquests will be, I think, in the large towns.

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, JAN. 14.—There are indications that the Government is about to make a violent effort to recover its lost supremacy in Hungary.

One event that claims from Germany the most absorbing attention is the present condition of the Empire of Austria.

The finances have utterly collapsed, and the great military Empire of Austria cannot, for all the security it can offer, borrow, in its last agony and utmost need, a single million more. Confidence is gone—confidence in the honesty of financiers and contractors—confidence in the promises of the Government—confidence in its ability to stand any longer upon the mass that is disintegrating beneath its feet.—*Cor. Times.*

The new King of Prussia calls on all Germany to prepare for a coming war which, he tells them, must end in victory or the annihilation of the German name. This points, evidently, to a struggle with France, who, if a war break out, is (we believe) bound by treaty to side with Denmark. We have no doubt whatever that Napoleon the Third would be glad of this war as an opportunity for seizing on the Rhine provinces, and finally establishing the natural frontiers of France. That he, too, is preparing for contingencies is proved by the fact that he has just ordered a levy of one hundred and fifty thousand more soldiers, and that he is massing his most formidable bodies of men towards the parts of France which border on the Rhenish districts.

DENMARK.

A Royal decree has been published calling out 6,700 sailors from the kingdom of Denmark and the Duchy of Schleswig.

The Schleswig-Holstein question, of which we read so much and understood so little in the five years following 1848, is again brought upon the table of the European Council table. The King of Denmark is also Grand Duke of Schleswig, of Holstein, and of Lauenburg; the two latter Duchies are purely German, and in virtue of his sovereignty over them the King of Denmark is a member of the German Confederation; the Duchy of Schleswig is partly German, partly Danish, and is divided into three districts; the pure Danish, with 125,000 inhabitants; the pure German, containing 177,000; and the mixed district inhabited by 82,000. Over all these provinces the King had absolute power, which he tempered in 1831 by the erection of consultative Provincial assemblies, and in 1848 modified by a Parliamentary Constitution. But the Holsteiners were as averse to being turned into Danes, as the Hungarians and Poles are to being made Germans. They therefore claimed complete provincial equality with the Danes, or refused to enter into the Constitution. They rose in insurrection to enforce this claim, but were beaten, till they were assisted by the forces of Germany, in a war which only ended in 1850. In 1851 the King of Denmark issued a new Constitution with a common Parliament, and separate provincial assemblies. The Holsteiners however found that this still left them in danger of being forcibly turned into Danes, and it seemed unreasonable that the mere accident of their dual coronet and the Danish Crown being united on one head should cost them the extinction of their nationality. The Danish Government however, with the same spirit of absolutism which made Germans force their language on the Poles and Magyars, carried on its denationalising crusade with stupid perseverance, the pettiness of the grievances it inflicted exciting an ill-feeling quite out of proportion to the importance of the consequences at stake, till at last the Germans have been provoked again to interfere, and the Danish Government has owned its error by hastily correcting its policy. It now allows the establish-

ment of private German schools in the mixed district of Holstein, where formerly a Danish education was compulsory, and where the German girls and boys had to be examined for confirmation in the Danish language. If a Power will blindly and stupidly sacrifice its popularity for such a trifling cause as this, however we may lament the disproportionate inflation of feeling which makes it a case of War, while it swallows quietly the threats of the incorporation of the left bank of the Rhine to France, we can neither be surprised at the opposition which it encounters, nor say that the war declared against it is unjust or uncalled for.—*Weekly Register.*

RUSSIA.

It is said that the Russian Government has sent a circular to its Ministers abroad, to be communicated to the Courts to which they are accredited, remonstrating, if not protesting, against the warlike projects attributed to the German Governments relative to the designs of Prussia on Denmark. It shows that the state of Southern Europe is sufficiently complicated without exciting any more difficulties in the North.

The new treaty between Russia and China has been published. The Times remarks that hitherto Russia has carefully concealed her dealings with China; but that now China is opened to England and France, it has become her policy to blazon them. The new treaty cedes to Russia an immense territory on the north and north-east of China, covering 12° south of her late encroachments at the mouth of the Amoor, and giving her ports which will make her practically mistress of Japan. It establishes free trade along the whole Russian frontier, and enables Russian merchants to travel where they will in China without Chinese passports. Well may the Times exclaim:—

Such is the treaty which Russia has obtained in reward for her mediation and civility; and by means perhaps, of a little tact in insinuating her request at a favourable moment. Russia has got more than we have, and without paying twelve millions for the prize. Russia has got absolute free trade over the land frontier, while we have to pay duties; and Russia grants her own certificates to companies of her travelling merchants, while we exercise our treaty privilege under the visa of a local Chinese Mandarin. Upon the whole the Russians have the best of it.

Our Chinese are it is plain have been no less foolish than wicked. We have not only made our own name more hateful through the great Eastern Empire, but have thrown great advantages into the hands of our most dangerous rivals.

SPAIN.

It is asserted that Spanish frigates are about to be stationed off Civita Vecchia.

THE SPANISH BOUQUONS.—The news of the fearfully sudden deaths of the head of the Spanish branch of the House of Bourbon, the Count de Montemolin and of his consort, at Trieste, on the 12th and 13th inst., has given a shock to the imagination of men, as encouraging the nation that so many disasters following one another so rapidly and visiting in such various ways the members of one family have a mysterious connexion with one another as part of the great dispensation. The Count de Montemolin was taken ill on the 11th and died upon the 12th. The Countess was taken ill upon the 12th and died on the 13th. The death of the second brother, Don Fernando de Bourbon, in Syria, at the Duchess de Berri's, is still fresh in our readers' remembrance.—From some of the Continental papers we see that sinister rumours as to the cause of these deaths found at first some currency, but that both the Count de Montemolin and his consort succumbed to the same malady, and died from a virulent attack of scarlatina.

INDIA.

The crisis is now at hand. The present year must see a total change in the administration of Indian affairs, or a rapid advance towards financial ruin.—We have reversed the fable of Midas. Our touch has dissipated the riches of the East. The mines of Golconda, the industry of Dacca, the fertility of a hundred provinces, have been made our own only to involve us in losses which no other nation could bear and which may in a few years be too much even for us. Now or never must it be decided whether the conquest of India shall be spoken of by future ages as a splendid folly whether it shall point the moral of Polynesian schoolboys' themes on ambition, or, on the other hand, prove a blessing both to conquerors and subjects, giving England the highest place among the Powers of the world; and spreading knowledge and civilization to the furthest ends of Asia. While, then, other nations are drawing the sword in conflicts more or less deplorable, let us, with a firm determination to succeed, grapple with this last and greatest of our Indian enemies. That India should be a sucker, and not a feeder to the mother country, is a reproach and a danger such as never Mahralta or Sikh or even insurgent Sepoy caused us. It remains with the people of England to decide whether the noblest conquest ever achieved since the days of ancient Rome shall be a heavy burden on us, or a credit to our name.—*Times.*

CHANNING ON DIVORCE.—Dr. William F Channing who is distinguished as the only surviving son of the great Dr. Channing—has written to *The Boston Atlas* a letter touching Marriage and Divorce, which challenges attention and discussion. We leave out of the account so far as possible, all that is personal in the premises—Mr. Channing's emphatic denial that he is a Spiritualist, his denunciation of those who have dragged his personal affairs before the public, misrepresented his position, &c., &c. We choose to deal only with what he deliberately propounds and submits to the judgment of the public as his own view of Marriage and Divorce—which is as follows:—"I have nothing to do with the vague jargon of 'affinities.' My separation from my wife took place more than five years ago, from causes confined wholly within the union itself. No human being, either man or woman interfered, or contributed in any way, to bring about this result. I have nothing further to say of the causes of separation, either in vindication or blame, except that my decision was deliberate, and from a conviction of duty and necessity. I have only to regret now that I retained the social semblance of marriage during the years immediately following, from a false regard to others. But it serves to mark the deliberation with which I decided, a year and half ago, that I ought to seek the separation in law, which already existed in fact. "I found at once that a broad line divided the Eastern and Western policy with regard to Marriage and Divorce. In Massachusetts, the marriage contract could not be set aside, except for physical liability, or evasion or violation of the physical contract. Mental, moral, or spiritual impotency vacated it not! The legal contract was of the body alone. Human elements entered not into the ideal of the laws. It recognized only the animal relation. At the West the doctrine was substantially held that it is the duty and interest of Society to release the parties to a permanently discordant union. This principle admitted the distinctively human grounds of relation and difference. I thoroughly accepted it as the only true and conservative one, in the interest of Marriage, and as one which requires the plainest enunciation at the present time. "I found that the laws of Massachusetts were oppressive in what had become to me a matter of conscience. I remembered that Massachusetts herself was settled by emigrants treated in their day as disorganizers and branded as fugitives, who left their native country because they could not conscientiously observe its laws. I therefore claimed and used the American right of choosing the government under which I would live, I terminated my residence in Massachusetts, with great regret, and at sufficient cost to prove my sincerity, and became a Western citizen, in all honor and good faith to the State whose freer institutions invited me. "In becoming a citizen of Indiana, I sought release