

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Monteur, in reference to France and Austria, says that a discussion, sustained with regrettable persistence by various journals at Paris, seems to have forced an anxiety which the relations of France do not justify to any extent.

CONFISCATION OF NEWSPAPERS BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.—The process of scrutiny and exclusion to which the English newspapers were on other occasions subjected was, though not unfrequently, only partial. On the present occasion a sweeping razzia has taken place, in which adversaries, neutrals, friends, and even partisans, that, through good report and evil report, cherished their allegiance like a treasure, have all been visited with a common fate.

ITALY.

In the Paris correspondent of the Standard we find the following:—“Authentic accounts have reached me from Milan, which fully confirm the caution I gave you against placing implicit belief in the stories of approaching revolution, which have been going the rounds for the last ten days.

MILAN.—It is generally said, no news is good: thus if you believe in the proverb, you may have thought by the depth of the silence, the state of Milan and the Lombardo-Venetian provinces to be very good indeed. It is not, however, exactly so.

“Turning from Central India to Behar, we find results somewhat similar produced by the movements of Brigadier Douglas, and the various detachments from Buzar, Arrah, and Sasseram towards the jungle strongholds of Ummer Sing. Driven from Jugdespore to the eastward, as it were, cornered in the angle formed by the Soans and the Ganges, unable to cross either of those rivers, they were, on the 21st of October, apparently on the eve of destruction.

that the new law was published without his knowledge, and that he has remonstrated against it. Some arrests are still made, but without any political object. The grand opposition is to the new tax on tobacco, and the cigars are snatched from the lips of those who smoke in the streets.

Letters from Naples assert that the King has offered to the Western Powers to re-establish diplomatic relations by sending Ambassadors mutually. The English Government has replied that everything would be subordinate to a satisfactory relation of amnesty. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has remained at Naples.

INDIA.

“Let me revert now to sterner subjects. We are proclaiming peace and good will towards India. We offer pardon and oblivion of the past to the actors in the tragedy of 1857; but some of the more malignant among these are still braving our anger and require punishment. In one field of rebellion, however, I am happy to say the rebellion is at last on the eve of being extinguished. Tantia Topee, with all his talent for running, has been brought to earth, and has requested to be allowed to surrender.

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Bombay Lancers lost so many men at the outbreak of the rebellion in attempting to capture. The fort of Mendowlee has been taken and destroyed. Another attack on Inbrowlee has been repulsed with loss to the enemy.

THE MASSACRE OF CAWNPORE.—As time rolls on, and the events of 1857 become historical, the details of the dreadful scenes enacted at Cawnpore, Delhi, Futehghur, and other places, which must ever sound sadly and horribly in English ears, are brought before us more clearly, and can be viewed more distinctly, if not more calmly.

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IRELAND.

THE MARRIAGE LAW.—A Committee of the Dublin Statistical Society has reported on the necessity of a Registry of Births and deaths in Ireland, and a more perfect system of Registering Marriages than at present exists. In reference to the latter point we have these observations:—In regard to marriages, we find that in the year 1844 an act was passed for the registration of marriages in Ireland (7 and 8 Vic, c. 81), but that statute is obviously imperfect as a measure of general registration, since the marriages of Catholics, who form the majority of the population are excluded from its provisions.

from the officiating clergyman, who should receive for such certificate a small fee. But in order to carry into effect a complete system of registration of marriages in Ireland, your committee are of opinion that it is necessary to remove the disability and penalty attending the celebration of mixed marriages by Catholic Clergymen.

THE PEACE PRESERVATION ACT now in force in the Queen's County prohibits any man in the proclaimed baronies having a gun; gives power to the Constabulary to search for fire-arms; and, if additional police are put on, the expense is to be borne by the ratepayers.

THE CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY, ATHLONE.—The council of this society acknowledge, with sentiments of grateful satisfaction, the liberal donation of two pounds towards their funds, forwarded thro' their spiritual adviser the Rev. Charles O'Flanagan, C.C., by William Hussey Walsh, of Kilduffe, Croghan, Tullamore, Esq., together with a characteristic letter, which greatly enhances the value of the gift.

THE IRISH AND SAXON HUSBANDMAN.—The Irish peasant is poorer and yet more reckless than the Englishman; but he is not so sullen or so spiritless. His body is not so muscular or strongly set as that of the Anglo-Saxon husbandman, on whose frame the hard and unremitted toil of thirty generations has stamped its unmistakable impress, and correspondingly, he is a less persevering and less vigorous labourer; but, as a general rule, his stature is taller and his step more free and elastic than that of the sturdy but slow and stunted labourer of our southern counties.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A Correspondent informs us that John Tinda; Du-rell, Esq., of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, who was preparing to receive Anglican orders from Bishop Philpotts, and who, we believe, is the son of a Protestant Clergyman in Jersey, was received into the Church on the 8th Dec., by the Rev. J. A. Eccles, at St. Nicholas Priory, Exeter.—Weekly Register.

HAVE WE A CHANNEL FLEET?—There has been for the last year much talk of a Channel Fleet; but at this moment, Channel Fleet there is none that deserves the name. The dockyards, it is true, are full of the hulls which supplied the fleets of the Baltic and the Black Sea. In our naval architecture, whether in respect of the excellence of our models, the perfection of our equipment, or the rapidity of production, we believe the English dockyards are without rivals.

THE TIMES, in a leading article, opposes the idea of another Great Exhibition of Industry of all Nations, to be held in London in 1861.

THE REV. MR. POOLE.—It is not correct that Mr. Poole has given up his intention of proceeding against the Hon. and Rev. F. Baring for slander. Baron Channell, on Monday, sitting at chambers, extended time for delivering the declaration in the action till the end of Hilary Term, 1859, on the ground that the proceeding now pending in the Queen's Bench might afford Mr. Poole a mode of clearing his character better than bringing the action against Mr. Baring.—Guardian.

THE SISTERS OF BURNS.—On Saturday morning the 4th ult., at half-past eight o'clock in the morning, died, in her 83th year, Isabella Burns (Mrs. Begg), youngest sister of the poet.

IT WILL BE REMEMBERED that some months since a man named Burgess was apprehended on a charge of murdering his daughter, six years old, in Exmoor Forest, but the body could not be found. Burgess has been kept in custody, and at length the search for the body has been successful, it having been discovered at the bottom of an old mine filled with water. Burgess will be tried at the approaching assizes.

THE DAILY NEWS publishes a long letter from Joseph Mazzini, on the present state of Italy, and showing what are the aims of the national Italian party.

A correspondent of the Times complains that the “course of crinoline” nearly caused the death of his wife, and indignantly denounces the absurd fashion. “Paterfamilias” entreats ladies to bear in mind that if a dress should catch fire, they should not run about, but lie down, roll on the flame, or call for help.

UNITED STATES.

CATHOLIC PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.—Figures seldom lie, and therefore are frequently resorted to as the most convincing kind of arguments, by disputants. We hear a great deal from interested sources, about the falling off of Catholicity in this country, but, singularly enough, those who make such assertions, invariably steer clear of figures, contenting themselves with announcing what they are pleased to term undeniable facts, without furnishing us with a why or a wherefore to support them.

TWO YOUNG MEN, James and William Mason, aged 13 and 20, have arrived at St. Louis after being rescued from Wilson's Island in the Mississippi, where they had remained five days without food. They were raftsmen, but a passing steamer scattered their raft, and they clung to a single timber till they were cast upon the Island, where they endured terrible sufferings, and finally escaped by swimming to the mainland on a stray log.

YANKEE MORALITY.—A man in New York representing to his wife that he had an opportunity to marry a widow worth \$200,000, asked her to go into a disreputable house, that he might have cause for a divorce; and, furthermore, actually asked her to pay the expense of the divorce suit! Refusing to comply with these very reasonable requests, he abandoned her, and for this offence he is now before the court.

A MORTAL CASE.—A case has occurred in Milwaukee in which Judge Paine, in the exercise of the higher law principle, continued a little girl of eight years of age in the care and keeping of a family who had been kind to her, rather than send her back to an abandoned mother, who claimed her, no doubt, for her own vile purposes. The decision is a clear one, though novel. The Judge says:—“The mother has already exposed the child to such ‘disastrous chances,’ from which she could only have been saved by some such accident as rescued her, or by a moral miracle, that I cannot consent to commit her again to her control. It is difficult to travel in the straight line of virtue and purity through this world of temptation and trial, even under the most favorable circumstances. It is terrible, then, to think of a little girl eight years old, beginning her life, and receiving her first instructions, in those haunts which her sex ordinarily reach after falling downward through the various degrees of ruin. If the petitioner is the mother of the child, and her affection for it is real, she will herself see, if she will stop to reflect, that its future life must be better and happier, if left where it is, than it could be, coming up under such influences as those to which she has subjected it. She must see that the only motive that could influence any one to separate her from her little daughter, is a desire for the preservation of the child from those snares which have entangled her own life; and, however painful such separation may be to her, she should respect the motive. The knowledge that her little girl is growing up in innocence and virtue may serve as a help to redeem her from her own errors, if errors she has committed. For she may indulge the hope that, in after years, if she abandons that life which it is never too late to abandon, when her child has grown up and become able to act for herself, she may enjoy her society and friendship.”

HOW SPIRITS GET THEIR CREATURE COMFORTS.—The spiritual intercourse is certainly enlarging.—A spirit not long since waited on Judge Edmonds and wanted him to take a drink through an earthly medium. The Pawtucket Gazette relates the following incident of spiritual communication which quite exceeds the Judge's story:—“An enthusiastic believer was relating to a skeptic the spiritual performances to which he could testify, and among other things said that on a certain occasion the spirit of his wife, who had been dead several years, returned to him, and seating herself on his knee, put her arm around him, and kissed him as much to his gratification as she used to when living. ‘You do not mean to say,’ remarked the skeptic, ‘that the spirit of your wife really embraced and kissed you?’ ‘No, not exactly that,’ replied the believer, ‘but her spirit took possession of the body of a female medium, and through her embraced and kissed me.’”

THE HERALD has another explanation of the new Bible cry. It supposes that the three hungry lawyers have got hold of the assets of some bankrupt Bible dealer, and wish to create a market for the article. We commend them to read Mrs. Vieve's “Following the Drum,” where they will find that Bibles are sadly wanted in some parts of Texas. The N. Y. Herald says:—“The education of youth is placed in the hands of men who ought to take the place of the pupils in the primary schools—of men who do very well as dealers out of provisions, liquors, or as bullies in ward meetings, or pimps and touters for gambling houses, but who are, to use a mild expression, somewhat out of their element when they attempt to direct the most ordinary educational institution. In order to hide the weakness of the system, we have a grand outcry about the Bible in the schools; when the truth is that the schools are already overburdened with books of all sorts; which are not of the smallest possible value to the scholar, who is supposed to acquire the rudiments of an English education. These text books are introduced to favor some publisher, who divides the profits of the job with the school officers, and it is very probable now that some shrewd bookseller has a lot of old Bibles on hand, on which he desires to realize at the city's expense. People who are so good natured as to believe that they are voting upon a question of morals and religion are simply throwing some thousands of dollars into the hands of corrupt political hacks and their needy accomplices.”

A writer at the South gives the following advice to wives:—“Should you find it necessary, as you undoubtedly will, many of you, to chastise your husbands, you should perform this affectionate duty with the soft end of the broom and not with the handle.”