

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, June 23. — The opinion seems to be gaining ground that a future intervention on the part of France will not have to be waited for any longer. Indeed it is affirmed that it is already decided upon. Prince Napoleon had an interview with the Emperor yesterday, and it was noticed that he came away in quite a joyful mood. What passed between them can only be surmised; but the surmise is that he has obtained all he wanted. It is said that M. Benedetti, the French Ambassador at Berlin, is about to come to Paris, ostensibly to leave of absence—really to be the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in place of M. Drouyn de Lhays, who was the Foreign Minister for peace. M. Benedetti is said to be an intimate friend of Count Bismarck, and would be a War Minister. Moreover, M. Drouyn de Lhays is not always consulted in very delicate affairs. Should intervention be the order of the day it would probably be undertaken not long after the Chamber separates. The Emperor proposes to go to Fontainebleau on Sunday if the Session is not prolonged. — Times Cor.

The French Society for the Encouragement of Virtue held its annual meeting on June 24th at the Hotel de Ville, in Paris, under Presidency of Baron de Ladoucette. The three principal prizes were awarded to a servant, a ballet girl and a nun. — The servant had distinguished herself by faithful devotion to her employer's interests; the nun by her energy and courage in the hospitals of Smyrna; and the ballet girl, by her good conduct, industry and success whilst dancing at the Porte St. Martin Theatre for the support of her family. — London Universe.

In the Chamber the other day several attempts were made to introduce the question of war into the discussions of the Budget; but the President very properly stopped a premature debate. Enough, however, was said to prove that there is a strong war feeling in the Chamber. — London Telegraph.

The journals of the south of France speak in the most favorable terms of the crops of rye, oats, barley, and wheat. The yield of potatoes, peas, beans, and other vegetables is also unusually abundant.

ITALY.

Rome.—The Roman correspondent of the Post, writing under date of June 20th, says—

On the morning of Sunday, the 17th instant, the cannons of the Castle of St. Angelo announced to Rome and the world that Pope Pius IX had entered upon the 21st year of his pontificate. It was certainly an event to be celebrated with extraordinary demonstrations, for extraordinary has been the duration of the present Pope's reign as compared with those of the majority of his predecessors. According to ecclesiastical chronicles, 258 pontiffs have occupied St. Peter's Chair for more than 18 centuries in direct succession; but of these only nine, including Pius IX., have reigned for 20 years or upwards.— They were St. Sylvester I, the great antagonist of Arianism, who was elected in 314 and died in 335, after 21 years' reign. St. Leo the Great, elected in 458, also reigned 21 years, during which he had to encounter the fury of barbarian invasions, and especially that of Attila. Adrian I, elected in 772, reigned 23 years and 10 months. St. Leo II, his successor, reigned 20 years and 6 months, enjoyed the protection of Charlemagne, and crowned that Emperor in 800. During a reign of 21 years and 10 months Alexander III., elected in 1159, signalled himself by repeated conflicts with three anti-popes, besides Henry II, of England, and the Emperor Frederick of Germany. Urban VIII., elected in 1623, reigned 21 years, but a lapse of five centuries had softened down the aspect of Europe, so that Jesuitism, and similar erring ecclesiastics, were the chief antagonists he had to combat. Clement XI., elected in 1700, reigned 21 years. The list closes with the sixth, seventh, and ninth Popes Pius—Pope Braschi reigned upwards of 24 years and his successor, Chiavenna, reigned 23, and we know that their reigns were as eventful as that of the present Pontiff has, hitherto proved. It is curious that these long-lived popes should have been all Italians, and the first four mentioned Romans.

His Holiness, having received on Sunday the customary official congratulations on the anniversary of his election, will have to accept similar demonstrations to-morrow as being the anniversary of his coronation. Among the other festivities by which this event is to be commemorated is a grand review of the Pontifical troops, to be present at which the battalion of Zouaves arrived this morning from Yelietri, and the foreign Chasseurs from Anagni.

The officers of His Holiness's army hail with peculiar interest the anniversary of his coronation, as it is on that day that military and other promotions are generally announced.

An issue of the new decimal coinage is also expected to rejoice the sight of the Komoni to-morrow—and even to-day, if the annual largesse of five baiocchi, dispensed to each of as many poor women and children as can crowd into the ample Belvedere Court at the Vatican, should be given in the form of a new quarter lire or franc, instead of the traditional grossetto or half paul.

Rome, June 23.—The Pontifical troops were reviewed on Thursday, being the feast of St. Louis of Anagnina, and the anniversary of the Pope's coronation, at the Champ de Marsure of the Farnesina outside Ponte Mole, and occupying the flat space between Monte Mario and the Tiber.

Four hundred of the Zouaves under the Colonel de Sarette, the Comtes de Fermel, de Saizey, de Fougues &c., marched in the day previous from Yelietri and other outposts to take part in the sham fight and were quartered at the barracks of Papa Giulio, and Genue Marie. About 5 o'clock the Commander-in-chief of General Rausler came on the ground and the manoeuvres began, the Artillery, two Regiments of Chasseurs, the Dragoons, Gendarmes and Swiss taking part in it. An immense crowd was assembled to witness it. I was glad to remark the presence of nearly every member of the Royal family of Naples, of the Roman aristocracy, and even of the citizens.

The manoeuvres which were nearly invisible to the ordinary spectator from the clouds of dust and smoke, were said by the officers present both of the Papal and French armies to have gone off admirably and the appearance of the troops was most soldierly, like, and as far as possible from the slovenly shewiness of the Papal troops in 1850. Mgr. de Merode has literally created an army and an esprit de corps, and those who remember the army of those days and compare it with the smart and workmanlike troops of to-day, can best appreciate the result of his long tenure of the war-office.

The Pope passed down the road leading to the Farnesina about six, and gave his solemn blessing to his gallant band of defenders. No moment could have been better chosen, for the telegrams had just arrived with the Piedmontese declaration of war, in which Victor Emmanuel invokes the genius of Italian unity to aid his arms.

Let any reader compare that almost heathen proclamation with the solemn appeal of the Kaiser to the God of Battles, on taking up the gage of the revolution. Not a mention is there of the intervention of Providence—not an invocation of the blessing of heaven on the cause of Italy. Progress has eliminated God from the very official documents in which His Holy Name was once an essential form of invocation.

I have neither words or heart to talk of the fearful persecutions of priests and religious persons now carrying on in the Italian provinces. At Milan, Bologna, Florence, Ancona, Naples, Ferrara, Turin, Modena, Jesi, Cesena, Lucca, Pistoja, Bari, Anellino, Meti, Genoa, Savona, and every town of note in Italy, the priests, nobles, and fasci, are filling the

dungeons. At Capua they number 900 in one prison and the daily prisoners are included in this return. The monks are to be expelled en masse in a few weeks; and where they are to go God alone knows. Deprived of their community, driven from their beloved cloisters, robbed of the little portion on which they and their families relied for their life-long subsistence, unable to work, and in most cases, literally unfitted for secular life, they are perhaps among the most friendless and destitute of God's creatures at the present moment; and I believe that even in Protestant England when their case is fully known and an appeal is made, the hearts of many of our separated brothers and sisters will be opened to the wrongs of the nuns of Italy; and that a voice may be lifted in their defence where alone it has a chance of being listened to, in the English House of Parliament. To thousands of unfortunate ladies the present law is a sentence of starvation; who can live on 2d. a day? And that is the magnificent remuneration subject to fines and extortions, meted out to the senior members of the religious orders bound by vows. The monks may fight through their difficulties, but in the case of female and aged religious the case is a desperate one; and it is only just and fitting at the present time that the work of their hands should be prominently brought before the Catholic abolitionists of the Whig foreign policy; especially if, as seems possible, the right of changing their representatives is once more thrown into their hands.

How the Church regards the coming struggle is evident from the magnificent advice of the Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna to the Tyrolean volunteers on blessing their standard—'It is not only the cause of your Emperor you are about to defend, my sons; he said, 'but the cause of European order, the Church in every Catholic land, of the hearths and homes of Christian Europe, of monarchy and religion everywhere.'

The new decimal currency is issued in the Pontifical States, and has entirely obviated the momentary crisis. The Pontifical Funds continue steady, and the fictitious value of foreign gold went down three francs on each napoleon immediately, and business transactions have been rendered perfectly easy in consequence. — Cor of Tablet.

The Bishop of St. Brieux has arrived in Rome bringing 150,000fr. for Peter's Pence from his poor and scanty diocese in Bretagne.

About three hundred priests and religious are now imprisoned in the citadel and prison of Capua.

Another Jesuit Father, Padre Protan, has been arrested at Milan; he has been committed to prison.

Cardinal Antonelli, who has been seriously ill, has now almost recovered, and taken frequent carriage exercise in Rome. The Roman correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette says:—'Cardinal Antonelli's illness is attributed to his losses through the bank failures in London. These losses are estimated at a million crowns.'

THE WAR IN GERMANY.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT BATTLE OF THE 27th.

(From Correspondent of the Times).

It was about 8 o'clock, and the dusk of the evening was rapidly closing in, when the Jagers first felt their enemy. On the right hand side of the road, about half a mile before the bridge, stands the farmhouse of the village. It is a large square farm house, with windows without glass, but with heavy gratings. The Austrians had occupied it in force, and their outlying pickets, as they retired before the advancing Prussians, formed line across the road beside it. As soon as the Jagers came within sight of the garrison of the farmhouse and the formed-up pickets opened fire upon them. From the grated windows and from the line of soldiers in the road there came one rapid volley, which told severely on the Prussian riflemen, but these went quickly to work, and had fired about three times before the Austrians, armed only with muzzle-loading rifles, were able to reply. Then the noise of musketry rose high, occasionally swelling into a heavy roar, but sometimes falling off so that the ear could distinguish the separate reports. But this did not last. Major von Hagen, commanding the 2nd battalion of the 31st, which was following the Jagers on the first sound of the firing, had put his troops into double quick time, and was soon up to reinforce the riflemen. It was now nearly dark, and the flashes of the rifles, the reports of the shot, and the shouts of the combatants were almost the only indications of the positions of the troops; yet it could be seen that the rapid fire of the needle-gun was telling on the Austrian line in the road, and the advancing cheers of the Prussians showed that they were gaining ground. Then while the exchange of shots was still proceeding rapidly between the window-gratings of the farmhouse and the Prussian firing parties who had extended into a corn field on the right of the highway, there was a sudden pause in the firing on the road, for the Jagers, supported by the 31st, had made a dash and were bearing the Austrians back beyond the farm house to where the cottages of the village closed on each side of the road and where the defenders had hastily thrown some hewn down willow trees as a barricade across the way.

Then the tumult of the fight increased. Darkness had completely closed in and the moon had not yet risen; the Prussians pressed up to the barricade, the Austrians stoutly stood their ground behind it, and three paces distant, assailants and defenders poured their fire into each other's breasts. Little could be seen, though the flashes of the discharges cast a fitful light over the surging masses; but in the pauses of the firing the voices of the officers were heard encouraging their men, and half-stifled shrieks or gurgling cries told that the bullets were truly aimed. This was too severe to endure. The Prussians, firing much more quickly, and in the narrow street, where neither side could show their whole strength, not feeling the inferiority of numbers, succeeded in tearing away the barricade, and slowly pressed their adversaries back along the village street. Yet the Austrians fought bravely, and their plans for the defence of the houses had been skillfully though hastily made; from every window muskets flashed out fire, and sent bullets into the thick ranks of the advancing Prussians, while on each balcony behind a wooden barricade Jagers crouched to take their deadly aim; but in the street the soldiers, huddled together and encumbered with clumsy ramrods, were unable to load with ease, and could return no adequate fire to that of the Prussians, while these, from the advantage of a better arm, poured their quick volleys into an almost defenceless crowd.

As the battle in the street was pushed inch by inch towards the last, the Austrians, in every house which the foremost ranks of the Prussians passed, were cut off from their retreat, and were sooner or later made prisoners, for the houses of the village did not join on to each other, but are detached by spaces of a few yards, and there is no communication from one house to the other except by the open street. The whole of the Prussian force was now up, and extending between the houses which the first combatants had passed by, cut off the escape of their garrison, and exchanged shots with the defenders.

With shrieks and shouts, amid the crashing of broken windows, the heavy sounds of falling beams, and the perpetual rattle of the fire-arms, the battle was heavily pressed down to the narrow street, and about half-past 11 the moon came up clear and full to show the Austrian rear-most ranks turning vainly to bar the Prussians from the bridge. The moonlight, reflected in the stream, told the assailants that they were near the object of their labor, and showed the Austrians that now or never the enemy must be hurled back. Both sides threw out skirmishers along the river bank, and the moon gave them light to direct their aim across the stream; while on the first bank of the bridge the Austrians turned to bay, and the Prussians pausing some short paces from them, the combatants gazed at each other for a few moments. Then they began a fierce fight

than ever. The discharges were more frequent, and in the narrow way the bullets told with more severe effect. The Prussians, leading the fullier battalion of the 31st, a lieutenant-colonel of only two days' standing, went down with two bullets in his forehead; and a captain at his side, was shot in both legs; many men fell, and the gray horse of a Prussian field-officer, with a ball in his heart, fell heavily against the wall, kicking amid its ranks, but he was soon quieted for ever, and at that moment men regarded but little such wounds as could be inflicted by an iron-shod hoof, even in the agonies of death. The Austrians stood gallantly, and made an attempt to scurry to the bridge; but the difference of their armament again told upon them, and it is said that, galled by their hard fortune, they charged with the bayonet, but that the Prussians also took kindly to the steel, and this charge caused no change in the fortune of the fight; certain it is that the defenders were ultimately obliged to retire across the bridge.

While this combat was proceeding slowly along the street, another fight was carried on upon the railway almost with an equal progress, and with an almost similar result. A party of the Austrians fell back from the point where shots were first exchanged; and where the railway crosses the road; along the line they were pushed by some Prussian detachments, but neither side was here in strong force, and here, too, the needle gun showed its advantage over the old fashioned weapons of the Austrians, for the latter fell in the proportion of six to one Prussian. The railway bridge was not broken, but the lines were torn up by the retiring troops, and the line is now not passable by trains. The Prussians pushed over both bridges after the retreating Austrians; the latter threw a strong detachment into a large unfinished house, which stands by the chaussee, about a quarter of a mile beyond the bridge, and again made a stand; but not of long duration; they had lost many killed, wounded, and prisoners; many of their officers were dead or taken; but they stood till they could gather in all the stragglers who had escaped from the houses of the village, and harassed by the pursuing Prussians, drew off sullenly by the main road to Munchengrätz. Thus terminated a contest, which fought upon both sides with the greatest vigour and determination yet resulted in a clear victory for the Prussians; for when the last dropping shots ceased, about 4 o'clock this morning, there were no Austrian soldiers within three miles of Podoll-bridge, except the wounded and the taken. There was no artillery engaged on either side; it was purely an infantry action, and the Prussians derived its great advantage from the superiority of their arms over that of their opponents, not only in the rapidity, but in the direction of their fire, for a man with an arm on the nipple of which he has to place a cap naturally raises the muzzle in the air, and in the hurry and excitement of action often forgets to lower it, and only sends his bullet over the heads of the opposite ranks, while the soldier armed with a breech-loading rifle is not without raising the butt to his shoulder, his shot takes effect, though often low, and a proof of this is that very many of the Austrian prisoners are wounded in the legs.

The road to Podoll was this morning crowded with hospital waggons and ambulance cars bringing in the wounded; every cottage in the way was converted into a temporary hospital, and the little village of Swierbia was entirely filled with stricken men. The sick bearers, one of the most useful corps which any army possesses, were at work from the beginning of the action. As the combatants passed on these noble-minded men, regardless of the bullets and careless of personal danger removed with equal hand both friend and enemy who were left writhing on the road and carried them carefully to the rear, where the medical officers seemed to make no distinction in their care for both Austrian and Prussian. Not only was it those whose special duty is the care of the wounded who alone were doing their best to ease the sufferings of those who had suffered in the combat; soldiers not on duty might be seen carrying water for prisoners of both sides alike, and gladly affording any comfort which it was in their power to give to those who over night had been firing against their own hearts? Nor is this wonderful, for after the flash of the battle is over, and the din of musketry has died away, the men of this army cannot forget that one common language links them to their adversaries, and that, after all, it is probably German blood which, flowing from an Austrian, trickles over the white livery of the House of Hapsburg.

In the village the utmost disorder gave evidence of the severity of the contest. Austrian knapsacks, sashes, clothes, and arms, were scattered about in wild confusion. Dead horses lay in the ditches by the roadside. White coats and cloaks, which had been thrown off in the hurry of the fight, lay scattered along the road; the trees, which had formed the Austrian barricade, and still on the side of the street, held many a bullet. The cottages had been ransacked of their furniture, and their beams and roof trees had been torn down to form defences for the doors and windows; while along the street and upon the banks of the river lay objects which in the distance look like bundles of untidy uniform, but which on nearer approach are seen to be the bodies of slain soldiers. Sometimes they lie in twos or threes, twisted together as if they had gripped one another in their agony, and sometimes single figures lie on their backs, staring with livid countenances and half-closed heavy eyes straight up against the hot morning sun. The dark-blue uniform with red facings of Prussia and the white with light-blue of Austria lie side by side, but the numbers of the latter much preponderate, and on one part of the railway three Prussian corpses opposite 19 Austrian form a grisly trophy of the superiority of the needle gun.

Prussians announce the defeat of his army—how the news was received at Vienna.

Though it was yesterday evening known that the Feldzeugmeister von Benedek had failed in his attempt to cut off the communication between the Prussian armies under command of the Crown Prince, and Prince Frederic Charles, the public was not prepared to hear that the Saxon troops and the left wing of Austrian army had been defeated and forced to retreat in the direction of Prague. The news was communicated to the inhabitants of this city by means of an extraordinary supplement to the Wiener Zeitung, which was published and posted at an early hour this morning. General von Benedek thus announces the defeat of the left wing of his army, and the consequent removal of his head quarters from Koniginhof to Konigratz, a small fortress about 22 English miles south of Josephstadt.

Prussians announce the defeat of his army—how the news was received at Vienna.

At the foot of Benedek's laconic despatch is the following semi-official article:—From the Feldzeugmeister's communication, that in consequence of the repulse of the Saxons and First Austrian corps d'armee, was retreating in the direction of Konigratz, we, being for the moment without any nearer information on the subject, must suppose that the left wing of the Northern army advanced to the northwest of Jicin (Gitechin), and there found the enemy in a strong position, from which it was unable to dislodge him. We must further conclude that the Feldzeugmeister, being unwilling to subject his army to further severe losses, has fallen back in the direction of Konigratz, with the intention of attacking the enemy as soon as he may think fit to quit the position which he now occupies. The courage and constancy of our troops, and the well-known energy of their commander, render it probable that the enemy will soon be deprived of any advantages which he may have obtained.

The inhabitants of Prague and Vienna are in great consternation, and on all sides it is asked how the Emperor could allow Count Clam-Gallas to retain the command of the First Corps d'armee, he having, during the war in Lombardy, in 1856, given multiple proofs of incapacity. You may, perhaps, recollect that about two months ago publicly stated, that General von Benedek was both to have General Count Clam-Gallas placed under his command. The commander of the First Corps d'armee belongs to the Guelph school, and is totally unable to keep pace with such ahead soldiers as Gabelenz, Ramming, and Edelsheim. Up to two days ago almost all the fighting had been done by the Sixth and Seventh Corps d'armee (Lieutenant-General von Ramming and von Gabelenz), and the First Light Cavalry division, under Major-General Baron Edelsheim.

The War in Bohemia is awful work. The Austrians, we are told, lost 15,000 men in their various encounters with the army under the Crown Prince of Prussia; they had 25,000 put hors de combat in their vain attempts to arrest the progress of the army under Prince Farnese's command—altogether, 40,000 men in five days. The prisoners are computed at 15,000, leaving 25,000 for the dead and wounded. Whole battalions have been annihilated; whole corps—the 'Clam-Gallas,' the 'Gabelenz,' and the Saxon Corps, no less than the Kallik Brigade—are so utterly broken up as to be unable to reappear in action for some time. Bismarck's army has fallen back behind the Elbe, taking up its position between the fortresses of Josephstadt and Konigratz, greatly disheartened and disorganized, according to the account of Austrian officers, prisoner in Prussian hands. The desertion of Italian soldiers from the Austrian ranks is on the increase. These are merely Prussian statements; but, however much we may feel disposed to charge them with exaggeration, however much we may wonder why the Prussians did not rather give us an account of the casualties among themselves, we have no hesitation in believing that the havoc has been tremendous on both sides. Indeed, every bulletin or letter proceeding from either camp bears witness of the extreme valour displayed, and allows that success was in every instance purchased at a very heavy sacrifice. And yet, horrible as the carnage has hitherto been, it must be looked upon as a mere prelude to the pitched battle now unavoidable, in which a quarter of a million of men will probably be engaged on either side. The vast strength to which modern armies are swelled by conscription, and the means of destruction and locomotion which attain every day greater efficiency, have a tendency to condense into a few months, and into one or two Titanic actions, all the horrors which in former ages stretched over years' campaigning, though we have the recent experience of America to convince us that the magnitude of a struggle is no security against its continuance.

In these sanguinary conflicts, the Austrian troops fought obstinately and well, but they were fairly beaten, and they were beaten, according to all the accounts that have reached us, by the more rapid fire of the Prussian infantry. From first to last it is the needle-gun that has apparently carried the day, and the needle-gun is simply a breech-loading rifle of very inferior quality. In principle, as well as in construction, it is not to be compared with several breech-loading rifles manufactured by English makers; but imperfect as it is, it has proved quite good enough to secure victory for the Prussians in almost every encounter.—Times.

The Prussians pressed on with extraordinary vigor, so that at last the wing was cut off from the main body and a perfect panic set in; the retreat of the Austrians became changed into a rout, and the bridges over the Siba did not suffice to afford a passage to the mass of fugitives.

Austria proposes that Hungary assumes a portion of the State debt, and that loans and commercial questions be treated in common by means of special treaties.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS.—We learn by a letter from Calcutta, addressed to the Journal de Bruxelles, that the various missions are succeeding admirably. The girls' schools, kept by the nuns, some of whom are Irish, while others are French, are patronised by Protestants as well as Catholics, and the Anglican Bishop of Calcutta blamed the former severely in his last pastoral for confiding the education of their children to Catholics. Great efforts were made, accordingly, to establish Protestant schools, but they soon came to nothing, partly because young women in India marry well, as soon as they attain the proper age, provided they are well-behaved and accomplished. It is more difficult to set up large establishments for the plain education of the young. Nevertheless, the College called Saint Francois Xavier de Calcutta, has succeeded so well under the direction of Belgian missionaries that it has won the good will of Catholics and Protestants alike. Last year the medical attendant of the house published a letter, stating that the building was too confined, and consequently unwholesome. A subscription was thereupon opened, which realized 50,000 francs, and to which the Protestants contributed even more than the Catholics. More money being required, a second appeal was made, which was heartily responded to by Protestants as well as Catholics. In consequence of the unsatisfactory result of the last examinations, it was resolved at a meeting, at which the Anglican Bishop presided, to amalgamate the two Protestant colleges in order the better to make head against the rival Catholic establishments. In January last the Catholic missionaries opened a school at Hyderabad, similar to the one at Calcutta. The Abbe Casproni, a native of Genoa, is the superior, and he is assisted by Italian and Irish priests. The Delhi Gazette, a Protestant Journal, spoke the other day in very high terms of this new school, and of the superior. At Bombay the best schools in the town were those which had been established by Mgr. Steils. He has lately been compelled to set up a Catholic college, and to devote part of the staff of the mission to its service, in consequence of one college having been founded by the Protestant Bishop, and another by the Presbyterians and Freemasons. The Catholics of India contribute very liberally to religious objects. Indo-European Correspondence contains long lists of subscribers every week, especially to orphanages. The collection made at Easter in behalf of these institutions in the Church of St. Thomas amounted to 860 rupees, upwards of 2,000 francs.—The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is thriving so that it has been found necessary to divide it into four. Its last work was to found an asylum for fallen women. The charity of the faithful was appealed to, as usual, and in a short time upwards of 6,000 francs were subscribed. Though Mgr. Van Heule was only here a few months, he still lives in the memories of us all, and it is by his spirit that we are animated. If a work has been projected by him or spoken of with approbation, it is put in hand at once without time being lost in deliberation. His name is repeated by all, even by heathens and Protestants.

We are expecting the Duke of Alencon, son of the Duke of Nemours, and Prince Coade, son of the Duke of Aumale. May they conduce to the honor of the Catholic religion here as much as the Duke of Brabant did last year.

NATURE OF THE SPOTS ON THE SUN.—On the solar envelope, of whose fluid nature there can be no doubt, says Herschel, we clearly perceive, by our telescopes, an intermixture (without blending, or mutual dilution), of two distinct substances, or states of matter; the one luminous, the other not so; and the phenomena of the spots and pores tend directly to the conclusion that the non-luminous portions are gaseous, however they may leave the nature of the luminous doubtful. They suggest the idea of a radiant matter floating in a non-radiant medium, showing a tendency to separate itself by subsidence, after the manner of snow in air.

DUNDEE, June 30. 6 P M.—The repulse of the Saxons and First Austrian corps d'armee obliges me to retreat in the direction of Konigratz.

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The War in Bohemia is awful work. The Austrians, we are told, lost 15,000 men in their various encounters with the army under the Crown Prince of Prussia; they had 25,000 put hors de combat in their vain attempts to arrest the progress of the army under Prince Farnese's command—altogether, 40,000 men in five days. The prisoners are computed at 15,000, leaving 25,000 for the dead and wounded. Whole battalions have been annihilated; whole corps—the 'Clam-Gallas,' the 'Gabelenz,' and the Saxon Corps, no less than the Kallik Brigade—are so utterly broken up as to be unable to reappear in action for some time. Bismarck's army has fallen back behind the Elbe, taking up its position between the fortresses of Josephstadt and Konigratz, greatly disheartened and disorganized, according to the account of Austrian officers, prisoner in Prussian hands. The desertion of Italian soldiers from the Austrian ranks is on the increase. These are merely Prussian statements; but, however much we may feel disposed to charge them with exaggeration, however much we may wonder why the Prussians did not rather give us an account of the casualties among themselves, we have no hesitation in believing that the havoc has been tremendous on both sides. Indeed, every bulletin or letter proceeding from either camp bears witness of the extreme valour displayed, and allows that success was in every instance purchased at a very heavy sacrifice. And yet, horrible as the carnage has hitherto been, it must be looked upon as a mere prelude to the pitched battle now unavoidable, in which a quarter of a million of men will probably be engaged on either side. The vast strength to which modern armies are swelled by conscription, and the means of destruction and locomotion which attain every day greater efficiency, have a tendency to condense into a few months, and into one or two Titanic actions, all the horrors which in former ages stretched over years' campaigning, though we have the recent experience of America to convince us that the magnitude of a struggle is no security against its continuance.

In these sanguinary conflicts, the Austrian troops fought obstinately and well, but they were fairly beaten, and they were beaten, according to all the accounts that have reached us, by the more rapid fire of the Prussian infantry. From first to last it is the needle-gun that has apparently carried the day, and the needle-gun is simply a breech-loading rifle of very inferior quality. In principle, as well as in construction, it is not to be compared with several breech-loading rifles manufactured by English makers; but imperfect as it is, it has proved quite good enough to secure victory for the Prussians in almost every encounter.—Times.

The Prussians pressed on with extraordinary vigor, so that at last the wing was cut off from the main body and a perfect panic set in; the retreat of the Austrians became changed into a rout, and the bridges over the Siba did not suffice to afford a passage to the mass of fugitives.

Austria proposes that Hungary assumes a portion of the State debt, and that loans and commercial questions be treated in common by means of special treaties.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS.—We learn by a letter from Calcutta, addressed to the Journal de Bruxelles, that the various missions are succeeding admirably. The girls' schools, kept by the nuns, some of whom are Irish, while others are French, are patronised by Protestants as well as Catholics, and the Anglican Bishop of Calcutta blamed the former severely in his last pastoral for confiding the education of their children to Catholics. Great efforts were made, accordingly, to establish Protestant schools, but they soon came to nothing, partly because young women in India marry well, as soon as they attain the proper age, provided they are well-behaved and accomplished. It is more difficult to set up large establishments for the plain education of the young. Nevertheless, the College called Saint Francois Xavier de Calcutta, has succeeded so well under the direction of Belgian missionaries that it has won the good will of Catholics and Protestants alike. Last year the medical attendant of the house published a letter, stating that the building was too confined, and consequently unwholesome. A subscription was thereupon opened, which realized 50,000 francs, and to which the Protestants contributed even more than the Catholics. More money being required, a second appeal was made, which was heartily responded to by Protestants as well as Catholics. In consequence of the unsatisfactory result of the last examinations, it was resolved at a meeting, at which the Anglican Bishop presided, to amalgamate the two Protestant colleges in order the better to make head against the rival Catholic establishments. In January last the Catholic missionaries opened a school at Hyderabad, similar to the one at Calcutta. The Abbe Casproni, a native of Genoa, is the superior, and he is assisted by Italian and Irish priests. The Delhi Gazette, a Protestant Journal, spoke the other day in very high terms of this new school, and of the superior. At Bombay the best schools in the town were those which had been established by Mgr. Steils. He has lately been compelled to set up a Catholic college, and to devote part of the staff of the mission to its service, in consequence of one college having been founded by the Protestant Bishop, and another by the Presbyterians and Freemasons. The Catholics of India contribute very liberally to religious objects. Indo-European Correspondence contains long lists of subscribers every week, especially to orphanages. The collection made at Easter in behalf of these institutions in the Church of St. Thomas amounted to 860 rupees, upwards of 2,000 francs.—The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is thriving so that it has been found necessary to divide it into four. Its last work was to found an asylum for fallen women. The charity of the faithful was appealed to, as usual, and in a short time upwards of 6,000 francs were subscribed. Though Mgr. Van Heule was only here a few months, he still lives in the memories of us all, and it is by his spirit that we are animated. If a work has been projected by him or spoken of with approbation, it is put in hand at once without time being lost in deliberation. His name is repeated by all, even by heathens and Protestants.

We are expecting the Duke of Alencon, son of the Duke of Nemours, and Prince Coade, son of the Duke of Aumale. May they conduce to the honor of the Catholic religion here as much as the Duke of Brabant did last year.

NATURE OF THE SPOTS ON THE SUN.—On the solar envelope, of whose fluid nature there can be no doubt, says Herschel, we clearly perceive, by our telescopes, an intermixture (without blending, or mutual dilution), of two distinct substances, or states of matter; the one luminous, the other not so; and the phenomena of the spots and pores tend directly to the conclusion that the non-luminous portions are gaseous, however they may leave the nature of the luminous doubtful. They suggest the idea of a radiant matter floating in a non-radiant medium, showing a tendency to separate itself by subsidence, after the manner of snow in air.

DUNDEE, June 30. 6 P M.—The repulse of the Saxons and First Austrian corps d'armee obliges me to retreat in the direction of Konigratz.

At the foot of Benedek's laconic despatch is the following semi-official article:—From the Feldzeugmeister's communication, that in consequence of the repulse of the Saxons and First Austrian corps d'armee, was retreating in the direction of Konigratz, we, being for the moment without any nearer information on the subject, must suppose that the left wing of the Northern army advanced to the northwest of Jicin (Gitechin), and there found the enemy in a strong position, from which it was unable to dislodge him. We must further conclude that the Feldzeugmeister, being unwilling to subject his army to further severe losses, has fallen back in the direction of Konigratz, with the intention of attacking the enemy as soon as he may think fit to quit the position which he now occupies. The courage and constancy of our troops, and the well-known energy of their commander, render it probable that the enemy will soon be deprived of any advantages which he may have obtained.

The inhabitants of Prague and Vienna are in great consternation, and on all sides it is asked how the Emperor could allow Count Clam-Gallas to retain

Waddington-John. In what is known as the Upper Pond of Pike county, Pa., there is a man, who has the ironical sobriquet of 'Whispering John Ricketts.' This title he has gained from the fact that he always talks (even in conversation) as if he were a major-general on parade; or to use a more common expression, 'like he was raised in a mill.' This gentleman, who, by the by, is one of 'em, mounted his horse one cold morning before day-light, for the purpose of riding down to Philadelphia. He rode up to the hotel just as the boarders and travellers had done their breakfast. He dismounted, and walking into the bar-room, spoke to the landlord in his usual thundering tone. 'Good-morning, Mr. L.—how do you do this morning?' 'Very well, Mr. Ricketts; how do you do?' 'Oh! I am well, but I'm so cold I can't hardly talk.'

Just then a nervous traveler, who was present, ran up to the landlord, and, catching him by the coat, said, 'Mr. L.—have my horse brought as soon as possible.' 'What is the matter, my dear sir; has anything happened?' 'Nothing upon earth, only I want to get away from here before that man thaws!'

TRAINING A FOP.—It does not now and then happen that scoffers, who seek amusement by poking sly fun at the members of the Institute of France, come off second best in the encounter. An instance of this fact occurred at a social reunion in an aristocratic saloon, at which a mixed company was present, and among the rest a well known savant. Thinking to expose the old gentleman to ridicule, without in the least compromising himself, an impudent young coxcomb approached the academician, with an air of pretended respect, and, in the hearing of several ladies and gentlemen, asked leave to propound a grammatical query.

'Oh, certainly,' said the old gentleman, good humoredly, 'I will do my best to satisfy your curiosity.' Then, sir, returned the fop, 'would you please to tell me which of these two expressions is the more elegant, 'Give me some water,' or 'Bring me some water?'

'Why,' returned the academician, with an imperceptible twinkle in the eye, 'I should say that, in your case, a more appropriate phrase than either would be, 'Lead me to water!'

The questioner's curiosity was satisfied.

IMPORTANCE OF WHOLESOME BEDS.—Sleep to the workman is emphatically Nature's sweet restorer, reinvigorating the physical system, which through much toil has become weary, and keeping up that flow of life and spirits which are necessary to the performance of the arduous duties of farm life. A comfortable bed, as we are all aware, conduces greatly to one's rest. On this subject, a recent writer says:—

Of the eight pounds which a man eats and drinks in a day, it is thought not less than five pounds leave his body through the skin. And of these five pounds a considerable per centage escapes during the night while he is in bed. The larger part of this is water, but in addition there is much effete and poisonous matter. This, being in great part gaseous in form, permeates every part of the bed. Thus all parts of the bed, mattress, blankets, as well as sheets, soon become foul and need purification.</