

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PETITION FOR THE EMPIRE.

Petitions for the re-establishment of the empire are in course of signature in the rural communes of the Charente and other departments; these petitions, in some instances, have been circulated very numerously.

In the department of the Meuse the number of electors who have signed these petitions amounts, according to the latest accounts, to 20,000, belonging to 204 communes, or about four-fifths of the total number of electors.

The *Lithographische Correspondenz* states "that immediately upon the marriage of Louis Napoleon with the Princess Caroline of Vasa, a notification will be transmitted to the different courts. This notification would appear the more necessary, since the marriage of the President with a princess of equal birth appears to form the preliminary to the foundation of a new dynasty in Europe. Louis Napoleon, it is stated, will express himself in this sense. The notification, it is asserted, will also throw light upon the contingency of the empire."

The *Moniteur* contains a decree authorising to return immediately to France the ex-representatives Creton, Duvergier, Thiers, Chambolle, Remusat, Lastejrie, Laidet, and Thouret.

Another decree removes the interdiction of January 10th, to reside in France against Renaud, Signard, Joly, Theodore Bac, Belin, Besse, Millosse, ex-representatives of the Mountain.

THE EXCAVATIONS OF NINEVEH.—The Minister of the Interior has received despatches from M. Place, the French Consul at Mosul, giving an account of further discoveries made by him during the search at the Mount of Khorsabad over the ruins of Nineveh, and which had been interrupted by the return of M. Botta to France in the year 1845. One of the most interesting discoveries made by M. Place is the wine cellars of the ancient kings of Assyria. The jars which served to contain the wine have been found ranged in order, and though broken and filled with earth from the ruins, they have not been displaced. A purple deposit is still visible at the bottom of each vessel. Mr. Place further announces that he has obtained the consent of Colonel Rawlinson to pursue his researches, and to cut fresh trenches in the mount.

ITALY.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 5th ult., publishes the following circular, addressed by the Minister of the Interior to the Intendants-General. It shows the "Liberal" government do not intend even to keep up the forms of liberty in forcing their schismatical bill on the country.—"The marriage bill presented by the government to the parliament is made a pretext for agitating the country by means of petitions. The right of petition when it is legally exercised ought to be respected, but if it give rise to fraud and violence, and to lead public opinion astray, as for example on the law in question by attributing anti-Catholic opinions to the government, the authors must be discovered and handed over to the authorities for the prosecution. The government is firmly determined to suppress every attempt at disturbance, and it recommends to the public functionaries foresight and energy."

GERMANY.

The *Prussian Gazette* declares the secret convention of the northern powers published in the *Morning Chronicle* to be a mere fabrication.

Letters from Posen state that 1,800 have died of cholera, out of a population of 12,000. The fire which broke out consumed 80 houses. The greatest distress and misery pervade that city.

The Archbishop of Freiburg, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, has condemned 140 Priests to retire to convents for a given time as a punishment for having refused to execute certain orders given by him on the occasion of the death of the Grand Duke Leopold. This condemnation was, it appears, published in violation of some legal formalities, and the government intends to proceed against the Archbishop in consequence. On the other hand, most of the Priests refuse to obey the Prelate's orders, and it is not known what he will do against them.

The Augsburg *Allgemeine Zeitung* asserts that the autocrats of Russia and Austria are considering, with deep interest, the long-cherished plan of dividing between themselves a portion of European Turkey. The journey of the Viduca of Montenegro to St. Petersburg, and his return thence with the title of "reigning prince;" the appointment of an Austrian Bishop of Bosnia; the Austrian reclamations at Constantinople in favor of the Bosnian Christians; the Emperor of Austria's ostentatious approach to the Turkish confines, are deemed to be indications of intentions which may lead to important steps, unless prevented by England's vigilance.

AUSTRALIA.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA.—The following extracts are taken from a private letter, describing the results of a six months' tour through the gold fields of Australia, and dated Friars Creek, Mount Alexander Diggings, Feb. 14, 1852. The writer says—"Since I wrote to you last, six months ago, I have been engaged in the several occupations of gold digging, gold buying, and doctoring gold diggers, having been to almost all the diggings that have at present been found in these vast auriferous regions. It is impossible to convey any idea of the immense sums made by individuals in a few days; and far from the reports that are published being exaggerated, they are, I assure you, much below the mark—this I know from personal experience, both as a digger and as a gold buyer. The other day a piece weighing 27lb. 8oz. of pure gold was picked up within a few hundred yards of where I am now writing, and is

being exhibited in Melbourne at 1s. a head. Many men that I have known as laborers have now their thousand or more pounds; and what is more satisfactory is, that every man may make his pound's worth a day, merely with a tin dish and a spade. The state of society at this part of the diggings is low in the extreme, the greatest insecurity of life and property exists; bands of the greatest ruffians under the sun are prowling about unmolested by the police or the diggers, and every night, and even in the broad day, the most impudent robberies are committed. You will be surprised to hear that I never venture from my tent by night or day without my revolver in my hand; that I never lie down to sleep without it at my side; that we watch the tent by turns to save our property, for the ruffians, knowing that we have a considerable sum of money always in the tent, keep a bright look out upon us. We keep our tent already prepared for a siege—muskets, pistols, bayonets, and revolvers always ready. My medicine chest, which weighs about 2 cwt., is elevated to the post of the treasury box, and to each handle we have a fierce dog. The night is generally enlivened by the cry of murder, the muffled cry of some poor devil gagged, the barking of dogs, and the occasional report of some description of firearms, all announcing that some fun is going on somewhere. We dare not stir, even although we see a man being robbed or gagged twenty yards off, for there is just a chance that it is a 'plant,' as they call it here, to draw you from your tent and then to sack it. You will naturally say, why live in such a place as this, when there are others quiet and orderly (for near the commissioners, wherever they may be, there is always quiet and security)? I answer for the sake of gain, and it may be a little love of excitement. This is one of the most lucrative spots of business, as well as the worst protected, but we also live in hopes that the government will interfere, and establish a commissioner somewhere near. I have had, as you may suppose, lots of gunshot wounds to attend to, besides stabs and fractures, and there is a great deal of dysentery and ophthalmia, so that I pick up a few guineas and half guineas that way. The grand drawback is the want of water; we have no fine rivers as in America, and there are no running streams as in most mountainous countries. The scenery in this district is really fine, and you can conceive nothing more picturesque than the clusters of tents of every variety in every gully between the mountains; the fine tall gum trees and the oaks covering some of the hills, others being perfectly bald with fantastic rocks jutting from their sides, the whole of a uniform brown contrasting well with the bright green foliage of their fellow hills. Our life is migratory, our movements depending on the supply of water—water is the digger's best companion, without which he cannot get on. A bushman and digger must depend entirely upon himself; he must be able to pitch his own tent, cut his own wood, light his own fire, cook his own mutton chop, fetch his own water, and do all those nameless little things that are never thought of at home, because they never come under our notice. He must also rough the severe storms that sometimes occur here, and must smile if a hurricane carries his tent away in the night during a pelting shower, when he is in bed. I have seen men get 7lb. weight of the gold with five or six blows of a pick. The best proofs, however, will be the immense sums exported for England."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

We regret to learn that Ousely Higgins, Esq., the Liberal member for Mayo, is dangerously ill. There is little hope entertained of his recovery.

Mr. Justice Moore, who now lies at Crewe suffering from injuries received at the late accident on the North Western Railway, is so dangerously ill that it is feared the Irish Bench will be deprived of his future services.

Mr. Sharman Crawford has accepted the invitation of the Tenant League to attend the Tenant Right Conference to be held in Dublin at the beginning of next month, but declines the honor of presiding as chairman.

The banquet which was to have been given on Thursday last, by the devoted people of Carlow to the Irish members, has been postponed to Thursday, the 19th inst., in consequence of the fatigue and exhaustion of many hon. gentlemen engaged in the late successful fight against the Derbyite faction at the hustings.—The preparations for the banquet are on a scale of great magnificence.—*Dublin Telegraph.*

GOLD MINES IN IRELAND.—It is rumored that a mine has been discovered on the Earl of Erne's estate, within two miles of Lisnaskea, the metal which is said to be of an auriferous quality. The peasantry in the neighborhood are very much elated, hoping that a California has been placed within their reach without crossing the Atlantic. We saw a piece of the ore, which was very much impregnated with some metal-urgic property, but whether gold or not we are unable to give an opinion; however, we have been told that some lumps of it have been tested with aqua fortis without producing any effect on the metal. Large assemblages of the country people have visited the spot, which is at present being protected from their inroads. The discovery is thus accounted for:—During the morning of the great storm which visited the North of Ireland a fortnight ago, a bank of earth overhanging a narrow river near Lisnaskea, on the estate of the Earl of Erne, in this county, was struck, it is supposed, by the electric fluid, and precipitated into the water. A short time afterwards the spot was visited by the curious, and the brilliancy of some particles in the water attracted their attention, which, upon being examined, were pronounced gold.—*Fermanagh Mail.*

MELANCHOLY LOSS OF FOUR LIVES BY DROWNING.—As Archdeacon Powor, of Lismore, accompanied by his two sons, and two nephews, were on their way in a small boat, from Youghal to Ardmore, between eight and nine o'clock on Wednesday, about midway the boat was upset by a sudden squall. The Archdeacon saved himself by holding by the cliffs until taken up by a boat which was passing at the time.—One of the nephews was the eldest son of the late Mr. Power of Gurteen.—*Correspondent of Telegraph.*

THE BATTLE OF THE CONSTITUTION.—By way of retrieving their respective reverses at the elections, just concluded, the two great rival parties in Ireland have at length begun seriously to reflect upon the soundness of the memorable warning of an illustrious statesman, now no more, that the battle of the constitution was to be decided in the registry courts, and acting upon this counsel, the most strenuous exertions are being made by the Conservatives and Liberals of Dublin to increase their forces in anticipation of the next struggle, when-ever it may arrive. The Defence Association, smothered under recent defeat, was the first to take the initiative, and to do Mr. Secretary Wilberforce full justice, it must be admitted that no pains or expense have been spared towards carrying out the objects of the society, of which he is the mouthpiece.—It is reported that notices have been served for placing the names of between three and four thousand rate-payers in the Roman Catholic interest upon the registry roll, so that unless corresponding exertions are made by the Protestant party, the representation of the city will be, at perhaps no distant period, wrested from its present possessors, and again placed at the disposal of an implacable antagonist. The Conservatives, however, are not resting upon their oars in Dublin or elsewhere; and as the so-called "religions" element has been brought into full play, it is not probable that the movement now in progress will be suffered to die out, as Irish "movements" generally do, either from inanition or from a lack of the supply of stimulants necessary to keep up the excitement to the blood-heat point.—*Dublin Correspondent of the Times.*

THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENT IN THE LATE ELECTIONS.—The *Belfast Mercury*, a thoroughly Liberal journal, in the course of some remarks, deprecating the interference of the Roman Catholic Clergy at the late elections, points to other parties who were by no means free from blame upon the same score:—"If we are cal'ul," says the *Mercury*, "to notice in terms of condemnation the political interference of the Priests in other parts of Ireland, let us not overlook the fact that we have had some of our clergymen in the north enacting no inconsiderable part in the struggle through which we have passed. Let us not forget, that we have had appeals, again and again, to Presbyterian feeling and Presbyterian prejudice; and, if rev. men, who have been active in the electioneering contest, exercised their spiritual influence less than their Roman Catholic brethren in the south, we will perhaps not err very much in supposing, that this may be safely attributed to the fact, that their powers are more circumscribed. We have all heard or read of the exhibition of Dr. Cooke, the paid distributor of the royal largess among his brethren, and the endowed lecturer upon that new science invented for his peculiar advantage, and called by the name of 'Sacred Rhetoric,'—that exhibition which the well-pensioned divine made, when he was brought forward, on the occasion of the late election for Antrim, and when he perverted the hustings into a sectarian platform, stirring up the passions of his auditors. If the bolts which that meek apostle hurls are less dreaded than those of the thundering Jupiter of Tuam, the fault is not his. If the lightnings of his wrath are less blighting than those of Dr. McHale, his weakness, not his will, is the cause; and if he does not carry his terrors so freely into the next world, it is not assuredly from any disinclination to play the spiritual ruler to the uttermost. But he does all he can; and even when there was no opposition, and appeals to sectarian animosity and factious rancor were quite needless for any purpose in hand, the political divine did not the less indulge his sectarian and party feelings. Such performances, no matter on what side they appear, were better dispensed with; and, if people protest against the doings of one set of clergymen, they should be careful not to overlook similar conduct on the part of another. We have had too many agitating clergymen in the north, and the sooner they learn to moderate their ardour and confine themselves more to their appropriate duties, so much the better for themselves and so much the better for the country."

The Tenant League has resolved upon summoning for the 8th of September a Conference of the friends of the tenant cause "in and out of Parliament."—*Tablet.*

A letter from Dublin Castle has been received by the board of superintendence of Ennis jail to know if they can find accommodation in the jail for 60 soldiers, in the event, we presume, of the coroner's inquest warranting the committal of the military, whose conduct is under investigation. The board, we are glad to say, from the few persons in confinement, have been enabled to reply to the inquiry in the affirmative.—*Clare Journal.*

PERSECUTION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS.—We (*Freeman*) learn from a correspondent that the work of persecution has already commenced in Monaghan. The ex-officio guardians of the Castleblaney Union, desirous to show their hostility to tenant right, have taken the first step towards the removal from his office of one of the best, most active, and most solvent of their collectors, for the high crime of being a friend of tenant right, and a supporter of the tenant right candidate at the late election.

LORD DUNCANNON AND HIS TENANTRY.—Lord Duncannon has written an angry letter to the editor of the *Northern Whig*, complaining that his tenantry, when tendering their votes at the recent election for Down, were described in that paper as "looking sadly dispirited, and feeling themselves to be what their conduct proved they were, the veriest slaves." The *Whig* observes:—"The tenants referred to had, with great apparent enthusiasm, pledged themselves to vote for Mr. Crawford; but when the decisive day came, coned by other influences, the poor fellows slunk shamefaced to the poll, and voted the other way."

The Poor Law Commissionership, vacated by Mr. Ball, M.P., has been conferred on Mr. Senior, an Englishman.—*Leinster Express.*

OPENING OF THE CORNH CANAL.—The splendid ship canal, which is to connect Lough Corrib with the bay of Galway, will be formally opened by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, on his approaching visit to Galway.—*Galway Vindicator.*

THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION FOR 1853.—The first prize for the design of a building for the Exhibition of 1853 has been awarded to Mr. John Benson, C. E. of Cork; the second prize to Messrs. Deane and Woodward, of Cork; and the third prize to Mr. Turner, of Hammersmith Works, Dublin. Mr. Benson, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Deane, was the architect for the building of the Cork Exhibition.—*Saunders.*

There are nearly 4,000 paupers in the Kilrush Workhouse.

MONASTEROICE NEAR DROGHEDA.—Monasterboice is a singularly interesting collection of monuments, namely, a round tower, the remains of a small 13th-century chapel, other remnants of one much earlier, and three sculptural crosses full of surprising interest. The doorway of the tower is circular headed; the upper part of the circle being worked out of a horizontal stone; the doorway is wider at the bottom than at the top. The tower is covered with a green moss, and is much bowed and dilapidated. Steps should be taken to repair the upper portion of it, or it can scarcely last many years. Indeed, attention should be drawn to the condition of several of these towers so peculiar to the country, and which ought on no account to be suffered to fall away. We do not want restoration, but simply such repair as will enable them to withstand the weather. The largest of the crosses is about 20 feet high, and is covered with sculptured figures, loops, snakes, &c.; age and wantonness have so affected the lower part of the stem as to render it likely that, unless strengthened, it will be overthrown. The carving on the second cross is better executed and in a more perfect state than that of the largest; it is one of the most striking monuments of its class existing, and includes groups of boldly-sculptured figures, representing "the Day of Judgment," "the Temptation," and other Scriptural events. The Irish annals have been quoted to show that these crosses were executed at the commencement of the 10th century, and the monuments themselves seem to justify the inference. None should miss seeing Monasterboice. The three crosses, two chapels, overgrown with high grass and trees, and the ancient tower, moss-covered, waiting to fall, form a group scarcely to be equalled, and to one standing among them a scene of surpassing interest and an enduring recollection.—*The Builder.*

According to a paper called, we believe, the *Evening Herald*, a Limerick gentleman named Gabbett, recently deceased, left a sum of £300 to the "Priests' Protection Society"—a fact which is likely to raise a question as to the sanity of the testator.

EXECUTION OF FRANCIS BERRY.—On Saturday the extreme sentence of the law was carried into effect at Armagh jail on Francis Berry, convicted at last assizes for being accessory in an attempt to murder Meredith Chambre, Esq., of Hawthorn-hill, in this county. Since his conviction he was under the care of the Rev. Mr. Rogers, one of the Chaplains of the jail, who was most unremitting in his attention to him. We believe he expressed great penitence of mind, but he made no public confession.—*Armagh Guardian.*

A new distemper has broken out amongst the horned cattle in the counties of Meath, Kildare, Carlow, Kilkenny, and almost all parts of the south and west.—The animals are attacked by swelling and inflammation of the tongue in the first instance.

THE CROPS.

THE POTATO MARKETS.—We regret exceedingly to be obliged to notice a panic among sellers, which has considerably increased within the last few days.—From 1s 10d to 2s and 3s per cwt., the latter hardly obtainable, being this morning's selling prices. In sheltered localities and low grounds, it is stated, nearly one half of the crops are already gone, and that the disease is much more virulent this year than it was last.—*Dublin Weekly Telegraph.*

MIDLAND COUNTIES.—In the Queen's County, we regret to state, the potato crop seems to have sustained a sudden blasting. From the King's County our tidings are not more promising, the intervals of fine weather not appearing to have much effect in stopping the spread of the blight. From Kildare and Wicklow advices vary, but we are led to believe fear for the present does not extend to more than one-third of the crop. In Meath and Westmeath the inferior qualities seem to have been chiefly affected. In most cases those who have sown potatoes extensively this year are of a class who can hardly endure any pressure. The large occupiers of from 300 to 1,000 acres have been cautious, and planted the precarious root sparingly; whilst the small holders of twenty, thirty, or forty acres, appear to have made a venture on the potato principally, excluding, in many instances, the culture of all other green crops to make room for it.—*Leinster Express.*

CARLOW.—The farmers entertain a belief that the blight will not be extensive or much felt.—*Carlow Sentinel.*

KILKENNY.—There is but one opinion with regard to the prolific yield and excellent quality of oats and barley, and the wheat will be abundant. To those concerning facts, however, nothing can present a more melancholy contrast than the accounts of the potato crop.—*Kilkenny Moderator.*

KILCOMMON.—The blight has fallen heavily this season. In some districts, although the leaves of the plant have been wholly withered, the stalk remains free from discoloration, and the potatoes themselves from taint. The grain crop promises to be very abundant.—*Roscommon Journal.*

SILIGO.—Every day confirms the statement made in our former paper, that the potatoes were going fast.—Of the other crops we hear no complaints.—*Sligo Journal.*

MONAGHAN.—Since our last progress of the disease appears to have been arrested.—*North Standard.*

ARMAGH.—Several fields in the vicinity of Armagh are affected by the disease or blight; and farmers are apprehensive that the invasion of the disease will be far more serious than that of last year. The cereal and green crops generally have a promising appearance.

LONGFORD.—The corn crops through the country look very fine at present, particularly the oats. The potato crop has got blight to some extent.—*Longford Journal.*

LOUTH.—We regret to have to announce that the potato crop in this county is most seriously damaged. The disease seems to be more severe than ever it was for any year since it first manifested itself in the autumn of 1845.—*Louth Advertiser.*

WEXFORD.—We have scarcely anything to add to our remarks on Saturday as to the gloomy prospects of the potato crop this season. The produce is not quarter a regular crop, and for the preservation of the small quantity spared to us very serious apprehensions are entertained.—*Independent.*

TIPPERARY.—The weather for the last week has been most unpropitious for farming operations, as we are every day visited by heavy and almost incessant rain, which has done a considerable amount of damage to the hay and grain crops. The accounts respecting the potato are of a much more cheering nature than in other counties.— *Nenagh Guardian.*

THE NORTH.—The *Belfast Mercury*, in taking a view of the agricultural prospects of the country, says the blight is by no means as alarming as the tenor of the majority of the accounts represent; and asserts that the crops of every species, on all sides, present signs of an abundant harvest.