

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

According to the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, faith in the proposed European congress is gradually becoming weaker, and will soon vanish altogether. He asserts that neither the threats of Europe nor the persuasive eloquence of a Congress will tempt or extort from Russia the concession of an independent Poland. Nothing that a Congress could do would convince the world more than it is convinced that war is the most costly and destructive pest of the human race. The Emperor of the French might have been sincere when he declared that the principle of the new empire was peace; but a strange commentary on the text was found in the Crimean, Italian, Chinese, and Mexican wars.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* attacks the English Government for declining to enter the proposed Congress, and says if trouble and conflagrations should ensue, as is probable, the entire responsibility will fall on all those who rejected the work of peace and conciliation.

M. Emile Girardin writes as follows in the *Paris Presse*:

"We are assured that the English Government, while applauding the proposal of a Congress, does not adhere to it. So much the better. The task of the Congress will only be all the more simple; we will prove this when the time arrives. England derives her greatest power from what is supposed of her. The Continent has everything to gain by leaving her on one side, and adapting for rule of conduct this precept:—'Nothing against her; nothing with her: everything without her.'"

PETITION IN FAVOR OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE POLES.—The Central Committee of the Polish cause has addressed the following petition to the French Senate, asking for the recognition of the Poles as belligerents:

"Polish heroism does not grow weary, nor does the sympathy of France, and you will not be astonished that we have come to express to you our wishes and our reclamations in favor of the Polish cause."

"For nearly a year the Poles have sustained a struggle which Europe, in the first instance, thought impossible. Persecuted patriotism, elevating itself until it becomes a religion, has alone been able to render equal this desperate struggle."

"This long trial is a lesson for Europe. We know now what is the question at issue with Poland, in the midst of so many catastrophes."

"It is no longer a question of certain guarantees inserted in treaties and violated with impunity; it is a question of a Christian community which resists the destruction—that is to say, the extermination—of persons, the spoliation of property, the deportation of families far from their native land."

"The three partitions wished to efface the name of Poland as a nation. The Russian Generals of our own day wish to destroy the Poles as a community. The work of annihilation succeeds that of dismemberment."

"Such an attempt has touched the public conscience. The governments, like peoples, have asked themselves if the authority of international treaties is not ruined by lending itself to the accomplishment of such a work. The governments like the peoples, ought to declare that it is time to abolish European public law from such a revolting complicity."

"If Russia is deprived by its own acts of the benefits of the original treaties, if the decree is already pronounced in the European conscience, and if the cabinets merely discuss its terms, what remains before us?"

"There remains Poland delivered from the control of the treaties of 1815, and re-entering by that very fact upon the independence of national right. There remains a paramount fact no longer opposed by the obstacle of any law."

Under these circumstances we consider we are not obeying the voice of humanity and Christianity. We consider we are merely conforming to the truth by asking the Senate to interpose with the French Government in order to obtain the recognition of the Poles as belligerents."

"They are so *de facto*, they are so by right: we express the hope that they may be so, also, by the recognition of France."

The *Sciole*, in publishing the above, says it hopes that the Senate will take into serious consideration this noble request conceived in terms of once silent and moderate."

FRENCH IRONSIDES.—A colossal iron-coated steam frigate, called the *Numancia*, was launched on Thursday last at La Seyne, near Toulon. This levitation is an iron frigate completely plated over a steel sheathing, and carries 40 guns of the largest calibre in a covered battery, besides *some pieces en barbette* on her upper deck. She is to be rigged as a sailing frigate, and her masts, of a single piece, were brought from the forests of California. Her machines are nominally of 1,000-horse power, but the power may be increased to 4,000-horses. Her coal bunkers contain 1,000 tons, and her crew will consist of 700 men. Her length on the deck is 268 feet, her breadth 25 feet, her draught of water 23 feet. She is supposed to be the largest iron-coated frigate afloat. Her iron plates are thirteen centimetres thick, and weigh 2,300,000 kilogrammes. Her armour has been tried against the heaviest shot, and is supposed to be bullet-proof. Notwithstanding her great weight, which exceeds 7,500 tons, it is expected that this frigate will possess extraordinary speed and great facility of manoeuvring in consequence of the immense power of her screw, as well as from her admirable lines. The *Numancia* was only 16 months on the stocks.

THE FRENCH CORPS LEGISLATIF.—A Paris letter gives the following description of the place where the Corps Legislatif holds its sitting, and the mode in which the business is carried on—

"The sittings are held in precisely the same hall that witnessed the great parliamentary struggles under Louis Philippe—the Revolution of February—which was invaded by an armed mob in February, 1850, and whence the representatives were expelled

at the bayonet point on the 2nd of December, 1848. The back of the building, consisting of a portico, not unlike that of the Madeleine, looks towards the river, the front is the Place du Palais Bourbon—a desert out of the session, but at present crowded with carriages, the aristocratic brougham with armorial bearings (some of which, by the way, would make the Herald College hair stand on end), jostling the quiet *remise*, or the democratic *fiacre*, which last session would have been sufficient to contain the whole of the Opposition. There is a crowd of coachmen and footmen in charge of the carriages—a crowd of *badouins* gazing at both, and the inevitable sergeant de ville contemplating the scene, and looks as if he considered himself master of the situation. At two o'clock *Messieurs les Deputes* have generally assembled. A good many congregate in the *salles des conferences*, a comfortable room, in which a good fire is kept up; a few in the library, a splendid apartment; and by far the greater number at the *buvette*, a dismal parody on the Bellamy's. Imagine a long narrow carpeted room. At the top is a counter, like that at the refreshment rooms of some railway stations. Two gloomy-looking waiters stand behind, who look as if they suffered extensively from dyspepsia; they dispense rolls, sherry, and what those who consume them fondly suppose to be sandwiches. At three o'clock there is no bell, but a roll of the drum, and hastening out of the *laurie* we come into the hall, and behold Duke de Morny, escorted on each side by an officer, sword in hand, passing slowly between a double line of soldiers presenting arms. He enters the body of the house thus escorted, and ascends to the presidential chair. This chair is the same that was used under the Monarchy of July and the Republic; so is the bell placed on the President's table, so is the table itself. The President and the members alone have changed. The house is semi-circular in form, and raised like an amphitheatre. There is a narrow desk before each member. The room is comfortably carpeted, and rather too hot to be pleasant. It looks excessively genteel, but rather gloomy. The tribune or rostrum, which used to be placed immediately in front of the presidential throne, is now abolished, and members speak from their place, an innovation with which one great fault is to be found that the acoustic qualities of the room are very bad. At the back of the President's curule chair the government shorthand writers take their stand. All round the house there are a number of boxes which so far as appearance goes, strongly remind one of the boxes at the French plays in King-street, Saint James's, under Mr. Mitchell's rule. The smallest of these is reserved for the public—there is one reserved for the Corps Diplomatique (generally empty)—another belongs to the President, and is almost invariably filled with ladies—another box is reserved for the Court—another for members of the Senate. None is reserved for the press—and the papers receive the report, cut and dry at the hands of the official reporters. When it grows dark the House is lighted up on the same principle as our House of Commons, but as the sittings commence at three, and never last beyond half-past six the consumption of gas is not equally great. The whole aspect of the place puts one more in mind of a court of justice in which some very tedious case is being argued than a debating assembly."

BELGIUM.

The place and date of the second Catholic Congress in Belgium was fixed by the Permanent Committee on the 16th inst. It was unanimously decided that the next Congress should be held at Malines, that it should commence on Monday 1st, 1864, and that it should last six days. The *Bien Public* of Ghent tells us that sundry useful steps have been taken towards giving the next Congress a still more practical character than the Congress of last August. The Permanent Committee has ascertained that a great number of the resolutions adopted last August are already being carried out, thanks to the activity of the indefatigable Secretary, M. Ducepiaux.

ITALY.

PIEDMONT.—The special correspondent of the *Times*, who appears to have accompanied King Victor Emmanuel on his recent visit to Naples, has written an interesting account of the journey, in which he comments upon the existence of the Neapolitan National Guard, the development of which is more calculated to strike a stranger than anything he will meet with in the south of Italy. "They number from 20,000 to 40,000 men; but, with rare exceptions," says the writer, "they are useless for any real service, and no more ridiculous display of the citizen soldier can be imagined than the great mass of these Nationals. Whether provided or not with uniform they are certainly not strong in discipline or drill, and were it not that there is a foolish notion on the Continent that the citizen soldier is the guardian of political liberty, and were there not a law in Italy organizing the National Guard, these worthy men might be sent home without any one losing by it. The *bourgeois* National Guard has always been a subject of ridicule, and can never be anything else."

Turin, Nov. 21.—The *Official Gazette* of to-day publishes a notice stating that notwithstanding the protests made by some of the Bishops, the Government has decided to carry out the provisions and regulations relative to the exequatur and the 'placet-royal'.

Turin, Nov. 26.—The Turin journals state that the soldiers are being recalled from their garrisons and the garrisons increased in the Venetian provinces. The works on the fortifications are also being accelerated.

When travelling in Italy now-a-days, one has only to mention the name of Malta, to cause some hairy faced Italian to exclaim, 'Malta! ah! questa e nostra signore! Malta, ah! that's ours, sir.' In vain need one plead the difference of race, or the popular voice which chose England for ruler: Italy claims Malta as hers by virtue of the decree of Unity, and all opposition must cease. As Englishmen we can of course afford to smile, but mean time, Italy is in earnest, and all those efforts by which discontent first and revolution afterwards, were introduced into the badly governed states of Italy, are put into full force here. Except a small faction, the Maltese hate the revolutionists and feel insulted at the notion of ever forming part of Victor Emmanuel's kingdom. They are thoroughly loyal to the English, the benefit of whose rule they fully appreciate, and they are great and earnest advocates for His Holiness' Temporal Power. In 1862 finding that the very small Italian party amongst them were beginning to talk a little too loud, they organised a grand display of fidelity to His Holiness which came off on the Festival of St. Paul's. The streets were filled with English and Maltese flags, ensigns of every European Power except Italy, and large banners of the Pope, with *Viva Pio IX. Papa Re*. Little boys with Papal flags in their hands danced round the leaders of the Italian party, whenever they appeared in the streets, and shouted for the Pope. The Italians resented this demonstration in favor of the Pope as personally insulting to them, and appealed to the English Government, but the truth was represented by the local authorities, and nothing was gained by the motion. Shortly afterwards the Bishop of Malta was called to Rome for the Canonisation, and he was made the bearer of a monster address to the Pope from the whole people, except 33 who declared themselves to be sympathisers with the Italians on the occasion of St. Paul's Demonstration.—*Cor. of Tablet*.

Rome.—The Pope in reply to the Congress invitation from Napoleon, expressed his conviction that the Congress would respect his rights to the Pontifical provinces occupied by Piedmont. Her Majesty the Queen Dowager of the Two Sicilies has arrived in Rome, accompanied by her young children. The Imperial letter of invitation to the Congress has reached the hands of His Holiness. This letter, which leaves nothing to be desired in

respect of filial protestations of devotion to the interests of the Church, is accompanied, it is said, by a note which explains, with a certain clearness, the points of the opening speech of the Chambers, which interpretations of revolutionists had succeeded in making doubtful. Thus, the words *fulva accipit* relate only to the clauses of the treaty of Zurich relating to Lombardy, Nice, and Savoy; and everybody knows that this treaty reserves the rights of the Pope and of the Italian Sovereign Princes. There is little doubt that the Court of Rome, which had accepted in 1859 the proposal of a Congress, which came to naught in the well-known manner, would still accept, for the very same reasons and on the same conditions, the Congress proposed by the Emperor.

On the 17th instant, two Americans from the Southern Confederation were received by the Holy Father, and presented to him the homage of their President, Jefferson Davis, who, Protestant though he be, addresses a message to the Vicar of Christ drawn up in terms which would do honour to a Catholic, and having for its object to request Pius IX. to be the mediator, the pacifier, of the United States. This personage has learnt that Pius IX. had written to all the Catholic Bishops of the American Union whether in the Northern or in the Southern States, a letter to trace out to them their conduct in the midst of the civil war, and, struck with respect and admiration, he comes to ask for peace from him who has received it from the Master. '*Pacem meam do vobis, pacem meam relinquo vobis*'.

Pius IX. is reported to have answered to the envoys of President Jefferson Davis, whom he received with affectionate simplicity, that he would consider himself happy to fulfil such a holy mission of his ministry, if President Lincoln, followed the example of Mr. Jefferson Davis, would consent to accept the paternal intervention of the Vicar of Christ. How great is that ancient Pontiff in the eyes of distant nations, even while he is so beleaguered by the revolutionists of his own land, urged on by the enemies of Christ throughout Europe.

Rome, Nov. 21.—The Holy City contains already an extraordinary number of foreigners, and nobody would suspect the existence of any revolutionary feeling there, did not the Piedmontese and Mazzinian agencies kept up there, take a special case to earn salaries by spreading a pamphlet entitled, 'The Revelations of the Approver Costanza Vaccari-Diotaleri in the Venanzio-Fausti Prosecution, and other Documents relating thereto, published with considerations and notes from the Roman National Committee, Rome Oct., 1863'.

The band, which has worn together this tissue of calumnies, dotted with some colouring of truth is well-known to be that of the Advocate Gennarelli of Florence; and, to add to the confusion which he hopes to excite and to justify the condemned conspirators, he has inserted in his imaginary lists of revolutionists in which honourable names beyond all suspicion are foisted.

Every one here feels that war is imminent, and that Venetia is likely to be the first point attacked. It appears certain that Spain has offered an occupation of the Patrimony of St. Peter, and its reception or rejection will probably depend on the terms M. de Sartiges brings from Paris. He is expected very shortly, and is reported to be the bearer of an ultimatum, which will, if so, be met by a 'Non possumus,' which is quite as powerful a weapon. That there is anxiety and grave preoccupation for the future would be idle to deny; but Rome has never been more tranquil than now. All the administration in working excellent order, and the steady and dignified progress of reform, and public works, and improvements going on undisturbed by the noisy rump of the Italian Press and the hallucinations of Turin journalism.—*Cor. of Tablet*.

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.—Victor Emmanuel has been to the South of Italy to open the railroad to Foggia, the capital of the Capitanato, and close to the field of Cannae, where the thick harvest of the citizens of ancient Rome fell before the sickle of the great Hannibal. The *Times* Correspondent gives a graphic account of the country and the journey. There is a good deal about 'brigands'.

For the rest, nothing can more clearly show that the Piedmontese are only in military possession of the country than this very letter of the *Times* Correspondent. He wants us to understand that the Southern Italians value their pigs more than their children or even their lives. An odd taste, no doubt. To prove it he tells us that an officer, who believed that some brigands had passed by a cottage, asked where they had gone:—'*Non saccio*' ('I don't know') was the answer, accompanied by every assurance on the truth of the Gospel that it was the fact. The officer growing impatient, threatened to kill the man. The threat had no effect. He seized hold of the son and had a picket told off to shoot him. Still the same plea of ignorance. At last struck by a bright idea, he threatened to have the pig cut up and roasted for his tired soldiers. The threat produced its effect and the man not only gave the required information, but actually showed the way. I don't wonder at all appearance, the cleaner animal of the two, and certainly the least corrupt.

If the people are degraded, which we doubt not, this system is hardly likely to raise them. But it shows what the Piedmontese authorities call liberty. Whether anything of the sort really existed among the Scotch peasantry under the last Stuart Kings is at this moment warmly disputed. It is clear that it is exactly that which all Protestant historians, from Woodrow down to Lord Macaulay, have attributed to Claverhouse and others, and have considered as a full justification of the Revolution. For the honour of our country we hope that this Correspondent may not be an Englishman, who sees nothing to shock his sense of justice and right, nothing inconsistent with civil liberty, in a state of things in which every military officer here is able summarily to hang every peasant who will not or cannot give any information which he suspects him of possessing.

The following amusing and graphic account of the recent visit of King Victor Emmanuel to Naples is taken from the *Memorial Diplomatique*:

NAPLES, 14th Nov. 1863.—Victor Emmanuel arrived at Naples on Wednesday, the 11th instant, at noon. His journey, which the Piedmontese insist on transforming into a complete ovation, has been, on the contrary, an uninterrupted succession of accidents and deceptions. Some grotesque episodes marked the arrival of King Victor Emmanuel. A woman, all dressed in black, holding a great banner dressed in black crape, was intended to represent Rome. When the cortege started, this woman wished to rush forward, and show herself to the King, but she slipped and fell into a great pool of water, from which she was not picked up until the Royal party had passed on. You know the people of Naples, and that they are very superstitious and much inclined to joking. On every side arose mocking cries: 'All is over! Rome has fallen into the sea.' Victor Emmanuel has missed Rome, 'tis not the first miss he has made of it, and other jokes which amused me very much, being accompanied by those gestures which are unmatchable in the world. The Municipality had conceived an unfortunate idea, which was to post on all the walls immense placards bearing these words, '*Benvenuto, il Re d'Italia*.' The result was that on all sides one heard that Victor Emmanuel was dejected, that the Municipality had announced it everywhere, and that Benvenuto was king in his stead. The next day a caricature representing Benvenuto (the principal confederator in Naples, and as well known here as Tortoni in Paris), seated on a throne in his cafe, and receiving the homage of his subjects, made its appearance. But to return to King Victor Emmanuel. He was wet to the bones, but appeared to take his bath philosophically enough, and certainly conducted himself well in an unpleasant position. Every now and then it was plain that he barely restrained a burst of laughter, pro-

voked by the irrepressible shivering of the Prefect and the *Syndic*, both seated in front of him. They reflected dolorously on the colds and catarrhs by which they would expiate their damp journey. Their teeth were clenched during the whole of the drive. The air of all the persons composing the cortege was rather piteous than enthusiastic, and the King jested with the ladies who had been invited on the *franchise* of their toilette. Having reached the palace, the King appeared for a moment on the balcony. The troops were then to have marched past, but the instant the King presented himself the rain, which had ceased for a few minutes while the cortege was passing down the Rue de Toledo, recommenced with such violence that Victor Emmanuel, apparently thinking the joke had been carried too far, retired, and the inspection did not take place. Some ragamuffins crossed the square, crying, 'To Rome! to Venice!' But the King was changing his shirt, and the mounted gendarmes dispersed the crew. At San Carlo it was found impossible to get up an opera. They sang a cantata of Verdi in honor of England, and having nothing whatever to do with the King's arrival at Naples, it seemed as if the spectacle were in honor of Mr. Elliott, the British Minister. Aropos of Mr. Elliott, you must know that the *jetatura* has pursued the Ministers who accompanied the King, as well as the King himself. The Prussian, Turkish, Russian, and English Ministers, as well as the First Secretary of the French Legation, have followed Victor Emmanuel everywhere. At Marino the diplomatic equipage was overturned. The Turkish Minister sprained his wrist, but Mr. Elliott, whose mind is greatly pre-occupied about brigands, immediately suspected an ambush, and drawing his revolver, fired at the postillions. No one was wounded, but it was very difficult to calm Mr. Elliott. The bad state of the roads was the sole cause of the accident; in fact, the Engineers dare not work where the brigands reign. I do not know how Mr. Elliott will be able to affirm that brigandage no longer exists, and that the roads are perfectly safe, when he arms himself cap-a-pie to make a journey with the King in the midst of an army. Let us return to Naples. There was to have been a grand illumination in the evening. The rain having ceased for some hours, the lights began to give sign of life. But lo! they had placed a bust of Victor Emmanuel on a sort of altar in front of the Ministerial Palace, in the Rue de Toledo, and lighted candles all round it. In addition, immense wax torches were lighted in each balcony, and the crowd were presently bathed in showers of hot wax. It was a compensation for the ducking of the morning. Briefly, it was not pretty, but then it was very funeral. At half-past nine the attendants charged with the management of this illumination after the fashion of Pere La Chaise, came, and economically extinguished the candles. Then the crowd hissed, yelled, screamed, and hurled execrations at these unhappy creatures who hereby exceeded the orders they had received and who retired amid a shower of abuse.

At eleven o'clock a torrent of rain extinguished the lamps which still zealously burned. The object of Victor Emmanuel's voyage was to review the fleet. It is the same case, at present, with the review as with the marching past. On Thursday, at 9 in the morning, the Admiral ordered the fleet, then anchored at Baja, to proceed to Naples. Large placards had invited the whole population to witness the review which was about to take place. At one o'clock half the fleet arrived. The weather was so bad it had been found impossible for the smaller ships to leave the Gulf of Baja. No matter, the review must be held. The Admiral ordered the ships to be got into line of battle. The whole population had assembled on the shore. At half-past one, a furious gale swept over the Gulf of Naples, the rain came on again, the sea was terrible to behold. The ships drove from their anchors, and the review became impossible. The public cried out that all this was very mysterious.

Brigandage is still flourishing. The official figures acknowledge four thousand refractories, and three hundred deserters, in the Province of Palermo alone.

The correspondent of the London *Tablet* says:—

No further rumor of the amnesty promised as a consequence of his advent has been heard of, and I fear it will be necessary to make the 'amende honorable' for having been led even for a moment to dream that Victor Emmanuel or his ministers could be capable of a chivalrous or a generous action. The secret of this maintenance of severity lies in two things—firstly, that the government is too unpopular to dare an act of clemency, and sees no safety save in the wholesale murder proscription, and exile of its antagonists; and secondly that the Emperor's speech has raised hopes of a proximate session of Rome, which makes the Cabinet procrastinate any lenient measure, in the hope of giving a general amnesty in celebration of the auspicious event. It is wretched policy, for in the meantime the kingdom of Naples is becoming one vast prison, and more bitterly alienated than ever from Piedmont. No one can take up a Neapolitan paper of any colour without seeing the profound exasperation that is growing daily, and which the session of Rome would no more affect than the fall of Charleston. It is local oppression that is complained of—local interests that are attacked. Naples has been a capital since the days of Roger the Norman, no city in Italy has advantages like those it possesses as a centre, and there would be only one chance of inducing the Neapolitans to accept Italian Unity, and that would be in giving them supremacy and declaring Naples the Capital. The Revolution, however, in their hatred to the Holy See, will be satisfied with nothing less than Rome; and the countless deceptions which would follow their occupation of the Eternal City, for it is sacrilege more than physical violence that is to be dreaded here—ten thousand times worse in the eyes of a Christian than outrage on life or property—for what personal danger can weigh in the balance with the possibility of such scenes as Italy has seen enacted since 1807?—at Rimini, where an ass was dressed in the sacred vestments, and set up before the altar to say a mock Mass, at Catanzaro, where the Holy Sacrament was burnt on a hecatomb of penance, who had gathered round it for protection; or at Casamari, where it was trodden under foot by the officers who led the soldiers of Savoy to sack a Christian church. These and the like outrages are what the Revolution is bringing us, and it is a matter of utter marvel to all who have seen it near, who have studied its fearful realities, how it can find support or indifferent acquiescence in the ranks of the better spirits among our separated brethren, and far less among those of our own communion. That persons who know all I have said to be true to the letter; who have the heritage of the faith, and the honor of belonging to the old Houses; who never flinched under the long persecutions of penal days, should be too weak and cowardly to withstand the sneers of the Protestant and the infidel is most inconceivable. *Noblesse oblige!* and never more than now, when we may almost certainly look for a division of the Christian world into two camps—the enemies of the Church on one side, and its warm defenders on the other, and no neutral ground for moderates or compromisers.

AUSTRIA.

Count Rechberg had made in the Austrian Reichsrath a declaration fully approving with that made by Bismarck in the Prussian Chambers.

In the Austrian Lower House of the Reichsrath, on the 18th, there was an animated debate on the Holstein question. Some deputies demanded the most energetic conduct on the part of the Government.

It has been stated in various journals that Rann's 'Life of Jesus' has not been forbidden in Austria, and that chiefly through the influence of Cardinal Rauscher. This is entirely incorrect, as not only has the Cardinal forbidden it, but has made application to obtain the aid of the police to see that the

order is not infringed on; the Cardinal, however, unfortunately, meets with very slight support from the State Minister, and therefore the book has been largely, though not openly, circulated. It seems a pity that a good book does not create the same demand as a bad one; the more infamous it is, the more do people desire to read it.

PRUSSIA.

Judging by the German papers, all Germany is expecting a war. Before a month, they tell us 10,000 volunteers will enter Holstein, the people will take up arms, a provisional Government be formed, the Duke of Augustenburg be proclaimed, and war burst out. The *Journal of Frankfurt* says:—The treaty of London exists neither for the Duke of Augustenburg, nor for the Duchies, nor for Germany, and the sole question to be determined is how we can secure our just rights? Now, the first step should be the proclamation of the Prince of Augustenburg by the States of the Duchies of Holstein—those of Schleswig being prevented by force from declaring themselves—and the taking possession of Holstein. In the second place, it is necessary that the German people should announce in an energetic manner their determination to maintain and defend the legitimate succession against all foreign intervention, even at the cost of a war against all Europe. We well know that this is saying much, and that such a struggle would impose upon us incalculable sacrifices, but we know also that this question of the Duchies is the touchstone by which will be tested our right and our wish to be a great nation. The possession of Schleswig-Holstein is the honor of the national flag, is the possibility of our having a navy, is the future of our future peoples, with which we delude ourselves our songs, our gatherings, our *fetes*. The moment is favourable for avenging the affronts which we have endured, and for enforcing our rights. To arms, then! Volunteers forward!

The *Times* says:—Every piece of news that comes to us from Germany shows that the people are becoming every day more excited on the subject of the Danish Duchies and that it will require the greatest firmness on the part of the Governments to resist the pressure. In this matter Germany may be taken to mean Prussia; for, though other States may boast and threaten, it is not likely that either the two 'Federal executioners' Hanover and Saxony, will proceed to their task of dismembering the Danish Monarchy until they receive the word of command from Berlin. It is to the proceedings in that capital that we must therefore look if we would discern the course of events. Within the last four or five days Prussian patriotism has been rising fast and strong. The Liberal victory involved in the repeal of the Press ordinances threatens to increase the difficulties of King Christian. The anger that was directed against the Bismarck Government, the energy that was generated in the hearts of the Deputies by the prospect of a Constitutional struggle, are now turned against the King of Denmark.

DENMARK.

King Christian issued a proclamation to the Holsteins on the 6th instant. He asserts his claims and says the maintenance of the integrity of the Danish Monarchy is his duty, and he is resolved to put down insurrectionary movements with armed force. He hopes that when Holstein finds herself contented on constitutional freedom, which is granted, her troubles will end. A proclamation is also issued to the Launburgers, thanking them for not having been led away from their duty as subjects spite of overtures made them from without.

POLAND.

The *Monde* correspondence from Wilna, dated on the 6th states that the Catholic Clergy are persecuted in Lithuania in the most violent manner. Arrests daily bring into the prisons of the capital the Clergy of the surrounding villages. None are set at liberty; they are kept in dungeons or sent into the interior of Russia. A long list of Priests of the Diocese of Wilna, imprisoned or transported, has been recently published. The other dioceses furnish a not less numerous contingent to imprisonment or exile. Many parishes are without Pastors, and Divine service is suspended throughout whole districts. There are no longer any converts in the towns; they have all been turned into barracks or prisons. Those of their former inmates who have not been arrested are reduced to starvation.

The Consistory of Wilna has addressed to Mouraviev a protest against this daily diminution of the Clergy. The Governor has replied that a sure means of preventing it, was to address to the Clergy a circular similar to that of the Bishop of Samogitia to order the Priests to break off any connection with the national cause, and not to perform any act that may seem favourable to the insurrection. The Consistory frightened at the threats and acts of the Governor, yielded to try to save the remainder of the Clergy still left in Lithuania. It sent to Mouraviev a circular drawn up according to his intentions. But although proceeding from terror, this letter still preserved the tone of dignity which became its authors. But Mouraviev took care to make additions and erasures in it, so that it came out of his hands more like one of his own pro-secutorial edicts than a pastoral instruction; and in that guise it has been sent by his care to the Clergy. The Consistory cannot protest against such a fraud without incurring the pain of exile into Siberia. There are hitherto but two apostates out of the whole Catholic Clergy of Lithuania, and they are the Priests Niemcewicz, and Topalski. The Government has promised to the peasants who were condemned to transportation, their liberty, leave to remain in the country, and indemnities for the plundering and burning which have ruined them, if they consented to become schismatics. Out of several hundreds of families so condemned in the district of Gzaminaka, six persons only have consented to accept these offers in exchange for their faith. On the 10th of September, more than 400 persons who had preferred exile to apostasy were carried off from that district alone, to be transported to the other extremity of the Empire.

To the Editor of the London *Times*.

Sir,—Mr. Martin's *Voice of Russia* illustrates the oft-repeated charge that Russian cruelty is only matched by Russian mendacity. He quotes one witness (himself) to prove 'the humane treatment of prisoners.' The value of evidence may be estimated by comparing it with the report of the Municipal Council of Warsaw, submitted to the Grand Duke Constantine in July, 1862. It is worth remembering that this official document was drawn up long before the war in Poland commenced—six months, indeed, before the Poles raised an arm in self-defence.

The report opens with this statement:—

"The total number of men and women arrested from the beginning of the year 1862 to the 19th of July, 1863, in this town is 14,833."

One of the rooms in which the political prisoners are confined is thus described:—

"This room is of the same size as the other two, except that it is but half their width. It contains 30 men arrested for not carrying lanterns at night. This room has no furniture, and only one small barred window. There is so little space that the men in it can neither lay down nor move about in freedom. There is scarcely a breath of air and the close packing of these 30 persons is an unprecedented instance of disregard of human life."

The last sentence in this official paper not one word of which has ever been contradicted is as follows:—

"Considering, first, that the number of people arrested during the past half year amounts to nearly one-tenth of the whole population of the town, and to one fifth of such population, extending children; secondly, that among those arrested are persons detained for the most trifling infraction to the decrees of the police, and that mothers with little children at the breast are often arrested, the Deputy President and Municipal Council consider it ex-