

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, June 6.—At the session of the National Assembly this afternoon the debate was resumed on the army bill. In the course of the discussion General Trochu delivered a brilliant and remarkable speech. He submitted a proposition that three years instead of five, as provided by the bill should form the term of service in the army and that a proviso should be added to the bill reducing the term to two years for meritorious conduct. The speech was listened to with great attention by all the deputies, and upon its conclusion the applause was loud and long continued from all parts of the Chamber.

PARIS, June 7.—The *Journal Officiel* states that the total damage sustained by the city of Paris at the hands of the Commune will reach five hundred million francs.

WAR DAMAGES.—The results of the inquiry made as to the damage sustained by the inhabitants of Paris during the two sieges and the devastation caused by the Commune have been communicated to the Municipal Council by the Prefect of the Seine. The number of claims for compensation were 12,480, representing a sum of 407 million francs. These demands have been cut down and classified in the three following categories:—Damages caused by foreign war to 1,703 claims, and rather more than two million francs; damages caused by the second siege to 2,436 claims and about nine million francs; injuries done by the Commune to 8,451 claims and 55 million francs. These sums, added to a further sum of 10 millions for subsequent demands since admitted, give a total of 77 millions (£3,080,000), which will be shortly distributed. Out of this amount only two million francs are contributed by the State, the remainder being provided by the city of Paris, and it is proposed to raise the necessary resources by means of ten annuities of eight millions each. A law of the 10th Vendémiaire, year IV., decrees that each commune must bear the cost of any damages caused by insurrectional troubles, but it does not apply to Paris, though at the same time there is nothing in it which stipulates that the State shall be called on to repair the injuries inflicted upon the capital. The Municipal Council has, therefore, acted wisely in taking upon itself the same burdens which fall on the villages immediately around Paris, instead of engaging in an invidious litigation with the State; the result of which would depend upon how the law mentioned above was interpreted.—*Full Mail Gazette*.

We learn from France that the distress existing among the labouring classes, particularly in Paris and large towns, is causing emigration on a large scale. Weary of past troubles and fearful of fresh disasters, numerous families have determined to sell all the little they possess, and seek employment and security on foreign shores. In Alsace and Lorraine other causes prevail for the same result. Long habit has made the people of these provinces French at heart, though still speaking the German language. They cannot accept the Prussian yoke. They cannot endure the thought of their children serving in the Prussian army. Numbers of them are leaving the country for Algeria, and numbers also for Canada. Not a few have left their property behind them preferring to sacrifice it altogether rather than delay their departure. The conquered provinces are thus in danger of being partly depopulated, unless, indeed, the French should be able to recover them. There can be little doubt that they will, sooner or later, make some effort in this direction, and that there is now a general feeling in France in favour of universal and compulsory military service. In the meantime a Canadian Emigration Company has been projected, for the purpose of supplying needy emigrants with the means of transporting themselves and families to the other side of the Atlantic, and there assisting them with a certain amount of capital, for which they are to pay a moderate interest. There certainly is not a country in the world which contains more abundant resources than Canada, or offers a better prospect to the enterprising and industrious colonist.—*Catholic Times*.

SPAIN.

A correspondent of *Times* gives us a slight sketch of the Carlist loyalists, and their objects:—There is a ring in the tones of these priests and their followers, specially among the women and the few Ultramontane young men, that irresistibly calls to mind the Jacobite devotion to their own "Prince Charlie," and, doubtless, Spanish devotion to their "Pretender" (as the Government and Liberal journals often call Don Carlos) is, in many instances, as genuine and unselfish, not to add as blind, as was that of our own Highlanders. The Carlist ranks, I fully believe, include the most devout and sincerely religious Roman Catholics in Spain; just as the Republican ranks include the most earnest Spanish Bible-reading Protestants, though this latter, at present, form but a handful in the country. Just, however, as the Basques are credited with a keen eye to their own self-interest, in fighting vigorously for their own *fueros*—their old local privileges—as much as for Don Carlos, so it may well be that strong self-interest mingles with the other motives which impel the clergy to stake their hopes on him.

The Spanish clergy have had hard times of late. During the last two years few of them have received any pay from the State, which took all the Church property on condition of maintaining the Roman Catholic religion and its ministers. An article in the present Constitution guarantees this.

BAYONNE, May 22.—It was calculated by a curious person that, during the former Civil War—the one of seven years—the number of Carlists officially reported as killed, wounded, and surrendered amounted to more than the Carlist and Christiana armies united. If one were to calculate the surrendered, &c.,

since the present enterprise commenced, we should, I think, obtain a result equal to about half the number of those who have risen in arms in the three northern provinces. Spanish official loves exaggeration.—*Times Cor.*

ITALY.

PIEDMONT, June 6.—There has been a great inundation of the river Po, near Ferrara, causing widespread desolation and terrible suffering. Immense tracts of country are under water, and forty thousand people are homeless.

The Italian Minister of Public Instruction, Signor Correnti, has resigned on account of the suppression of religious education in schools, but the other members of the Government have declared that their policy remained unchanged. A vote of want of confidence was defeated in the Chamber by 175 to 114.

The Report of the Committee on the Government Bill has been for some time printed, and it is difficult to imagine any subject that more strongly claims the early consideration and vote of the Chamber. It enacts that all children, on completing their sixth year, shall be sent to the parish schools. Parents, masters, and guardians who neglect to comply with this regulation must prove that their children are taught at home or in private schools. Otherwise, after due admonition, and after publication of their names, they are liable to fines, which may be applied three successive times, the amounts varying from 2*l.* to 10*l.* *Padri analfabeti*—parents who themselves cannot read and write—are not allowed to keep their children away from the public school on pretence of having them taught at home, and private schools must be sanctioned and inspected by the educational authorities.—*Times Cor.*

ROME—CHARITY OF THE POPE.—In the midst of his poverty the Holy Father does not forget the distressed, and has just sent 5,000 lire to the Archbishop of Naples for those who have suffered in the late eruption of Vesuvius.

MAY 6.—An attempt was yesterday made at a political manifestation, which, had it been successful, would have been a serious offence to a neighboring nation, and a great proof of Italian ingratitude. The 30th of April is the anniversary of the repulse of the French at the San Pancrazio Gate of Rome in 1849. You may remember the circumstances; the French came on with inadequate forces, and it is doubtful whether they expected serious resistance; at any rate, they were driven back with loss. It was a small affair, but it was made much of by a people unaccustomed to victory and exorbitantly vain of a triumph over the troops whose reputation then stood highest on the Continent of Europe. Out of Italy, and by many in Italy, it had long been forgotten as an insignificant incident in a century fertile in great wars, when suddenly, the other day, a certain political party, prone to parade hostility to France, thought proper to revive its memory. The manifest and only possible object of so doing was to offend the French.—*From Times Correspondent*.

Prince Humbert of Italy is to visit Berlin next month, in order to act as sponsor to the Imperial Prince's youngest child. This visit is regarded as indicating a close political alliance between the two countries. The German Government has required the Bishop of Ermeland to withdraw the decree of excommunication pronounced against priests who refused to accept the infallibility dogma, and threatens stringent measures in case of refusal.

THE PROTESTANT PROPAGANDA.—The ex-Pere Hyacinthe, Gavazzi, and the Protestant missionaries, both male and female, have already left Rome for cooler climates. In spite of all attempts to prevent the Romans, of which the chief agency this last winter has been money, there has been a complete failure; after the example of Naples and Florence, it seems extraordinary that so much money should have been wasted in Rome. A few needy people will consent to send their children to a Protestant school for the sake of a franc a day or a substantial meal, but when this comes to an end, or other more honest means of gaining a livelihood are found, the attendance ceases altogether.

DISCOURSE OF THE HOLY FATHER.—The following is a translation from the *Voce della Verità* of the reply of the Pope to the parishioners of the SS. Apostoli and SS. Vincenzo and Anastasio, which was mentioned in our Roman correspondent's letter last week:—Our Lord Jesus Christ, as the Curato degli Sant' Apostoli has told us, before leaving this world, consoled His disciples, who wished that He should never leave them, with the assurance that unless He should depart the Holy Ghost would not come to encourage and to strengthen them. But at the same time He gave them the assurance that the Divine Spirit should come to convince the ungodly world of their sin of unbelief, as Jesus Christ Himself had taught and declared. That sin is one which at the present time deluges certain parts, and those the most exalted, of the human family in all countries of the world. Infidelity reigns and proudly stalks on all the thoroughfares of this earth, and thinks itself triumphant for ever.—It is mistaken, for God still exists; although He clothe Himself with clouds and thick darkness yet is His throne upheld by justice and by power.

What is the meaning of God being clothed with clouds and thick darkness? It expresses the mysteries which proceed from Him, and which we are obliged to believe when we submit our understanding to the faith of Jesus Christ. But the wicked make pretence of having established the false, the hellish principle, of believing nothing but what the reason is able to comprehend.

Fools! the very bread they put into their mouths to support their animal life—whence comes it? Is it not made of the flour produced from the grain which grows upon the stalk that again sprang from a small grain which had struck root into the earth?

How did that take place? They do not know; they will tell us it is one of nature's

mysteries. Nature has a great many such mysteries. They will believe in them, and yet they will not believe in the sublime mysteries of the religion of Jesus Christ; and they mean to die free-thinkers—that is, thinkers whom Satan has educated.

We have seen many such a death; in our day the death of him who died abandoned, *derelictus in tabernaculo suo*, died without the presence of God and the Blessed Virgin, without the help of his angel guardian and patron saints, without the minister of God beside his bed of pain to help him in his last moments; no, he died committing his soul into the hands of Satan, to go and curse God to all eternity in the deepest abyss of hell.

And yet we are told that the Church ought to bestow her prayers on such men, ought to honour them and give them all that belongs of right exclusively to her faithful ones who die in her bosom. Alas! the men that maintain this, who and what are they? They are themselves under the weight of God's anger.

"Qui in sordibus est sordescit adhuc; qui nocet nocet adhuc." "He that is filthy let him be filthy still; he that is guilty let him be guilty still."

The worst punishment that Almighty God can inflict upon a soul is to allow it to harden under the weight of its own vices, until at length the soul itself dies to grace, and leaves the body, as the first infidel did who lived upon this earth.

While all these things are coming to pass, what will become of us, and how shall we stand in the sight of God?

Saint John anticipates this question; he puts into the mouth of the Almighty the following words: "Ecce venio cito et reddam unicuique secundum opera ejus." "Behold, I come quickly, and I will render unto every man according to his works."

Let us put our trust in the mercy of God, who will punish the wicked; and let us hope that Jesus Christ, who has said, "Behold, I come quickly," will soon make us to hear for our consolation those solemn words of His.

We unto them who put their trust in wickedness, who play with the Revolution and profess to be its masters. Sooner or later the Revolution shall overwhelm them with its whirlwind.

The late calamity at Naples in our own neighbourhood may serve us as another example. A large number of persons had the imprudence to approach heedlessly to the devouring flame that was issuing with impetuosity from the mouths of the volcano, and a number of them became the victims of their misguided curiosity.

So it is with those who fraternize with the Revolution and with revolutionists, in the hope of ruling over the one and repressing the other. Fools! both of them shall be the prey of the devouring flame that encompasses them.

O my Lord God! To Thee I recommend this people who are so devoted to Thee; who profess so great a respect for thy unworthy Vicar. To Thee do I recommend them, that the flames of the revolution may never terrify them nor ever be able to devour them. I beseech Thee, O my God, who holdest in thy hands the lot of all men, that thou wouldst punish the wicked and preserve the good, and encourage their leaders, so that they may remain constant and steadfast in their separation from a Government which is quite unworthy of their confidence.

[Here the august speaker was interrupted by expressions of sympathy and applause on the part of the audience.]

In vain do they hope that I will ever agree with it. May this people arrive safely—through the tempest which buffets them—at the haven by means of Thy good pleasure, to sing Hosannas of thanksgiving to Thee, O God of infinite goodness.

Once more then I call upon Thee O my God; uphold the arms of Thy Vicar when he blesses this people now present, the people of Rome, and all the Catholics spread over the face of the earth. Thou who didst say that Thou must go away that Thou mightest send the Holy Ghost to us, sent down that Holy Spirit that He may give us the gifts of strength, of counsel, of wisdom, and all the virtues needful for us to fight the battles of the Lord and to conquer our proud and headstrong foes.

Benedictio Dei Omnipotentis, &c.

SWITZERLAND.

There are in Switzerland 1,556,000 Protestants, against 1,084,655 Catholics, and the Catholics have gained ground so rapidly even at Geneva, the old cradle of Calvinism, that they must now in that Canton no less than 47,857, against 43,606 Protestants. On the other hand, there are in Switzerland 1,843,000 Germans, 646,000 French, 144,000 Italians, and 42,000 "Roumanches." It is by the Germans and the Protestants, generally speaking, that the revision of the Constitution is proposed; and it is by the French, and at least by the Ultramontane part of the Catholics, that it is resisted—of course, because in a centralization of power the latter would find themselves at the mercy of the majority in the Federal Assembly, and they could no longer hope to counteract the authority of the Central Government by the ascendancy they have hitherto exercised in their respective Cantons. Federal life, indeed, has, since 1848, been gradually extinguished Canton after Canton. The unification of the army, of the schools and of the civil and criminal laws, together with the establishment of equal rights of naturalization for all Swiss citizens in all parts of Switzerland, will it be apprehended, give local self-government the death-blow.—*Times*.

The main object and effect of the scheme which has been rejected was the absorption, to a great extent, of the Cantonal rights by the central federal power. This would be, of course, equivalent to the Germanization of the country, and it is to this fact that the result of the voting is to be attributed. The *Rappel* regrets bitterly that the operation of this consideration has rendered the attack on Catholicism ineffectual; for that it was an attack on Catholics is acknowledged. Next after the articles concerning the reorganization of the military system, which would have enabled Switzerland to bring 200,000 men into the field, the most important clauses, the *Times* tells us, were those relating to public instruction, "the only object of which is to counteract the influence exercised by the Roman Catholic clergy, and especially by those old enemies of Switzerland, the Jesuits, over the rising generation." It would have been well, perhaps, if the writer in the *Times* had made himself acquainted with the fact that there has not been a single Jesuit in Switzerland for the last four and twenty years; but this, as the French say, "is a detail!" The main point is, that the Catholic clergy are teaching the rising generation of Catholics to grow up in the belief and practice of their religion, and therefore legislative interference is thought necessary.

GERMANY.

BERLIN, May 15.—The German Parliament is drifting into a series of religious debates. Yesterday we had a discussion about the propriety of appointing any Ambassador to the Vatican after the Pope's blunt refusal to receive the last nominee. To-day we shall be treated to an even more animated debate upon hundreds of petitions, some demanding the expulsion of the Jesuits from the territory of the Empire, and others advocating their continuance in the ancient haunts of the Order, north and south of the Main.—*Times Cor.*

BERLIN, May 22.—Yesterday the decree of the Ministry of State was despatched to the Bishop of Ermeland, in answer to the reply of the Prelate to the previous Ministerial decree relative to the excom-

munication of Professors Wollmann and Michels. The present decree refutes the opinion held by the Bishop that obedience to the laws of the country was dependent upon the views entertained on that point by the clerical superiors, and dwells upon the circumstance that the Catholic Church is subject to the authority of the laws of the country. The decree also points out the oath of allegiance to the King taken by the Bishop and the illegiance of a sentence of excommunication which injures the civil honour. The decree demands the retraction of this attack upon the civil honour by an official proclamation as well as an explicit declaration of entire obedience to the Government of the State. Should this demand not be complied with the branch with the State will be regarded as complete and measures in accordance therewith will be taken.—*Times*.

The German Parliament has adopted the Bill for establishing Consulates in the various chief towns of Italy, and especially at Rome. A semi-official paper denies that Prince Bismarck has sent a notice to the Papal Court withdrawing from the arrangement for the establishment of a Nuncio at Berlin.

BERLIN, June 4.—A bill will be presented in the Reichstag, directed against the Jesuits. It is understood it will deprive the members of the order of the rights of citizenship.

Two young women were found guilty of cutting out the eye of another woman, who had given evidence against one of their friends. Both were sentenced to penal servitude for life, and after the sentence one made a savage attack upon the other, whom she accused of having betrayed her.—*London Times*.

THE ISLANDS OF IRELAND.—One important feature of Ireland, hitherto passed over in a vague and general style by all writers, consists in the great number of islands scattered round her shores in most of which the Irish language is generally, in many, almost exclusively, spoken. The extreme length of Ireland is 306 miles, its extreme breadth 207, and, speaking loosely, the circumference is about 880 miles. "The sinuous line of its sea coast, however, exclusive of such parts as lie within estuaries, or above the first good anchorage in every harbor, but inclusive of the river Shannon, as far as the tide reaches, and the shores of Bantry Bay, Dunmanus Bay, and Kenmare River, will, if accurately followed through all its windings, be found to measure 1,737 miles. In this line, there are not fewer than one hundred and thirty harbors, and places where ships may anchor for a tide or find shelter. Round the coast of this fine country, and including her inland lakes, the number of islands and islets cannot be calculated at less than six hundred. In Clew Bay alone, on the west coast, the islands, islets, holms, and rocks, above the surface of the water, have been rated, we think, as high as three hundred, which, if they were planted, would cause this inlet of the sea to exceed in picturesque beauty anything of the kind in Europe. In Strangford Lough on the east coast, there are fifty-four islands, small and great, known by particular names, besides many others nameless. As to inland lakes, from the centre of an island in Lough Erne, called Ennismacnaint, may be seen twenty-seven islands in view at once.

Close upon this beautiful shore (yet as devoid of all the calm and profitable satisfaction which books afford as if they had lain in the bosom of the Pacific), here it is that, as far as Christianity is concerned, numerous persons have seen Sabbath after Sabbath pass silently away, from one year's end to the other—no church-going bell—no gatherings of the people to hear the sweet sounds of divine melody, or, as the native Irish say, "the story of peace;" they have for ages lived and died amidst one unbroken famine, not indeed, of bread and water, but of hearing the word of the Lord.

Of these islands, at least one hundred and forty were inhabited twelve years ago. Some were very small: seventeen contain only a family in each; and ten, not more than three in each; but some are large, and the aggregate population of the whole amounted to not less than 43,000 souls. We will mention a few particulars of only two of them. Rathlin, Rathlin, or Rathlin, the Rineen of Pliny, the Rineen of Ptolemy, about six miles distant from the north coast of Antrim, is nearly five miles long, and three and a half in extreme breadth; it abounds with some curious arrangements of Insular pillars, similar to those of the Giants' Causeway. It affords a considerable quantity of sea weed for kelp, and where cultivated produces excellent barley. A religious establishment was founded here in the sixteenth century, by Columba, but in 1790 it was ravaged by the Danes. The attachment of the natives to their little island is extreme, and one of their worst wishes to any neighbor who has injured them is, that he may end his days in Ireland. Rathlin is memorable as the retreat of Robert Bruce of Scotland. It was here that he planted his standard, and obtained some aid from the native Irish before he proceeded to the Hebrides.

Tory, about ten miles or more off the coast of Donegal, but united to the parish of Tullaghmagh, is about three miles long and one broad. The name of this island is thought to be of Runic etymology, and "Thor-eye," now corrupted into Tory, denotes that it was consecrated to Thor, the Scandinavian deity, who presided over desolate places. The inhabitants are unacquainted with any other law than that of their old Breton code. They choose their own chief judge, and to his mandate, issuing from a throne of turf, the people yield a ready obedience. Round a tower and church built by Columkill there is a graveyard, to which peculiar sanctity is ascribed and where no one is permitted to be interred. The people but very seldom come to the main land. About two years ago, a fishing boat, containing seven or eight men, being driven by the stress of weather into Ards Bay, on the coast adjoining, it turned out that not one of these men had ever been in Ireland before! The trees belonging to Mr. Stewart of Ards (the uncle of Lord Londonderry) actually astonished them, and they were seen putting leaves and small branches in their pockets, to show on their return. In August, 1866, the poor people in this island, amounting to nearly 500, were visited by a great calamity. A strange and unforeseen storm set in from the northwest, which drove the sea, in immense waves, over the whole flat part of the island; the waves beat even over the highest cliffs—all their corn was destroyed, their potatoes washed out of the ground, and all the springs of fresh water filled with that of the sea.—Their deplorable situation constrained them to make several communications with the main land—their condition, in other respects, then excited pity. It was arranged that an Irish teacher should be sent them, and so this frowning Providence proved to have been only the precursor of better days than they had ever seen.

A SLEEPY LEGISLATOR.—Not long since a sleepy member of the lower branch of the legislature requested a fellow member to waken him when a certain bill involving the interests of lumbermen came up. This agreed upon, the sleepy member was seen in the happy land of dreams. It so happened that a certain bill upon theft and perjury came up that day. So when the latter bill was fairly under way, the sleepy member was aroused.—He rubbing his eyes, arose and addressed the Speaker: "Mr. Speaker I wish to say a few words on this bill, for the fact is, the most of the people 'up our way' make their living by this trade." It is needless to add that his remarks were appreciated and highly applauded.—*Springfield (Ill.) Journal*.

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