

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

To the part taken by the French Government in the Lombard and Swiss question is attributed the refusal of the Pope to visit Paris, for it is now positively stated that such refusal has been given, and consequently the preparations ordered at Notre Dame, which were to commence to-morrow, have been, it is said, countermanded. It is pretended that His Holiness' visit is merely postponed to the month of August, but private letters from Rome of a recent date express no doubt that the postponement is indefinite. Austrian and, I presume, Russian influence has been again at work, and the Emperor of the French will lose the benefit of the Pupal consecration, from his having pleaded the cause of the Lombards and the Swiss. So, at any rate, it is alleged, and there is nothing surprising in the fact of Austria regarding as her bitterest foes those who, directly or indirectly, thwart her action at this moment in her Italian possessions. In the present instance the College of Cardinals has been found so adverse that the Pope has been unable to follow his own inclination. Between this and the month of August many things may, however, occur; the Emperor's tenacity of character is too well known to suppose that he will easily be discouraged, or that he will relinquish an object he has set his heart on so much as his coronation by the Pope. If this fail, however, he has the venerable Cathedral of Rheims and a prelate who may not refuse him.

The *Independence Belge* was stopped on Sunday at the Paris Post Office, in consequence of its containing a letter of the Comte de Montalembert, in which he explained his reasons for not subscribing to the ball given by the Legislative Corps to the Emperor.

Letters from Venice state that the Comte de Chambord was to leave that city about the 20th of April, after having had an interview with the Emperor of Austria, who was expected to arrive at Venice on the 10th.

BELGIUM.

The Belgian ministry is laboring at the education question and laying snares for the Prelates. They propose to allow the Clergy to teach and to superintend the teaching in the state-schools. The Cardinal Archbishop of Mechlin refuses to become the mere colleague of the state professors; he requires absolute authority over the religious and moral education of the people; and less than this he will not accept. The government offers what is in appearance fair terms, but the Bishops are not to be deceived, and until they shall have a guarantee that their authority shall not be tampered with, they will have nothing to do with the state-schools. They have their own schools, so that the well-disposed are always sure of a good Catholic education. On Sunday last, the 3rd inst., all the Bishops of Belgium assembled at the Archiepiscopal palace at Mechlin to consult in common; and the Minister of Public Instruction came to them and had an interview with them. The whole Prelacy and Clergy of Belgium are united, and the government is therefore obliged to consult them, and to ask for an audience. The place of that audience is not Downing street, or Dublin Castle, but the house of a Bishop whose revenues are only £800 a-year.

AUSTRIA.

A great number of persons have recently been arrested in Hungary, but the majority were soon discharged for want of evidence against them.

The refugee question is settled. The British Government has promised to keep a strict guard on the refugees, and to visit them with the full severity of the law whenever it should be proved that they have taken part in revolutionary intrigues; but this has produced little change in the feeling towards England; indeed, it is probable that if the fugitives were dismissed to-morrow, some real or imaginary grievance would at once be found. The dislike to the foreign policy of England is sincere and of long standing, but the hostility now shown to individuals is altogether a spurious affair.

SWITZERLAND.

The *Lausanne Gazette* quotes a letter from Berne, mentioning a rumor to the effect that the Neapolitan Government has sent in a note to the Federal Council, demanding that the military capitulations that have not yet expired shall be respected, and that the prohibition against any new recruiting for the Neapolitan army shall be recinded; otherwise the Swiss now residing in the kingdom of Sicily will be turned out of the country.

PRUSSIA.

THE CONSPIRACY AT BERLIN.—The *Cologne Gazette* contains a detailed account of the conspiracy which was discovered at Berlin on the 29th ult. In consequence of information which the police authorities had received about eighty houses were surrounded and searched on Saturday last, and about forty persons were immediately arrested. On the two following days a great number of arrests took place, and there are now not less than eighty-six persons suspected of high treason in the prisons of Berlin; some of the prisoners have for a long time been suspected of revolutionary designs. A large quantity of congre rockets and grenades was discovered under the floors of the working rooms over which Geisler presided. A hundred weight of gunpowder, a great many conical balls, and small rockets fit to be fired from muskets, were found in the house of Dr. Falkenthal. Weapons of all kinds, revolutionary pamphlets, Mazzinian proclamations, and letters disclosing the details of the conspiracy, have been found in the houses of some of the other prisoners. The police have seized papers of (it is said) importance, and

containing details of the plans of the revolutionary party. It is alleged that the plot has extended throughout a great portion of the Berlin population, particularly among the lower classes. No name of any note, however, has as yet been spoken of in connexion with it; but the conviction is expressed that, had it not been discovered in time, it would have assumed formidable proportions; and though the explosion might not have had the effect of overthrowing the Government, it would not have taken place without being attended with deplorable consequences. It is further stated, that the papers which have been discovered show that the Berlin plot was connected with the Italian, of which the outbreak at Milan was the abortive manifestation. The origin would appear to be the same, and the means for executing it similar; and if we may believe what is stated, the German refugees have operated in the north of Germany, and particularly at Berlin, precisely as Kossuth and Mazzini are charged with doing in the Italian provinces of Austria and in Hungary.

One of the first consequences of this, of which there are already some indications, will be the closer alliance of the three great Northern Courts of Europe; and an increased coolness and distrust towards those Governments which, in the eyes of the Northern Powers, have a revolutionary origin. The Cabinet of Berlin, which was supposed not to have approved the measures Austria adopted with reference to the Lombardo-Venetian territory and the Lombard refugees, or which, at all events, kept itself on the reserve, is now, there is reason to fear, decided on making common cause with Austria; and both will probably adopt similar measures, which will be executed with equal vigilance and equal energy. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg will not fail to second them by every means in its power; and the Emperor Nicholas will no longer find in the Prussian Government the hesitations he has complained of as occasioning much embarrassment to him.

RUSSIA.

It appears that a body of 17,000 men has been detached from the fourth division of the Russian army, and added to the fifth division, now stationed on the frontier of Bessarabia; and that the Russian armaments were continued with great activity. The Russian fleet at Sebastopol was fully equipped, and ready to put to sea at the shortest notice, and the magazines of Odessa were fully provided with provisions and military stores for an army of 150,000 men. It was considered certain that the question of Montenegro was one of the objects of the mission of Prince Menschikoff.

TURKEY.

The *Constitutionnel* says that the Prince Menschikoff told the Sultan that he was sent to him to regulate the grave differences which had too long existed between the two countries, and to remove the difficulties which had troubled the good harmony his Sovereign had at heart to see re-established as in the past; that in consequence he called the serious attention of his Majesty to the contents of the letter of the Emperor, and he begged him to be kind enough to order his ministers to occupy themselves actively with the negotiations referred to, in which, on his part, he would display the strongest spirit of conciliation. It is believed that the prince desired to add something, and to prolong the discussion, but he was prevented by the presence of the Dragoman of the Porte, whom the Sultan did not think right to send away.

After having seen the Sultan, according to the *Debats*, Prince Menschikoff entered into the negotiations which he is charged to conduct with the Divan. On this point great secrecy was observed on both sides. However, we believe that, without being so extensive and so menacing as was at first said, the demands of the Prince go much further than the English journals believe, and than the *Times* recently announced with the appearance of semi-official authority. The questions at stake are not only that of the Holy Places, and the revocation of the firm accorded last year to the Latin Church, but Russia also demands the recognition in her of an undefined but certain protectorship of the Greek Church.

ITALY.

The accounts from Milan of the 20th ult. are of a satisfactory nature. The meeting of the five archdukes, sons of the late archduke Regnier, with Queen Marie Adelaide, their sister, at Bassano, in Tyrol, last February, had been attended with a good result. A letter from Vienna, received at Milan, states that a council of the imperial family was held, at which the following resolutions, relative to the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, were adopted:—1. The substitution of the civil authority for the military power.—2. A complete amnesty in favor of the refugees, on the express condition of their return. 3. The recall of Marshal Radetzky, who is to receive the title of Prince of the Blood, in recompense of his long and loyal services. The writer adds that the Emperor, wishing to relieve himself from the burthen of the government, was disposed to share his power with his brother the Archduke William.

Lord Erskine, who directed *ad interim* the English legation at Florence, in the absence of Sir Lytton Bulwer, passed through Genoa, on his way to England, with Mr. Scarlett, the Secretary of Legation, a circumstance from which it was inferred that diplomatic relations had been suspended with Tuscany, in consequence of the expulsion of Mr. Crawford.

A letter from Florence of the 28th ult. states that the Grand Duke had received Mr. Campbell Scarlett as Chargé d'Affaires, in the absence of Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer.

A singular report is, that 400 armed Hungarians and Italians, who had been put on shore by an English vessel, near Palermo, had made a fruitless attempt to get up a revolution in that city. The streets, which the bold adventurers had entered, were blocked

up by the troops, and one and all of the foreigners were captured. These persons who profess to be best informed on the subject affirm that several of the prisoners were immediately hanged. A telegraphic despatch on the same subject from Genoa simply says:—"An insurrection which took place at Palermo (no date is given) was promptly and easily put down. 300 persons were arrested, five of whom were hanged."

SARDINIA.

The *Paris Presse* of Sunday states that the King of Sardinia has sent instructions to his Minister at Vienna, to demand the removal of the sequestration from the property of all those persons in Lombardy who have become his (the King of Sardinia's) subjects; and, if this demand be not immediately complied with, to apply for his passports.

The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the bill on the slave trade, by 70 against 33 votes.

AUSTRALIA.

The success of the various passengers by the Great Britain was very curious. One man had made £20,000 in ten months by keeping a public-house in Melbourne; another upwards of £30,000 by a circus, in a short space of time. A sailor who had deserted from a ship had £2,000 with him, and a common carter rather above that amount. One passenger displayed a lump of pure gold weighing 5lb., and valued at £400, which he had picked up with his own hand.

LETTERS FROM THE DIGGINGS.—Mr. Softly, who held a remarkably confidential and pleasant situation as cashier to the great house of Blouse and Broadbrim, and who used to live at Islington—where his musical wife gave pleasant parties, and he was thought rather a neat hand at a speech after supper—having been smitten with a wild notion, compounded of a villa at Richmond and a mine of gold in his back garden, to be found in the neighborhood of Geelong after a fortnight's experience, gives a most lamentable and strictly true account of his present position. He and Mrs. S. are paying four guineas a week for a hut little better than a pig-sty. He has not been able to find out any suitable occupation. He has lost a Wellington boot in the mud on each of the two occasions that he has been down to look after his baggage. The quarter loaf costs two shillings and sixpence; and, the night before writing, a party of gold diggers on the spree insisted on treating him, poured first a bottle of Champagne down his throat, and then, by a mistake, a bottle of blacking. The letter of little Dick Ralleigh, who ran away from school, is not more encouraging, although he writes in the highest spirits, having succeeded, in consequence of the death of his master, to a half share in a dray which, with a partner, he drives to and from the diggings. Dick describes the state of society as "most jolly—something like a fair and an election at the same time." The more we read the more we grow confounded. One husband sends money for his wife, his father, his stepmother, and all his brothers and sisters. Another writes his better half that he is starving, so she must not think of coming to this dreadful place.—*Dickens's "Household Words."*

UNITED STATES.

COMMON SCHOOLS.—Our readers are aware that in Maryland, Ohio, and Michigan, the Catholic citizens have lately endeavored to obtain from the legislatures such amendments of the school laws as would enable Catholic children to attend the schools without a sacrifice of the rights of conscience. Pennsylvania, New York, and other States will probably agitate the same question. In Maryland, the dispute is now pending, but we do not look for success in that quarter, or in any other just now. In Michigan and in Ohio the petitions of the Catholics have been denied. The Protestant press is, of course, hostile to all amendment of the school system. We are firmly persuaded that the Catholic view of this school question will, before many years, commend itself to the good sense of the American people. Bigoted Protestants will continue to oppose it, and so will atheists, but these do not compose the strength of the country. Sensible Americans are already beginning to see that the fundamental proposition upon which Catholic action in this matter is based and which is, that the education of the child belongs to the parent, is a true proposition. They are also beginning to agree with us that the State, in this thing, does not well supply the place of the parent, and that the State has no right, natural or acquired, to push the parent aside,—to take from him the child, and say how it shall be educated. The conduct, too, of the great majority of children educated by the State is such as to make sensible Protestants doubt whether the common school is, after all, a nursery for good citizens. This doubt is growing stronger every year, and we have only to wait with patience to see intelligent Protestants look around for a remedy. We will be in condition to offer them one—it is religious education. Their godless system is bringing forth its natural fruits, and these are of a nature to startle the thinking Protestant. It is not to be forgotten that, in the State system, the practical management of the schools will fall inevitably into the hands of atheists, and the education fostered by them will become more and more atheistical. The crop of young atheists which the schools will turn out must, from its magnitude, arrest the attention of sensible men. Catholics will be, as they are now, in the position to propose a remedy. Their remedy is voted down now, because, although the evil is apparent, it is not so great as to strike the Protestant eye, and because pride, old habits, and other causes combine to make our remedy seem distasteful. The country will soon be in such need of good citizens that it will be glad to have them furnished even by Catholicity. Meanwhile our Catholic schools should be encouraged in every possible way. One popular objection against our plan is, that it is said to foster ignorance. When our Catholic schools are seen to compare favorably with the best common-schools of the same grade, that objection will cease to be urged seriously. And this will be the more certain in places where Catholics, besides paying the school tax, support their own schools. A vocation to the schoolmaster's desk is now almost as important as vocation to the altar. Upon the whole, we

think that our friends who are engaged in the controversy as to who shall have the child need not be disheartened. The State system has been for some time regarded as the most potent engine for proselytism left at the disposal of our enemies. Hence it is not to be expected that they will easily give it up.—*Boston Pilot.*

THE URSULINE CONVENT.—The gentlemen in whose hands the honor of Massachusetts is placed have not finished their discussions upon the subject. Of course our legislators, who are ready to spend thousands upon foreign anarchists, like Kossuth, will again refuse to pay for the damage done by a crowd of brave rioters who made a midnight attack upon a female seminary, drove out the women and children, and fired the establishment. We do not expect that our legislature will do any thing, this session, in way of paying for the damage done. We are a little surprised to find that the bill for remunerating the sufferers by the riot passed to a third reading. We were quite prepared to see our legislators vote to re-consider their tardy act of justice. And we are quite prepared to hear the prayer of the sufferers, for payment spurned on Wednesday. Indeed, we were a little surprised to hear that it had been for a moment entertained.—*Ibid.*

\$5,068 were collected in the Catholic Churches in New York, on Easter Sunday, for the Asylums in that city.

Simon O. Keeler, of Decatur, Michigan, a short time since, shot his wife, and then put an end to his own life by taking a large dose of opium.

A spiritual rapping exhibition was given lately at Columbus, Missouri, and the people conceiving themselves to be humbugged, compelled the exhibitors to give back the charge for admittance, which was fifty cents a head.

THE PROPOSED LAW OF DIVORCE.

(From the *Tablet*.)

The English Government having thrown off the authority of the Holy See, has remained ever since content with that general rebellion without descending to every particular question which it involves. It left untouched the principles of the canon law in many points, and administered it in Doctors' Commons, with an ultimate appeal to the reigning Sovereign, who is the Pope of England. At the great schism the doctrine of marriage was left untouched, and Queen Elizabeth allowed an Act of Parliament to pass, which permitted an appeal from the Court of Arches to Rome, then being prosecuted, to be finally determined by the Holy See. In the reign of her inglorious and obscene successor, James I., the Protestant morals had become scandalously lax, and the filthy monarch allowed divorces among the nobles. Subsequently better principles prevailed, and it became clear to all lawyers that by the law of England divorces could not be granted.

Unprincipled men are pretty sure to find a way open for their carriages, and it was discovered that, though every legal court in the kingdom was without jurisdiction over the bond of marriage, Parliament could pass a law dissolving marriages. Hence the practice now pursued. After a time it was discovered that these statutable dissolutions were acts of grace to the criminals, who, immediately after the passing of the act, married each other, and mocked at the law. This gave scandal, and some years ago one of the Protestant Bishops moved in the House of Lords that no divorce bill be allowed without a clause prohibiting the intermarriage of the guilty parties—that is, the wife divorced and her seducer. The peers consented to this rule, and ever afterwards such a clause has been inserted in every divorce bill. But, as the House of Lords alone is not competent to pass such a sentence as that of divorce, the consent of the Commons is necessary. The Bill is therefore sent to that assembly, and there, upon the motion of some friend of the seducer or seduced, the prohibitory clause is struck out. The Lords afterwards consent to the change, Bishops and all; they had satisfied their scruples and the letter of their standing order by inserting the clause in the Bill before it left their House. This is the present condition of public hypocrisy on this most serious question. And in truth this is necessary as things go, for there are those sitting among the Peers who would never have been there at all if the Parliament of England had not ventured to repeal the Divine Law, and authorise the contracting of marriage contrary to the express provisions of Christianity.

The report of the Commissioners is signed, among others, by Lord Beaumont, who, in the public estimation, is supposed to be a Catholic. If he be one, it confirms the common observation, that no notable damage is ever inflicted upon Catholicism but by Catholics. So has it been from the beginning. The first assault was made by Judas. If Lord Beaumont be a Catholic even by profession, it is time people knew that he has now committed an overt act, by which his Catholicism is completely denied. He has dared to recommend the violation of Christian morals, and to set aside the law and practice of the Church, in a question which the Popes have always thought of so much importance as to risk all sorts of temporal convulsions rather than sanction what Lord Beaumont has taken upon himself to recommend. If the Holy See had been of Lord Beaumont's opinion the Sovereign Pontiffs might have had a much easier life, and saved themselves a great deal of trouble and wearisome annoyance. Even Henry VIII might have continued a Catholic, and Cranmer would have been punished for marrying Oslander's niece.

It is surely suggestive of grave reflections to all thoughtful Catholics that at this moment the same questions should be under discussion in so many countries. The Devil has a universal Church, and the ministers of seduction spread themselves everywhere. The education question is running through the whole civilized world, under the same conditions. The secular power attempts to unseat the supernatural, and to manage the moral world as it does the material, by the exhibition of brute force. So also the question of marriage is coming forward, the same combatants and the same principles. England has been stirring it for some time, under the aspect of marrying two sisters. Piedmont labors to secularise a sacrament. In France, the old Jansenist Dupin has just awoken from his political slumbers, and comes forward to defend the Code Napoleon at the first moment of attack. Thus it appears to be a general stirring up of evil principles, and nothing peculiar to England. A victory in one country will encourage those in another who are fighting on the same side, and proportionately discourage the allies of the vanquished.

It is with great pleasure that we recognise the conduct of Lord Redesdale on this question. Though he, like all persons professing heresy, blindly denounces