

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

Report speaks of a return visit on the part of the Emperor of the French to Turin in the course of the spring.

It is currently reported, and we speak from some authority, that Napoleon III. is not of the "spirit" of the "Young Men's Christian Association," and on the King of Sardinia's return to Paris insinuated as much to the reforming little monarch. It is said that his Imperial Majesty was by no means dazzled by the prestige gathered beyond the English Channel, nor influenced by the "kindred tie" of the "Garter." He told King Victor Emmanuel that in quarrelling with the Pope he had been writing a bad epitaph for his monarchy, and in fettering the Church he had been giving the Devil a *laissez aller* through the Continent. His Imperial Majesty added that he did not recognise the license for revolution, and that "France would not permit the course adopted by his royal cousin." Now, this being more than a "report," we shan't take any denial made by the *Times* correspondent.—*Tablet*.

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT.**—The difference which existed between the French and English Governments relative to the conditions on which they would make peace with Russia are terminated, and the propositions which Count Valentine Esterhazy will have to communicate to M. de Nesselrode are such as are considered acceptable by England and France. We cannot state in a positive manner what was the real ground of difference; whether, as some say, it referred to a "material guarantee" of a permanent character, or to a war indemnity; but it is not doubtful that for some time the English Cabinet, or a portion of it, was unwilling to accept a settlement on the terms which this Government deemed sufficient. It is, however, certain that the difference, such as it was, has now disappeared.

## GERMAN POWERS.

The *Times* correspondent writes:—"The propositions which Count Valentine Esterhazy is carrying to St. Petersburg are completely adopted by the three Powers—France, England, and Austria. I have already informed you that whatever difference existed between the two former has disappeared, and however we may doubt as to the conduct of Austria in the event of their rejection by Russia, it is certain that for the present she is with us, and that she thinks the conditions are such as Russia ought to accept. It is calculated that it will take eight days from the departure from Vienna of Count Esterhazy to his arrival at his destination, and several days more must elapse before anything can be known respecting the decision of the Russian Government. The opinion generally entertained here is, that Russia will not accept those conditions; and, as it is clear that we cannot admit anything less, there is little chance for the present of the war approaching its termination. I do not think it is any part of the mission of Count Esterhazy to enter into a discussion on these propositions; his duty is simply to lay them before Count Nesselrode, and they are intelligible enough without any lengthened explanations. The question next occurs, what will Austria do? To this I can only reply that very probably she will, as I mentioned several days ago, recall her ambassador from St. Petersburg and send Prince Gortchakoff his passports; but that the refusal of Russia will be immediately followed by a declaration of war on her part is not believed by well-informed persons here.

Were Austria to declare war to-morrow, Russia would instantly attack her on all her vulnerable and unprotected points. Her taking the initiative would leave her neither succour in the German states, who are bound by treaty to defend her only in the event of her being attacked; nor could she hope for the assistance at present of her allies, France and England. Austria would then have to face the Russians single-handed, who might easily march on her unprotected capital and take it.

It is impossible, under such circumstances, to say what Austria will do next year. If Prussia acted as she ought—acted even as Austria acts—the war would soon be brought to an end. It is barely possible that Austria will at last summon up resolution to enter the lists; but this will perhaps depend on the results of the next campaign. For the present her action consists in adopting in common with us the conditions on which we accept peace from Russia; but it does not go further than a hope, if not a positive promise, to suspend diplomatic relations.—*Times*.

**GERMAN RECRUITS FOR RUSSIA.**—We read in the *Pays*:—"Several Germans have been recently serving as amateurs with the Russians in the Crimea. Two of them have just arrived at Berlin, where they at once became objects of great curiosity. One of them has just come from Simpheropol, and the other from Kars, which place he quitted the day after the unsuccessful assault, and crossed the whole of Circassia. About the middle of October the state of things at Simpheropol was pretty tolerable. The troops were actually a little discouraged by such a long series of defeats, but there was no want of provisions, and Imperial recompenses were lavishly distributed. It is believed there was 140,000 Russians perished during the siege of Sebastopol, and that 30,000 have been crippled for life. The best officers have disappeared, and have been replaced by young men, not less brave, but very inexperienced. Sebastopol is about to be declared the holy city. The soldiers who have left it have almost all of them in their knapsacks a bit of wood, a stone, or the splinter of a shell, coming from 'the sanctuary,' as Sebastopol is now called in Russia, which they send as precious relics to their families."

At Irgen, in the Banat (Austrian dominion), the whole of the inhabitants, who, with their pastor, were schismatic Greeks, have acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope, and have been received into full communion with the Holy See.

A Prussian Councillor, Volk, together with his wife, has abjured Protestantism at Salzbourg. He is a distinguished writer. Since 1839 he had published various works having reference to Catholic Faith. He has also been active in refuting the rationalistic ideas of the German writers.—*Weekly Register*.

We are sorry to say that in Prussia the Catholic press is daily more and more persecuted. We, not long ago, announced the suppression of the *Volksheile*, a talented journal of Cologne. We now learn from the *Univers* that two other journals devoted to the interests of Catholicism, the *Illustré Catholique* and the *Gazette du Rhin et de la Moselle*, are condemned to silence by the iniquitous proceedings of the Protestant Government of Prussia. The *Gazette du Rhin* will not be permitted to appear after the 31st of this month. The only objection ever made to this periodical was, that it was edited by a recent convert to Catholicity, the ex-pastor M. Lutkemuller, and that it was too Catholic in its tone. Anything more dishonorable to Protestantism, anything more illustrative of its inherent weakness and intolerance cannot be conceived, than its efforts to put down, by sheer force and strained laws, the Catholic press wherever it can. Were it able to meet that press on the fair field of argument, it would do so; but conscious of its utter inability to contend with an unfettered rival, it aims at doing, by government influence, what it well knows it never can effect by any other means; it is glad to fetter an enemy whom it cannot fight.—*Northern Times*.

## ITALY.

A letter from Florence says the Emperor of Austria is likely to visit Milan about the end of February, and has been invited by the Pope to prolong his journey to Rome, to be present at the inauguration of the column erecting in the Piazza d'España in honor of the Immaculate Conception. The same writer anticipates that Tuscany is about to conclude a Concordat with Rome on the Austrian model.

We learn that the Holy Father had offered to His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman the charge of the Library of the Vatican, in place of Cardinal Mai, deceased, but that the eminent Archbishop of Westminster had not accepted the appointment.

## NORTHERN POWERS.

With respect to the Swedish treaty, the *Morning Post* says:—"It provides, on the one hand, that Sweden and Norway shall never cede, on any pretence, any portion of their territory to Russia; and, in the event of that power making propositions to the cabinet of Stockholm of such a nature, that they shall be immediately communicated to England and France, who, on the other hand, engage to furnish Sweden with the necessary naval and military means for resisting Russian oppression, and undertake to guarantee the territorial integrity of Sweden and Norway. With regard to active co-operation, that is a question which is yet to be decided."

With respect to the Sound dues, the *Borsen Zeitung* of Berlin affirms that there is no chance of any solution of the difficulty being attained at the Copenhagen conferences; that the getting up of a conference has by no means been prevented by the course taken by the United States alone; and that the Danish propositions were of such a nature that the greater part of the governments interested refused to enter into them.

## RUSSIA.

**WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.**—Advices from St. Petersburg state that the main force at Odessa will be removed to Nicolaieff.

The Czar has ordered a concentration of forces on all the strong positions of the Black Sea and the Baltic.

It is reported that Prince Paskiewitch is dead.

**THE CZAR AND THE KING OF PRUSSIA.**—The Emperor of Russia has written to the King of Prussia, stating that even if he wished he could not agree to the demands of the Western Powers—the nature of which he was perfectly familiar with, although they had not reached him officially.

**THE RUSSIAN ARMY.**—Russia has put forth this year, if not the whole, at least the greater part of her strength and of her military resources. Her army ready for activity consisted of more than 1,000,000 men, 250,000 of which were either in the Crimea or upon the Danube, 150,000 occupied the Caucasus, 260,000 were disseminated in Poland, 150,000 in Finland and on the Baltic coasts, and 250,000 held the garrisons of the interior. To these should be added 40,000 or 50,000 sailors and marines, and the Cossacks of the line. The losses amongst these troops are set down as follows:—

The cholera and other maladies have carried off nearly half the men who occupied the Danube. The Caucasian army has suffered greatly, not alone by war, but from the necessity of sending reinforcements to General Mouravieff, who complained of being left to want both soldiers and provisions, and who especially called out to the home government for artillery. A proof of the immense losses in the remainder of the army is to be adduced from the fact of the students of the university having been authorised to take officer's rank at once, and that without passing any examination, going through any inferior grades up to the higher ones, or receiving any education in any of the military colleges of the empire.

We have of late frequently directed the attention of our readers to Holland, and the religious condition of that kingdom. For the following interesting details relating to it, we are indebted to the invaluable columns of the *Univers*. "Our Correspondents," says that journal, "often allude to the divisions which

exist among the Protestants of that country. The land on which they dwell is not more cut up and divided by rivers and canals than their religion by conflicting opinions and jarring sects. The religious condition of the Dutch people shows clearly enough what human reason can do when left to itself; and only of late another new sect has started up to add to the universal anarchy already existing. Three *Domines* (so the parsons are denominated by the Dutch Protestants), Messrs. Beets, Doedes, and Chantpie, have sent in an address to the Synod, to intimate to that body that they will no longer acknowledge its authority. At first the Synod affected to treat this paper with contempt; but ere long one hundred and twenty-three other *Domines* declared their adhesion to their three brethren, and since then they have been followed by fully one-tenth of the whole clerical body, amounting to between 12,000 and 13,000 members, while among the people they have been followed by thousands."

The professed object of this new sect is to revive the doctrine of the early Reformers, and shake off the yoke of the Synod, which, they say, has denied and rejected this doctrine. On becoming a member of this new Church each one promises to set at defiance the decisions of the Synod, and to oppose its authority by every possible means. This has given rise to the most bitter controversies all over the country. This new sect has in reality only awoke from a temporary full the ancient sects, and more particularly the rationalists, who deny and trample under foot all that a Christian reveres and holds dear. True *Know-Nothings* in religious matters, the leaders of these latter sects preach up the most destructive theories, destroy all respect for the holiest truths, and teach an anti-Christian naturalism. They deny in the most absolute manner all revealed truth. They maintain, for instance, that "nature is the only Divine revelation; that consequently the Bible is not the Word of God; and that St. Paul lied when he said that Christ was revealed to us in the flesh." According to them the great Apostle is only a fanatic and a visionary.

For more than 25 years back the greatest portion of Protestant preaching has only tended to destroy, in the convictions of men, belief in the Divine Word, and to place reason above the Holy Scriptures. Not long since an influential *Domine* declared from the pulpit, that "The Transfiguration was merely an illusion of the senses, caused by the snow and the morning clouds." What are we to look for from a people taught in such a school?

The official organ of the Synod gives itself little concern about these aberrations. What annoys it principally is these new sects; it regrets their existence, but it consoles itself by hoping that they will soon go to pieces; and, pondering over the means of hastening their dissolution, it proposes, "if there must be war and fighting to turn their arms against Catholicism. Instead of tearing one another, we should," it coolly says, "band ourselves together against the common enemy who is laughing at our divisions." By such means as these it is hoped the storm may be appeased and the angry spirits calmed down. In furtherance of this charitable purpose nothing is neglected; and incessant and violent attacks are made on the Catholic Church in the pulpits, in the journals, and in pamphlets. "No one," says a Brussels journal, "can form any idea of the violence with which Catholicity is daily assailed by the Protestant papers, (of whose long and unpronounceable names a list is here given,) who insist on reducing the Dutch Catholics to the condition of Helots."

**THE POPE AND THE TROOPER.**—The *Courier des Alpes* relates the following curious story, the authenticity of which it guarantees:—"A few months ago a soldier of the army of the East, writing to a comrade of the French army at Rome, drew a sad picture of the privations and fatigues which the former had to endure, of the dangers to which they were exposed, and of the ravages which disease and the Russian balls were making in their ranks. He concluded his letter by recommending his friend without delay to carry to the Pope himself the price of a mass for the preservation of the French army, and request him to perform it. Faithful to the recommendation of his friend, the soldier at Rome went the next morning to the Vatican, and requested the first attendant he met to conduct him to His Holiness. 'But, my brave fellow,' said the guard, 'have you obtained the previous authority for an audience?' 'All that is very well,' replied the soldier, 'for great Lords, but with a simple trooper no such ceremony is necessary.' The guard would not trespass on the usual regulations; but the soldier, on his side, was so little disposed to give way, that it was found necessary to conduct him to the prelate on duty that day. There similar observations were made to the applicant, but all in vain; and at length the prelate, despairing of overcoming the importunity of his visitor, went and mentioned the matter to the Pope. As may be supposed, the curiosity of Pius IX. was excited by the application, and the etiquette of the Vatican was set aside, the soldier being ushered into the presence of His Holiness. On coming near, the soldier stood upright as a post, and then giving the military salute by raising his hand to his forehead, addressed the Pope as follows, just as if he was speaking to the lieutenant of his company:—'*Mon Pape*, here is a letter from a comrade in the Crimea which concerns you; please to read it, and tell me what answer I am to send.' At the same time he with one hand held out the letter, and with the other some pieces of money. The Pope took the letter, and, after reading it, returned it to the soldier, saying, 'My friend, my mass of to-morrow is appropriated to a particular purpose; but the day after, without fail, I will say one with pleasure for that grand French army. I, however, make one condition, and that is, that you attend yourself and prepare to receive the Holy Communion. As to the payment you offer, keep the money to drink to the health of your brave brothers in arms.' 'That is sufficient, *Mon Pape*,' replied the soldier, 'I will go and prepare myself with the chaplain of the regiment, and the day after to-morrow, at the appointed hour, I will be at my post.' He then again saluted *à la militaire*, and, turning right about, left His Holiness, charmed with his military nonchalance. On the day appointed, the soldier was present at the Mass of the Sovereign Pontiff, and had the happiness of receiving the communion from his hands."

**TEA.**—The first young leaves of the common currant-bush gathered as soon as they put out, and dried on tin, can hardly be distinguished from green tea.

## To the Editor of the True Witness.

Sir—In noticing the apparition of *L'Avenir*, in your issue of the 11th of January instant, you insert the following:—

"Thus the *Avenir* speaks of the Irish Catholics as the vilest—plus infimes—population of the British Isles—who have brought with them to Canada only pestilence, cholera and deluge of evils."

Now, this is not correct, to say the least, and I will not let it pass without entering my protest against such misrepresentation.

I will remark, in the first place, that the expressions which you pretend to have translated in the words above quoted, are to be found in a correspondence, and not in an editorial article.

In the second place, I pretend that you have not understood what this correspondence meant; I cannot suppose that you have wilfully stated what you knew to be incorrect.

This will appear clearly by the following translation.—The Correspondent of *L'Avenir*, speaking of a recent occurrence at a public dinner in Upper Canada, where Receiver General Tache is reported to have said that the French Canadians were proud to be English subjects, enumerates all the evils which have grown out of the Colonial system, and gives all the reasons why the French Canadians should not share the opinion so expressed by Colonel Tache. He says:—

"What are the glories we can boast of as British subjects? Is it because England has always allowed her agents and minions to plunder and rob us? Is it because she has at first submitted us to an awful military regime down to the days of American Independence; that she has then seemed inclined to do us justice, in order that we might be induced to remain Colonist, and shed our blood for her, and refuse the liberty which the American people offered to us?"

"Is it because, in return for our loyalty and our devotion in repelling the American invasion, England has endeavored to keep us in an inferior position by oppressing us in every way, by taking away from us, for instance, the only means then at our disposition to instruct our children—the Jesuits' Estate—to give it to Government favorites?"

"Is it because she has endeavored to put down the press which attempted to instruct the Colonist, by imprisoning more than once the defenders of the people's rights?"

"Is it because we have been the victims of all the horrors of wars between England and the United States?"

"Is it because our fellow-countrymen, after having fought for England, and refused the liberty which the Americans offered, have been more abused?"

And then the Correspondent goes on and points out other cause of complaint:—

"Are we proud to be an English Colony, to be used as a lazaretto for the lowest (low is the meaning of *infime*) population of the British Isles, which has often brought over to us pestilence, cholera, and a deluge of evils, without it being in our power to obtain guarantees from that needy population (*population pauvre*) which the English Lords got rid of to throw it without mercy upon our shores?"

There is the obnoxious paragraph in which you have found that "*L'Avenir* speaks of the Irish Catholics as the vilest population of the British Isles." There is not a word in it which can be applied more to the Irish Catholics than to any other nation or creed in particular.

The Parliament of this Province has been obliged repeatedly to interfere with emigration, in order to protect the country against the introduction of, or afford relief to, a certain class of emigrants.

The preamble of the 12th Vic., chap. 6, runs thus:—"Whereas it is necessary to repeal certain Acts hereinafter mentioned, and to make such further provision with reference to Emigration as will tend to prevent the introduction into this Province of a Pauper Emigration laboring under disease, and, at the same time, to encourage the introduction of a more healthy and useful class of Emigrants: Be it therefore enacted, &c."

So, the fact that the lowest or most needy population from the British Isles has been thrown upon our shores, is beyond dispute; but the fault did not rest with the poor emigrants themselves. It rested with the merciless apathy of a foreign power, as the Correspondent clearly gives to understand.

The leading point which the Correspondent wishes to elucidate is that the majority of the people of Lower Canada has no reason to pride in the title of British Colonists, but many to repudiate it.

Have not the Irish Catholics something to complain of upon that score? Without entering into the merits of the correspondence itself, it will clearly appear to every intelligent reader that you have altogether misinterpreted its sense and spirit, when you represent it as being directed against the Irish Catholics; and I hope that you will have the kindness to insert the above lines in your next issue, in order that the true facts of the case may be established.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. L. LAPONTAINE,

Proprietor of *L'Avenir*.

Montreal, 12th Jan., 1856.

## IS MAN A FREE AGENT?

Writing as I do, hastily with my bonnet on, I have no idea of entering into such a metaphysical inquiry as, with reference either to my subject or my reader, will be productive of exhaustion. My present object is merely to discuss man's free agency in connection with his greatest temporal blessing—the married state.

Man is by nature timid, and prone to solitude. Prompted by his normal impulses, he hides himself in dens and caves, from whence he is drawn forth by the gentle voice of woman. She pats him softly on the cheek—she puts a pair of French clogs in his hand, and, docile as *Una's* lion, she makes him fetch and carry at her own sweet will. To win her approving smile, he defies danger—ascending mountains (Mont Blanc, for example) at a vast expense—performing on the *corde elastique*, or running on a rolling tub, making heroic speeches in Parliament, like a country actor, with immense applause.

Such is Man—a being singularly dependent, and whose inability to repair his own nose must ever excite our liveliest commiseration.

This for Preface. "Is Man a free Agent?" That, as Hamlet says, is the question; and to show how serious a question it is, permit me to relate, as Mrs. Inchbald did, a "simple story."

Last summer, accompanied by papa, and taking advantage of the Midsummer vacation in our establishment for young ladies at Tooting, I embarked on board a boat—the Little Western—for Ramsgate. There were many gentlemen passengers, but one particularly arrested my attention. He was a tall well-made commercial-traveller-looking man, with blue eyes and sandy whiskers; and, as he sat next to me, we naturally entered into conversation. Amongst other literary celebrities he mentioned Pope, and, as the proper study of mankind is man, he recommended all ladies to learn it by heart. From Pope we passed, by an easy transition to Puseyism and the Rev. Mr. Kittene, under whom he was gratified to find that myself and papa had sat for some years. With reference to matters of fashion, his opinions were strictly orthodox, and, like all men of enlarged ideas, he admitted long dresses; and, as to small bonnets, he confessed that he pitied those short sighted persons who cannot see much in them. One thing certainly did surprise