

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

**THE SENATE.**—Several lists of names are in circulation as likely to appear in the lists of Senators, but it would be well to receive them with hesitation, from the well-known reserve which characterises all the acts of Louis Napoleon, and his habit of confiding to so very few his secret intention until on the point of execution; and it is more than probable that, as to the composition of the Senate, very few are in his confidence. However, it is certain that the uncle of the President, Jerome Bonaparte, the Governor of the Invalides, will be the President of that body, and M. Troplong the Vice-President. The salary of the former is to be 50,000*fr.* per annum, and an official residence.

It is said that M. de Montalembert had at first manifested the intention of presenting himself to the electors of the Doubs, as candidate to the Legislative Corps; that the President, on learning such to be the case, caused it to be intimated to him that a place was reserved for him on the benches of the Senate.

A few days ago a deputation, consisting of some of the principal editors of the moderate press, were received by the President of the Republic in a private interview which they had requested for the purpose of representing the grievances to which they were exposed by the rigorous censorship under which the newspapers have been placed since the Revolution of the 2d of December. The gentleman who headed the deputation spoke for fully half an hour, and concluded his speech by expressing a hope that the President would give some moderate latitude to the papers to comment upon passing events. Louis Napoleon listened with great composure and patience; but his only answer was the following:—"Gentlemen, the press has already destroyed two dynasties; I may fall like the others; but I shall take care that it shall not be by the press;" and with this he bowed them out.

It is said that in consequence of the votes of the Polytechnic School having been all negative, it is in contemplation to give this establishment a purely civil character. The same is reported concerning the Ecole d'Application at Metz, where the same result occurred.

There is an amusing anecdote related of M. Thiers and the President. It is said that M. Thiers had written to the Minister of the Interior for leave to return to France, offering to abstain entirely from politics—the Minister went to Louis Napoleon with the letter, and desired to know what answer he was to send. Louis Napoleon said, "give me the 4th volume of the History of the Revolution, by Thiers." The book was given, and Louis Napoleon pointed to a passage which he had marked, in which Thiers reproaches the Emperor for not having expelled from France, as a measure of security, several of his political adversaries. "Copy the passage," said Louis Napoleon, "and send it to M. Thiers as the answer to his application."

## SPAIN.

**THE SPANISH NAVY.**—The Spanish royal navy now consists (according to a table just published) of one line-of-battle ship, laid up at Cadiz, and two in construction at Cadiz and Ferrol; six corvettes, eight brigs of first class, three of second class, two brig-schooners, five schooners, and twenty-one steamers of all sizes, of which five are at Cuba, five others employed as packets between the Peninsula and the Antilles, and four at the Philippine Islands, or on their way there. There are also eight transport ships. This list is exclusive of the coast guard service, which is stated to comprise six steamers, two brig-schooners, five schooners, three mistics, fourteen feluccas of first class, twenty of second class, and sixty-five smaller vessels.

## ITALY.

The late events in France have exercised an important influence on the Roman funds. The loan of 1849 was at 76½ on December 2nd. It is now at above 90. This ascending movement has been a little assisted by the fall of Lord Palmerston. The situation of the finances in the interior is progressively improving. The tax on the trades and professions has been applied nearly throughout the state, as also has been the extraordinary impost of a million scudi on property. The levy of this tax has nowhere met with any obstacles. The customs revenue during the first ten months of 1851 had not only equalled but exceeded the produce of the best years. The adoption of postage stamps will also create an increase of the revenue of that department. The newly created financial committee held its first sitting on January 9th, under the presidency of Cardinal Antonelli, Pro-Secretary of State.

## PIEDMONT.

The *Armoria* of Turin, on the subject of two caricatures published by the *Sorciere* on the 23rd and 24th of December last, says:—

"The first one was entitled 'The Pillory of the Tyrants of the Peoples,' under which is written 'The *Magaz* is preparing for the observance of the law on the Press with regard to the heads of foreign governments.'" It represents five impaled sovereigns. The first one is the Pope, with the following inscription:—"Mattai—the Perjuror, the Bombardier, the Assassin of the d'Ugo Bassi;" the second is the King of Naples, with this inscription, "Bomba the First—the Perjuror, the Assassin of the Bandiera, and the Executioner of the People;" the third is the Grand Duke of Tuscany, with this inscription, "Bombardier of Livourne;" the fourth is the Emperor of Austria, with this inscription, "Cecco-Beppe—the Assassin of Hungary and Italy;" the fifth and last is the Emperor of Russia, with this inscription, "Czar—the Great Assassin of Hungary and Poland." It is seen that,

in that caricature, it is to the mild and magnanimous Pius IX., that the most infamous epithets are given, for they call him at once 'perjuror, bombardier, and assassin. In the other caricature the most august mystery of the Christian faith—the mystery of the Incarnation—is most outrageously profaned. Louis Napoleon is represented as a newly-born child, in a stable; and by his side the Pope, under the form of an ass, warms the infant, whilst the Sardinian Ministers bring in their offerings. . . . . Our pen refuses a more lengthy description of the sacrilegious print. Now, the law which prohibits such abominations in Piedmont is denounced as a liberticide one: and the repressing or permitting them has become a question of Cabinet Council. As for us, we firmly believe that a nation cannot degrade herself more than in making of decency and morality a question of debate."

## SWITZERLAND.

The *National Swiss Gazette* contains the following:—

"On the 5th of December, when intelligence of the events of Paris reached Lausanne, several French refugees drew up an appeal to the French people, and had it printed. The conclusion of that appeal was, 'We are ready to perform our duty as you are ready to perform yours. To arms! *Vive la Republique Democratique et Sociale!*'"

That appeal was signed by A. Rolland, T. Thore, Boichot, L. Avril, Eugene Beyer, E. Kopp, and Ed. Pfieger. On the 26th of December the Federal Council, having heard of that appeal, adopted the following resolution:—

"Whereas the signers of that appeal have attempted to effect an insurrection in France, and have thereby compromised Switzerland; whereas Rolland, Boichot, Avril, Beyer, and Pfieger, were expelled from Switzerland by a Federal resolution on the 24th of March, 1851, the Council decrees: 1st. The above resolution is confirmed. 2d. Kopp and Thore shall likewise be expelled from Switzerland. The present resolution shall be communicated to the government of the canton of Vaud, and the departments of justice and police are charged with its execution.

"G. MUNZINGER, Pres. of the Federal Council.

"Schies, Chancellor of the Confederation."

"The decree," continues the *Gazette*, "will be carried into effect. It is time that Switzerland should cease to be made a cat's paw. She will fulfil her international duties at the same time that she will maintain her independence."

## RUSSIAN POLAND.

Letters from the frontiers of Poland, of the 4th inst., state that since the events in France a strong military force has been brought together on the borders between Russian and Prussian Poland. Eight Russian regiments, both cavalry and artillery, are stationed on the frontiers of the province of Posen, and the authorities are ordered to use the strictest supervision over all travellers entering Russia. The pickets of Cossacks at the first Russian barrier are doubled, and travellers are accompanied by a military escort to the Custom-house station. They there undergo a rigorous examination. The description in the passport is carefully compared with the person bearing it, and in doubtful cases the list of suspected and proscribed individuals is referred to, and a special report made of all travellers proceeding to Warsaw. The high road from Posen to this city is strongly guarded; the little town of Slupce, a mile beyond the frontier, is the last station of the Prussian post, and this place is surrounded by a triple cordon of cavalry. All the Polish hotels are placed under special control. Large magazines of provisions and forage are collected from the surrounding country, and, notwithstanding the good harvest, the export of rye and oats is prohibited. These extraordinary precautions have created among the population, a vast number of whom cannot read, an impression that somewhere in the world a dangerous revolution has broken out, or that a war is impending. Of the march of large bodies of Russian troops from the interior towards the western frontier, described by some of the German journals, nothing was known in Poland itself.

## AUSTRALIA.

**THE GOLD MINES.**—Advices from Hobarttown, Van Diemen's Land, have been received to the 11th of October. The gold discoveries in the neighboring colonies of New South Wales and Port Philip formed the sole topic of attention, and hopes were excited that similar riches might be found somewhere in the island. A reward had been offered for the purpose, and explorations were going on. One person had alleged that he had already procured some small pieces in a district which he was again about to examine. The advances from New South Wales were about a week later than those received in London by the last overland mail. Owing to the steady increase of supplies from Bathurst the price of gold had fallen at Sydney from 65*s.* 6*d.* to 64*s.* per ounce, and the banks had reduced their rate of advance to two pounds per ounce. The total brought by the government escort for the week ending the 25th of September was 6,456 ounces. The waters at Ophir were subsiding, and many who had deserted that district were now returning to it. From the Turon river the accounts continue very favorable. There was a constant influx of new comers, while, on the other hand, very few were leaving from disappointment. Many of the richest spots were found twenty-five feet below the surface. According to the opinion of one of the parties who had been successful there during several weeks the surrounding mountains will afford "sufficient gold to provide a good living for all who choose to work for the next century." Several days' later intelligence has also been received from Geelong, Port Philip. That town is within forty or fifty miles of the extraordinary mines lately discovered, and the following extract of a letter,

dated the 7th of October, from a correspondent of a highly respectable London firm, gives a good idea of the events that are in progress:—"I have just returned from the gold fields. It is great reality. When I left on Saturday there were about 4,000 men on the grounds, an hundred arriving daily. Geelong and Melbourne will be out of town in another ten days. I start a party this week, all hands in the office having a share. To give you some idea of the richness of the field in some parts, I saw a milk-dish, eighteen inches in diameter, filled and washed—the whole time did not exceed half an hour—and it yielded 2½ lbs. of pure gold. The man was offered £100 for the dishful before it was washed. His answer was 'No, I will chance it.' I cannot give a description of the scene—it is impossible, and my own opinion is that the gold fields extend for thirty miles round Ballarat. I believe all the ships at Melbourne and this place have been deserted by their crews."—*Tablet*.

## NATIONAL DEFENCE.

(From the *Spectator*.)

The Caffre war, which Sir Harry Smith was to finish off by his mere appearance, continues, at a cost, says Sir Charles Shaw, of £3,800 a-day. Such is the cost, we presume to this country, for military expenses; there is also the cost of an indefinite but large sum daily to the colonists, their lands being traversed by marauders whom Sir Harry has stirred up but cannot put down. There is, however, one use which, as the *Times* suggests, the Caffre war has furnished us—it has exposed the inefficient state of our infantry, and of our fire-arms, both in construction and practice. "Fiat experimentum!" it is luckily done chiefly at the expense of the Cape. We have, however, had ugly experiences before. The abandonment of Cabul was not quite creditable to our military history; the troops at Canton were furnished with arms so ineffective that they might have been exposed to destruction, had the enemy but conjectured the true state of the case; but it is in Caffria that the worst becomes known: the British soldier cannot compete with a Caffre in ball-practice! The Caffres despise our men—they venture so freely even into the British camps, that they have taken the oxen out of General Somerset's own baggage-waggon. Our men have not the same contempt for the Caffres; they protest against being sent to be "targets for savages," and being "butchered like cattle." The savages treat our men with contemptuous disregard, and come within distances humiliating to our military renown. A battalion of the Rifle Brigade has been sent over to strike terror into the black breast, by shooting a few of our harassing foes; and perhaps we may at last get the better of them. Meanwhile, we have ascertained a momentous fact: it may also be said that, taken in the lump, with his bad equipments and stunted in his practice, the British soldier is not equal to a Caffre!

Now a Caffre, we take it, is not equal to Kabyle; a Kabyle is not equal to a Frenchman; and thus it follows by the rule of proportion that an Englishman is not equal, by at least three degrees, to a Frenchman. An Englishman, who was "equal to three Frenchmen!" The Frenchman, we know, "cannot stand cold steel"—at least so it is said, though he proves tolerably willing to stand it pretty often in the Bois de Boulogne; for the Frenchman adieres, in duelling, to the use of the sword, which the Englishman has discontinued. It would scarcely do to rely upon the cold steel presumption.

When we come to the reasons for the unpleasant disparity between the Englishman and the Caffre, the case looks even more ugly. "An Old Officer of Light Division," writing to the *Times*, ascribes it to the bad construction of the musket; which is without even the improvement of the "double-pipe swivel" lock, that is now generally used by sportsmen in this country, and is as much behind the improved muskets and rifles of France and Prussia as the old flint lock or even matchlock is behind a modern weapon. The musket is a heavy piece of artillery, with ball that does not fit it, and does not strike a broad quiet target once in ten; the ammunition is heavy, adding to the burdens of the soldier, which amount, with knapsack and clothing, to sixty pounds weight. It was long before official men would trust the percussion-lock as a substitute for the flint; they will perhaps introduce the double-pipe swivel, now that the Minié rifle is generally adopted elsewhere; and by the time that some still further improvement on that arm has been effected abroad, the English will have grown used to experiments with the Minié. An Old Officer of Light Division ascribes the inefficiency partly to want of practice—thirty rounds of ammunition being allowed to each soldier for the practice of a year! It is not without more practice that the *Tirailleurs de Vincennes* have attained such skill, that their unerring aim, at the siege of Rome, raised a suspicion of treachery among the defenders themselves,—so certain was the death of an artilleryman who showed his head above the walls; so impossible to account for it, when not a foe could be seen in the ground before him. Sir Charles Shaw relates some striking facts respecting practice:—

"The present French musket 'fusil de munition,' model 1840, is fully as good as the muskets now used in the British army; and I here give the result of 300 shots of model rifle 1846, (with balls before they were made hollow,) and of 300 shots of the musket, (as good as the British,) these 600 shots being fired by the same men at a distance of 656 yards. The targets fired at were five panels, made of boards of poplar-wood, each about an inch thick. The four were placed directly in rear of the first at a distance of a yard from each other. Each panel was 13 feet long and six feet high, thus representing a column of sections composed of six men in front (a man in the ranks occupies 22 inches.) The model rifle, 1846, put in the target out of the 300 shots 127 balls, of which 33 went through the whole of the five panels; and out of the 300 shots fired from the French musket

(equal to the British) only 33 balls struck the target, eight of which only penetrated the first panel and two the second. Thus, the 14,000 French, with their present rifles, can hit a section of six men in front 40 times in 100 shots, while the British muskets, with similar distance and number of shots, can hit only 11 times. But since the late invention of the hollow cylindro-conique balls by Captain Minié, and now used at Vincennes, as precise firing can be done at 1150 yards as I have above stated at 656 yards, and Captain Minié himself will undertake to hit a man at a distance of 1420 yards three times out of five shots. This ball always enters with the point, and if fired at a distance of 1500 yards will penetrate two inches into poplar-wood. Until recently I myself was incredulous; but personal acquaintance with one of the earliest and best instructors in the Ecole de Tir, and I having gone over the practice-ground with him, make me feel quite certain of the truth of what I assert. The ground is marked out for the recruits, beginning at 200 yards from the target, and increasing by 100 yards finishes at 1150 yards. It is found by calculation that at 328 yards a man has the appearance of one-third his height, at 437 yards one-fourth, at 546 one-fifth. By a very simple instrument of the size of a penknife, called a stadia, distances can be measured accurately to 500 yards, and the sights of the rifle can be adjusted to the space indicated by the stadia. I have tried this stadia and measured the distances indicated, and pacing the ground found it correct. At a distance of 765 yards, this rifle would to a certainty knock down a Life-Guardsman in spite of his cuirass, and a front of 10 men, at 1100 yards."

So much for experimental practice: in the previous passage to which he alludes, Sir Charles Shaw states an incident in the field which may astonish some of our friends at the Cape, who find the Caffres and their pranks so troublesome:—

"The loss of officers and men in Algeria was so great, that in 1838 the Duke of Orleans, before going to Africa, organised a battalion of the *Tirailleurs de Vincennes* (then called *Chasseurs d'Afrique*) to take with him. As an instance of the perfection of this weapon even in 1838, it may be mentioned, that the Duke while reconnoitering was annoyed at the pranks played by an Arab Sheik at a distance of about 650 yards. He offered five francs to any soldier who would knock the Arab down. A soldier (M. P.) stepped out of the ranks of the *Chasseurs d'Afrique* and instantly shot this Arab chief through the heart. The arches below the County Fire-office at the Quadrant, in Regent Street, are distant from the Duke of York's pillar about 600 yards, so the officers of the Senior and Junior United Service Clubs may form some idea of the efficacy of these French rifles. But since 1838 many improvements have been made in Mr. Delvigne's rifle and its ammunition. In 1842 there were ten battalions of these *Tirailleurs*, armed with what was then thought the perfection of a rifle; but in 1846 great improvements were made. There are now in the French army a force of 14,000 men armed with this '1846 model rifle'—this unerring and murderous weapon, with its cylindro-conique hollow ball. Orders have lately been given to 'rifle' the common muskets of the French army, and to provide the cylindro-conique hollow ball."

We do not venture to give any opinion on a professional subject; but we say that it is very unpleasant to see statements of this kind made by military men of intelligence and experience, with grounds so intelligible even to unprofessional men. We remember too the apprehensions expressed by the Duke of Wellington at the exposed state of our coasts. It would be most disagreeable news to learn that a great body of Gallic-Algerines were coming over, to visit England like Algeria, London like Rome, with nothing better to meet than the red-coated gentlemen who can't knock down the Caffres.

To meet the exigency, various suggestions have been made, and continue to issue forth in all quarters. Some, we believe, would still rely on an exportation of tracts by the Peace Society; but we doubt whether the number of such persons is still great. Others would augment our Army, in the usual way; and it is observed that the recruiting-sergeants are active; but an addition of raw recruits on the Caffre-life-insurance pattern—of recruits not yet even up to that mark—would not be very encouraging. There is a desire to recruit the Army cheaply and without extending the military spirit; and a correspondent of our own would enlist paupers, and even criminals. He should know that regular workhouse paupers are almost always unfit for military service; and that "able-bodied paupers" are precisely the class that furnish our recruits, if the word, in its most extended signification, be taken to mean the whole peasantry. On the other hand, criminals are precisely the class of whom it would be most desirable to weed the Army; for courage is a quality almost universal, whereas order and discipline are the more difficult qualities to cultivate.

## MR. ROEBUCK AT SHEFFIELD.

Mr. Roebuck, M.P. for Sheffield, addressed his constituents in the Council Hall of that town on Tuesday week.

On the question of toleration and the policy towards Ireland, Mr. Roebuck said that it was quite clear that if the majority of the Irish people were to be represented, the majority of their representatives must be Catholics. As long as any body of religious persons abstained from actually invading the clear rights of their neighbors, he said the government had nothing to do with it. He had no concern whether a gentleman called himself Bishop of Hieropolis, or Sheffield, or Birmingham, and the law of England knew nothing about him in that capacity, and only knew him as John Smith or Thomas Dickens. He, as a legislator, dealt with him only as John Smith and Thomas Dickens. He was afraid of no aggression upon us—not a bit of it. (Laughter.) But he was afraid, in talking about aggression, they might be pursuing their own personal predilections, and while they were putting down what they called an aggression against the state, they might be really affixing a stigma on others which they would not like. In matters of religion a government of this country might be composed of Catholics, Presbyterians, Dissenters, and Churchmen. They would not know anything about the dogmas of any sect. They had nothing to do with them. All they had to do was, that every sect should