

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

**THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE.**—Feb. 15.—In the debate in the Senate on Saturday, Marshal Forey defended the Mexican expedition at great length, and with considerable vehemence. He said, he did not think it could be repeated too often that the French army went to overthrow a government which as Mr. Seward's letter pretended, enjoyed the sympathy and confidence of the Mexican nation. No, the French went to Mexico simply to claim reparation for the spoliation and violence which French settlers on there had suffered at the hands of Juarez. The Mexicans eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them to shake off an oppressive yoke, and overthrow the Presidential chair on which so many tyrants had sat down, to raise in its stead a monarchical throne filled by a wise enlightened prince, who had already bestowed on Mexico useful and liberal institutions, which would effectually promote the prosperity of the country.

The Marquis de Boissy has again celebrated himself by a violent speech directed against England. The speech is all but unreadable; still, the end of the debate, for which we are indebted to the *Post* will be read with interest.

Cardinal de Bonnechose repelled the accusation of a contradiction in the conduct of the clergy towards the Poles and the Irish. The Church was at first favorable to the persecuted Catholic Poles, but when the revolutionary element appeared the clergy withdrew its sympathies. As for the Fenians they were socialists who aspired to the overthrow of all social order, and naturally the Church from the commencement manifested its reprobation.

M. Chateaubriand protested in the name of the country against the language towards England which the Marquis de Boissy had used. The duty of the Government, he said, was to pay no attention to such remarks.

The Duke de Persigny delivered a speech showing that English Parliamentary institutions were unfitted for France. The Emperor, he said, 'has given to France durable liberty, founded upon the solid basis of authority. History shows us various forms of liberty. The Emperor has made the Constitution to contain the principle of liberty, and it depends upon public opinion to develop it.'

M. Rouher said the existing liberties were sufficient, while the Marquis de Boissy maintained the contrary.

M. Rouher criticised the speeches of the Duke de Persigny and Cardinal de Bonnechose.

The Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was finally adopted unanimously.

If Marshal Forey's speech in the Senate on Mexican affairs was prepared with the cognizance, if not the approval of the Emperor, as some pretend to believe, the return of the French army may not take place so soon as expected. Marshal Forey knows the subject well—no man better; and his statements bear the impress of truth.

The Paris *Patrie* says certain proposals have emanated from Maximilian, which renders possible the return of 5,000 troops from Mexico by the end of May.

The *Patrie* gives a report that Seward is about to send a conciliatory despatch to France, intimating the readiness of the United States to proclaim neutrality in Mexico, subject to certain conditions.

**EXTRADITION.**—*Punch* has seized last week in France for the cartoon which showed the Emperor the portrait of a gentleman who was once a refugee in England, and against whom the alteration of the extradition Act would have acted very unfavorably.

**A DINE PORTENT.**—A Paris correspondent of the *Nord*, writing on Wednesday, says:—A terrible rumour was circulating yesterday in the saloons. Crinolines are in danger! Neither the Empress nor her ladies of honor wore it at the dinner on Monday at the Tuilleries. You here see the consequences of that reform at the Court which, if it be continued will completely destroy unhappy crinolines!

## BELGIUM.

**INFIDELITY RAMPANT.**—The Correctional Tribunal of Namur has just had a singular affair to decide. On the 15th of January last, the cure of Arbre presented himself at the house of one of his parishioners M. Collard, jun., stating that he was called upon to receive the confession of his father, and to administer the holy communion. The son refused to accede to this very proper request, affirming that he was master in his own house, and, besides that, his father having recently made confession, had no desire to recommence; that the ceremony might bring on a dangerous crisis; and that there was no danger in waiting. The cure at once brought an action against the young man, on the ground that, in not allowing religious assistance to be given to his father, he had obstructed the free exercise of the Catholic religion. The defendant was acquitted.

## SPAIN.

A correspondent at Madrid, for one of the London daily newspapers, writes as follows:—

'After all you have heard and read these twenty years past about the decay, the exhaustion, the decrepitude of Spain, the ignorance, the laziness, and the superstition of Spaniards—their stupid pride, their ridiculous prejudices—even a couple of days sojourn in the Spanish metropolis would astonish you, as it has astonished me. I was in good case for contrasts. I had had nearly a month's study of Berlin *de die in diem*. I took a bath of high pressure fever heat civilisation in Paris, and then I came on to Madrid. I declare that after the dull, dirty, sour, pragmatic Prussian capital, Queen Isabella's is as Paris compared to Calais. The city is full of life, and movement of busy crowds, of splendid equipages, of oaks, and omnibuses, of horsemen, and footmen, of newboys, and street vendors. Scarce a dead wall but has its 'fungo' of live bookstalls—books in all languages. Scarce a street but is placarded with bookstalls' advertisements, and announcement of day schools for the study of 'Mathematics, Book-keeping, and the French and English languages'—a population furious to read and go to school, cannot I take it, be in a thoroughly hopeless way. The city is well paved, brilliantly lit, well watched, and ten times cleaner than any German city I have ever seen. The tumbler classes smell of garlic, certainly; but what do the English lower classes smell of. Misery, hunger, and gin. After two days tramping about the streets of Madrid, I have not yet met one creature with bare feet. I know I never walk up Oxford street or the Strand, in London, without meeting half a dozen. The miserable sights, of course, are all to come. When I make Seville or Granada, my pen, doubtless, will be dipped in tints other than 'couleur de rose.' But I know from the testimony of many credible witnesses, that the cities on the sea coast are even more bustling and prosperous than Madrid; and from my own observation, limited as it must necessarily be, I can vouch for the Spanish capital showing, outwardly, but very few signs of decay, exhaustion, or decrepitude.

It strikes a stranger, on the contrary, as being what in the Transatlantic vocabulary is termed 'quite a place,' and one of the most 'go-ahead' descriptions. You will pardon my naïve confession of agreeable disappointment; but in common with I dare say, many untravelled Englishmen, I had fancied Madrid to be a rambling, ruinous, filthy, poverty-stricken city, full of professional beggars, and scarcely less beggarly hidalgos—a weltering heap, indeed, of pride, prejudice, dust, rag, fleas, and priestcraft. But the Madrid I have lighted upon is quite another city.

## ITALY.

**PIEDMONT.**—Florence, Feb. 15.—In the Chamber of Deputies to-day notice was given that questions would be addressed to the Government respecting

the general financial condition of the country, the Budget of 1867, the present state of the Public Treasury, the foreign policy of the Ministry, the September Convention, and the relations with Austria.

The Chamber postponed until another sitting their decision as to the day when the discussion on the Ministerial policy should commence.

Prince Napoleon has arrived at Milan.

A despatch from Florence last week states that in consequence of the serious declarations contained in the Spanish red book respecting the policy of Spain towards Italy, the Cabinet of King Victor Emmanuel have forwarded an energetic note to Madrid.

Rome.—The Pope is very unwilling to receive any Russian Minister in his capital in the room of M. de Meyendorff, whose recall has become inevitable. His Holiness, opposing the more conciliatory policy advocated by Cardinal Antonelli, is of opinion that, as a Roman Nuncio is not allowed to reside in St. Petersburg, it is high time that no Russian Minister should be any longer tolerated at Rome. It cannot be denied that the only motive he had for suffering any representative of the Czar to be accredited to his person has ceased to exist. The Polish Church has been deprived of the last remnant of its former independence, and the united Greeks of the Rumanian provinces are being led back to the orthodox establishment by the gentle persuasion of Russian secular authorities. I think I am right in saying that the endeavors made by Prussia to bring about a reconciliation between Russia and Rome are far from being supported by Austria and France—rather the contrary.—*Times*.

The Pontifical Government has declined the services of the Legion Strangers, which was offered by Napoleon, and trusts to the sword of Catholic volunteers for its defence after the retirement of the corps of occupation. A new loan is in negotiation; that offered by Brilanger, of Frankfurt, was rejected, as the terms were too exorbitant, and the new loan will be taken up in Belgium and Holland.

Rome February 6.—It would be difficult to convey to your readers an idea of the interest evinced by all classes of society in Rome in the beautiful national and Catholic ceremony it was our happiness to assist at this morning—that of laying the first stone of the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury. The discourse was delivered by the Holy Father. As you have been long aware, the restoration of the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury has been among the most cherished projects of Pius IX, and the same hand which was stretched forth to raise England to her normal condition of constituted hierarchy in 1850, has to-day laid the first stone of that edifice which, dedicated to the martyr prelate of the Medieval Church of our Fathers, is the best and surest type of the risen faith in our native land.

At eleven o'clock the grounding of arms in the corridor, and a loud *Evviva* under the windows announced the Pope's arrival. His Holiness was accompanied by Mgr. Ricci and Pacca, and escorted by the Noble Guard, the commandant of the Swiss Guard.

His Holiness took a rapid and evidently a delighted survey of the preparation and ascended his throne where he rested, and then leaving it he sprinkled the cross with holy water, the Sixtine choir chanting the Psalm 'Quam Delecta' and proceeded to the blessing of the stone, marking it on every side with the sign of the cross.

He then knelt at the faldstool prepared for him opposite the cross of erection, and the Litany of the Saints was chanted by the choir, the college, the clergy, and many of the laity present uniting in the responses.

The Psalm 'Nisi Dominus' was then sung, while the Pope, taking the casket containing the charter and plans of the church, which had been sealed up with the Pontifical seal at the Vatican the night before, enclosed it in the cavity of the foundation-stone, and gradually and slowly lowered it by the silk cordage or pulley to its place, forty feet below the level of the church. The masons placed at the buttress acknowledged its arrival with a loud *Deo gratias*, and the work was complete.

The Pope then sprinkled the foundations of the church, going processionally round the building, the students of the English and Pio Colleges bearing the cross, and the choir singing the psalms, 'Fundamenta ejus' during the second, and 'Latus sum' in the third part of the aspersion and finally going back to the cross and kneeling before it. His Holiness intoned the first words of the 'Veni Creator Spiritus,' which was taken up by the choir of the Sixtine and devoutly joined in by all the clergy present.

The Pope then ascended his throne, and amid breathless silence spoke as follows:—

'England! that country so celebrated for its commerce, England! that land so praised for its industry, England! whose provinces like the scattered members of a great body cover so large a space on the surface of the globe. England! Queen of the Seas. Ah! how far grander and higher a title did she once enjoy when men named her the Land of Saints—a title as superior to those which I have enumerated, as spirit is to matter, as Heaven to earth.

'But these saints have remembered their native country, and among them, he to whom this church is about to be dedicated, the great St. Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, who rather than yield to the impious efforts of the great ones of the earth, feared not to sacrifice his liberty and his life.

'He lives now in the bosom of God! Thomas, in the enjoyment of the Beatific vision has seen that he possessed in Rome a church poor and naked, reduced to the proportions of a chapel. He has seen that these walls barely afforded accommodation to the young Levites destined to revive the faith in the Land of Saints, that they were too narrow for them to worship in, and he has exclaimed with the prophet Isaiah:—

'And his voice has carried God's blessing with it, and it has penetrated to the hearts of hundreds of Englishmen who will not leave imperfect this their pious work.

'We must not however be contented with recalling the glory of St. Thomas. We must rather admire God's marvellous work among souls in England. Souls which furnish a subject of wonder to the predominant Church of the country, the Church established by law, the Protestant Church. Well may we say with the Prophet 'Whence came to me sons whom I have not brought forth for I am barren and cannot multiply.

'And what, in fact, has been the means used, by the Established Church to increase her children.—The diffusion of bibles, of bibles corrupted to his passions or his caprice.

Here the Pope traced a rapid picture of the religious destitution of England in the last century, and drew an affecting parallel between its state and the events which are now taking place in Italy.—

'The priests, the spouses of Christ, the cenobites despoiled, exiled and dispersed, could no longer in England sing the praises of God in their profaned temples. The sanctuary was desolate, and they could not sing the song of Zion in a strange land.—It seemed as if God had forgotten his children.

'But not a mother may sooner forget the fruit of her womb, than God may forget the souls he has created. And behold in England churches are arising everywhere. Cloisters and schools, and hospices, and pious establishments of every kind are multiplying, and better than all we see countless privileged souls, endowed with all natural virtues returning to the true faith, embracing unity and submitting to authority.

'And I repeat to you that they who refuse to have recourse to the authority of the Church wander into yet deeper mazes of obliquity. The authority of the Church is here, and it is here they must all seek it.'

'I salute thee O Holy Church, Catholic, Apostolic and Roman, thou of whom I am the unworthy Vicar and the supreme head, and I rejoice with thee over thy sons spread over all the countries of the earth in spite of the power of thy enemies. O Holy Church may all who know thee not be withered beneath thy shadow, and thou, O Christ, send down thy holy spirit that all may be united in thee.

'And you who hear me, may you be as the stones of the sanctuary, spiritual stones destined to form, in faith and charity, the Church of Jesus Christ. Esteem yourselves happy at being called the stones of the Church Militant, that you may become those of the Church Triumphant, and support patiently the sorrows, the mortifications, which are as the blows of the hammer of the Divine Architect, who knows in His mercy what form, what degree of polish the spiritual stones of His sanctuary need before they are placed there for ever.'

'I confirm all these truths, and I pray God to bless you in your souls and in your families. May He increase in you the strength and spirit of Catholic faith. May He comfort you in life, and in your last hour may He renew the fulness of His blessing on all who pronounce with faith the holy name of Jesus.'

The invocation 'Deus in Adjutorium' was then sung, and the Ninth, stretching forth his arms and raising his eyes to Heaven, gave the apostolical benediction to all present in the usual form, but with even more than usual feeling. Every knee was bent, and when we rose we felt that a saint had spoken, and that his words could not but bring forth ample fruit in the minds of the hearers, and of thousands far away, to whom Peter's blessing is never given in vain. It is no longer in the power of any among us to doubt as to the greatness or the utility of this great undertaking, and the God speed given us this morning will carry us on joyfully to its accomplishment. Let us hope in time for a second ceremony—that of the solemn consecration—under the present pontificate.

**KINGDOM OF NAPLES.**—With regard to brigandage, we have continual complaints from the southern provinces, in spite of the repeatedly announced successes of the troops and the voluntary submission of many marauders. On the night of the 26th ult. a detachment of three gendarmes and 23 soldiers, commanded by Captain Felici, waited in ambuscade near the mill of San Stefano, in the territory of Yeri, or four hours. Towards 10 p.m. a band of brigands was seen to approach but the soldiers must have been either in too great a hurry or in too great alarm to secure success, for instead of capturing the whole band, they only killed one brigand in the exchange of volleys which took place, his companions escaping unhurt. The dead man was found to be armed with a double-barrelled pistol. On the 28th ult. the gendarmery of Yeri arrested a brigand of Fucco's band, named Donato Caschera.—*Cor. of Post*.

The *Osservatore Romano* publishes the following statement respecting the treatment of the Comte de Christen by the Liberal government of Victor Emmanuel. The only crime laid to the charge of the Comte was his loyalty, and fidelity to his legitimate sovereign the King of Naples:—

The Comte de Christen has recently published in Paris a diary of his captivity, followed by a most interesting narrative of his campaign in the Abruzzi.

His arrest in Naples, his trial, and his condemnation to the galleys are events registered in contemporary history. But the particulars have till now remained unknown, and the work is on this account one of high importance. We will not stop to speak of his campaign in the Abruzzi, save to say that a fact most honorable to him has been, through overstrained modesty, passed over in silence, namely, the offer we know to have been made to him of a general's rank in the service of Piedmont if he would have deserted and induced others to desert the banner of Francis the Second.

We will only devote a few words to that part of the work which the author terms, 'A diary of my Captivity.' These pages written day by day in the prison itself, are instructive enough as to the realities of our times. We learn from them that the premature imprisonment of the Comte de Christen lasted more than ten months, and that his condemnation was based on the contradictory testimony of two Neapolitan carabinieri, and that he, as well as the Cavalier Orsiccio, De Luca, and others were afterwards arraigned solely for a political offence, thrown into the galleys of Pozzuoli among robbers and murderers.

The handcuffs in which they were placed on their transfer to the Bagnes were tightened with such violence that blood oozed from their wrists. In the galleys they were loaded with chains weighing 50 lbs. each. Their hair and moustaches were shaved, and they were clothed in the red uniform of convicts. Lord Henry Gordon Lennox having visited the galleys of Nisida, to which M. De Christen and his companions had been transported with fresh acts of cruelty, recoiled in horror at the spectacle afforded by their treatment. In consequence of this visit probably some little amelioration took place in their treatment, and finally an order from General Lamarmora ordered them to be relieved of their chains and convict's dress, and transferred to St. Elmo, but their treatment when there was such that they were driven to ask of the commandant of the fort, that they might be sent back to the galleys. The iron constitution of the Comte de Christen and his indomitable energy carried him through the hardships to which he was subjected, but Orsiccio fell seriously ill. The doctor called in prescribed an amelioration of their treatment, but the instructions of General Lamarmora were inexorable; the exercise ordered by the physician, and permitted in the first instance, was suppressed in consequence, and it was forbidden to stir their dungeon or to perform the most necessary acts of cleanliness. The dirt was left in the corner of the cell, and they were infested with the most loathsome insects of every kind.

From this prison of detention they were removed to another of 'relegation' in the fortress of Gavi, a little town of U; per Italy, in the province of Noli, where by the confession of the *employes*, the deaths among the prisoners were on an annual average of from 10 to 15 per cent! The cell in which M. De Christen was confined was so dark that even in the day he was obliged to burn a smoky lamp. Three conduits from a cistern led on to the roof of this wretched hole, which was in every way damp and unhealthy. His companion was treated in a similar way, so much so that in consequence of the foul air they woke every morning with violent pains in their heads.

A visit paid by an *attache* of the English Embassy at Turin to Mr. Bishop, one of M. De Christen's fellow prisoners, was the cause of some little amendment in their treatment, of so slight a nature that the prisoners were desirous of returning to the galleys.

From this prison the Comte de Christen and his companions were finally transported to the fortress of Alessandria, where their treatment was more humane, and where two months after they obtained an amnesty from the king, evidently wrung from him by the continual reclamations of their friends, supported by the press and by public opinion.

The Comte de Christen, however, might long before have effected his liberation if he had consented to make use of the meditations offered in a very high quarter, he had only to say one word to have obtained it. But the haughty energy of his character, and his high sense of political honour, forbade him to yield, or to lead to a demand which might have been held as justifying his iniquitous trial. In the work before us, he has suppressed all mention of the liberty offered to him on various occasions on those conditions, and we cannot render too high a testimony to his generous qualities.

Another point worthy of the highest admiration is the dignified tone, which is throughout maintained in his narrative of the barbarous treatment he underwent. Not one word of reproach does he give vent to towards the inhuman Government which inflicted them, nor towards the officials who were the instruments of its orders. Thus whenever he met with kindness and consideration he has never failed to publish it with praise and gratitude.

These are so many further marks of truth, which give an added importance to this publication, which in our eyes needs only one condition to render it perfect, and that is that the author has not dedicated it to Mr. Gladstone.

Therefore supplying this forgetfulness on the part of the Comte de Christen, we invite Mr. Gladstone to read this work, to meditate on it, and to compare it with the testimony of his countrymen Mr. Bishop, Lord Henry Lennox, and others. His exquisite sense of humanity we have no doubt will induce him to accede to our request, and we trust that he will not deprive us of his opinion as to the comparative merits of the Neapolitan prisons under the old regime, and those under the administration of the present Italian government.

## AUSTRIA.

It is stated that recruiting in Austria, to fill up the Austrian corps in Mexico, will commence in a few days.

Austria, without recognizing the kingdom of Italy, is negotiating for the improvement of Consular and Commercial relations between the two countries.

The reception of the Emperor and Empress of Austria in Hungary, was cordial in the extreme, and the warmth of the first meeting has been increased by intercourse. Upon all public occasions, the Emperor and Empress express themselves in the Hungarian language, which the Empress has learned to pronounce with much ease and accuracy, and so gratified have they been by the evidence of Hungarian loyalty and affection, which they see on every side and at every turn, that their children have been removed from Vienna to Buda to the great delight of the Magyars. A great difficulty in the path of peace has been removed by the decision of the Croatian Diet to unite the Banat once more to the Kingdom of Hungary; and on the whole, the prospects of a thorough reconciliation between the Hungarians and their liberal and really constitutional Sovereign, are becoming brighter. The chief obstacle is the demand of the Hungarians for a separate and independent Ministry; but we trust that frankness, cordiality, and good sense on both sides, will remove this stumbling block also.—*Weekly Register*.

**A DARING EXPLOIT.**—Among the incidents that occurred in the war in Spain, the following will, no doubt, surprise the reader:—In Picton's division in the Tyne, there was an Irishman of extraordinary courage, by name O'Keefe, who was addicted to all sorts of irregularities, which brought him more than once to the halberds, but who performed a feat worthy of the heroes of antiquity. Near the pass of Roncesvalles the French occupied a peak or impregnable mountain called the Boar's Head, at the top of which a company of the enemy was posted. To drive them away appeared impossible; Picton thought so, and determined to invest this natural fort, to prevent useless bloodshed. During a reconnaissance the General said, in a loud voice, which was overheard by the men below, that the French could, if they pleased, pelt us away with stones from the top of the mountain. O'Keefe stepped up, touched his cap, and addressed Sir T. Picton thus:—'If your honour chooses I will take the hill alone.' This speech astonished all who heard it; but not the General, who had frequently witnessed the daring and intrepidity of O'Keefe. 'If you do so,' replied Sir Thomas, 'I will report it to Lord Wellington and I promise you your discharge, with a shilling a day for life.' O'Keefe stole away, having whispered to the commanding officer of his company to follow him, and climbed up the goat path, the English sentinels firing at him, thinking he was a deserter to the enemy. O'Keefe having entered the stronghold of the French, was received with open arms as a deserter. He then began to play his part by showing signs of imbecility, laughing, dancing, singing, &c.; so that the enemy thought that they had actually received a madman instead of a deserter, and told him to decamp, as there was not food enough there to feed him. During this time our men quickly got up to the summit, where they found O'Keefe occupying the attention of the enemy. They rushed in and took possession of the stronghold without losing a man. O'Keefe (I believe that was his name) received for this act of daring the nomination of one of the wardens of the Tower from the Duke of Wellington.—*Captain Gro-now's Last Recollections*.

**COMPENSATION.**—I know not how men without religion get along in the world. It must not only be hard, but hopeless. Continually there are sorrows for which the earth has no recompense.—Here is one born so that education is impossible; want makes him a clown. This girl is a victim of circumstances; the world's hardness makes her short life one long blush of infamy. The powers of human nature were born in her, she was made for heaven; but the vices of society nipped them in the bud, and made her a harlot. Earth has no recompense. What compensation is there to the slave for his bondage? to the patriot who dies, and sees Turkey, Italy, Hungary, France, die with him? Earth answers not. What compensation is there for the blind? Earth has none to show. What for the deaf? The world gives no answer. What for the fool? Wisdom knows it not. The compensation, the joy of their discipline, must come in the eternal world. I know not how; the fact I am sure of. That one and one makes two, is not clear to me. I am not more certain of my own existence. It follows from God's infinity.

God left us free a little, one hand winged with freedom, the other bound with fate.—But his infinite Providence, infinite love, must overrule the world that no man shall suffer absolute ill. What is not compensated now, hereafter God himself will pay. Our next condition must depend, not on our own circumstances here, not on the accidental virtue or vice which these circumstances make, but on the use ourselves have made of our gift and our opportunity and though the little we gain may be so little that men despise it and count it vile, God treasures it up and will bless us for that. Few men know how much may be done in the midst of circumstances that seem evil. We may make a minimum of sorrow out of a maximum of adverse conditions; yes, we may get a maximum of human felicity out of a minimum of opportunity and gift. It is an immense advantage to know the soul's immortality, and be sure of eternal life; to know the infinite perfection of God and be certain that the Great Mother folds us in her arms and will bless us forever. The greatest practical thing is to get the discipline out of the world, its joy and its sorrow. It is a hard world, is it? One day we shall thank God for its hardness, and bless him for its sorrow.

Every morning we enter upon a new day which carries yet unknown future in its bosom. Thoughts may be born to-day which may never expire. Hopes may be excited which may never be extinguished; and acts may be performed to-day, the consequences of which cannot be realized till that day when 'the secrets of all hearts shall be made known.'

Imaginary evils, to a sensitive mind, are often more perplexing than real ones.

The affectation of merit is oftener rewarded than merit itself.

A man of sense may love like a madman, but never like a fool.

Advice is like snow, the softer it falls the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind.

**THE FIFTH CAVE.**—At the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh on Tuesday evening, Lord Neaves, presiding, Professor Simpson gave an account of the visits paid by him last summer, along with other eminent Scottish antiquaries, to the caves on the coast of Fifehire, at East Wemyss. There were, he said, eight or nine of these caves, and on the walls of most of them they had found sculptured symbols almost identical with those found upon the sculptured stones of Scotland. These sculptured stones were found along the east coast, running northwards from Fife, only two having been discovered south of the Forth. They were, for the most part monolithic, and the symbols had hitherto been supposed to possess a sepulchral character, an idea which was not, he thought, consistent with the circumstances that the very same emblems were now found inside these caves, which were the abode of man in his archaic condition. In these caves they found representations of the elephant, the horse, the dog, with collar round his neck, exactly like those found in the sculptured stones. They had also the bear, the deer, the swan, the peacock, the fish, the serpent; also the comb-and-mirror, the spectacle ornament, the horseshoe, &c. Mr. Stuart discovered something like a human figure in one of the caves, provided, as Lord Mombodo would have our ancestors, with tails, and perhaps constituting the missing link for which the Darwinians were searching. They had in some cases the symbols of Christianity. As to the age of these stones, he believed M. Stuart would throw great light on that point in his forthcoming volume; but it was a remarkable circumstance that these symbols, first found on the sculptured stones, and now on these caves, had not hitherto been discovered in the sculptured stones of any other country, so far as they had learnt. Some of them were evidently pre-Roman while the series continued down to the time of Christianity. The cave sculptures, he had no doubt, were coeval with the monoliths. They found crosses on them in considerable numbers, sometimes the cross standing on a tripod, and in one case they had the cross and tripod inverted. For himself, he had come to no conclusion as to what was the purpose of these carvings, for he thought their supposed sepulchral character was taken away by the position in which they were found. As Dr. Mitchell had found, there were even yet families in Scotland who lived in caves, on the Galloway coast, and they had recently had the description of the district of Charteris, in France, where about 150,000 people still lived in caves. No doubt caves formed a very good shelter for man in his rude state—much better, perhaps, than anything he could construct for himself. In some of these caves had been found the stone weapons in use before man had metallic tools to work with, and at the time when animals which now had no existence were walking over France and England in great abundance. It was a curious circumstance that in Greyfriars-fields, now the very centre of London, there had lately been discovered the skeleton of an elephant, and near it a flint hatchet of the same form that was found on the course of the French rivers, the Saone and Loire, showing that over the site on which London now stands the early Briton had hunted the elephant, and at a time when the British lion was a reality and not a myth. When they looked into this subject it seemed that they were only at the beginning of it. They must yet examine the whole surface of many caves in this and other countries to see if man had left any such traces as those they had discovered in the caves of Fifehire. Lord Neaves expressed the thanks of the society to Professor Simpson. He said he felt it of great importance that there should be accurate observation of the facts regarding these remarkable symbols, of which the secret yet remained to be discovered. How far any of the symbols they had met with were to be considered as Pictish was a question of some difficulty. The Pictishians had certainly visited the southern parts of England; but the subject was involved in great obscurity, and they ought gladly to receive all who contributed to the ascertained facts. In the present instance they felt under the greatest obligations to Professor Simpson and the ardent antiquaries with whom he had been associated in his inquiries.

The Great Eastern steamship is being made ready for the next great effort, and it is believed that before the summer of this year crosses a double swing for the mermaids, as Mr. *Punch* puts it, will be successfully laid across the Atlantic.

**MIKE NUGENT IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.**—About forty years ago, when the House of Lords had assembled on the opening of Parliament, just as the booming of the cannon announced the approach of George IV., an eccentric Irish reporter named Mike Nugent, addressing himself to the Lord Chancellor said, in mellifluous brogue, 'Mr. Chairman, will you favour the company with a song?' A sentiment of astonishment prevailed the House; there were also some slight manifestations of merriment; but what must have been their surprise when the doubtful Hibernian, in stentorian accents, and with apparent indignation far what he regarded as unpardonable delay repeated his indecorous demand! The Sergeant at Arms at once made his way to the locality from whence the unseemly request proceeded. At this time the reporter became conscious of his position, and, as the dreadful functionary approached, sharply rebuked an unoffending Quaker behind him for not attending himself from a house whose ceremonies he could not understand and whose dignity he could not reverence. The Quaker was immediately removed to the cellar, and the factious Nugent remained unpunished. From subsequent explanations it appeared that Mr. Nugent had spent the previous night at a 'free and easy,' that he arrived early at the House of Lords and fell asleep. The sound of the guns announcing the arrival of the King awoke him, and believing himself still among his nocturnal companions, the result was as above described.—*Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*.

The stomach prepares the elements of the bile and the blood; and if it does the work feebly and imperfectly, Liver Disease is the certain result. As soon, therefore, as any affection of the Liver is perceived, we may be sure that the digestive organs are out of order. The first thing to be done is to administer a specific which will act directly upon the stomach—the mainspring of the animal mechanism. For this purpose we can recommend *Rockland's German Bitter*, prepared by Dr. C. M. Jackson, for Jones & Evans, Philadelphia. Acting as an alterative and a tonic, it strengthens the digestion, changes the condition of the blood, and thereby gives regularity to the bowels.

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