

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Pope's encyclical letter was read on Sunday, 12th ult., in all the churches of France. In those of Marseilles special prayers were recited, and 13,000 printed copies of them distributed to the congregation.

The tide of pamphlets on Italy and the Papacy still rolls on. Four were issued on Saturday by Dentu, not to speak of the many given to the world by other publishers of less note. One of these has a quality which, under present circumstances, must especially recommend it to those who have to select from the bewildering abundance—this *embarrai de richesses*. It consists of only eight pages. It is entitled "Un Mot aux 45 Brochures." The anonymous writer regards all his fellow-pamphleteers with an air of superiority. He admits the ingenuity and talent of some, the malicious wit of a few, and the good intentions of others, but he says "they are all wanting in basis—they are only founded on hypothesis; there is not one who touches the reality, who designs to occupy himself with facts."

From all this—petitions to the Senate, masses and prayers offered up in every church throughout France day after day [as if Heaven's protection were sought against a coming pestilence], pamphlets violent or insidious on the one hand, and on the other affecting to ignore the hand that fabricated the missile which a month or two ago fell like a fulminating bomb among the public—you may judge of the intensity which the Italian, or rather the Roman question is assuming.—*Times's cor.*

The *Moniteur* publishes a decree of the Emperor suppressing the *Bretagne*, published at St. Brieux.

The report of M. Billault, the Minister of the Interior, which precedes the decree, mentions, as reason for the suppression, the publication of an address of three deputies to the Emperor, which, by lamenting that the state of uncertainty being prolonged would separate all sincere Catholics from the cause of the Emperor, is a sort of protest against the policy of the Government as regards the Roman question.

The journal *Bretagne*, in publishing this address, added—The only reply given to this address was the suppression of the *Univers*.

The Minister in his report expresses a belief that, if the population were consulted, they would separate themselves from the three deputies, and not from the cause of the Emperor.

"It is impossible," says the Minister, "to tolerate the open and almost official spread of internal division in the midst of the inhabitants of Bretagne, who are known to be so religious and so devoted to the Emperor. Attempts are made to abuse their faith and to present as an enemy of the temporal power, and almost of the Holy Father himself, the Prince who has given to Rome the forces to protect His Holiness."

The SAVOY QUESTION.—The Savoy question seems to be as puzzling for the Government as for the public. Orders were given yesterday morning to the Paris papers not to allude any more to the annexation of that country to France; and in the afternoon counter orders were given, and the papers instructed to write it up as before.—*Times's Letter from Paris.*

Though there is abundant reason to believe that the agreement transferring Savoy to France under certain conditions, which don't appear to have been fulfilled, was deliberately entered into by Sardinia some time previous to the marriage of Prince Napoleon with the daughter of Victor Emmanuel, it is looked upon as certain in well-informed quarters that a rather serious difficulty has arisen between the Emperor and his transalpine friend.

A few days ago, M. James Fazy, the Geneva demagogue, publicly said that the formal cession of Savoy to France had "unfortunately" been signed by King Victor Emmanuel on the 27th of January last.

The ship *Luna*, from Harre, bound to New Orleans, was wrecked on the French coast near Cherbourg. She had on board 55 passengers and 22 of a crew, of whom only two were saved. The ship is a total loss.

PARIS, 16th Feb., 1860.—The absence of real freedom and liberty of speech and action in this country is concealed under such gorgeous outward trappings, and often by such plausible pretensions to the enjoyment of those very privileges which have no existence, that one is apt, at intervals, when the government has no particular motive for the display of its extraordinary powers, or when the popular and the Imperial will—as in the case of the Savoy question for instance—run in perfect harmony together—to become blind to the deficiency, and even fancy that one's national prejudice against certain forms of government may have warped one's judgment and induced one to regard them as worse than they really are. There is a swaggering form of speech affected in the semi-official journals which sometimes cheats one into the stumbling belief of the genuineness of their laudations; while on the contrary the tone of the general press is pitched at so low a key as to be altogether unavailing to arouse one from these agreeable but deceitful hallucinations. It is only when some new and startling effect is exhibited of the irresistible authority with which the executive is really armed, that the momentary decision passes and one again congratulates himself upon being neither a subject nor citizen of a state which "makes war for an idea" and is the champion of all "liberties" save its own.

I could not help indulging in some such cogitations on the above when I cast my eyes on the *Moniteur* of this morning and found there another of these "Reports" to the Emperor by which M. Billault is signalling his reign as the Minister of the Interior. The Minister informs his master that the journal *La Bretagne*, a west country newspaper, as its name imports and one, I believe, of great respectability—had had the audacity to lay the following statement before its readers:—"At the moment," it said, "when an inexplicable revulsion of opinion in the highest regions of power spread alarm and consternation through all Catholic hearts several deputies, hitherto sincerely devoted to the imperial dynasty and policy spontaneously assembled at Paris from the remotest points of France and concerted among themselves as to the means of bringing the truth to the foot of the throne." The result of their deliberations, the *Bretagne* went on to say, was an "address," signed by three members of the Corps Legislatif, containing a sort of protest against the policy of the Emperor on the Roman question, and concluding by these words: "It is for the sake of yourself, Sire, and of your dynasty that we deplore the uncertainty which reigns at the moment, and which by being prolonged must separate from you all sincere Catholics." Finally, *La Bretagne* added:—"The only answer which the parties who signed the above address have ever received has been the suppression of the *Univers*: their uncertainty has been put an end to."

Such was the bill of indictment against the *Bretagne*; and not detecting anything remarkably hein-

ous in the accusations themselves, I cast my eye rapidly down the Report, expecting every moment to find it revealed that the whole story was a base fabrication; that no such meeting of deputies, or address or protest had ever been thought of or dreamt of, and that that was the gist of the offense which had drawn down the ministerial reputation. But no—I found no such assertion, nor any such denial of the facts stated, as I anticipated; and I arrived at the end of the document only to discover that, for the few lines quoted above, *La Bretagne* was suppressed accordingly by an imperial decree under the Emperor's own hand!

Now I venture very humbly to submit that such an act as the above is an example of rash tyranny and of the most odious despotism; and reveals the ulcer which lies beneath all the splendor of this brilliant country in all its hideousness. Why, the Bishop of Orleans has published twice as much with impunity in his letters and pamphlets! So that to the hideousness of this act is added its cowardliness, inasmuch as it strikes a puny opponent when a stronger one is allowed to go scatheless. And does the Emperor really think that he will regain the "Catholic hearts" which he is asserted to have lost by such proceedings as these? The mode which he adopts to do so, reminds me of the story told in the amusing memoirs of the Court of Frederic II. of Prussia, of whom his subjects were greatly afraid, but still more afraid to exhibit their fears. Walking out one day, as he was used to do, the King was seen approaching by a tailor, who forthwith took to his heels. But his Majesty had espied him, and made chase, greatly offended at the display of this want of confidence. Overtaking his victim, the monarch angrily demanded:—"Why did you run away, sir?" "I was afraid," said the tailor. "But I forbid you to be afraid," cried Frederic; "I insist upon your loving me!"—Alas! there are feelings which come not "upon compulsion" and laugh at the command of kings!

The suppression of *La Bretagne* is not the only act of rigor against the press which has signalized the past week. Within the last few days *La Presse* has received a first, and the *Gazette de France* a second "warning," which places the latter journal on the very brink of dissolution. I need hardly remark how serious an affair to those concerned is the sudden "suppression" of a journal. That of the *Univers* cost M. Tacconet, its sole proprietor, a loss of 500,000 francs at which the property was valued. Its chief editor, Mr. Veillot, found himself at once minus 25,000 francs per annum, and a large staff of more humble employees were at once thrown out of their daily bread by a stroke of the imperial and ministerial pens. The suppression of *La Bretagne* in a prominent town, where employment is obtained with greater difficulty, though less costly, perhaps, must create greater suffering.

La Presse was warned, seemingly, for no other cause than declaring that the "immense majority" asserted to exist in Savoy in favor of annexation was no where to be found; at least it can discover nothing else in the incriminated article which can at all account for such a visitation. The offence of the *Gazette* was that it traversed the Concordat, and did not treat the great act of Napoleon I. with sufficient respect.

The *Siecle* is preparing to institute a criminal prosecution against M. de Montaigne Dupalou, Bishop of Orleans, for defamation, in having designated the writers in that journal as "des gens sans honneur." This his "Grandeur" is in a fair way of being brought to trial in a public court, to the great scandal of the Catholic world. It is said that Jules Favre, the well known republican lawyer, is retained against him, and that Mr. Berryer, the legitimist advocate, will defend the Bishop.—*Correspondent of the N.Y. Journal of Commerce.*

ITALY.

The *Times* correspondent, writing from Florence, says:—

"I am able to give you some information about the arrangement which was agreed upon at Turin between the Minister President and the Governor of the Emilia. This latter province is to choose its representatives, observing as rigorously as possible the dispositions of the Piedmontese electoral law. The deputies thus elected will assemble and give their vote for or against the annexation. If, as it is confidently expected, the vote should be for the first alternative, they are to transfer their meetings to Turin, and ask to be admitted into the national Parliament, which will be assembled about that time—Ricasoli has not been at Turin, but the *entente* with the Tuscan Government is not the less complete for that. M. Mussari, formerly director of the official *Gazette*, was sent a few days ago to Florence, to come to an understanding with the Tuscan Government, which is to act in precisely the same manner.

Since the propositions were made by England the rumors of an intention on the part of the Sardinian Government to take immediate possession of Central Italy have died away. While things are going on so smoothly, all extra exertion and risk would be useless, if not detrimental.

From the same source we glean some valuable information as to the progress of the Protestant Faith in Italy:—

I find it necessary once more to return to the subject of the Tuscan Evangelicals. The little congregation in Piazza Barbano is still flourishing, though its meetings are not only held with closed doors, but the police have directed the brethren to have a knocker to those doors, so that strangers going for admittance must comply with the words of the precept, "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." I had the curiosity to attend one of the evening meetings, and heard from one of the "Evangelists" or preachers, a sermon which struck me as being certainly not above the average of the discourses one hears on a fine summer afternoon under a broad canopy horse-chestnut tree in Regent's Park from some of those unlicensed orators whom the police bid to "move on." I have been assured, however, that the orators who hold forth at the same place on other evenings, especially Barsali the carpenter, and Fabroni, also a working man, are better worth hearing. Besides this sect, which is perfectly nameless, headless, and, above all things, priestless, we have a Waldensian congregation meeting every Sunday at the Swiss and Scotch Presbyterian Chapel. These latter are pure Calvinists. The former have adopted the forms, if not the dogmas, of the Plymouth Brethren, and are charged by their ill-wishers with entertaining Socialist notions.

Besides these little communities, whose branches now spread all over Tuscany and Romagna, we have sanguine people from England eager to introduce religious freedom in these districts—in fact, long before it can be firmly established by right. A gentleman connected with the Irvingites, or New Lights, or "Catholic Apostolic," as they call themselves, has lately been applying to the Minister of Public Worship and the Prefect of Police for permission to perform Divine service in a private apartment. He is to be assisted by some Italians, chiefly converted priests. These gentlemen seemed convinced that a sect like that of Gordon-square community, which still preserves not a little of the pomp and circumstance of the Roman Church, may attract the Italians—a people essentially artistic and fond of show and ceremony—better than the dry and stiff manner of worship of rigid Calvinism, or than the somewhat anarchic assemblage of popular Evangelism. The Evangelists on the contrary, hold that the Italians must be and are so utterly sick of their priests that nothing is likely to take with them so soon as a community spurning all hierarchy; they refer their opponents to the statutes of the Lutheran Reformation when in Italy, and in Tuscany especially, sprang up the Socii, the Ochini, the Peter Martyrs, the Ornesecchi, and all the boldest and most uncompromising innovators. With a people of strong feelings, they say, one extreme is most easily cured by the

opposite extreme. It is, in my own private opinion, however, that the extreme to which the Italians will prove to be prone, in the event of their being disgusted with their national Church, is a denial of all religion; and that the efforts of all these well meaning missionaries are likely to founder against that indifference, that spiritual death, which drives the most persevering theological instructors to despair.

Rome.—Advices inform us that the Papal Government is continuing its preparations for defence, and is perfectly confident of being able to maintain order under any contingency that could arise from merely Italian agencies of whatever character they may be. The *Times* in a leading article professes itself weary (as who is not?) of Italian affairs. The weariness of our contemporary is that we suspect which arises from deferred hope. The *Times* proposes that Italy shall be left to its own internal struggles. Such a course is for a hundred reasons impossible, but were it adopted the result would be certain enough. The existing situation compels a calculation of the probable issue of an appeal to force. The *Morning Chronicle*, the London French Imperial organ, assures us that Naples and Rome together can muster forces not much short of one hundred thousand good troops and their numbers are daily increasing. The insurgent provinces have not ventured to publish any official statement of the military strength at their disposal, but the number cannot be formidable, or we should not have silence on the point. Their want of an experienced commander (since Garibaldi's secession), and of efficient officers, is matter of notoriety. Sardinia's forces are great upon paper, but last spring the figures (says the *Chronicle*) proved delusive. On the eve of the war, she promised one hundred and fifty thousand men to co-operate with France, but when the day of trial came, barely forty thousand men were found to be available for service. The project of the *Tuizione Armata*, a plan similar to our own Volunteer Rifle movement, was (for reasons known to our Foreign Secretary) nipped in the bud by the interference of the English Minister. Heaven forbid that civil war should rage in Italy! But if the dire necessity must come—and the probabilities daily gather strength—the friends of legitimacy and of right are not those who need to regard the issue with alarm, provided only the much-valued principle of non-intervention be loyally adhered to.—*Weekly Register.*

M. Veillot, the late editor of *L'Univers*, has arrived in the Eternal City. By a singular coincidence, he sailed from Marseilles in a vessel called *The Vatican*. A foreign paper states that for many days prior to his departure the office of *L'Univers* was besieged by ecclesiastics and persons of the superior classes, who called to testify their respect. So numerous were the visitors, that the carriages had to file off, the visiting cards were sent in shoals, and continued to pour in from the provinces and from abroad, with letters, addresses, presents, &c. Several have offered large sums of money to M. Veillot. The best part of it is that men of opinions wholly different from that of the suppressed journal testified their hearty good-will on this occasion. "Amongst Catholics," says our informant, "there is now but one party; that of the Pope." That sentence was heard a thousand times repeated during the last few days that the office of the *Univers* continued open. It is stated that M. Tacconet, the proprietor of the *Univers*, loses from 300,000 to 500,000 francs—£12,000 to 20,000 "but loses them willingly, because the Holy Father is in question."

On the subject of the *Times's* "Owa Correspondent" whose brief sojourn at Rome we remarked upon last week, we (*Weekly Register*) have received the following letter:—

Stafford Club, Feb. 15, 1860.
My Dear Sir—I enclose a copy of a note addressed by me last week to the Editor of the *Times*. I need hardly say I had no answer. The fact is, as you well know, that the *Times's* correspondent at Rome, who was thence summarily dismissed a few days after his arrival, is the notorious Gallenga, whose malachite-handled stiletto and its possessor's intention of making the King of Sardinia share the same fate of Count Rossi, the Pope's minister in 1848, are fresh in the memory of all who followed the course of public events at that time. But of course, we are not surprised to find that the *Times's* "Own Correspondent" is a well-known political assassin. I would only call the attention of some of those good Catholics who believe in any degree in that unscrupulous journal's account of the state of things in Rome and Italy generally to the fact that the *Times* had suppressed the "damning" name of their correspondent in Rome, and then launched one of its most ribald tirades of abuse against the Holy Father, and his Government for the expulsion of their "anonymous" correspondent, as though he had been "warned off" simply as a correspondent of the "leading journal," and not as a notorious political assassin. How long are we to be hoodwinked as a nation by this atrocious and systematic liar on a grand scale. I may add that whereas the *Times's* correspondent's innocent and "highly respectable" correspondent's pecuniary loss, the fact is that the police offered him an ample compensation for the loss he might sustain by having engaged his apartments for some months. I have addressed a similar communication to various papers. You, at least, will not decline to insert it.—I am, my dear sir, yours very sincerely,
J. L. PATTERSON.

[Copy.]

"To the Editor of the *Times*.
"Sir,—Will you oblige your readers by informing us whether I am right in believing Signor Gallenga your Roman correspondent, whose summary ejection from the Papal dominions you lamented in a recent leading article, is the same Signor Gallenga, who, at the instigation of Mazzini, attempted or undertook to assassinate the King of Sardinia, Charles Albert, in 1852? If, as I have reason to believe he is the same person, some light is thereby thrown on the proceeding of the Romagna police. Awaiting an early reply, I am, sir, your obedient servant,
JAMES LIND PATTERSON, M.A.
Stafford Club, Seville-row.
Feb. 9, 1860."

Rome, Feb. 6.—The testimonials of sympathy with the Holy Father continue rather to increase than diminish. They are all of them plain and outspoken upon the subject of his temporal rule, and they come not only from France, but from Piedmont, Savoy, and other parts of the kingdom of Sardinia. These things prove what I have several times told you, that even in that kingdom it is the few who have seized, by acts which I need not again detail, the government of the nation, and not the nation itself, which is the enemy of the Holy See. At the same time I own myself surprised at the courage with which the demonstration proves, for I know that there is as little real liberty for the weaker party in the revolutionized provinces of Italy as in any part of Europe. For instance, you may remember that I mentioned in Florence that the only sign of any popular feeling on behalf of Sardinia was in the writings on the walls and in miserable prints of Victor Emmanuel on the shop doors, &c. But how far were these demonstrations spontaneous? I will give you a sample. A very respectable woman, a dressmaker, a good deal employed by English visitors, one morning found one of those portraits pasted upon her door in the night. She indignantly tore it off. The same evening she was lodged in prison and kept there three days. That she was then released was attributed to foreign influence. That inference may be a mistake, but the facts are certain. I know enough of these countries already to see how easily a much stronger manifestation of feeling than has been made may be got up by such means. But what is really important is to trace the connection of these events with Piedmont, and that is clear. I have proof that not only in the revolted provinces, but at Rome itself, Sardinian money is the real agent in the work of revolution. In some instances this is hardly conceded. For instance, when the Sardinian ambassa-

dor was dismissed it was thought worth while to get up a demonstration of sympathy with him in Rome. Accordingly two pairs of heads were paid to all who called on him on a given day, and the number (I forget exactly the amount) was triumphantly published in the Sardinian papers. Other instances have come to my knowledge which I may mention on another occasion, but I am for many reasons obliged to say less than I know. Let me give, however, some illustrations of Sardinian liberty. An English Catholic layman who has occasion for some books of Jesuit theology, has written to me to bring them for him to England, if I do not come by way of Turin, for that another friend who was bringing them for him had had them seized there by the police. My informant is a gentleman, and a man of honor, on whom I can rely. I can also answer for another fact. The Catholics of Cologne sent an address to the Holy Father, the signatures to which were more numerous than have been annexed to any one other. They were, I am assured, 170,000; the authorities were informed of its having been sent, but it did not arrive. It was traced as far as Milan, a remonstrance was made, and after three weeks' delay, the address intercepted by the liberal government (through whose Post-office it had only to pass on its route) was at length forwarded. It is, perhaps, less astonishing that the French Government should do things of the same kind. It is certainly not scrupulous about them. For instance, I know that a bookseller here who has occasion to receive frequent packages of books from England found them always delayed, and that sometimes books were extracted. He remonstrated with the agent, through whose care they passed at Paris, and was assured that he had no alternative, being obliged to send the parcels before he forwarded them, to the Minister of State, at whose office they were opened and detained. The result was that the bookseller is obliged to have his parcels by the Peninsular and Oriental boats to Malta, where they are forwarded here, at the cost of considerable delay. I could name the particular book which had been more than once taken out of these parcels at Paris, as being unfavorable to the French Government. I am not surprised at these things, but I really am both surprised and ashamed to see English and professedly Liberal papers commending the most arbitrary acts of the Imperial Government, and that even on the precise subject of the press.—Yet so it is. The suppression of the *Univers* is applauded by the *Post*, the *Chronicle*, and the *Daily News*. What would be our chance of being allowed to defend the cause of the Church if the freedom of the English press depended on the will of a "Liberal" Government? I say once more, as I have often said before, thank for the British Constitution, the effect of which is that the Catholic Church has a freedom of action in England which it has nowhere else in Europe outside the States of the Church.

Meanwhile, nothing can be more evident than the strength which the cause of the Church is deriving from the great demonstration of its unity and agreement. Be the immediate result of the present demonstration what it may, this cannot fail to be its ultimate effect. Some 200,000,000 of men scattered through all nations, and animated by one spirit, would have considerable strength in any cause; but when united in the cause of right and justice, and acting as one man in defence of rights as clear as any on earth, to say the very least, it is hardly to be thought that they will ultimately waste their endeavors. For myself, I fully believe that the defection of Napoleon has done more good than harm in calling out the strength of the Catholic world. The reports from France itself are as cheering as those from any part of the world.

A communication from Rome to a Protestant journal (not of course in any sense an authority) speaks of certain measures said to be in contemplation. The first would be the excommunication of the King of Sardinia and of the Sovereigns who may resist him; next, the placing of their kingdoms under interdict; then, the convocation by the Pope of a general council to examine the question whether or not the fall of the temporal power of the Popes may not be ascribed to the imprudent concessions made by the Holy See in concordats, and whether those concessions ought not to be retracted as contrary to the principles of the Church.

The *Revue des Deux Mondes* gives currency to some rumours relating to certain resolutions taken by the Holy See. Some of them go so far as that the Pope is taking his measures in the event of finding himself deprived of his liberty, and has handed over his spiritual powers to Cardinal Wiseman.

AUSTRIA.

The *Times* correspondent writes to the following effect from Vienna:—

VIENNA, Feb. 13.—The leading organs of the German press still maintain that Austria has formally rejected the fourth of the propositions made by the British Government; but they are in error. Yesterday M. de Moustier had a long conference with Count Rechberg, but it is not likely to lead to any immediate change in the state of affairs in Italy, as this Cabinet will take no step of importance until it knows the result of the mission of Prince Alexander of Hesse, who is on his way to St. Petersburg with a letter from the Emperor Francis Joseph to the Emperor Alexander. Those German organs of the press which are under the influence of this Government assert that there is now a great difference of opinion between the Czar and his Minister for Foreign Affairs in respect to the policy of the Emperor of the French, but it has not been in my power to obtain any confirmation of the statement here. It cannot be doubted that the confidence of the Emperor Alexander in the disinterestedness of Napoleon III. is shaken, but Russia is still suffering from the consequences of the war in the Crimea, and it is therefore unlikely that her Sovereign will allow himself to be persuaded to become a party to a coalition against France. It is probable that Austria could win Prince Gortschakoff if she would promise not to thwart the plans of Russia in European Turkey, but such a promise she is not likely to give, as the formation of a powerful South Slavonic State would seriously imperil the existence of this empire.

The notion begins here also to gain ground, that the Sardinian Government has yielded the point as to the annexation of Savoy to France. Cavour and the statesmen of his school resisted the claims of the French Emperor as both unjust and inexpedient. Clearly Savoy had been promised upon contingencies which have not ripened into facts. So long as Venice was Austrian, King Victor Emmanuel could not honestly be called upon to interrogate his Sardinian subjects as to their willingness to become French. Napoleon III., however, insisted upon his pound of Sardinian flesh; and Piedmont has not too many friends among the European Powers to venture upon open hostilities with France before his negotiations are in any manner settled with Austria. The cession of Savoy was made a *sine qua non* to the annexation of Central Italy, and the Turin Cabinet give in, so far at least as to allow an appeal to the people of Savoy, the decision of whom, under such circumstances, will not long be doubtful.

Go far as France, England, and Sardinia have the means of settling matters, these matters are here considered as settled. Austria will not be pleased with the arrangement, nor will Rome nor Naples; but men are rather inclined to hope that, left to their own resources and devices, these Powers will not be in a position to dispute the new order of things rising under such mighty auspices. Austria, however, assumes a silent and sullen behaviour;—while, for their own part, her southern allies—the

Pope and King of the Two Sicilies—set up an intolerable clamour, bluster and threaten, and loudly announce the forthcoming hour of retribution and reverse of fortune. Austria swells the ranks of her army, and supplies recruits for the Pontifical and even for the Neapolitan army. She lines the ramparts of Verona and Mantua with rifled cannon; she substitutes precious bronze instead of old iron. Is she determined to strike one more blow? Will she venture to grapple with such fearful odds as Italy, France, and England are now in a condition to bring to bear against her? Does she only gather resolution from despair, and is she making ready for an heroic fall? Does she hope to have by her side all the array of Prussia, Germany, and Russia, now that these great Powers have some reason to be alarmed at the ambition of France, and to apprehend that her attaining her "natural frontiers" on the Alps will embolden her soon to make a dash for her no less "natural boundaries" on the Rhine?

These are the questions which toss about men's thoughts in this part of the world at this extremely critical juncture. The winter of this year is severe, but cannot be eternal, yet six weeks, yet two months, and troops will be enabled to leave their winter quarters in these southern latitudes. Will time be given to France and England, to Northern and Central Italy, to arrange their little differences between the sun enters the constellation of Aries?—Or will diplomatists and deputies be busy still with the discussion of some knotty points when the cannon on the Minico comes roughly to awaken them from their easy slumbers with a clap of thunder analogous to that which broke up the Vienna Protocols at the announcement of the first Napoleon's flight from Elba?

Most of the Italians I see here have firm faith in the inevitableness of war; and since the present negotiations show a tendency to consummate the sacrifice of Venice, and to leave the Papal question unsolved, they are not unwilling that cannon and bayonet should hold their fearful, but perhaps salutary, influence yet for a season.—*Times's cor.*

RUSSIA.

The following letter has been received in Paris from St. Petersburg, dated the 6th ult.:

There is a dull fermentation at work in the interior; it is, nevertheless, intense. Young Russia is fomenting hatred against the great landed proprietors. The serfs, irritated by continual agitation, and by the delay opposed to their emancipation, are disposed to rise in insurrection. In fact, there exists a conspiracy, the more dangerous as the leaders are unknown. Every serf is a conspirator, because he is the enemy of his master. In Little Russia, where the Orloff family have immense estates, the excitement is so great among the peasants that the nobility live in fear of being assassinated. It is said that many of them sleep with a revolver under their pillow. Troops are dispersed through districts where formerly there was no garrison, as a precaution against insurrection. Should circumstances cause Russia to declare war, a great part of her military force would be paralyzed by the necessity for maintaining tranquillity at home. It is true that the army is recruited with wonderful facility, inasmuch as any man who once enters the service of the Crown cannot again be reduced to slavery. Peasants who formerly crouched in presence of their masters now maintain an insolent bearing, and refuse to work even for payment. They rely on the protection of their Emperor, and on that of the more elevated functionaries.

The subjoined extract from *Blackwood's Magazine* on the question of the temporal authority of the Pope, is valuable, as showing that spite of his Protestant prejudices, the writer feels himself compelled to recognise the justice of the Papal claims, and the injustice with which Pius IX. has been treated by Louis Napoleon. Having discussed the question of the Duchies, the writer goes on to say:—

"The Legations stand on a different footing.—There is rebellion indeed in the Papal States, but the Pope has not abandoned his territory, or yielded one iota of his authority. He protests that he can put that rebellion down, and insist on his right, at all events, to make the attempt. That right would be very difficult to deny. We are no admirers of the Pontiff, or of the fabric of which he is the head. We deny altogether his spiritual jurisdiction and asserted supremacy, and we are well aware of the many evils inseparably connected with Romanism. But we cannot forget that the Pope is also a temporal sovereign. As such, he has certain rights and claims which we must not ignore, because he happens at the same time to be a priest. We must not let our Protestant feelings carry us too far in a matter such as this; for, after all, the Pope is a Christian, which the Sultan is not; and if we did not hesitate to exclaim against the proposed robbery of Giant Pagan, we cannot consistently approve the spoliation of Giant Pope. We cannot help expressing our opinion that the recent letter from the Emperor to the Pope, desiring him to surrender his territory, was a most barefaced, impudent, and insulting document, considering the quarter from which it came. Why, it is scarce ten years ago since this very man—the eldest son of the Church, as he is absurdly called—sent an army to put down the Revolutionists then triumphant in Rome, and to bring back the Pope, who had taken refuge at Gaeta; and over since Rome has been occupied by the French. What has led to such a mighty change of sentiment—such a singular alteration of policy? It is worth while considering that, for it is the key to the whole mystery. Why did he interfere for the Pope in 1849? We reply, because Rome had then declared herself to be a republic, a form of government which is not more obnoxious to the Czar of Muscovy than to the Emperor of the French. To recognise a republic then and there, would have been to forfeit future chances. It was far better policy to restore the Pope and to garrison Rome; because his weakness, and the predominance of French arms in the capital, could at any time allow the protector to seize upon that which he was protecting—to give the "eldest son" the opportunity of seizing on the possessions of the father! Why does he desire the Pontiff now, in that fine oracular style of his, laying the blame on "the inexorable logic of events" to strip and denude?—Simply because it is his interest to have the Legations, in addition to the Duchies, in order to found a French kingdom of Central Italy, which, being established, will, as we have already said, enable him to command the whole peninsula, and give him the command not only of the Adriatic, but of the Mediterranean.—*Blackwood, Feb.*

HAPPINESS.—The most common error of our men and women is that of looking for happiness outside of useful work. It has never yet been found when thus sought; and never will be while the world stands; and the sooner this truth is learned the better for every one. If you doubt the proposition, glance around among your friends and acquaintances and select those who appear to have the most enjoyment in life. Are they the idlers and pleasure seek-