

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

FRANCE

Paris, May 2.—The Moniteur of this evening says: The English Cabinet having requested an explanation of the Austrian Government respecting the despatch of ships to the Baltic, the latter replied that no such intention existed. Her Majesty's Government in consequence renounced its plan of sending an English fleet to the Baltic. Austria and Prussia insist upon the cessation of the blockade as one of the conditions for an armistice. Prussia is said to offer as an equivalent the renunciation of the war contribution in Jutland, and is also reported to propose to evacuate Jutland should the Danes retire from Alsen, suspend the blockade, and restore the captured ships.

A letter dated Paris, Tuesday evening says: "Painful details have come to hand of a massacre which has marked the commencement of an insurrection of the nomad tribes in Algeria. They are contained in a letter from an officer in the African army to a relative at home, which is published in the Messager du Midi. It is dated from a place called Tiarret, close to the Morocco frontier, and dated April 14:—It is under canvas I scribble this letter on my knee; my revolver is loaded by my side, and my horse ready saddled is close at hand. The news you have already received is perfectly true. The history of our African campaigns numbers one treachery more. Colonel Beaufre, at the head of a company of Turcos (native infantry), of a squadron of Spahis (native cavalry), and forty men of the African battalion, and accompanied by an officer of the Arab bureau and a few hundreds of auxiliary horsemen, started from Tiarret on March 24 in pursuit of Sid Seliman, the son of a leading chief of the south, who died suddenly some three years ago, during a sea voyage from Oran to Algiers. Surprised by the Arabs of Sid Seliman, who suddenly fell upon his troop at daybreak, the colonel did his duty bravely, and was among the first to fall. The captain of the Arab bureau, a very nice fellow, with whom I had breakfasted only a week before at Mostanem, had his shoulder smashed by a bullet, in spite of which he continued writing despatches in the square formed by the little force. They were all killed 250 gallant fellows, with their officers—not one survived. I will spare you the hideous details, and the savage scenes that followed. [I suppose the writer alludes to the native custom of decapitating the corpses of all enemies who fall in action.] Suffice it to say that the Arabs of 1864 behaved precisely in the same way as their co-religionists in 1834. As a set-off for this disaster let me mention an heroic feat. Forty leagues hence a detachment of 35 men in digging an artificial well were beset by the Arabs, and succeeded in effecting their escape with a loss of only two men. We are 400 here to protect this place. We have a new colonel, lots of ball cartridge, and an artillery serjeant who happens to be here by the merest chance is teaching our sappers how to work the cannon we have."

Prince Napoleon has addressed a letter to the Venetian Committee congratulating them upon the publication of the pamphlet under the title of "Urgency." The Prince believes that the Venetian question demands a speedy solution, and expresses an ardent wish that Italy should be free from the Alps to the Adriatic, in accordance with the words of the Emperor.

THE LYONS LITURGY QUESTION

We read in L'Armonia:—Rome has spoken by the mouth of the Holy Father Pius IX., and the cause of the Liturgy of Lyons is decided. Five ecclesiastics, who arrogated to themselves the right of representing the Clergy of the Diocese of Lyons, apart from, and in opposition to, their Archbishop, had gone to Rome in January last to present a petition to the Holy Father. The report of this journey, which they undertook in order to preserve the Gallican Liturgy at Lyons, in spite of the Archbishop of that same diocese, was published at Paris, and reproduced at Turin by the Italia, a revolutionary journal. In this account the five ecclesiastics relate the audience which they had of the Pope, to whom they were introduced by their own Cardinal Archbishop and in which the Holy Father reminded them of the obligation of obedience to their lawful ecclesiastical superior. They praise the goodness of the Pope, and the courtesy of Cardinal Antonelli; but they complain in unbecoming language of one member of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. They conclude, however, by confessing, against their will and with a bad grace, that the cause of the Liturgy of Lyons, the cause of Gallicanism, was lost! The Pope, says one of the five ecclesiastics, who was at last admitted to the audience, said to me: "Obedience, obedience!" and a third time he repeated, with the greatest gentleness, the word obedience! At the termination of the audience I begged his blessing on myself and on my parish, and left with the melancholy conviction that the cause of the Lyons Liturgy was lost.

The Times, alluding to the ill feeling the conduct of Prussia has caused, believes that if it were not for regard to the independence of Belgium and Holland, nine Englishmen out of ten would see the French in Cologne with the most complete indifference.

A letter from Laval, France, addressed to the Monde, says that, among the persons who have returned to the practice of religion in that town last Easter, is a M. Dubois Fresnoy, father of the former Deputy of that town, who went publicly to his Easter Communion, after having been a hundred years without having had that happiness. He is a hundred and eleven years of age, and made his first and only other Communion in 1764.

BELGIUM

The Ministerial crisis in Belgium has not yet ended. It was understood that a Catholic Ministry was on the point of being formed, and indeed the Cabinet and the programme were both ready when King Leopold returned to Brussels. M. Antheaume, who is the centre of the combination, was sent for a week ago to Laeken, whither M. Dechamps was summoned subsequently. It was believed that M. Dechamps had been charged by the King to form a Ministry, but it appears that M. Dechamps' programme did not entirely please His Majesty; and that M. Dechamps demurred to the pledges required of him regarding the Antwerp fortifications. At any rate, the new combination failed like its predecessor.

ITALY

Piedmont.—The Sardinian Parliament recommenced its sittings on the 18th inst. There had been very little talk about the opening campaign, and the Opposition has made prodigious declarations (in private) against the Government, they have resolved (again in private) no longer to submit to its iniquitous legislation. But it is all talk.

The Interior, in reply to speeches from several members of the Opposition, stated that it was not for the Government to declare its intentions respecting General Garibaldi and his party, but that it was above all necessary to know how the General and his party intended to act. The Minister defended the policy of the Government, and proved the necessity of seizing the arms and money in order to prevent painful occurrences. After the journey of Garibaldi to London, after the eulogy bestowed by the English institutions, and the respect paid by the English nation to the Queen and the laws, the Minister hoped that nobody, apart from the King and the Government, would speak in the name of the country, or pursue a policy differing from that of the Government, and in opposition to the constitution. He then explained that the policy of the Government was based upon an alliance with the Western Powers. He demanded a vote of confidence in the Ministry—a vote confirming their policy, and reserving the initiative in accomplishing the Italian empire at Rome and Venice to the King and the Parliament. —Times Cor.

The Italian press comments with great asperity on the expression of Tuscany in the act of the renunciation of the Agnatic rights signed at Miramare and on the Emperor's official visit to the King of Naples. The new Empire is in no good odor at Turin, and the circumstances of the past week will make it less so. It seems uncertain whether an Austrian brigade will be enlisted for Mexico, as the present exigencies of the Mother Country are such as to demand her full resources in Venetia.

As all comment on the Fool's Holiday recently celebrated in London would be superfluous and stale by the time it reached you, I will merely observe, that the ridicule attached to the whole proceedings on the Continent is such as to absorb every other feeling save contempt. That the draymen and roughs of the New Out and Ratcliff Highway would muster in force one could believe, that Dr. Cumming should fraternize with the Hierophants of Reason, and Pious Shaftesbury grasp the hand that is red with the blood of Papists, is perfectly conceivable; but that men of virtue and breeding, attached heart and soul, to the cause of order and monarchy, should delight to honor the friend and companion of Mazzini, the man who preached the Apotheosis of a Regicide, and decreed a pension to his surviving relatives is more than an enigma, save on one supposition, that one of the periodical fits of madness has seized on our unfortunate country, as on looking back through her past annals we see has often been the case. The Titus Ostes plot, the Gordon riots, and the No-Popery cry in 1850, are all cases in point, and though they may be looked on abroad as matters for laughter, it is no pleasant reflection for Englishmen to see their country a mark for the ridicule of every pen in Europe, save those of the extreme Mazzinian faction. That the movement has given rise to the most insane and exaggerated expectations on the part of the Party of Action, there is no doubt; and as I write this, a despatch reaches me from Genoa stating that the house of the English Consul was surrounded last night by a tumultuous mob, shouting alternately, "Viva Garibaldi!" "Viva l'Italia Protestante!" "Viva l'England!" and playing "God save the Queen," and "Tuoi i Stranieri," as an appropriate accompaniment. I trust the schismatic tendency of the movement may be taken to heart by those Catholics who have hitherto felt justified in supporting its chief abettors; and it is at least comfortable to reflect that the name of but one Catholic Member of Parliament figures among the list of guests at the Stafford House gathering, and that one whose tenure of his present seat is more than precarious in the event of a general election. Catholic Carlo must be gratified at being represented in the oration to the Church's bitter enemy, and will probably provide against the recurrence of such an anomaly at an early opportunity. —Correspondent of Tablet.

The Piedmontese Government has arrested His Eminence, Cardinal Morichini, Bishop of Jesi, whom they accuse of machinations with a foreign Power to facilitate its means of committing hostilities, such machinations not having been followed by results. In case of a verdict of guilty on this indictment, the punishment is condemnation to the galleys. The facts of the case as we have heard them, are, that a Judge of Assize wished to confess his sins, and that his confessor, a Canon of the Cathedral, refused absolution unless the penitent would abjure the perjured and treasonable oath, taken by him, of allegiance to Victor Emmanuel, the excommunicated robber and usurper. The Canon was arrested on April 19, and the Cardinal was arrested on April 23. The France expresses its astonishment at such proceeding towards a Prelate of unassailed honour who, as Minister of the Sovereign Pontiff, had shown himself an enlightened administrator by such measures as the organisation of the Cadaster and the reformation of land tenures. The France says, that it shocks good sense to see such a man treated as a malefactor worthy of the galleys, and hopes that the administration will change the procedure into a prosecution for a simple act of abuse in the discharge of the Cardinal's Ministry; but it says, the Piedmontese Government has yielded to the instigations of the party of Action, and has taken pride in putting a Prince of the Church into the common prison after accusing him of a non-bailable offence. We differ from the France and feel not the least obliged for its suggestion that the Government should proceed against the Cardinal for a misdemeanor rather than for a felony. At the pass to which things have come, we see no use in tilting with blunted spears. The Cardinal has done his duty, and has committed no abuse; and the refusal of absolution by the Minister of Penance is not a matter cognizable by a State. It is a matter of high treason, or it is nothing, and so it should be treated. Victor Emmanuel is an excommunicated usurper of the Papal States. Those who take the oath of allegiance to him as Sovereign of the Papal States are rebels to their rightful sovereign the Pope and the Pope, as Head of the Church on earth, has ordained that they shall not receive absolution until they repent and renounce their treason. If Victor Emmanuel who chose to become a murderer by putting to death as guilty of high treason those who refuse to recognise his usurpation, it is his look out. He must bear the consequences of putting himself in a false position. This a duel to the death—to be fought with sharp lances a *l'outrance*, and there is no use in minding matters, or in trying for a compromise. —Tablet.

In Florence there are seven horrible murders this week, three of women; and an astounding number of suicides in all the towns of Upper Italy. We know who gave the first example on record of this sort of thing, and it was just before the Resurrection, too that it took place, which it is to be hoped may be a type of a like coming triumph, and which we accept as such.

A number of good-for-nothing men called up one of the Parish Priests of Bologna the other night to administer extreme unction to a sick person, as they stated. On accompanying them to the place, provided with the Holy Oils, the Priest was conducted by one of them into a stable, and there shown a sick goat, to which he was desirously requested to administer the Sacrament! A few hours later, the wretched jester was himself seized with agonising cramp in the stomach, and cried for a Priest, the same pious Ecclesiastic arrived in all haste, but too late; for the miserable man had died in the most excruciating torture before he could reach his house.

A letter from Genoa, addressed to the Armonia, announces the sudden death, without any religious preparation, of the late Minister of Public Works, the Marquis Pietro Montecelli, who died on the 18th ult. The unfortunate man had but lately applauded the barbarous expulsion of the Capuchin Friars from their convent at Loano, and by a strange coincidence, the Capuchins were called in by his family to perform his funeral service.

A young man, named Pietro Lorini, has been found hung in his chamber at Pesaro. "Used we ever to hear of suicide in our happy provinces?" writes an inhabitant of this town, "Victor Emmanuel has brought us in fact, along with his system of moral order and of liberty, an immorality and a slavery hitherto unknown."

We read in the *Correspondance de Rome*:—"The tribunals of Catania have sentenced Father Giovanni Batista, ex-provincial, Superior of the Convent of Capuchins, to a month's imprisonment, for having in July 1863 put in force without the Royal exequatur a measure which had been ordered by the General of the Order, residing at Rome, by virtue of which measure, Father Giacomo, of Tréastagno, having celebrated Mass on this occasion of the festival of the Statute, was suspended a *divinis*."

Rome.—The portion of the Pope's Allocution at the recent Consistory relating to Poland is alleged to be as follows:—"The blood of the weak and innocent cries aloud before the throne of the Almighty for vengeance upon those by whom it is shed. And do we not see in our time innocent blood shed in a Catholic country, in unfortunate Poland, where the same Catholic faith for which the holy Fidels gave His life is so cruelly persecuted? I did not intend to speak upon this subject before the next Consistory, but I fear that if I kept silence longer I shall draw upon myself the punishment of Heaven with which the prophets threaten those who permit injustice. *Vae mihi, qua tuca!* My conscience compels me to raise my voice against the powerful Sovereign whose dominions extend to the Pole. Therefore listen! This mighty Monarch, who also ventures to style himself Catholic, although he stands outside the pale of our holy Church, forgets that the justice of God will overtake him for his evil deeds. This Monarch pursues the Polish nation with savage cruelty. He has undertaken the impious work of exterminating the Catholic religion in Poland, and of introducing heresy into that country by force. The priests of this Catholic nation are violently torn from their flocks; some are banished, and others condemned to forced labor or dishonorable punishments. Happy are they who contrive to escape, and at present wander about in foreign lands without an asylum. The churches are desecrated and partially closed through the absence of the priests. Finally, this presumptuous ruler has assumed a power which the Viceregent of Christ does not even possess. After he has torn our much beloved son, the Archbishop of Warsaw, from his diocese, banished him, and kept him to confinement, he has dared to remove him from the office we had intrusted to him."

If we express our indignation against such acts it is not with the view to encourage Europe in revolution. We are well able to draw a distinction between a social revolution and the legitimate rights of a nation fighting for its independence and the welfare of religion. If we step forward against the persecutors of the Catholic religion, we fulfil a sacred duty of our conscience. And I have, therefore, communicated to you the mournful news I have received from that unhappy country, for which we will redouble our prayers. We declare that we confer our Apostolic blessing upon all those who this day pray for Poland. Let us all pray for that country."

The Russian Charge d'Affaires having asked the Pontifical Government for an explanation of the Allocution lately delivered by the Pope, Cardinal Antonelli defended the right and necessity of speaking as the Pope had done.

The Charge d'Affaires acknowledged the virtue of Monsignor Felinski, but said that he was a rebellious subject, having invited the Czar to renounce his possession of Poland.

Cardinal Antonelli has demanded from the Italian Government, through the mediation of a neutral Power, the liberation of Cardinal Morichini, who has been arrested at Jesi, Ancona.

The Pope's ALLOCUTION TO THE EMPEROR OF MEXICO.—The *Unita Cattolica* gives the following as the allocution addressed by the Pope to the Emperor and Empress of Mexico, in the chapel of the Vatican, before giving them communion:—"Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. It is through Him that kings and princes rule. It is through Him that legislators administer justice, and though He sometimes permits monarchs to be tried, yet it is from Him that all power comes—from Him to whom all power in Heaven and earth has been given. In his name, I recommend to you the prosperity of the Catholic people who have been entrusted to you. Great are the rights of the people, and they must be satisfied, but greater and more sacred are the rights of the Church, the spotless spouse of Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us with his blood which is now to crimson your lips. You will, therefore, respect the rights of the people and of the Church, and will thus labour for the spiritual and temporal welfare of your subjects. May this Jesus whom you are about to receive from the hands of His Vicar deign to give His grace in the abundance of His mercy!"

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.—Terror is the 'order of the day,' but even military despotism is not sufficient to repress the efforts of the Neapolitans in behalf of their legitimate King. The *Times* correspondent writes:—

Arrests continue, and in a few days no fewer than 20 persons have been seized for political offences; while brigandage flourishes, in spite of the persecutions of the French, on the mountains of San Giovanni, Veroli, Guarcino and Alatri,—and flourish it will so long as the Bourbons are permitted to conspire in Rome.

An immense number of arrests have been made this week in Naples, principally of rich country proprietors, accused of favouring the Reaction in Basilicata, Calabria, and Terra di Lavoro. The war against the popular devotions goes on unchecked, and nearly all the small shrines at the angles of the streets have been removed. Four churches are occupied by Passaglia Priests, and consequently interdicted to the Faithful, viz., the Gesù Nuovo, San Francesco di Paola, Santa Brigitta, and another, whose name I forget, near the Chiaja.

Mancini, the Priest, has been arrested at Naples. 'The questors,' says the *Nomade* facetiously, 'are most active. They pay plenty of domiciliary visits, and to-morrow perhaps we shall have to record fresh arrests.'

A letter from Naples in the *Correspondance de Rome* of last week says:—

The Piedmontese and the party of action, while wishing, or precisely because they both wish to obtain the same end by the same means, are becoming more and more estranged from one another. The Legitimist are taking advantage of this division, and are actively organizing and preparing themselves. Their central committee has published a circular which is at once energetic and worthy of them. For the last two or three days the Mazzinians have appeared full of joy, the Piedmontese sad and dismal, and the Legitimists anxious. In order to disguise the reason, I questioned (after showing him a crown piece) a well known confidant, one who serves all parties with equal zeal, and whose intelligence I have almost always found reliable.

SWITZERLAND

THE EXPULSION OF MAZZINI FROM SWITZERLAND.—Subjoined is the text of the decision come to by the Swiss Federal Council relative to Mazzini:—"Considering the fact that Mazzini, already on several occasions, and again in the course of last summer, has abused the asylum granted to him at Lugano, in a manner to compromise the external security of Switzerland, by application of Acts 57 and 90, paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 of the Federal Constitution, the Federal Council, decides:—1. That the decrees formerly issued touching the expulsion of Mazzini are renewed and confirmed. 2. That all the police authorities of the cantons are hereby enjoined, to see to

the strict execution of this decision, to no longer grant an asylum to Mazzini under any circumstances, and to arrest him in case he should be discovered, giving notice thereof to the Federal Department of Justice and Police. 3. That the present decision shall be communicated by a circular letter to all the cantonal governments, with a request to watch over its execution, and shall be inserted in the Federal journal.—Given at Bern: this 15th day of April, 1864.

SPAIN

Their Majesties the Emperor Maximilian I. of Mexico, and the Empress Charlotte, arrived at Gibraltar in the Austrian screw frigate Novara, Captain R. Berry, on the afternoon of the 24th ult. The French frigate Themis was in attendance on their Majesties. As the Austrian and French frigates steamed up the bay Royal salutes were fired from the garrison and from Her Majesty's steamer Ragoon, which were returned by the Themis. Shortly after the Novara came to anchor the Emperor was waited upon by the Austrian Consul. The Governor sent off to learn at what hour it would be convenient to their Majesties that he should wait upon them, and by their appointment his Excellency paid his respects to them on board the Novara on the morning of the 25th. The Emperor and Empress landed privately, declining the usual official honors, at 12 o'clock, and took luncheon with his Excellency the Governor. After passing a few hours on shore, their Majesties returned on board the Novara. The Governor and a few other gentlemen were honored with invitations to dine with their Majesties in the evening.

AUSTRIA

The *Ost. Deutsche Post* of Vienna is much disturbed by the visit of the Prince of Wales to Garibaldi. It says:—"The demonstration made by the representative of European revolution causes anxiety from which it is impossible to guard oneself, because the danger is not patent, but subterranean, latent; no one can tell where the mine will explode. Nevertheless it is France which appears to be chiefly menaced. If additional proof were needed of the failure of Lord Clarendon's journey to Paris, the visit of the hereditary prince to Garibaldi would furnish it."

VIENNA, May 2.—The semi-official *General Correspondenz* of to-day says:—"The mission of the Austrian and Prussian representatives at the Conference is to obtain from Denmark a satisfactory indemnity for the damage done to German shipping and commerce, and likewise a full guarantee against any future recurrence of the same."

It is stated that there is no intention to despatch the Austrian fleet to the Baltic.

GERMANY AND DENMARK

COPENHAGEN, May 2, 5 11, P.M.—An official announcement, published to-day, contains the following:—

1. Field-Marshal Wrangel has despatched 11 citizens to Prussia to be detained as hostages until the payment of the war contribution of 100,000 Prussian thalers.

This the inhabitants refuse to pay, preferring rather to be plundered."

The King of Prussia is said to have told M. von Beust that the following demands ought to be made on Denmark:—1. Complete indemnification for the expenses of the war and for the captured vessels. 2. Total separation from the Duchies, which must have an independent government, and be incorporated in the German Confederation. 3. Kiel, Rendsburg, and Alsen to be Federal ports and fortresses. 4. The ruler over the Duchies to be under the special protection of a German Power. It may be remarked that the same story, with the omission of the name of the principal party concerned, is told by the *Baria Speners Zeitung*.

I hear that in Berlin the prosecution of the war is believed in—perhaps desired. It reminds me of what took place with the Spaniards after the capture of Tetuan.—The military, who had their triumph, and saw little to be gained by persisting in beating an enemy whose inferiority had been proved, and from whom they had wrested an important town as a guarantee for his coming to terms, thought it was time to leave off and were willing to welcome peace. But in Madrid the greater part of the press was eager to carry on the war, and citizens who visited O'Donnell's headquarters breathed nothing but slaughter and subjugation. I do not, however, know what the public wishes are at Berlin, or what the wishes of the Prussian Government may be; but the opinion in that capital is said to be that the war will go on, at least to the reduction of Fredericia.

Berlin, May 4.—The semi-official *Nord-Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* of this evening says:—

The signal for the departure of the English fleet, with a hostile intent, would also be the signal for the departure from London of our representatives at the Conference.

Copenhagen, May 5.—The conditions proposed by the great German Powers as indispensable to their acceptance of an armistice have been declined by the Danish Government, which refuses to raise the blockade of the German ports.

The conquest of Continental Denmark by the German army may now be looked upon as complete. Everything but the sandy wastes which form the northern extremity of Jutland has passed into their possession. Not content with occupying the principal places of the Peninsula, and quartering troops on the inhabitants, Field-Marshal Von Wrangel has, if report be true, seized eleven persons and sent them to Prussia to be detained as hostages until the payment of an extravagant war contribution. At the same time it is avowed that the Allies demand from Denmark a sum to cover the expenses of the war; in other words, that Denmark is to be compelled to pay for the movement of the troops, that have despoiled her. Amid such events it is little comfort to be told that the Austrian ships of war which have been hurried round from the Mediterranean have no immediate intention of going to the Baltic, or that we have a fleet which is capable of pursuing them. In the case of an attack on the Danish Islands, no doubt Channel Fleet could interfere with effect; but as long as the Germans keep to the Peninsula there seems nothing to stop them in their career of spoliation. It is in these circumstances that the Conference resumes its sittings, and that this country will make its last efforts to induce the two Powers to pay respect to their engagements. That the remonstrances of our representatives will be successful we have little hope. The designs of the two Powers whatever they may be, will be carried into effect, and if they tend to a European war the curse must light on the heads of their authors. We do not pretend to foresee the future, but it requires no great acuteness to discern that a movement has begun in Northern Europe which will lead to changes more important than any since 1815. By the fanaticism of the German people and the rivalry of the Sovereigns the old combinations of Europe have been more broken than by the events in the East ten years ago, or by the Italian Revolution. —Times.

The *Monde* tells us that on the representations of Mgr. Melchers, Bishop of Osnabruck, and the Vicar General of the North, the Austrian and Prussian Civil Commissioners in Schleswig have abolished the restraints upon the religious liberty of Catholics hitherto in force in the Duchy. Thus Catholics are no longer to be forced to have their marriages blessed by Protestant Clergymen, or to engage to educate their children in the official Protestantism. The children are to be educated in the religion agreed on by the parents. The Civil Commissioners in Holstein (a Saxon and a Hanoverian) have not yet introduced these reforms, though the Catholics are more numerous there than in Schleswig. The devotion of the Catholic religious men and women in the care of the sick and wounded has made a great impression on the Prussian authorities. There are at this moment 150 Nuns and Religious men on duty

in the Schleswig hospitals; the Prince Royal and the Prince of Hohenzollern have visited them and on the 13th ult., the Prince Royal after expressing his thanks to the Sisters, in charge of the Hospital at Flensburg, informed them that he had the orders of his august mother, the Queen of Prussia, to assure them of her special protection.

M. Eugene Taconnet writes in the *Monde* that during the late campaign in Schleswig a battalion of Westphalians, on the point of going into action and being ordered to carry a formidable position, were addressed by the Military Chaplain who passed through the ranks, and at a signal from the Minister of God knelt down and received the general abolition with profound recollection, Prince-Fredrick Charles of Prussia came up at that instant and having witnessed the sublime spectacle said to one of them: "What consolations your religion offers you?"

The Prussian army is about equally divided between Catholics and Protestants, and during the siege of Dybbol both the Protestant and Catholic Head Chaplains honourably rivalled one another in organising the religious services, both in the camp and in the hospitals. But in the trenches, when the Danish shells fell among the working parties, the Catholic Priests went forward and administered the last Sacraments to the dying Catholics, while the Protestant Chaplains left their co-religionists unprotected. The Protestant Head Chaplain, thinking this contrast disadvantageous, convened the Protestant Chaplains and urged them to do like the Catholics, and to go forward to assist the dying men with their ministrations. The answer he received was: "What should we go to do? We have got nothing to give them."

POLAND

THE RECOGNITION OF POLAND.—The following despatch has been addressed by General Mouravieff to the Russian Minister of the Interior:—

"No 789. You are aware from the letters, documents, and trials relating to the recent political events and rebellions which have taken place in the western part of the country, that the rebellion of the past year, 1863, was produced by a revolutionary organisation which had been prepared and carefully considered in the course of more than seventy years. The preparations for the insurrection were, it may be said, effected in the presence of the Government and the local authorities; but as the whole of the administrative authority has remained in this country in the hands of employees of Polish origin, who filled all the posts, from the highest to the lowest, in the judicial and police department, the Government was unable to discover all the threads of the conspiracy and to forestall the events witnessed in this country in the year 1863. Having observed this error, which proceeded from an excessive confidence in false and superficial appearances of friendship to the Government on the part of the persons of Polish origin to whom all the branches of the Government of the country were entrusted, and moved by an experience bought at the price of blood and heavy sacrifices on the part of Russia, I considered it necessary, for ensuring the peace of the country in future, to supersede all employees of Polish origin by Russians, being finally convinced that the Government, both now in future, can never reckon on the fidelity and willingness of Polish employees, and that until the Russian element has been firmly established in all the branches of the local administration, the rule of Russia in this country will have no stable basis. With this object I entered last year into communication with the majority of the Ministers and principal authorities with reference to the suppression of the Polish employees here by Russians, and the placing at my disposal of persons serving in various posts in the governments of Great Russia. Unfortunately however, there were very few indeed among the officials sent to me who, by their abilities and conduct, show themselves useful for service in this country, and some of them I was compelled, in consequence of criminal acts and bad conduct on their part, to send back to the part whence they came. It appears from this that, to attract honest and able men from Russia for the official posts in this country, it is necessary to give them some privileges as regards their support and the improvement of their position, so as to enable these persons to decide upon exchanging their positions for others in a country whose language and customs are foreign to them, and where there is a rooted hatred among the nobles the officials, and the other inhabitants, for everything that is Russian. It has, therefore, been decided by the highest authority, through my intervention, to give additional allowance to Russian employees, both those already serving here and those arriving here 'rom service, belonging to the Department of Finance, Justice, and the Crown Lands; and a similar proposition is now before the Council of State for decision regarding the employees of the Department of Education. Having received a despatch from you, dated 14th January, No. 100, in which the opinion of the Minister of Finance, regarding the increase of the pay of the employees of the western provinces belonging to the Department of the Interior, is stated, I consider it necessary to acquaint you that I do not share the opinion of the Secretary of State, Rejtern, regarding the non-application of the increase of 5 per cent to the employees of the local and district police. I consider it absolutely necessary to increase the salaries of the local and district police in this country, and therefore beg of you, for the above reasons, to submit that such increase be given. As regards the remarks of the Secretary of State, Rejtern, on the difficulties which may arise as to the source from which this increase of salary is to be paid, I am of the following opinion:—As the most guilty and active in the rebellion and political disorders which have occurred from time to time are the Roman Catholic clergy, the gentlemen, the nobles, and in general the landowners of Polish extraction; and as the Government is compelled to incur enormous expenses for the purpose of preserving the country from them, it is absolutely necessary to continue the contribution upon them at the rate of 5 per cent, instead of 10 per cent, as heretofore, until the country is restored to order; and the proceeds of such contribution should be applied to increasing the salaries of all employees, as also for carrying out all measures necessary to restore order in the country. I must add that I entirely agree with the Secretary of State, Rejtern, as to giving to all employees of the Home department, without exception, a sum to cover their travelling expenses from Russia to the Western Governments, and also to pay according to regulation to be charged against the additional tax on the estates of Poles."

Finally, I have the honor to beg you, as I think it necessary speedily to increase the pay of all employees of the Home Department by 60 per cent., to hasten the settlement of this question, and make me aware of the results both of this and other questions here raised; by me.

(Signed) MICHAEL MOURAVIEFF.

22nd January, 1865.

MURRAY & LAWMAN'S FLORIDA WATER.—Little think those ladies who avail themselves of the empirical "beautifiers" of the day that they are permanently destroying the health of the skin. From the time of the Borgias to the present day it has been well understood by the initiated, that the pure essence of fresh and fragrant flowers is promotive of beauty. In the preparation of this Toilet Water none but aromatic blossoms and leaves of a sensitive nature are employed. In addition, therefore, to its excellence as a perfume, it has the property of clearing the complexion, and relieving the cuticle of all eruptions, &c., calculated to impair its smoothness, whiteness and transparency.

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