

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, March 13.—In to-day's sitting of the Legislative Body, the President laid before the House the new Bill upon the Press and the right of public meeting.

The following are the principal features of the new Press law:—The authorization hitherto required previously to establishing a journal is suppressed; imprisonment for offences against the Press laws is abolished; the amount of the fine which may be inflicted will be not less than one-fifth, and not more than one-half, the caution money; printers and publishers will no longer be required to take out licences. The Bill makes no mention of any change in the amount of the stamp duty or the caution money.

Paris, March 14.—In to-day's sitting of the Legislative Body the interpellation of M. Thiers upon the foreign policy of the Government came on for discussion. M. Thiers said:

'The state of Europe, and particularly of France, at the present time is serious. This fact is proved by the general increase of armaments; but it may, nevertheless, be viewed without anxiety. The present state of things is occasioned by the false ideas which have spread into European policy. Formerly the policy of Europe was based upon the equilibrium of power, and the smaller States, which served to weaken the collisions between the greater ones, were respected. This policy, which made the greatness of France, has been replaced by a new idea—that of nationalities and of great agglomerations having the same origin and speaking the same language. From this arose the interest shown towards Poland, and efforts made to establish the unity of Italy. The ambition of Prussia and Russia in taking advantage of the idea of nationality is a menace to Europe.—France made a serious mistake in permitting the development of this state of things. The Government had but to say one word to arrest the course of this ambition, and that word was 'European equilibrium'; but the Government was led away by the chimera of the nationality principle, and by an unreflecting desire for popularity. To lessen the evil a policy at once wise and firm is necessary.—We will examine the scheme for the reorganization of the army with patriotism, but we must also return to the policy of an European equilibrium. By pursuing this course France will recover the alliance of England, and will again become the protectress of the small States. Her sword will once more be the independent sword of Europe. But support must also be sought in liberty, and a larger participation in the direction of public affairs must be restored to the country. A return, in fact, must be made to the policy of good sense for not another mistake must be made.'

M. Thiers's speech was listened to with great attention, but without any great marks either of approval or disapproval.

Duke de Persigny made a speech in the French Legislature. He was silent on French policy, but said:—But for ministerial responsibility the British Government would have broken up the American Republic long ago.

Emile Ollivier had made a speech urging that France should honestly accept the transformation which had taken place in Germany, and which, he said, was not directed against the French.

La France says the basis of an understanding between France, Russia and England, on the Eastern question, exists, which permits the hope of a speedy solution.

La France also says that there exists at the present moment in the foreign policy of France no single question capable of embarrassing her diplomatic action abroad, or of disquieting public opinion at home.

Paris, March 14.—The report which has been current for some time that the Emperor was negotiating with the King of Holland for the acquisition of the Duchy of Luxembourg has been denied on authority. La France says—

'We are in a position to affirm that no negotiation of the kind has taken place, and that the rumours circulated on the subject rest on no serious grounds.'

The Journal de Rouen says—

'A notice placarded in our city announces that 20,000 bedrooms, at the price of 1f. for each person are already in Paris placed at the disposal of visitors to the Exhibition, and that they may be engaged beforehand. Those who feared that space would be wanting in the hotels at the time of the influx of foreigners may, therefore, reassure themselves, and the more so that these 20,000 lodgings will probably be increased through fresh additions to the terms of the agency, which is now sending its announcements all over France. The apartments offered are distributed through the different quarters of Paris. They are divided into cabinets for one person at 1f., and chambers for two at 2f.'

The Opinions Nationale (Prince Napoleon's organ) of March 8th, says—

'It is to be remarked that the phantom of Fenianism, which vanished last month, has just reassumed the form of flesh and bones, at the moment when the British Parliament is discussing the Canadian constitution. To see the complicity of the United States in the Irish movement it is only necessary to open one's eyes; but it is not superfluous to remark that the Fenian agitation comes at the same time with the reopening of the Eastern question. If one remembers that the United States are the faithful allies of Russia; that they have cause for vengeance against England, he will believe perhaps that this coincidence of the Fenians taking up arms with the Eastern agitation is not a work of chance.'

Emile de Girardin has been fined 5,000f. for writing an elaborate attack on the Emperor Napoleon's foreign policy, in the course of which he affirmed and professed to prove that, whatever territorial advantages France may have gained by her foreign policy, they have been more than balanced by the price she was forced to pay for them; that her influence as a great power was so feeble that she could not even save the Poles from a single cruelty of the many inflicted upon them by their oppressors; that she has lost by her war with Russia in defence of Turkey, and with Austria in defence of Italy; that at home she has lost her liberties, and has gained nothing but the impunity of workmen's strikes; and what, perhaps, is worse still, that the only plausible reason put forth by the Emperor for the "Coup d'Etat" of December was utterly groundless; that all his pretences alleged in his justification were utterly futile, and could not bear a moment's examination; and finally, that France was at this moment weaker than she was before 1851 in respect of her foreign relations; and that at home she was enslaved to such a degree that she not only could not prevent the irreparable faults which her rulers have committed, but that she is powerless to prevent those that may yet be committed.

The Paris Liberte, in an article by the famous writer, Emile de Girardin, says of the Mexican Expedition:—'What better position—what greater influence in the world does France owe to the expedition to Mexico, which has cost us since 1862 so many robust men, taken from the field and the workshop, so much money turned away from its proper course?

The Emperor himself felt greatly indignant, as well as surprised, at M. Girardin's article. His first thought was to suppress the Liberte by decree, but he was dissuaded from it, and left it in the hands of the law officers of the Crown. M. Girardin was, I believe, a favored guest at the last festivities of Compiègne, and there was no reason to suppose the existence of a feeling so hostile to that which he has just given expression to. It was suspected for a moment that the article was suggested, if not written, by Prince Napoleon; but the Prince has, I understand, positively denied all knowledge of it until he read it in the paper.

ABOUT STEPHENS.—PARIS.—Whilst you are in the throes of a hot-headed outbreak, it may interest you to know that one of the chief promoters of the Fenian movement, James Stephens, late Head Centre, is staying at a small Hotel in this city—the Hotel de Havre—and there is but little doubt that he is pulling the wires. Why he does not make an effort to get to Ireland himself is more than I can tell you, as I am not in his confidence. I know, however, that his friends here a few days ago foretold the present rising, and that Stephens declared that he was not yet played out. James Stephens is accompanied in his movements by some officers of the United States service, who are over here, I am told, upon six months leave. It is only to be supposed that the British Government keeps a sharp look out on this dangerous lot, as the arrival of Stephens in Paris has been known for weeks. An evening paper, just out, thinks it remarkable that this new Fenian movement should coincide with the revival of the Eastern question. It remarks that Russia and America are firm friends, and that both have personal motives for quarrelling with England. I am told, by the way, that France does not intend to fight any more for the Turks, and the movements of Russia appear to show that she is fully aware of the fact.—Corr. of Daily Express.

WHEN IS STEPHENS?—The Paris correspondent of the Sunday Gazette writes:

'I send you the intelligence of James Stephens's arrival in this country, and though active operations were not long in manifesting themselves after his landing in Europe, still I am told that the late Head Centre is quite innocent of the present troubles. On good authority I learn that James Stephens and a few officers, late of the United States Army, are in a hotel close to the Rue St. Lazare terminus, and that the rising has taken them by surprise. Whether Stephens intends to have anything more to do with the concern is doubtful. His command appears to have been taken from him and bestowed on another, and I hear that he is anxious to make his home among us here. Stephens and O'Mahony formerly lived here, paying five francs per month for their room, the former earning his livelihood by giving English lessons, and the other teaching Celtic at the Irish College. It is to be presumed that times have changed, and the credulity of thousands of dupes has placed James Stephens, though his scepter has passed from him, beyond the necessity of acting the schoolmaster for a second time.'

ITALY.

PIEDMONT.—The finances of Victor Emmanuel are in a nice state, thank God. The Times Correspondent writes:—

In spite of the fresh taxes imposed during the last two years, and which have increased the revenue by nearly one-third, the Budget shows a deficit of almost 200 millions. You have more than once been told that Signor Scialoja's financial statements were not generally accepted as correct. We know that anything may be proved by figures, and the late Italian Finance Minister was no tyro in the art of grouping them. In his calculations he has been in the habit of putting down credit as cash, and of under-estimating the State's liabilities. It was only thus that he brought down his deficit upon paper to 190 millions. Unfortunately, says Rattazzi, whose long Ministerial experience and thorough knowledge of the affairs of the country render him first-rate authority in this matter, 'unfortunately, not all the revenue is got in, and the expenditure exceeds the estimates.'

ITALIAN PRISONS.—Deputy Frederick Bellazzi (says the *Unita Cattolica*) has undertaken at Florence the editing of a weekly paper in the interest of prison reform, entitled *Cesare Beccaria*, and in the first number, published on the 19th January, 1867, gives us the statistics of the population of the kingdom of Italy detained in prison, and the relative expense of their maintenance. This statistical table does not include the newly acquired Venetian provinces nor those of the Duchy of Mantua. It is worth while taking a note of these more than eloquent figures, proving as they do the sort of moral order that exists in this unfortunate country.

In the Italian Gallies—Prisoners. . . 12,570
do Penitentiaries. . . 8,021
do Prisons for persons under age. 1,429
do Judicial Prisons. . . 41,142
do Military Prisons. . . 3,000
do Forced Domicile. . . 4,171

Total. . . 70,333

These figures, terrific, and not less appalling is the sum of public money expended from 1861 to 1867 for the service of the judicial prisons, penitentiaries, and galleys or prisons for penal servitude. Here are the figures:—

1861—Expense for maintenance of France.
prisoners. . . 12,985,413.71
1862. . . 16,117,753.22
1863. . . 18,186,887.63
1864. . . 22,487,608.44
1865. . . 20,616,765.23
1866—(Presumed amount). . . 21,504,141.51
1867 do do . . . 21,186,951.11

Total. . . 137,385,497.64

Therefore, we have spent in seven years more than 17 million francs (about five and a-half millions sterling) in the support and management of our galleys and prisons. The revenue of Tuscany was calculated in 1860 to amount to 81,608,782 Tuscan francs (84 centimes to the franc), consequently in seven short years the kingdom of Italy has expended on its bagnios and prisons almost double the entire annual revenue, ordinary and extraordinary, of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. Notwithstanding this enormous expenditure, what is the condition of Italian prisons, and how are the prisoners treated? A recent action for defamation and libel, which came off at Florence, revealed the truth. The journal called *Il Diritto*, denounced some time ago the custom of torture as adopted in the prisons of Parma. Signor Paolo Belmonti Quesada, governor of the prison, took an action against the *Diritto* for libel and defamation of character. The action was tried before the civil and correctional tribunal of Florence, and lasted from the 11th to the 16th of January, and from the evidence furnished by the advocates of the *Diritto*, there resulted 1st: That the soup given to the prisoners contained insects, worms, snails, moths and nastiness of all descriptions, so that the prisoners themselves sold it to a jobber for fattening pigs; 2ndly, that the wine allowed them was almost ink, muddy, full of dregs and no small quantity of noxious sulphuric acid; 3rdly, that a respectable person saw through a small aperture in the cell a poor prisoner with his hands bound behind his back, and with iron on his feet, drag himself along the ground, and by an effort of his chin, press close against the wall a piece of bread and seize it in his mouth; 4thly, that on three prisoners contusions and marks of bodily injury were traced, produced by the friction of the small doublet and belt gradual in its injurious effect, and caused also by the over-tightness of the belt itself. The flesh at the wrists was stripped of skin and severe marks were found on the shoulders and under the belt. The Florence tribunal, therefore, acquitted the editor of the *Diritto*, Signor Belmonti Quesada, and these are the prisons and the prisoners that in seven years cost us 137 million francs!

The *Opinione Nazionale*, Feb. 27th, says:—It was feared yesterday at Palermo that there was going to be a riot. The word was 'bread and work!'

Rome.—By the latest accounts from Rome complete tranquillity prevailed there. The Carnival had passed over without any untoward circumstance, and, regardless of the threats and forbiddals of the Secret Committee, the population generally had taken part with the usual 'abandon' of Italians in the humors of the season.

The following is an extract from the speech which the Pope recently addressed to the Roman Congress on the reading of the decrees of the Sacred Congregation of Rites touching the cause of a glorious group of 205 martyrs of both sexes, who suffered at Japan between 1617 and 1833:—

'Progress and civilisation are words which resound throughout Europe and beyond it; and God permits the men who utter these words so vauntingly to have the ordering, or rather the disordering, of society.—The civilisation and the progress in question consist in throwing bridges across rivers, in boring tunnels, in establishing great highways, in raising edifices—in short, in pandering to the passions, and providing for material welfare and material interests; not in diffusing religion; not in defending the Church.—Hence a great part of mankind are in a lamentable condition. Such are the civilisation and the progress of our epoch, severed as they are from the faith!—Very different from these are the civilisation and the progress which belong to the Church on her side, for her objects are diametrically opposed to the objects of her enemies. The progress of the faith consists in Christians ascending from one virtue to another, *in virtute in virtute*, up to a perfect union with God. They fail not to find abundant aids on their way—that way which leads to life, and to eternity.'

GERMANY.

BERLIN, March 27.—The North German Parliament has accepted a constitution, the provisions of which are mainly in accordance with the plan proposed by Count von Bismarck.

RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN CATHOLIC COUNTRIES.—A Catholic priest of high standing in Venice, occasionally takes a walk in the evening, and seldom lets pass an opportunity to help those who are in need. A short time ago he saw a Jew standing at the corner of a street, who cried bitterly. 'What ails you,' says the pious priest to the poor man, 'may be I can help you.' The poor Jew related that his wife was very ill and that he had no means to support her nor to give her physical aid. 'Take me to the invalid,' responded the minister, 'I shall try to help you as much as I can in my power. I shall have to tell you though, replied the poor man, 'that I am a Jew!—'Jew or Christian' answered the priest, 'are all the same with me; we are all children of God, and I shall lend you my aid as a brother.' Both went to the house of the sick woman. The priest gave her a considerable sum of money and ordered his house physician to cure her on his account. When, on the eighth of last month, the reconvalescent left the house for the first time after her illness, she called, accompanied by her husband at the residence of her benefactor, to thank him for his great kindness. The minister treated them very kindly and again presented them with a considerable sum of money. Religious tolerance will be more promoted by noble deeds than by handsome words.—Correspondent of N. Y. Hebrew Leader.

RUSSIA.

DISCOVERY OF A CONSPIRACY.—The *Posen Zeitung*, a semi official paper, intimates that a conspiracy has been discovered in Russia. The conspirators, being dissatisfied with the reforms of the present reign, are said to be aiming at the life of Alexander II. This intelligence (writes a Berlin correspondent) is scarcely credible in the peaceful condition of the Empire, and, but for a striking ukase issued the other day, would deserve to be entirely ignored. It has just been announced at Moscow that any hotelkeeper who should omit to send in the name of a guest to the police within a certain number of hours, will be transported to the eastern provinces of the realm. This draconic edict emanates from the Emperor himself, and though only referring to Moscow, from the discrepancy between offence and punishment, seems to rest upon some specific cause. The Sebastopol dinner, annually celebrated by those officers who shared the campaign, has just come off at St. Petersburg. General Menkoef, who delivered the speech of the evening, remarked among other things, that the events now preparing in the East were a harbinger of the good times coming, in which both Sebastopol and Black Sea fleet would be reconstructed.

TURKEY.

The *Invalide Russe* declares that it is impossible for the Porte—if it desires to remain faithful to the principles of the Koran—to grant important reforms to the Christians. The only possible way to arrive at a solution would be to establish a complete separation between the Mahometans and the Christians, by granting to the latter their sovereignty.

The French government is disposed to take the same view of the question.

THE INSURRECTION IN CRETE.—The Island is not only all in arms, but two battles have been fought, which have proved important successes for the insurgents. In one engagement the Greeks lost five standards, two cannon, a large number of prisoners, and it is estimated, 10,000 in killed and wounded. The Spahikie tribes have again joined the insurgents and the war is waged more vigorously than ever.

The Prussian, Russian, Italian, and Austrian Ministers at Constantinople have had orders to send vessels to Crete at once, to take off the women and children. The English and French Ambassadors have also been authorized to do the same, if they think best. No progress has yet been made in the line of promised reforms, but the Grand Council of State is discussing them. The impression in Constantinople is that France is more willing to allow Crete to be annexed to Greece. A despatch, of Greek origin, dated Corfu, March 9, affirms that the Ottomans had gained another victory over the Turks, on March 9, affirms that the Ottomans had gained another victory over the Turks, on March 9, affirms that the Ottomans had gained another victory over the Turks, on March 9.

OUR OWN FAULTS.—Let us not be over curious about the failings of others, but take account of our own; let us bear in mind the excellencies of other men, while we reckon up our own faults, for then shall we be pleasing to God. For he who looks at the faults of others, and at his own excellencies, is injured in two ways; by the latter he is carried up to arrogance—through the former he falls into listlessness. For when he perceives that such a one hath sinned, very easily will he sin himself; when he perceives he hath in sight excelled, very easily he becomes arrogant. He who consigns to oblivion his own excellencies, and looks at his failings only whilst he is a curious enquirer of the excellencies, and not the sins of others, is profitable in many ways.—And how? I will tell you. When he sees that such a one hath done excellently, he is raised to emulate the same; when he sees that he himself hath sinned he is rendered humble and modest. If we act thus—if we thus regulate ourselves—we shall be able to obtain the good things which we are promised, through the grace and loving kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ.—St. Chrysostom.

AN UNPLEASANT EXPECTATION.—'You always lose your temper in my company,' said an individual of doubtful reputation to a gentleman. 'True, sir,' replied the other, 'and I shouldn't wonder if I lost everything I have about me.'

At a recent railroad dinner, in compliment to the fraternity, the toast was given—'An honest lawyer—the noblest work of God.' An old farmer in the back part of the room, rather spoiled the effect by adding in a loud voice, 'and about the scarcest!'

Who shoots at the mid day sun, though he is sure he shall never hit the mark, yet as sure he is, that he shall shoot higher than he was aims but at a bush.

ONLY TIGHT.—How flushed—how weak he is. What is the matter with him?

'Only tight!'

'Tight?'

'Yes, intoxicated.'

'Only tight! Man's best and greatest gift, his intellect degraded; the only power that raises him above the brute creation, trodden down under the foot of a debasing appetite.'

'Only tight! The mother stands with pale face and tear-dimmed eyes to see her only son's disgrace, and, in her fancy, pictures the bitter woe of which this is the forshadowing.'

'Only tight! The gentle sister whose strongest love through life has been given to her handsome, talented brother, shrinks with contempt and disgust from his embrace, and brushes away the hot, impure kiss which he prints upon her rosy cheek.'

'Only tight! And the young bride steps in the glad dance she is making to meet him, and checks the welcome on her lips to gaze in terror on the reeling form and flushed face of him who was the god of her idolatry.'

'Only tight! and the father's face grows sad and dark, as with a bitter sigh he stoops over the sleeping form of his first born.'

He has brought sorrow to all these affectionate hearts; he has opened the door to a fatal indulgence; he has brought himself down to a level with brutes; he has tasted, exciting the appetite to crave the poisonous draught again; he has fallen from high and noble manhood to babbling idiocy and heavy stupor; he has grieved his mother, distrust to his sister, almost despair to his bride, and bowed his father's head with sorrow; but blame him not, for he is 'only tight!'

There is nothing evil but what is within us; the rest is either natural or accidental.

Friendship is so rare, as it is to be doubted whether it be a thing indeed or but a word.

While there is hope left, let not the weakness of sorrow make the strength of resolution languish.

Prefer your friend's profit before your own desire.

A just man hateth the evil, but not the evildoer.

There cannot be a greater rudeness than to interrupt another in the current of his discourse.

One look (in a clear judgment) from a fair and virtuous woman is more acceptable than all the kindnesses so prodigally bestowed by a wanton beauty.

It is folly to believe that he can faithfully love, who does not love faithfulness.

CALCULOUS.—Woman is like ivy—the more you are ruined, the closer she clings to you. An old bachelor adds: 'Ivy is like woman—the closer it clings to you, the more you are ruined.'

Who doth desire that his wife should be chaste, first be true; for truth doth deserve truth.

Throw a piece of meat among bears, and a piece of gold among men, and which will behave most outrageously—the men or the beasts?

THE RABBIT OVERBOUNDS.—'When are you going to commence the pork business?' asked a person of another, who had a sty on his eye.

'Explain yourself, sir,' said the afflicted gentleman.

'Why, I see that you have your sty quite ready.'

'True,' was the reply, 'and I've a hog in my eye now.'

BORROWING TROUBLE.—There are a great many persons who give themselves a great deal of imaginary trouble, quite as useless as that of the man who thought he had lost money by the failure of a bank.

'As soon as I heard it, my heart jumped right out of my mouth. Now, thinks I 'sposin' I've got any bills on that bank? I'm gone if I have—that's a fact. So I put on my coat, and started for home just as fast as my legs would carry me; the fact is, I ran all the way. And when I got there, I looked keenly and found I hadn't got no bills on that bank—or any other. Then I felt easier.'

ONE DRAIN.—Dinner was spread in the cabin of that peerless steamer, the New World, and a splendid company were assembled about the table. Among the passengers prepared for gastronomic duty, was a little creature of the genus *Fop*, decked daintily in an early butterfly, with kids of irreproachable whiteness, 'miraculous' necktie, and spiderlike zigzag glass on his nose. The delicate animal turned his head affectedly aside with:

'Waiah!'

'Sah!'

'Bring me the pwopellah of a fwemale woostah!'

'Yes, sah!'

'And, waiah, tell the steward to rub my plate with a weigtable vulgarly called onion, which will give a delicious flavor to my dinah!'

While the refined exquisite was giving his order a jolly western drover had listened with open mouth and protruding eyes. When the diminutive creature paused, the drover brought his fist down upon the table with a force that made every dish bound, and thundered out:

'Here! you gaul darned ace of spades!'

'Yes, sah!'

'Bring me a thunderin' big plate of skunk's gizzard!'

'Sah!'

'And, old ink pot, tuck a horse-blanket under my chin, and rub me down with brickbats, while I feed!'

Lord Braxfield, a Scottish judge, once said to an eloquent culprit at the bar: 'You're a vera clever chiel, man; but I'm thinking ye-wad be name the waur o' a hangin!'

EDUCATION.—Thewald thought it very unfair to influence a child's mind by inculcating any opinion before it should have come to years of discretion, and be able to choose for itself. I showed him my garden, and told him it was my botanic garden. 'How so?' said he, 'it is covered with weeds.' 'Oh! I replied, 'that is because it has not come to its age of discretion and choice. The weeds, you see, have taken the liberty to grow, and I thought it unfair to me to prejudice the soil in favor of roses and strawberries.—Coleridge.'

A drunken fellow had wandered into a Sunday school, and taken a seat among prim scholars, when the teacher accosted him with: 'Why, James, do you know what condition you are in?' 'Yeesh mm; in th' gall of bitness,' in the bonds 'n' niquity. Ask me some hard questions!'

Every man has within himself the source of joy and of sorrow. External events can have but little effect on him who values everything in this world precisely as it deserves. Remember that we have not here a permanent dwelling place, and you will be able to laugh at adversity.

WINTER BUTTER.—The color of late made butter may be improved, and the taste will be much fresher and sweeter by adopting the following recommendation: The night before the cream is to be churned take two good sized red carrots to each gallon of cream; after washing, grate them, and stir the pulp will remain in the cloth or strainer when the cream is poured into the churn. The flavor of the butter will be thus improved, and the appearance changed for the better. The carrot, as a coloring, is far less expensive than annatto, which is sometimes used for this purpose.—*Agricultural Gazette*.

He who pays more attention to his hat than his head shows which is most prized.

Crime passes through three stages. It is suggested first as a thing we should like, could it be accomplished without any real infringement of divine or human law. It is second, a plan that we meditate about, as to the possibility of its being perpetrated by some one without risk to ourselves. Finally it is an act which we determine to execute.

NIGHT ON THE STAKED PLAINS OF TEXAS.—I know nothing in the world more melancholy than those vast solitudes seen on a fine summer's night, when the moon, shining in the midst of the stars, sends forth the reflection of its silvery light over this boundless plain. The view is lost in a pale twilight, without shade, without echo; a light, transparent mist hovers in the space. Scorpions, in crawling along, make their scales creak; large green and yellow lizards move slowly on the burnt grass. The melodious murmuring of the flowing waters is nowhere heard, nor the joyful rustling of the leaves. The birds, having no branches whereon to rest, enliven not the air with their song; the breeze whispers not in the foliage; nothing disturbs the silence of night, unless it be the monotonous *cric cri* of the solitary cricket. The silence oppresses, overwhelms you, like the thought of the infinite. You fancy yourself wrapped in a shroud of drapery which envelopes the whole world for life is only revealed by the twinkling of the stars; movement is only manifested by the motion of the moon pursuing its tranquil course through the celestial spheres. Nature seems plunged in an awful slumber, dismal, mysterious, full of sadness and pain like the sleep of the dead in presence of eternity.—'Seven Years in the Great Deserts of North America,' by the Abbe Domenech.

A MIGHTY RIVER.—The Amazon, the largest river in the world, has an area of drainage nearly three times as large as that of all the rivers of Europe that empty themselves into the Atlantic. This plain is entirely covered with a dense primeval forest, through which the only paths are those made by the river, and its innumerable tributaries. This forest is literally impenetrable. Humboldt remarks that two mission stations might be only a few miles apart, and yet the residents would require a day and a half to visit each other, along the windings of small streams. Even the wild animals get so involved in impenetrable masses of wood, that they (even the jaguar) live for a long time in the trees, a terror to the monkeys whose domain they have invaded. The trees often measure from eight to twelve feet in diameter; and the intervals are occupied by shrub-like plants, which here, in these tropical regions, become aborescent. The origin of the Amazon is unknown; it is navigable for two thousand miles from the ocean; it is nearly one hundred miles wide at the mouth, and in some places six hundred feet deep; and in its torrent projects, as it were, into the ocean, more than three hundred miles, perceptibly altering its waters at this distance from the American shores.

SOUL STOMACH.—Nature provides a liquid (the gastric juice) in the stomach, sufficient to dissolve as much food as the system requires, and no more.—Whatever is eaten beyond what is needed has no gastric juice to dissolve it, and being kept at the temperature of the stomach, which is about a hundred degrees, it begins to decompose—that is, to sour—in one, two, three or more hours, just as new cider begins to sour in a few hours. In the process of souring, gas is generated as in the cider-barrel, the bung is thrown out, and some of the contents run over at the bung-hole, because in souring, the contents expand, and require more room. So with the stomach. It may be but partially filled by a meal; but if more has been swallowed than wise nature has provided gastric juice for, it begins to sour, to ferment, to distend, and the man feels uncomfortably full. He wants to belch. That gives some relief. But the fermentation going on, he gets the 'belly-ache' of childhood or some other discomfort, which lasts for several hours, when nature succeeds in getting rid of the surplus, and the machinery runs smoothly again. But if these things are frequently repeated, the machinery fails to rectify itself, loses the power of re-adjustment, works with a clog, and the man is a miserable dyspeptic for the remainder of life; and all from his not having had wit enough to know when he had eaten plenty, and being foolish enough, when he had felt the ill effects of thus eating too much, to repeat the process an indefinite number of times; and all for the trifling object of feeling good for the brief period of its passing down the throat. For each minute of that good he pays the penalty of a month of such suffering as only a dyspeptic can appreciate. What a fool man is! He is a numbskull, a goose, a sheep, a goat, a jackass.—*Hall's Journal of Health*.

FOURTHOUGHT.—There never was a wiser maxim than that of Franklin. 'Nothing is cheap that you do not want; yet how perfectly insane many persons are out the subject of buying things cheap.'

'Do tell me why you have bought that cast-off door plate?' asked a husband of one of these notable bargainers. 'Dear me,' replied the wife, 'you know it is always my plan to lay up things against time of need. Who knows but you may die, and I may marry a man with the same name as that on the door plate?'

GEMS FROM SIR PHILIP SYDNEY.—Give tribute, but not oblation, to human wisdom.

The only disadvantage of an honest heart is credulity.

The journey of high honor lies not in smooth ways. The perfect hero passeth through the multitude as a man that neither disdain a people, nor yet is anything tickled with their flattery.

Never look to an exclusively political paper for good reading for your family. You might as well try to get wool by shearing a hydraulic ram.

When we are alone we have our thoughts to watch; in our families, our tempers; and in society, our tongues.

An editor out West, boasts of having had a talk with a woman, and got the last word.

It seems a very perplexing question how soldiers can pitch their tent when they are out of pitch.

Remember that in all miseries, lamenting becomes fools, and action, the wise.

In a brave bosom, honor cannot be rocked asleep by affection.

Prayer truth before the maintaining of an opinion. There are many people who falter and tremble as long as there is any mixture of doubt in their minds as to what they can or what they ought to do; but who the moment that doubt ceases have power and will to dare anything.

How intoxicating is the triumph of beauty, and how right is it to name it the queen of the universe! How many courtiers—how many slaves have submitted to it! But alas! why is it that what flatters our senses almost always deceives our souls?

Never seek to be enriched with your friend's secrets;