

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

FRANCE.

PARIS, March 12.—Some of the French Bishops seem resolved to proceed to Rome for the canonization of the martyrs of Japan, in obedience to the letters of Convocation, and in spite of the prohibition of their own Government. Thus the Bishop of Moulins (M. de Dreux-Bréze) has, I believe, already set out. The Archbishop of Tours and the Bishop of Angers, who returned from Rome only a short time ago, are preparing to return; and the Bishop of Perpignan has announced his intention to comply with the summons of the Pope. There are others who will doubtless follow their example, and brave the consequences of their disregard of their Imperial injunction. By doing so the Bishops will, it is true, become amenable to the Council of State, and in any case will necessarily widen the breach between France and the Holy See. The Emperor, patient as he may be, will hardly allow himself to be beard by his own subjects in the face of the world. Indeed, the difficulties of this "Roman question" are thickening every day. It is a greater source of uneasiness to the Emperor than any of the questions now pending, and the greater the necessity for solving it the more he seems unable or unwilling to do so, unless it be the fact, as some believe it is, that between Prince Napoleon and his cousin there is at bottom no difference of opinion whatever, and that the Prince is in reality the mouthpiece of His Majesty.

I may add that few people here seem to have any doubt about the overthrow of the Ricasoli Ministry and the accession of M. Rattazzi being the work of French diplomacy—be it for good, be it for evil. It is affirmed that whatever doubts or hesitation may have been in the mind of Victor Emmanuel were removed by a letter addressed to him from Paris, and under such circumstances a wish is a command.

The *Presse* newspaper has received an avowal from the Minister of the Interior for an article published yesterday on the debates in the Legislative Chamber, and which is ascribed as injurious. This sort of chastisement is again becoming frequent.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs during his interview with the members of the Diplomatic Corps on Tuesday assured them that there was nothing serious in the movements or manifestations which have lately occurred among the students in Paris; that at all times there existed evil disposed persons who profit by every circumstance to excite disorder; that the secret societies spoken of existed under every Government, but that there was no reason for disquietude. It is said that the Minister has written to the same effect to the French agents at foreign Courts.

The Archbishop of Rennes has issued an address to the clergy of his diocese, containing a very warm defence of the Pope's temporal power.

Baron Brenier has published a pamphlet of 32 pages on the "Roman question." The Baron is not an ordinary pamphleteer; and, whether right or wrong in the point of view from which he examines this important subject, he has, at all events, a claim to be heard. He was the last Ambassador of the Emperor of the French at the Court of Naples. It was the second time he occupied that post under the Imperial Government. He witnessed the downfall of the Neapolitan monarchy, and he only quitted its capital when the Sovereign to whom he was accredited was deposed. In the time of the Republic he was entrusted with confidential missions to Italy; and under the Orleans dynasty he had held for years an official post in the same country. In his pamphlet, which is entitled *De la France appropos de l'Italie*, M. Brenier contends that the solution which the increasing danger of the Italian question calls for is not *unification*, but *confederation*, pretty much as the Emperor Napoleon originally contemplated. He does not think that the official documents which have been laid before the French Parliament throw much light on the subject, or that the Address of the Senate does anything but aggravate the conflict. Even the able speech of M. Billault, however it may conciliate certain parties in the Senate, does not change in the slightest respect the existing state of affairs.

"I have studied this question," he says, "long and attentively, and I have come to the conclusion that the truth—that is to say, justice, reason, the reality of things, and good faith—have all been disregarded, and that this contempt for truth has been followed by faults, by calamities, and by punishment. I conceive I have some right to speak on this grave question of Italy. Years ago I felt sympathy for her sufferings, and encouraged her early hopes when she found no sympathy anywhere in Europe. When war was imminent I did not hesitate to approve war and the political combinations which were to follow it. When I speak of Italy it is a friendly voice which is heard, and which is above suspicion. I desire to give her the advice which my affection for her and my experience suggest to me—the advice of a friend, and the advice of a friend who deals frankly. Moreover, I am authorized to seek out the causes and the solution of the actual state of Italy by the explicit opinion of the Government, which while recognizing the King of Italy, declared, in the despatch of the 18th of June, 'that it belonged only to the future to determine the organization most proper to fix the destinies of the Peninsula.'"

M. Brenier contends that it does not necessarily follow that, because France has done so much for Italy, Italy will be always the ally of France. The real cause of the French frontier of Savoy was the security of Italy by her acquisitions in Italy; but how much more dangerous would be a united Italy with 20,000,000? This enormous augmentation cannot be accepted with absolute confidence.

The ill-will of Piedmont has been already shown, for hardly had the Emperor projected the plain of confederation when she took up unification, "in spite of us, and against our protests." The diplomatic documents communicated to the

Chambers show that the Emperor repeatedly disapproved the acts of Piedmont, and particularly the invasion of Umbria and the Marches; and the antagonism which dates from Villafranca, and which has increased since then, justifies the apprehensions which those who think that it would be imprudent to abandon everything to an alliance which has given, and which continues to give, indubitable signs of the dangers which she may hereafter raise up against us."

These dangers M. Brenier does not believe to be imaginary; on the contrary, he looks upon them as very grave.

M. Brenier cites the conduct of the Turin Cabinet towards Naples to show—

"How easily it can break off its political relations, and even its family ties. In July, 1860, the conditions of a good understanding with Naples on the most liberal basis, inasmuch as they comprised an offensive and defensive alliance with Austria, were still in course of negotiation at Turin. The ambassadors were reciprocally engaged discussing the articles when the Sardinian squadron appeared at Naples to support Garibaldi, by proceedings which I will not mention, because no one would believe them possible; and all this while King Francis II. had still at his Court the ambassador of Victor Emmanuel! One must have lost his memory and all moral feeling to forget these facts; but I merely mention them as showing how little the solidity and sincerity of alliances with that Cabinet are to be trusted."

M. Brenier does not believe that unity is suited to the moral and political condition of Italy, any more than to the general interests of French policy.

The correspondent of the *Weekly Register* says:—

I am much inclined to believe with the correspondent of the *Independence Belge* (who ought to be well-informed, since he writes from the bureau of the Minister of the Interior), that we shall shortly see proof of the fact that Prince Napoleon has not greatly exceeded the truth, in affirming his words to be a reflection of the Imperial mind. He has but passed over one phase viz:—Its policy towards the Court of Rome.—The Emperor is perhaps more disposed to agree with his cousin, than the latter is to join heartily with him. But, on the whole, they mutually understand each other; like two thieves bent on the same prize. It appears to me, that you have not fully appreciated, in England, the significance of the Palikao affair. The General is now nicknamed, General Hu; of which the meaning, in good Chinese, is said to be simply, Rotten Pig. This matter forms one of the most important incidents of the past ten years, proving the fundamental evil of the existing Government, which has but a single vote to lean upon, when a fit of apathy or ill-humour occurs. The second Imperial letter on this subject has caused me deep sorrow, by the fresh proof it affords of how much might have been gained, nay, might still be gained, by Deputies, Bishops, and Catholics, were they to display more firmness. The Deputies bailed their deliverance from the difficulty into which they had fallen with quite a childish delight, proving how correctly I had styled one of them *Vir improbus tacendi peritus*. All charm has gone from the empire. We may yet possess it for many years, since it has succeeded in degrading so many minds; but it has inherently the seeds of decay, and will quietly effect its own destruction by the identical principle on which it raised itself, viz., financial corruption, which has now reached a point at which it could only be rectified by retrenchments impossible to one who can refuse nothing to a "uniform." For 70 years every French Government has died by the same hand that gave it life. The guillotine, to which Robespierre owed his reign, quickly ended it. One night's fearful orgies suffice to create the Directory; those of another, to destroy it.—Bonaparte was deposed, as well as sustained by war, which had been his path to power. The existing Government maintains itself by diffusing all that is still left of the gold furnished by M. Howard for its elevation. No single arm among the many who now serve it, will be found at its disposal when it has exhausted the resources from which it now buys their support.

There are certain symptoms of the downfall of despotism; but no one is keenly anxious to profit thereby. The legitimists obstinately exclude the Action party from the *Gazette de France*. The Orleansists detest the Empire, but incessantly render it services. On Shrove Tuesday the Police were busily employed in the destruction of the following placard: "Wanted, willing and active laborers for the work of cleansing a Court and two Chambers." Besides M. Ganesco and the various other persons of whose arrests you have heard, there have been further seizures of all those operatives who signed the protest in the *Courrier du Dimanche*. There are now 500 individuals at Murgos, with every probability that they will soon be transported to Cayenne, without the semblance of a trial. I do not dispute the existence of considerable agitation; but it is not of the important character with which Government would invest it, by seeking, as in 1851, to raise a red spectre for the intimidation of fools and cowards. Fear is our ruling passion, and seems to carry the day over all other influences. They are easily afraid of all things, who have ceased to desire anything ardently. Ministerial changes are still talked of. Rouland would replace Persigny, who would return to imbibe from you the spirit of liberty which he so much needs.—Drouin de Lhuys would take the portfolio of Foreign Affairs; and Chaux d'Est Ange that of Public Worship. The last-named choice is the more strikingly bad, from the generally well-known fact that the individual in question is the son of a Religious of 1793, who was named "Pere Saint Ange"; hence the name "d'Est Ange." On all sides there are convincing proofs of what is the intended attitude of Government towards the Clergy. The Archbishop of Tours passed through Paris the other day on his return from Rome. He was immediately admonished, that in order to obtain forgiveness for having visited Rome, he had better present himself at the Tuilleries, and the advice was accompanied by a threat that should he refuse, he might be foiled in the work he has undertaken of rebuilding the Basilica of St. Martin. "I will neither call on the Emperor, nor his Minister," replied the noble Prelate; "and I place St. Peter still higher than I do St. Martin." He has brought exultant news from Rome, touching the moral aspect of things to which alone one can attach importance. Twenty Cardinals visited the French Prelate, all speaking in the same tone of energetic resignation. Pious LX said to him, "I know that all is lost; but I promise you that we shall not fall without honor."—*Cor. Weekly Register.*

Arrests still continue in Paris of members of revolutionary committees, who, there is no doubt, look

up to Prince Napoleon as their chief—a defiance which, if he were not as cowardly, in deed as he is brave in words, would no doubt be simply warranted by his infidel principles and his anarchical language.

PRO-PLO.—It is not unlikely, we understand, that this turbulent Prince of the Mountain will be induced shortly to leave his country for his country's good, on a tour or voyage of scientific discovery. Has it been discovered among the papers found upon some of the kidnapped "Reds" in Paris, that the "younger branch" really was preparing to unfurl his flag. More unlikely things have happened before now.—*Cor. of the Weekly Register.*

ITALY.

SECRET HISTORY OF BARON RICASSOLI'S DOWNFALL.—The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* furnishes an explanation of the recent change of ministry at Turin which is likely enough to be true, though the recollection of an equal circumstantial story, the scene of which was laid in the same quarter of the world, and which subsequently proved to be wholly without foundation, forbids us to place too implicit a reliance upon it. The writer says,—"In the stagnation of domestic politics a very eager interest is awakened in the startling news from Turin. The impression made by that news here, among the friends of the Italian cause, is profound and painful. Ricasoli has, beyond doubt, fallen a victim to a palace intrigue—a 'camavilla' of the most disreputable kind. It would be absurd to affect a squeamish reticence on matters of perfect notoriety both in Italy and here, among persons in communication with the centres of Italian politics, from the moment that these matters exercise a most important bearing on the constitutional prospects of Italy. The private life of Victor Emmanuel is not of a kind that will bear close examination among decorous people. He is a man of hot and amorous temperament, and has never bridled his inclinations. Of his passing amours there is no occasion to speak. But one long-continued illicit connexion is, by all accounts too closely connected with the fall of Ricasoli to be passed over. The King has a family of six children by the Countess Fiori, who lives in a casino adjacent to the Palace, and has been his mistress *en titre* for many years—indeed, since before his accession to the throne. She is a woman who, whatever she may have been at sixteen, is now coarse, masculine, and vulgar, in appearance and deportment. She looks, I am told, just what might be expected from her origin—a daughter of a drum-major of the Royal Guard, who was fencing master of the youthful Duke of Savoy, at Stuppanigi, where the late King Carlo Alberto had his suburban palace. The connexion formed at that time has never been broken off.

"As in such cases, this mistress—now ennobled, but often spoken of in Italy as 'Rosina'—than by her title of Countess di Fiori—has her own creatures, who pay her court, and turn her great and easily understood influence to their own purposes. Bessa, the King's private secretary, is described as one of the Countess's relatives, and as maintaining his place and power by means even more unworthy than paying court to the royal mistress. The King had been over-persuaded into asking the order of San Maurizio for this man. Ricasoli, as Prime Minister, was requested to put the royal wish in proper train for accomplishment. When he proceeded to press the recommendation he learnt for the first time the real character of the man he had been asked to recommend. Deeply wounded and indignant, he expressed to the King, in terms which to a hot and high spirited monarch must have been singularly unpalatable, his sense of the wrong done to him, no less than the order, by asking him to recommend such a man for his insignia. This has been one of the occasions—probably numerous—in which the rigid and unbending nature of Ricasoli has clashed with the easy-going, pleasure-loving, hot-tempered, but not ungenerous, Victor Emmanuel. He is understood to have stood sternly aloof from all defence to the favorite, and to have given the deepest offence to that feeling which it would be an abuse of the word to call pride, but which takes its place in a person of the character and position of the Countess di Fiori.

"In all this now lies the root of Ricasoli's present resignation. I do not mean to insinuate, for a moment, that Rattazzi has personally soiled his hands by working such wires as these; but he has availed himself of the wires and those who pulled them. "It is feared by all the well-informed persons whom I have heard discuss the present state of affairs at Turin that this palace plot has been complicated by French intrigues, which have been diligently employed ever since Rattazzi's visit to Paris, about the work now accomplished, of substituting the man who is reported to be the more docile agent of imperial projects in Italy for the unbending Tuscan, who has stood so resolutely aloof from both the temptations and the menaces of the Tuilleries."

In Turin, Rattazzi's Government already shows its true nature. It is commencing action against Garibaldi's committees, by a warning that they must take care what they are about, or they will be summarily broken up. What this means admits of no doubt. But it receives a commentary from a speech of M. Billault, which vastly excites the wrath of our contemporary, the *Star*, who says:—"In the debate of the Paris Corps Legislatif on Wednesday, M. Billault, the French Minister, replying to Jules Favre's magnificent oration of the previous day, volunteered some advice to Italy which has an unpleasant appearance of having been previously communicated to the Italian Minister. This is the language of counsel in which the French officials exhort the Italian Government:—'Secure to yourselves the conditions of a great and strong government; secure public order against revolutionary and subterranean practices. Do not see at many points of your territory tumultuous assemblies, agitations, excited influences operating upon the masses? You are not yet masters in your own house. Begin by being so.' Is Signor Rattazzi's first official act the result of this inspiration? Is he attempting to make his Government 'masters in their own house'?"

A letter from Turin dated 2nd March to *L'Ami de la Religion*, says:—"There has been much astonishment here at the noise which the proclamation of Col. Fantoni made in London. That proclamation is very stringent, but alas, latterly, there are still more cruel ones. Do you not recollect that of General Ciaffini, dated Jeramo, 2nd November, 1860, to the Governor of Molise, a proclamation given at full length in the excellent work on the present condition of the Kingdom of Naples, published by General Pierre Uloa. If the English Parliament directed its consuls to transmit to it a list of the assassinations alone committed within the last fifteen months in the Neapolitan provinces, people would be terrified at the number of victims put to death without judgment. An Englishman who was lately at Turin related to all who would listen to him the manner in which the unfortunate prisoners at Naples are treated. Exasperated by the pains and sufferings they endured, they assembled lately in one of the courts and loudly demanded justice. In order to calm them ignited grenades were thrown among them, which severely wounded a large number. The details of this act have been transmitted to England. We will see what the *Times* and other journals say of such an act. The Italian feeling at Trieste runs extremely high at the present moment. The Austrian officers are altogether excluded from the houses of the townspeople. There is a German party there, but it is described as terrorized by the much more numerous Italian one. The most curious feature of the situation is that even the members of the Italian party are fain to admit that a separation from Austria would be very detrimental to the commercial prosperity of the city; but, nevertheless, in politics they are all for a union with Italy. How they propose to reconcile their interests and their sympathies is a riddle probably even to themselves.

General Ciaffini has refused to enter the Rattazzi Cabinet; fortunately, we should think, for the Minister, for the prestige of the sanguinary butcher of Naples could give no moral strength, at all events, to his administration. "Garibaldi has assumed the presidency of a revolutionary committee at Genoa; and to this society the Sardinian Government have found it necessary to address a warning and a threat. It has informed them that unless their proceedings be characterized by a greater degree of calmness and moderation, the society will be suppressed. The Government is beginning to fear the revolution; the revolution is becoming dissatisfied with the government, and troubles from all quarters are looming on 'the King of Italy.'"

Genoa, March 3.—A meeting of 300 popular delegates was held here to-day in the Paganini Theatre. A great crowd assembled. Garibaldi, who had accepted the presidency of the meeting, was much cheered on entering the hall. In his speech he said:—

"I am happy to preside at this meeting of the representatives of the great Italian family. I deplore the absence of the representatives of those provinces still excluded from our union."

Garibaldi took an oath to deliver those provinces, and exhorted the people to concord, and the union of the forces of the nation in the same manner as the fuses are bound together. "Then," he continued, "we shall vanquish all tyranny, and extend freedom beyond the Peninsula to every enslaved people." The committees of the provinted held a meeting to-day, at which the Vice-President said:—"The presence of Garibaldi among us will testify to Europe the concord of Italian democracy, the programme of which is the execution of the plebiscite of the 20th October. We are with the Government as long as it wishes, like us, the unity of our fatherland, which we will strive to obtain by legal means, with Rome for our capital." Loud applause followed this speech. The report of the preceding sitting was then read. The passage relating to the petition for the recall of Mazzini was received with cries of "Evviva Mazzini!"

The *Times* correspondent likens Garibaldi and his accomplices to the Jacobins of '93:—

Upon looking at the platform where the chief actors in this popular drama were assembled, I could scarcely restrain my fancy, which conjured up the great days of the *Comite du Salut public*, and the faces of some of the men present almost reminded me of the cast of features and the look and expression which I have seen in the portraits of Marat, Desmoulins, Couthon, and the others, and in the President himself.

Rome, March 3.—I begin by stating that our Holy Father enjoys excellent health, God be thanked. Write it in cubital letters to make this: the chiefs of those who so often take pleasure in proclaiming any slight illness of our Holy Father, who, in spite of all evil desires, I trust will be preserved by God to enjoy a complete triumph. Yesterday, first Friday in March, in the afternoon, the Holy Father came down to St. Peter's as usual, and an immense concourse of persons of the most respectable class was drawn thither from a spirit of religion and devotion for the Holy Father. Nor is it to be wondered at, that a religious demonstration should have at the present day a political sense.

I now come to other news:—During the last week was arrested a certain Venanzi, who is said to be the Secretary of the Piedmontist Committee; his house was searched, and it is said that papers of the highest importance were found, and which throw much light on the events and men of the day. The revolutionists pretend that this arrest is insignificant, and those papers without meaning; but the fact is, that Captain Eligi, who made this arrest and persecution, has been promoted to the rank of Major; which shows that the Government is sufficiently satisfied with the result of its operations. This arrest was ordered by Monsignore de Merode. This is not the first time that the energy of Monsignore de Merode has shown Monsignore Matteucci to be remiss, and hence there is a report that Mgr. de Merode is about to occupy the post of Minister of Police.

Rome: ITS PRESENT STATE, &c.—The social aspect of Rome at this moment is as singular as its political situation is unpromising. Its dense population is composed of elements as heterogeneous as ever were held together in one body politic. Internally it is a volcano which might at any moment burst into open eruption; externally it is a model of decorum and tranquillity. Its floating accession of foreign visitors has never been so small at this season of the year; and hence the hotels are empty, the art-galleries deserted, the painters and sculptors idle, and the unhappy workers in conebiglig and mosaic almost starving; but on the other hand, the Italian population has not for many years been more numerous. A great many disaffected persons linger by choice in the city, awaiting some indefinite prospect of a convulsion, and thousands who have suffered by the revolution in other parts of Italy, and who are attached heart and soul to the Pope's government, have flocked to Rome.

But the most singular feature in the social aspect of the Eternal City is its vast foreign garrison. Now, indeed, it may be said, the Gauls are in the Capitol, and not only in the Capitol, but in every strong place and thoroughfare, and almost in every house in Rome. Not only have the castle of St. Angelo, and the principal barracks been given up to the French army of occupation, but a large portion of each of the great monasteries, and in some cases, the entire of religious houses and palaces of the nobility, have been conveyed into military quarters for their accommodation.

Besides those of the French army, a variety of military uniforms are now to be seen in the streets of Rome. A certain portion of the Pope's Italian army still remains, and is undergoing a re-organization which was sadly required. Then there is the legion of the Franco-Belges, whose grey zouave uniform is becoming every day more frequent in Rome. This new force is composed, as its name indicates, partly of Frenchmen and partly of Belgians. Scions of the most noble houses in France have entered this legion men of the rank of count and marquis have not disdained to serve as non-commissioned officers, or even private soldiers; and the whole corps would appear to be composed of young men of education and gentlemanly bearing.

Nor must we overlook the bright green uniform of St. Patrick's brigade, of which some thirty men or more still remain in Rome, admittedly as the nucleus of a corps, and possibly of a permanent one, yet to be formed in the Pope's service. The late Irish Brigade in Rome was lastly called into existence, and during its brief career, labored under many disadvantages. Agencies most hostile to its success were actively at work from the beginning, and with the smallest amount of preparatory drill, almost without any time to inure it to military discipline, it was placed in the very foremost ranks in battle; and then, too, under circumstances so hopeless, against numbers so overwhelming, and so much Italian treachery and Swiss cowardice to dishearten it, on its own side! Yet, in a position so trying, the conduct of these raw Irish recruits was worthy of veteran soldiers; their steadfastness and bravery won the applause of their general, and are questioned by no one; and on the whole, it may be truly said that they were not unworthy of the country which sent out the "Brigade" of old. The few "men in green" who still remain in Rome, are active, good-looking fellows, soldier-like, and well disciplined, nor are there, we believe, braver men in the garrison.—*Hibernian Magazine.*

NAPLES.—More horrors from Naples. At the recent funeral obsequies of the Archbishop of Amalfi in the Cathedral, a body of Revolutionists rushed into the church, while the Clergy were praying round the catafalque, and with their daggers stabbed the lifeless remains of the Archbishop. The body of Ferdinand II. reposes in the Church of St. Chiara, and the Government having information of a plot to profane the tomb and drag the Royal remains to the Camp de Mars, to the spot where Agostino Milano attempted regicide, succeeded in preventing the execution of this fell design.

De Christen, who was arrested nearly five months ago at Naples, on suspicion of being an

agent of the King Francis, has remained ever since a close prisoner, and not

He has never been tried, never has been confronted with an accuser, and he guesses only the cause of his detention. Last week he was allowed to see a friend—one who was with him at the time of his arrest; up to that time his sole companions had been the turnkeys. When he was arrested there was not a single thing found upon him of a compromising kind. It is true that the Hebrews, who control a good deal of the press, and the telegrams also, said that there were many letters, &c.; &c. found upon him; but it is quite false. Now, this man has been languishing in a dungeon for five months or so, without having been brought to trial; he has sent for a lawyer, but has not been allowed to see him. Our Gladstone had much compassion for Poorio; has he capacity to feel any for De Christen?—*Tablet.*

NAPLES, March 4.—The intelligence of the resignation of the Ricasoli Ministry has been received here without much surprise, it having been a fact speculated upon for several weeks. It is, however, regarded with considerable anxiety by all classes and parties, for notwithstanding the general mal ancore which existed against the late Ministry, and especially against two or three of its elements, the name of Ricasoli forces respect from even his political opponents. Whatever combination is, therefore, made at present is being regarded here as being simply transitory, and in any permanent Ministry it is felt by the Neapolitans that the name of Ricasoli must appear. They have great fault to find with him, but there is one fact which in Southern estimation covers all his sins, and that is his determined resistance, real or supposed, to undue French influence, and his truly Italian policy. Should a dissolution be the consequence of this Ministerial crisis, which it is to be hoped will be averted, it will require no prophet to predict that very many of the Deputies of this province will lose their seats.

A very strong feeling exists against the majority of them on the ground of incapacity and indifference to Neapolitan interests. Should, therefore, a dissolution take place at present, the Neapolitan section in the new Parliament would, I think, be much more independent and less unitarian than the last. I have at times been inclined to believe that the anti-Piedmontese feeling was diminishing in force, but unfortunately I find it cropping up in quarters where it might least have been expected, among *soi-disant* Liberals, who affect to take a lead in affairs, and impeding the progress of social and charitable institutions. Can any good come out of Nazareth? is the spirit, if not the cry, of the Neapolitans; but does it ever occur to them to ask what good has come out of Naples during the last quarter of a century? However painful may be the acknowledgment, taking all things into consideration, this province must be regarded as conquered, not united, and in all great crises you will find this fact declaring itself in a variety of ways.—*Times Cor.*

This is the last day of our unusually long Carnival, and now that its social excesses have ceased people will this year be rushing not so much into the penitences of Lent as the excitement of politics. Last night Madame La Marmora gave her third great ball for the season, and it was a most brilliant success. All sections of the Liberal party, almost all classes of society, were represented. Though we have had no Court here, and though very few strangers have visited Naples during the winter, yet the Carnival has been far gayier than any we have had for several years; and so far it may be said to have proved a state of greater contentment; still, there have been none of those great popular demonstrations of festivity which come from the hearts of the people—perhaps for the reason that they may be changed; a sad fate may have made them serious and thoughtful.

NAPLES, March 8.—At Naples, and in the provinces the opposite parties are making ready for a struggle of extermination. Agricultural labors, industry, trade and public works, are suspended, and the silence of terror is everywhere.

Silence rules everywhere without control in the streets, the theatres, and even the University. Persons have even to be cautious about going to church, and was to the priest who dares to speak of morality and the truths of religion, and especially if he re-proves the scandals which affect us. Nevertheless, some courageous voices are still heard in the midst of the orgies of social anarchy. The V. car-General, who administers the Diocese of Naples in the absence of the holy Archbishop, Cardinal Ruffini Sforza, now exiled in Rome, said to the people gathered in the Cathedral—"My brethren, the cry now is 'Long live the Pope, not King!' but as soon as the venerated head of the Church shall be no longer a sovereign, he will be driven from Rome, as your own pastor has been from the midst of us, like a malefactor. Religion will be exiled with him, and as in all infidel countries, Christians will have to hide, or abjure the Faith." After these words, which were heard with deep emotion by all present in the immense Basilica, the courageous priest was threatened with assassination in the street, as he was returning home.

Meanwhile convents are being broken into, and forcibly taken possession of by the authorities, and their furniture is estimated at a low price, to favour companies of Jews, who have an understanding with the men in power.

On the other hand, the reaction is becoming unanimous, more terrible and threatening than ever. A strong column of two thousand men occupies la Murgia, and the hills of Mignano in Puglia. The Piedmontese forces, sent against it, have been obliged to retire, not being sufficiently numerous. This column entered into Foggia a few days ago. Foggia, chief town of the Capitanata, is close to Lucera, where the now notorious Fantoni is in command. According to a letter from a Piedmontese officer, 102 reactionists were shot at Foggia during the three weeks following the 20th of January last.

The Capitanata and all the Puglies are occupied by Bourbonist columns, in spite of the horrible proclamations of Colonel Fantoni, which, in spite of the energetic indignation of Lord Russell, and the promises of the Turin Cabinet, has been vigorously applied; for, it is unfortunately, but too true that eleven men and five women, who had been found with a little bread about them, have been shot without mercy, in spite, in fine, of a new proclamation of Major Fumel, which is not less barbarous and cruel than that of Fantoni.

The Correspondent of the 7th says:—"Trani is barricaded as if to stand a siege. Foggia has been suddenly invaded within the last few days, and it seems too certain that risings have taken place in Calabria, and require the presence of additional troops in those provinces."

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND HIS PATRON.—The *Courier Journal*, referring to the recent quarrel between The O'Donoghue and Sir Robert Peel, says:—"The only person not quite delighted at the result must have been Sir Robert Peel himself; but, at any rate, he, too, has some consolation in reflecting that, whenever he gets himself into an awkward little mess, there is always a kind, patronising old gentleman at his side to take him by the hand, and to lift him clean out of the dirt on to the safe side of the way. Whether the naughty little boy will not soon drag the benevolent old gentleman along with himself into the mud, we could not undertake to affirm; but it looks very much as if he would. The result of all this showy bravado on the part of Sir Robert towards the Irish members will be that about thirty or more of that estimable and useful body will henceforth march into the lobby which is not that in which the Government tellers are to be found, and will show Lord Palmerston that it would be better to have retained the steady, if not brilliant, services of Mr. Cardwell as Irish Secretary, than to have essayed the bold, go-ahead management or mismanagement, perhaps, of Sir Robert Peel, for the sake of winning the votes of two or three many-sided gentlemen who are styled, or style themselves, Liberal-Conservatives."