

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, February 9.—The *Moniteur* publishes the following Imperial decree, signed by the Emperor, and countersigned by M. Baroche, Keeper of the Seals and Minister of Justice and Public Worship, dated the 8th of February, 1865, in reference to the Bishops of Moulins and of Besançon having read the Encyclical from the pulpit:—

"We have decreed, and decree as follows:—
"Art. 1. There is an abuse in the fact of having read from the pulpit a portion of the Encyclical Letter, the reception and publication of which were not authorised by us throughout the French Empire.

"Art. II. Our Minister of State, &c., is ordered to see this decree carried out, which will be inserted in the *Bulletin des Lois*."

The *Moniteur* also publishes the following:—
"The Minister of Foreign Affairs, having received the Emperor's orders, has requested the Ambassador of His Majesty to the Holy See to complain of two letters addressed by the Apostolic Nuncio to the Bishops of Orleans and Poitiers, letters which have been published in the public journals, and which constitute a breach of the rules of international and French public law."

Paris, Feb. 7, 1865.—Since my last letter the pamphlet of Mgr. Dupanloup has passed through twenty editions, and became an event. This document, which has riveted the attention of the Paris press for the last fortnight, is naturally viewed in opposite lights by contending parties. Looking first to some of the dominant organs of the press—while the *Opinion Nationale*, an atheistical paper, represents it as a rebuttal and a parachute, in fact, a shield to the Encyclical, which had gone too far, *La France* takes up, as usual, an impossible position in attempting to put a Gallican face on revolutionary measures, affects to scold the *Opinion* and play the peace-maker between the extreme parties.

The fact is, however, that the revolutionary press is shut up and utterly discomfited by the Papal and Episcopal documents, of which the former, to use the expression of an eminent French publicist of my acquaintance, is a complete *reussite* (success), while the Bishop's brochure has produced an effect so immense that nothing comparable to it has occurred at Paris for years. I have ascertained from the same authority that the revolutionary party are *tres enragés* at this result, while the Emperor is reported to be very dissatisfied with this blunder of M. Baroche, in lending himself to the misinterpretations of ignorant journalists. Indeed, it appears that the machinations of the enemies of the Church have received a signal defeat. For the bureaux of Legitimist and Rationalistic journals are inundated with letters from Cares and his inferior Clergy, protesting their adherence to the Bishops and the Encyclical, because the *Opinion Nationale* and other journals had presumed to insinuate that a large section of the lower Clergy disagreed with their superiors, and are democratic in their tendencies.

On the whole I understand that the pamphlet has had the most salutary effect on wavering minds, and is the means of a great increase of fervor in the devotion of Parisians.

A conversation I lately had with a free-thinker of Protestant connection establishes the accuracy of these views. He, repeating the cant phrases of his school, and of the revolutionary press, assumed that the Encyclical was an encroachment of Church authority, or, as he called it, Papism, on the whole terrain of secular affairs converting Catholics into so many slaves. To this I objected that the Encyclical had been mistranslated, and that the Bishop of Orleans had shown that its true sense was simply a vindication of the great principles of truth, morality, and social order from those who would reduce all to chaos. His rejoinder was the usual argument of those unable to contend with facts, and with the logic of M. Dupanloup. He proceeded, namely, to assert, without a shadow of evidence, that the Bishop is by no means thought to be orthodox, and that his pamphlet does not express the real sense of the Encyclical or the mind of the Pope. My reply was short and easy, and I trust conclusive, for I merely pointed to the fact that the Pope had sanctioned an Italian translation of the Bishop's pamphlet at Rome, and that the Nuncio at Paris had written to the Bishop to compliment him on his excellent defence of the Papal document.—*Cor. Weekly Register*.

All topics, faded into insignificance before the coming struggle in the Senate in France, where the Opposition, as well as in the Corps Legislatif, cannot fail to be of a far more definite and organised character than it has been for years. Mgr. Darboy and the Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux reserve their defence of the Encyclical for the Senate, Cardinal Mathieu will justify his courageous initiative in his place as senator, and Mgr. Dupanloup, though unhonoured with a seat in the legislature, will be represented by his noble protest, which will form the text book of every orator, to whom the Holy See will look for the defence of its rights. The national as well as Catholic spirit pervading its every line is the best reply to the state of want of patriotism brought against the Ultramontane party, and its appeal to the sacred character of the national engagements, its withering sarcasm on the many lapses of national honor sanctioned by the Ministry, its avoidance of all that can excite the hate of parties, and its marvellous adroitness in placing Piedmont and not France in the wrong, and appealing straight to her feeling of *l'honneur des drapeaux*, form a masterpiece of political writing. The Convention is here winnowed and found to be chaff—weighed in the balance and found wanting in every element not only of justice but of common sense, a fact to which one contracting party is dissentient, a pretence of protection to the Pope which can deceive no one who does not wish to be deceived, and which is merely a diplomatic and international farce, to be followed by a tragedy of which this generation has not been a witness. The Bishop of Orleans spares no one, and while most acutely distinguishing between Piedmont and Italy, he lays bare the march of events from the Conference of Paris to the Convention of the 15th, with a clearness and brevity which defy denial and criticism, and which entitle them to the eternal gratitude not only of Catholics, but not only of Frenchmen, but of honest men, of their creed or convictions, what they may. So much had been stirred over and suppressed by those interested in its being forgotten; so much had been forgotten by the superficial students of contemporary history, that a review of the past five years was necessary to enable the masses to form an appreciation of the scope and aim of the present treaty—of what France was pledged to, and how she was bound to keep that pledge of what Italy engaged to do and how she was likely to do it. Nothing short of the merciless dissection of the despatches, the debates, the discussions at public meetings, and the reports of the Italian press would have sufficed to prove the sense in which Italy at least understands the Convention, and is certain to act on it. That the pamphlet will be translated ere this in England, I take for granted; but such of your readers as can read it in the original should not fail to study it as a masterpiece of language, and still more as one of the noblest protests in behalf of right against might that has ever issued from the pen of a Christian Bishop.—*Cor. of Tablet*.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—The *Memorial Diplomatique* of yesterday says:—
We learn from Mexico that the Emperor Maximilian in an autograph letter addressed to the Pope, has himself undertaken to explain to his Holiness the impious motives which have determined him to take the measures pointed out in his letter to the Minister of Justice.

The young Emperor expresses himself in terms of the most profound respect for the common father of the faithful, but he is none the less firm as concerns the duties imposed upon the Mexican Sovereign by the exigencies of the internal situation, and by the urgency of hastening the conciliation of the parties above whom the new dynasty ought to soar as a rallying point for the national aspirations.

The French Chambers were opened the 15th by a speech from the Emperor. His speech was mainly occupied with Domestic affairs. He was quite silent on American affairs. It refers to the settlement of the Danish question and French neutrality therein. It expatiates on the Italian convention and the benefits to be derived by Italy, as well as by the Holy See. The convention permits France to withdraw her troops from Rome, and it is a mark of peace and conciliation. As regard Mexico the speech briefly says the new throne is becoming consolidated. The country is being pacified. Its immense resources are being developed the happy result of the valor of our soldiers, the good sense of the Mexican population, and the energy and intelligence of the sovereign. The Emperor rejoices at the French triumphs in Japan, Africa, &c. and then proceeds to enlarge upon measures of domestic legislation, proclaiming an ardent desire to cultivate the arts of peace, to cultivate friendship with the different powers and to only allow the voice of France to be heard for the right of peace.

An old soldier died at Mirecourt, in the Vosges on the 21st of January last, who, by a singular coincidence, was on duty on the 21st of January, 1793, at the foot of the scaffold on which Louis XVI. was executed. He subsequently served in the wars of the Republic and of the first Empire. His name was Fischer.

ITALY.

Piedmont.—Turin, Feb. 4.—The King, justly indignant at the disrespect shown to him on Monday night by the uproar outside his palace and the emptiness within it, thought of leaving Turin at once, but his advisers prevailed upon him to remain and allow opportunity for expected apology and atonement. In a non-official manner the Government communicated with the municipality and Count Gasparini, Prefect of the Province of Turin, urged the Marquis Rora, Syndic of the city, to take the steps desired. The Marquis is thought to have been averse from anything that might endanger his popularity here, but he called together the Municipal Junta, which is a sort of committee composed of six members of the Common Council, joined to it some other members of the municipality, and deliberated. The result was that a majority decided against taking conciliatory measures, and, after that decision, the Syndic, whatever his own wishes might be, was powerless. The consequence was that, late on Thursday night, the departure of the King was decided upon in a council of Ministers.

"Well," said a foreign friend to me yesterday afternoon with some justifiable bitterness of tone, "so they have booted the King out of Turin!" This cannot be taken as a great exaggeration. It is quite certain that when he departed "no man cried 'God bless him!'"—*Times* *Cor.*

Florence, Feb. 3.—King Victor Emmanuel arrived here at 10 o'clock this evening.

The city is illuminated and decorated with flags. Feb. 4.—The report of the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies upon the legislative unification of Italy proposes the abolition of capital punishment.

It is asserted that the King will visit Milan during the last few days of the Carnival, and that the Foreign Minister will accompany his Majesty.

Feb. 7.—The Municipal Council of this city have agreed unanimously to present an address to the King, and a deputation for that purpose have already left for Florence.

The *Gazzetta di Torino* of to-day denies the rumor that the Ministers of Foreign Powers have addressed complaints to the Government in reference to the conduct of the mob towards the Ambassadors on the 30th of January last.

The Mazzinian organ, the *Diritto*, which has lately been more violent than ever in its language, has been seized twice within the last three days, for articles personally attacking the King. Such seizures, however, are nearly nominal; the greater part of the imprecation is distributed all the same, and the poison, if poison it be, filters through the public. The chief gaiters are the newsmongers, who, under pretence that a paper has been sequestered, sell it at four times its publishing price. "Except in the history of dynasties hurrying headlong to ruin," says the *Diritto* of this date, "we know not where to seek examples of such obstinate blindness as we have witnessed during these last days;" and much more in the same strain. Unfortunately, the conduct of Government and its agents has given only too much occasion for attacks in which truth is artfully mingled with exaggeration and reasonable in unreason.

On the Marches discontent is at its height, and a miserable little clique, usurping the names of the people, is holding meetings and passing resolutions in full defiance of the feeling of the better classes and the honest laboring population.

Rome.—A report is in circulation that last week Count de Sartiges presented another note to the Pontifical Government, but, on inquiring, I am told, on sacerdotal authority, that the nuncio at Paris Monsignor Chigi made the following communication to Cardinal Antonelli:—He had been received by the Emperor, but never with such an appearance of irritation. His Imperial Majesty declared that for many years he had done all that he possibly could to conciliate Rome with modern ideas, but to no purpose, and that he had been surprised by a moral blow (*schiaffo*) in the form of the Encyclical and Syllabus. From that day, therefore, he resolved not to make any further attempts at conciliation, but enclosing himself within the sphere of the interests of France, he would give full course to the Convention, with or without the assent of the Pope. Another voice current on less authority, is that the French bishops had agreed to read the Encyclical and Syllabus from their chairs on the Feast of the Purification; that such an intention had come to the knowledge of the Emperor, and that Count de Sartiges was directed to communicate to His Holiness that in the event of such an intention being carried out the French flag would be lowered immediately. Whether true or not, it is evident that the revelations between the Imperial and Pontifical Courts are most unsatisfactory, and that with the dogged conscientiousness of the Pope and the determined resistance of the Emperor it is impossible to say to what extremities things may be driven.—*Cor. of Tablet*.

The photographers of Rome are all busy in printing portraits of Pius IX., as the demands which have come from France and Germany since the publication of the Encyclical surpass all expectations.

The *Progresso* society of Rome, has had the happy idea of opening its columns to a subscription to offer a sword of honor to each of two brothers, officers in the Prussian army, who have been compelled to leave that service for having declared that their conscience did not allow them to fight a duel. This idea has pleased the Holy Father that he has inscribed his name at the head of the list for the sum of 50 dollars. Cardinal Antonelli, Mgr. de Merode, and the greater part of the officers of the Papal army have followed the example of His Holiness, and several of the names of the officers of the French corps of occupation also figure on the subscription list.

The arrest of the whole gang of thieves who infested Rome during the winter season has led to the discovery of their singular organisation. Their chief or "president" was a count; they also had a secretary, a treasurer, and other officials. It has also been found that they pretended to have a political character; namely, that of keeping up agitation in Rome during the season when most foreigners visit her, and to bring about that the number of foreign visitors should be lessened from year to year, from the dread of their misdeeds.—*Cor. Weekly Register*.

The Pontifical Annual for 1865, gives us the following particulars of the state of the Catholic Hierarchy:—The Pope bears the titles of Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of the Prince of the Apostles, Sovereign Pontiff of the whole Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Metropolitan of Rome.

The Sacred College of Cardinals consists of six Cardinals Bishops, Suffragans of the See of Rome; fifty Cardinals Priests, bearing the titles of the fifty oldest parish churches of Rome; and sixteen Cardinals Deacons, bearing the titles of Deaconries or ancient hospitals of the Eternal City. Nine Cardinals were created by Gregory XVI. and forty-three by Pius IX. The Catholic Hierarchy consists of twelve Patriarchal Sees, five of which belong to the Eastern rites; 154 Archiepiscopal Sees, twenty-four of which belong to the Eastern rites; and 689 Episcopal Sees, forty-four of which belong to the Eastern rites. 127 of these Sees are vacant at present; and most of these are in Italy. Thirty-four titles of Archbishoprics (*in partibus infidelium*) are still kept up, and 201 titles of Bishoprics. So that there are actually 963 Catholic Bishops in the world. There are 101 Vicariates Apostolic, five Apostolic Delegations, and 21 Prefectures. Pius IX. has created four Archbishoprics and 14 Bishoprics, besides raising twelve Bishops sees to the Metropolitan rank, and creating five Vicariates Apostolic, one Delegation, and six Prefectures.

The Papal Diplomatic Service consists, at present, of eight Nuncios, at Brussels, Lisbon, Madrid, Mexico, Munich, Naples, Paris, Vienna; three Internuncios at the Hague, Florence, and Modena, and Rio Janeiro; and one Charge d'Affaires at Lucerne. The population of the Papal States, including the usurped provinces, amounts to 3,134,688 inhabitants.

Kingdom of Naples.—The State of Naples is, if possible, more disturbed than ever, and the political ferment is at its height. The demonstrations of the 15th in favour of Francis II. have been the signal and excuse for a dozen arrests and perquisitions in the houses of the principal citizens of Palermo. The Murchese Mostillaro, Conte de Sanfilippo and others, have been carried off to prison on the denunciation of an anonymous correspondent of the *Precursore*, and the *Questura* is occupied incessantly in hunting out new Royalist plots. The inquiry into the case of the deaf mute, Antonio Capello, forced on the Government by the perseverance of Signor Morvillo, and the interpellations of D'Onofre Reggio in the Chamber is suspended, for the facts elicited in the first two days' sitting of the court were so revolting that the Government quietly suppressed the rest of the proceedings. There was one feeling only manifested by the audience, that of vehement disgust and indignation, and this was so boldly and unmistakably shown, that it was considered prudent to close the court. At San Giovanni Di Camerata (in Sicily) twenty robbers took possession of the village—sacked it, robbed the principal proprietors of their money plate and linen, putting them to the torture to discover more; and when the dispatches left were still holding the place (a town numbering 3,000 souls) against the Italian troops, who, for once, were well employed. The country is unsafe; a mile out of the large towns, and the reactionary movement is replaced by highway robbery and murder by wholesale. The Piedmontese are powerless to struggle with the evil, for they are so cordially detested, that even to get rid of the robbers the inhabitants will not support them. An eruption has just broken out in Mount Etna, and the lava is flowing towards Catania, but as yet no danger is anticipated. The Prefect of Messina has started for Catania with six fire engines, for what purpose does not appear from the telegram which announces his departure. Private letters from Sicily fully confirm all that is stated in the Liberal Italian press of the public insecurity, and persons who calculate the Government of Rome by adding a few isolated thefts and street assaults, absurdly and intentionally exaggerated, should read the fearful chronicle of rapine and murder which form the staple of every local newspaper south of Naples. Law does not exist, or only in the form of drumhead court-martial; women, priests, and peasants are arrested, exiled, or shot without further preliminary than the order of a sub-lieutenant, and a reference to the Pica Law, while armed robbers are devastating the country, and laying waste the entire island of Sicily, and the troops are utterly powerless to suppress the evil. "Let us hear no more," says the *Campagna del Popolo*, "of the impudent assertions regarding the security of life and property; a real and criminal brigandage has replaced the political, and the *Questura* is powerless before it. The facts of Camerata, true and *banale* as they are to us, will scarcely be credited in Europe, reading, as they do, like a page of the wars of the 13th century; but they are a natural consequence of the daily quota furnished to the infamous page of Italian history, whose initiative dates from 1860." This from an ex-Garibaldian journal is pretty strong testimony, and it is always as well to have it "from the mouth of the enemy" and the hand of those that hate us.—*Cor. of Tablet*.

PRUSSIA.

'Prussia,' says the *Journal des Villes et Campagnes*, 'keeps up, in concert with Russia, its horrible system of persecution against Poland. The Minister of the Interior has just forwarded instructions to governors of provinces, concerning the *Œuvre du Catholicisme en Pologne*, which has been recently founded at Paris. He falsely accuses this society of political tendencies and forbids subscription to be raised for it on Prussian territory.'

POLAND AND RUSSIA.

CRACOW, Feb. 1.—A fact which has come to my knowledge should act as a warning to Polish exiles who think of throwing themselves on the tender mercies of the Czar. M. C. Abramowicz, a refugee, wishing to return to his own country, applied at the Russian Legation at Dresden for a pass, which he obtained in due form. On arriving at the frontier, however, he was arrested and taken to the citadel of Kieff, where he was condemned by court-martial to 12 years, hard labour. Another case of injustice is that of M. Joseph Gluzinski, a quiet literary man, who has earned a respectable reputation by several treatises on political economy and agriculture, and has always kept aloof from politics. Recently the Government discovered that a distant relation of his had taken an active part in the insurrection, and M. Gluzinski was immediately arrested and transported to Siberia.

The appointment of the Grand Duke Constantine as President of the Council of the Empire at St. Petersburg has caused a great deal of surprise in

Russia, and not a little alarm among the advocates of a policy of extermination in Poland. The nomination of M. Milutin as member of the Council, and of M. Ormonsky a well-known partisan of Mouraviev, as secretary, has done much to allay those fears; but the disappointment of the old Russian party clearly appeared from several alarming articles in the *Moscow Gazette*, in one of which Russia is represented as being in extreme danger from the machinations of the Poles and the party of action, and every Russian is exhorted, in the words of Nelson, "to do his duty"—the duty of a Russian, as the *Moscow Gazette* understands it, being to use all his efforts to eradicate the Polish element from the soil of Russia. This work is still continued with as much perseverance as ever in the kingdom of Poland. By a recent decree the teaching of Russian is made obligatory in the higher schools, and the military commandants are extending this order to the schools in the villages.

Russian colonisation is proceeding in Lithuania on a large scale. In order to attract Russian officials to the country, M. Kovalevitch has offered them an increase of 50 per cent. on their salaries; and the Government at St. Petersburg having objected to this measure on account of the crippled state of Russian finance, he answered that the extra expense would be provided for by new contributions on the Lithuanian proprietors.—*Cor. of Post*.

A man of singular courage and energy, M. J. Waszkowski, who had for some time held the office of revolutionary town captain at Warsaw, has just been arrested. He had been present at the execution of Colonel Traugott and the other member of the National Government, three months ago, and remained in the capital ever since, in spite of the remonstrances of his friends, who justly feared that his patriotic enthusiasm and devotion would betray him to the Russian authorities. He had been entrusted with large sums by the National Government during the insurrection, and his probity and disinterestedness were such that at the moment he was taken he was almost destitute. He was deeply implicated in the late movement, and there is not the slightest hope of his escaping the death of his companions in the National Government.

While the Polish patriots are thus dying off one by one on the gallows, the exponents of the savage decrees of the Russian Government in Poland are being loaded with pensions and honours.—*Id.*

THE MYSTERIES OF MENAGERIES.

Not many men can keep a hotel, but fewer yet we believe can keep a menagerie. The undertaking to be successful requires a peculiar knowledge, which is in possession of very few. The capital invested in the Van Amburg collection, the oldest and only complete menagerie in America, is not less than £35,000. It contains two hundred animals, and employs, when on its travels through the country, not less than 94 men, and one hundred and thirty-four horses. When in travelling order, the whole collection can move at an average rate of eighteen miles in a day, and on a summer tour makes a circuit of not less than three thousand miles. The daily expenses when travelling are not less than £100. The animals are subject to various diseases. They die at such a rate that in the present collection there are but six animals that were in it six years ago. With some exceptions, the menagerie is entirely renewed once in five years. The proprietors are constantly purchasing new animals; they have agents in all parts of the world, and the expense of such renewals may be guessed. To spend the same judiciously, to buy only healthy animals, likely to live, and to keep them in good condition, requires experience only gained during many years. Of course the life of a lion, of a real Bengal tiger, or a giraffe cannot be insured. The most eager life insurance company would not take such risks. The finest animal in the collection may die any day, and hundreds of pounds are lost.

The price of a lion, or any other animal, varies greatly. Sometimes the lion market is glutted. A fine Bengal tiger has been sold in London for £50 but the common price of a healthy pair of young lions in New York is £500.

Most of the animals caught for menageries are taken to England. In London there are two or three animal brokers, who make it their business to receive and sell on commission anything from an elephant to a ring-tailed monkey. The finest giraffe ever taken to New York was caught by an American who went to Africa for that purpose, and was gone eighteen months on the business.

Hannibal, the largest elephant ever exhibited, has been in America thirty-three years. Lions and other animals of the cat kind, suffer, when imported into America from a kind of consumption. They wheeze, lose flesh, their lungs become diseased, and they finally waste away and die. When one of those great beasts dies, she is submitted to the faculty; and it is a pleasant evidence that the proprietors are not merely 'showmen,' but have an intelligent interest in these wonders of nature, that they have for many years contributed their defunct specimens to the collection of the Palaeontological Academy of Natural Sciences, in whose halls may at the present time be found some skeletons of lions, tigers, and other animals famous in their day.

In the sub-division of labor in the Van Amburg Menagerie, one man takes charge of four cages, to clean, to feed, and attend to all the wants of the occupants. The flesh eating animals are fed but once a day and not at all on Sundays. The monkeys and other animals are fed twice a day. The elephant seems to browse all day long. Water is given four or five times a day. A full-grown lion eats from fifteen to eighteen pounds per day. An elephant's rations are three hundred pounds of hay and two bushels of oats per day when he is travelling; when standing still he gets no oats, but an additional hundred weight of hay. The elephants lie down when they go to sleep. Two barrels of water moisten each elephant's daily life.

Not unrequently animals bring forth young. Some dozens of lions have been born in America, but only very few live to out their second set of teeth. There is now in the menagerie a lion of good size born three or four years ago in Georgia. He is a very savage animal, and only submits to his master, who nursed him tenderly when young and whose voice to this day will quell him when most furious. The young leopards in the exhibition are from Wisconsin. They are fed only on cooked meat, and occasionally rations of beef broth.

Until the young of wild beasts are two months old, they cannot be exhibited on account of the jealousy of the mother, who sometimes kills her young in her frantic efforts to get them out of the way when strangers are staring at them. She will pick them up in her mouth and fling them against the back of the cage to get out of sight. For this reason when a young lioness or tigress has a young family, she is shut off from the outer world and kept in wholesome quiet until her nerves acquire some tone, and she is able to receive visitors, and exhibit her cubs without too great agitation.

Afflictions are the medicine of the mind; if they are not toothsome, let it suffice that they are wholesome.

Why are three letters of the alphabet, and a word signifying great amusement, like a celebrated general of antiquity?—Because they are x, n, o, fun.—*Xenophon*.

The noblest designs are like a mine; if discovered they are lost.

It is easy enough to please the mob, but an arduous task to improve and benefit them.

CONCERNING DEAD LETTERS.—A pleasant book has lately appeared in England, called 'Her Majesty's Mail,' by William Lewins, comprising an historical and discursive account of the British Post Office, out of which we propose to extract a few plums for the entertainment of our readers:—

Attached to the General Post Office in London is the 'Blind Letter' office, which is the receptacle for all illegible missives, misaddressed, or ineffectively addressed letters or packages. Here gentlemen whose extraordinary faculty of discernment has gained them the peculiarly inappropriate name of 'blind officers,' sit in state and applying their eyes and brains to the deciphering of superscriptions which to most persons are utterly unintelligible. And the skill they acquire by practice is quite marvellous. Mr. Lewins illustrates their rapid discernment from certain examples actually occurring. On one occasion, a letter turned up as follows:

'Coneyach Lunatick
a sillam.'

To common eyes this seems as puzzling as Egyptian hieroglyphics, but the blind officer reads it at a glance, and writes on the envelope what the phonetic scribe really meant,—

Colony Hatch Lunatic Asylum.

Obern yenen

is seen in an instant to be 'Holborn Union.'

Ann M,

Olleywhite,
Amshire,

means 'Isle of Wight, Hampshire.'

The town of Ashby-de-la Zouch gives in finite trouble to letter writers. There are fifty different ways of spelling the name and few persons, except among the educated classes, get it right. 'Hesbedelac' such' is the ordinary spelling among the lower orders. Here is a copy of a veritable address meant for the above town:

Ash Bolles in such

for John Kersel, grinder

in the county of Leicestershire.

The blind-letter officers of an earlier date succumbed before the following address:

For Mister Willy wot briads de paper

in Lang Gaster ware te gal is;

but the dead-letter officers were inspired with a sagacity equal to the occasion, and read it correctly thus:

For Mister Willy what prints the paper

in Lancaster where the goal is.

The following strange letters, meant for the eye of Royalty, will not fail of their destination:

Keen Vic Torv at

Winer Cusel.

This, too, goes to Windsor Castle:

Miss

Queen Victoria,

of England.

The following, once posted in London, goes to St. Petersburg, without fail:

To the King of Rushey

Feoret, with spred

Sometimes an address appears which defies all human power, as the following:

Uncle John

Hoppoite the Church,

London, Highland:

The Dead Letter Office is now a very considerable office, employing a large number of officers, who have plenty of work to do. Last year over two millions of letters were returned to their writers through the Dead Letter Office, from failures in the attempts to deliver them. If the envelopes furnish no clue to writers the letter is opened and returned to the writer, if the name and address are given. Last year eleven thousand letters were without any address at all. Money to the amount of £13,000 or £14,000 is annually found in these returned letters. Of this sum about £5,000 per annum falls into the public exchequer on account of no address being found inside, and no inquiry being made for the missing letters. A vast number of bank post bills and bills of exchange are likewise found, amounting in all, and on the average, to something like £2,000,000 a year. These, of course, furnish a clue by aid of which they may reach their destination. But a great many presents such as rings pins and brooches never reach their destination and are never sent back to the sender, because they are often unaccompanied by any letter. These articles become the property of the Crown.

It is observed that the Scotch dead letters rarely contain any valuable enclosures or articles of jewellery; the Irish dead letters are full of presents and small sums of money. The Irish dead letters are more numerous than either the English or the Scotch. Some of the Irish addresses are often curiously minute and involved. Here is an actual specimen.—

To my sister Bridget, or else to my brother Tim Burke, in care of the Praste, who lives in the parish of Balcumbury in Cork, or if not to some decent neighbor in Ireland.

Mr. Lewins, however, gives an English address which is quite as odd.

"Mary H—, a tall woman with two children," adding the name of a large town in the west of England.

A COINCIDENCE.—Mrs. Glover (Julia Betterton) the comedy actress, who died July 16, 1850, claimed descent from Thomas Betterton, and they met coincident deaths, both a few days after their second farewell benefits. Mrs. Glover through great excitement in weak health, and Betterton by a violent remedy for gout; both, nevertheless, performing to prevent disappointment to their audiences.—*Timb's Curiosities of London*.

THE CASE OF THE EYES.—Until one begins to feel the effects of impaired vision, he can hardly estimate the value of eye sight; and consequently from ignorance or carelessness, he is apt to neglect a few simple precautions, by the observance of which his sight might be preserved. We give an editor's opinion. He says:—We are not about to interfere with those who have resorted to spectacles, for the optician alone can benefit them, but there are multitudes who, perhaps, ought to wear spectacles, but will not, either from their inconvenience, or from an idea that they thereby confess that time has taken too strong a hold upon them. Such ask whether they can see better than they now do without the use of glasses? To the most of these we answer yes—provided you follow these simple directions: First, never use a writing-desk or table with your face towards the window; sit so that your face turns from, not towards the window, while writing. If your face is towards the window, the oblique rays strike the eye and injure it nearly as the direct rays when you sit in front of the window. It is best always to sit or stand while reading or writing with the window behind you; and next to that, with the light coming over your left side—then the light illumines the paper or book, and does not shine abruptly upon the eye-ball. The same remarks are applicable to artificial light. We are often asked which is the best light—gas, candles, oil, or campane? Our answer is, it is immaterial which, provided the light of either be strong and do not flicker. A gas fish-tail burner should never be used for reading or writing, because there is a constant oscillatory flickering of the flame. Candles, unless they have self-consuming wicks which do not require snuffing, should not be used. We need scarcely say that oil wicks, which crack over and thus diminish the light, are good for nothing; and the same is true of compounds of the nature of campane, unless the wicks are properly trimmed of all their gummy deposit after standing twenty-four hours.