

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Paris correspondent of the Morning Herald has proclaimed his belief that the Emperor of the French meditates an attack, either on England or Prussia, or perhaps both. He professes to found this belief on the active preparations in the dockyards of France, on the extent of the coast defences, now in the act of being carried out by the Imperial Government, and also on its internal policy. But simultaneously with this pleasant intelligence, comes an account of a grand dinner given by the Prefect of the Seine to the Municipal Council of Paris, at which the Prefect made a most conciliatory speech, eulogistic of peace, and of the new era on which France has entered. He toasted the health of the Emperor, and remarked that if dynasties are founded by arms, the most enduring grandeur is that established by peace. While this is taking place, the tone of the French press is eminently pacific, and, judging by what is passing around, the head of the French nation is disposed to cultivate the most friendly relations with us. It is even asserted that Mr. Cobden was commissioned by the British Government, during his stay in Paris, to organize a kind of free trade treaty between the two countries, by which the admission of French wines into England at a nominal duty is to be accompanied by a similar concession on the imports of English goods into France.

PRINCE DE JOINVILLE.—Mr. Roebuck having made some strong allusions the other day to the warlike tendency of the French nation, and having specified certain charges against Prince de Joinville, that distinguished personage replies as follows:—"Mr. Roebuck's assertion is entirely devoid of foundation. I have not made any plan of the coasts of England; I have not drawn up any scheme of attack against this country; and lastly, need I say that I have not sent anything to the French Ministry? I may add that, although I still consider myself a child of France, I should be the last to wish that 'the principles which now rule her should pass across the Channel.'"

The following gallant action, accomplished by Captain Hermal, of the French clipper Luzitano, by which the captain and crew of the Birkenhead, of Liverpool, were saved from impending death, has been reported to the French Government. The fact is the more remarkable as a British vessel had previously passed near the Birkenhead, and, although her dangerous position was evident, the other ship continued on her voyage without affording any assistance. The following is the report made by Captain Hermal:—"On the 24th of November, about 7 in the morning, during a violent gale, the wind blowing from the west, I perceived a ship at a short distance steering badly, and endeavouring to move towards the south. I found that this vessel had lost all her masts but her lower ones. I immediately steered towards the vessel, and when I was sufficiently near she hoisted the union flag reversed. The captain hailed me, and prayed me to take him and his crew on board, as his ship was about to founder. In fact, I saw that his deck was broken up, and that the sea was breaking over her on all sides. I lay to as close as possible to the ship in distress, and at half-past 8 I had the satisfaction to receive the crew, consisting of 23 men, on board. The captain told me his name was Edward Phelan, of Waterford, his ship the Birkenhead, measuring 383 tons, and belonging to Mr. J. Wilson, of Liverpool. He was on his passage from Quebec to Liverpool with a cargo of timber. The Birkenhead, being in 45 40 north latitude, and 40 20 west longitude from the meridian of Paris, sprang a leak, making 5 feet of water an hour, the wind blowing fresh from the north-west. Finding that the water was gaining on the vessel, although all hands were employed at the pumps, the captain ordered a reef to be taken in in the mizen sail. While this operation was going on the deck was burst up by the cargo, while the stern and bows were seriously damaged by the shifting of the large logs of timber. In this critical position Captain Phelan cut away all his upper masts, leaving only the lower ones, with which he expected to make the Azores, but he found it almost impossible to make the Birkenhead answer the helm. Thus the crew were exposed to great danger for 12 days, until I met them, when they had made only 80 leagues. They had passed the northern island of the Azores, and I am convinced that Capt. Phelan could not have made the island of St. Michael, for the west and south-westerly winds were driving his ship to the east, although he was making every effort to steer to the south. He was then in 42 15 north latitude, and 32 west longitude. When I received the crew they were reduced to their last glass of water, and the small quantity of provisions which they had saved from the sea was nearly exhausted. Moreover, the weather being extremely severe, the men suffered horribly from cold and damp. Six days before I fell in with the Birkenhead a ship of her nation passed close by, but the captain did not think proper to stop to assist his unfortunate countrymen. A violent tempest arose from the south-west shortly after the crew arrived on board the Luzitano, and lasted for 12 hours. Captain Phelan is of opinion that his ship must have gone to pieces during the storm."

The Times correspondent writes:—"It is a little unlucky that the new Minister of the Interior should have inaugurated his return to office by a prosecution of the press. The result of the famous Montalbert case, a year ago, might have shown the uselessness and the inconvenience to Government, of these experiments. The proceedings against the Ami de la Religion, for having published a fabricated document, purporting to be the answer of Victor Emmanuel to the letter of the Emperor of the French, came on yesterday in the Correctional Police Court of Paris. I have said that the prosecution was unnecessary, for from the first moment the document appeared there was internal evidence of its being spurious. To the eye accustomed to these things it bore on its face the stamp of forgery; and if it was considered requisite to disabuse people, a denial in the Monitor would have more than sufficed. There may have been remissness, but there could have been no intention on the part of the editor, the Abbe Sissou, to impose upon the public; and we may readily believe him when he stated at the outset that he had sent it to the printing-office without being aware of its contents, together with many other letters addressed to the sub-editor. This, however, did not satisfy the Court, who have condemned him to three months' imprisonment and 1,000 francs."

The following is an article from the Overseas on the Chinese expedition:—"Between two nations eager to attain the same object—the monopoly of the East—what part ought France to take? Shall she form an alliance with Russia to annihilate England? Or shall she unite her forces with those of Great Britain to stop the advances of the Russians, if, indeed that be possible? Or shall she stand quietly by, as a disinterested spectator, and content herself with accepting the fait accompli? Nothing of the kind, we think. If allies of the Russians, we ourselves establish their supremacy. That would be a fault. United with the English, we should perhaps save their power, now seriously menaced. But what should we gain by that course? Glory, we shall be told. Very possibly; but no material advantage, certainly. To merely watch the struggle when the stake is the continent of Asia, the result preponderance in the world would be to abdicate. What, then, shall we do? The first thing is to remember that we are neither Russian nor English; that we have interests and a civilization of our own; and that those interests should alone decide our acts. But the first necessity for France is to maintain her rank, and influence in the world. She would lose them if any one Power were to possess Asia. What we want is that the East shall re-

main open to all nations, that its riches shall not become the monopoly of any one, that our missionaries and merchants may each accomplish their task without fear or peril, that it shall be well known throughout those vast regions that notwithstanding their distance, the arm of France will immediately avenge the wrong done to one of her sons. Lastly, we should throw our sword between the two champions to prevent Asia becoming exclusively English or Russian; and if possible, and even probable, events should bring about a partition of the Asiatic continent, let us be among the foremost to claim our share. Let us therefore, go to China, not in the wake of the English, not to break down obstacles against which she is powerless, but on our own account. Let Russia and Great Britain know that a new champion enters the lists, and that henceforth she must be consulted. If, therefore, the Chinese expedition is undertaken with a view to the future—if it is the first landmark planted by France to indicate her place on the confines of the East—let us not regret the money it will cost and the men who may perhaps, fall on the field of honor, for that generous blood will not flow in vain."

GERMANY.—The Dresden Journal publishes a semi-official article on the subject of the Conference at Wurzburg. The article says, that as there is no unity between the great German Powers, the Conference tend to satisfy the general wish for a more vigorous and energetic attitude of the Federal Diet. The numerous and great results which have been obtained at Wurzburg will soon become perceptible. The Conference had nothing to do with any proposal for a change in the Confederation."

A letter from Vienna, in the Courier du Dimanche, says:—"The letters of convocation issued by the Cabinets of Vienna and of the Tuileries, set forth the labors which the Congress will have to accomplish. Austria and France, after briefly noticing the preliminaries of Villafranca and the stipulations of Zurich, say that the reorganization of Italy and the definite solution of the Italian question belongs to the Powers which signed the Treaties of Vienna. As long as the matter related to a political or territorial change concerning Austria exclusively, the Emperor Francis Joseph could enter into such engagements with the Emperor of the French as were compatible with the interests and dignity of both. But the moment that the events in Central Italy threatened to cause modifications of a nature to affect the basis of the European equilibrium, established in 1815, the Government of Austria and France have thought it their duty to convoke the Powers which signed the treaties of Vienna. The 5th January next is designated by the Counts de Rechberg and Walewski for the meeting of the Congress."

ITALY.—From Venice we learn that all the political offenders who were arrested during the war have been set at liberty, and that many of the volunteers have taken advantage of the Imperial amnesty and returned to their homes. At Venice it is the question of reforms, but the people openly declare that they have no confidence in Government, and as openly lament that they are still under the sceptre of Austria. An officer, who not long ago came to this city from Venice, affirms that Venetia is as hostile to Austria as Sardinia, and can only be retained by force of arms. "There are about 2,315,000 souls in Venetia," said he, "and it may safely be said that above 2,000,000 of them hate the Germans with their whole hearts." The officers belonging to the Austro-Italian Army, and the Government employes in Venetia, are paid in silver again. During the last few days there has been a marked improvement in commerce at Venice and Trieste. The publication of the treaties of peace was delayed here one day in order that they should not appear on the 2d instant, that being the anniversary of the Emperor's accession to the throne. Various reasons have been given for the prolonged sojourn of the Emperor and Empress at Shonbrunn, but the true one probably is that their Majesties, who will come into town to-day, wished to give their children the benefit of the country air as long as possible.—Times Cor.

SARDINIA.—The Corsiere Mercantile publishes an account of the state of the public debt of Sardinia, from which it appears that in 1848 the debt amounted to 102,354,668 francs, that from that period to the present one there have been added 790,037,138 francs, and that in consequence of the stipulations of Zurich there have been incurred further liabilities to the amount of 310,000,000 francs, which makes a sum total of 1,202,391,806 francs. It must not be forgotten, however, that this sum comprises 80,000,000 francs raised in 1851 for the completion of railways belonging to the State, also 10,400,000 francs for the redemption of feudal property in the island of Sardinia, 4,000,000 francs for the construction of roads in that island, besides other profitable investments.

The Piedmontese Gazette of the 5th publishes a Royal decree, enacting that the young men who have emigrated from Venice and the Italian Tyrol, and who would be desirous of continuing their studies in the Sardinian Universities, shall, if unable to support the expense, be admitted gratuitously to those establishments and to pass their examinations.

ROME.—The Monitor di Bologna announces that the decree relative to the Jesuits published by Prince Eugene of Savoy in 1848 is in force in the Romagna. The most prominent features in the decree alluded to are—that the Jesuit colleges are to be dissolved, and their property handed over to the Finance Department.

The following letter has been received from Rome, dated Nov. 24:—"The Pontifical Government has discovered that Count Walewski, in his circular note of the 5th of November, has not clearly expressed the intention of the Holy Father on the subject of the reforms which he is decided to grant his States. His Holiness, if I can believe what I hear from persons who are well acquainted with the course of events, wished to assure not an administration exclusively his, but to give a large place to laymen in the Government. The secularization of the Pontifical administration is impossible. Some branches of the Government may be intrusted to laymen, but they must retain an ecclesiastical spirit, for the Government cannot change its nature without compromising its existence. Neither was the Pontifical Government perfectly well pleased with the expressions used by Count Walewski as to the guarantees for a better administration of justice, because they throw doubts on the present administration, and do not explain the Pope's plan, which consists in a reform of the mode of proceeding both in civil and criminal matters. Perhaps the Pontifical Government will not fail to make some declaration in order to anticipate the accusations which might be made against it if the reforms which are expected from the Holy Father are not in strict conformity with what are announced by Count Walewski in his circular note. In the meantime the Roman journal declares that the reforms announced by several journals to be made by the Papal Government are exaggerated. The revolutionary leaders at Rome are increased against the Emperor Louis Napoleon in consequence of the representations made to the King of Sardinia on account of the R-gency accepted by the Prince of Carignano. The departure of General Garibaldi from the Romagna has produced a political manifestation, which was suppressed by the National Guard. General Garibaldi was greatly esteemed in the Romagna, and he found it necessary to use all his authority and moral influence to maintain strict discipline among his men, of whom he shot three at Rimini. At present Tuscan troops have replaced in the Romagna the volunteers who have passed into Tuscany and into the Duchies of Parma and Modena. The Roman volunteers who have quitted the service and return home have drawn a melancholy picture of the state of the troops under the yoke of the Government in Bologna. The privations suffered by the troops are excessive, and even now there is a want of beds

in the barracks. The Pontifical Government is decided no longer to give that increased pay to the troops at Perugia, Ancona, Sinigaglia, and Pesaro, who are supposed to be making a campaign. This resolution will produce a considerable saving. Notwithstanding the deficiency produced in the Roman Treasury by the present revolution, the Minister of Finance, Ferrari, has so well managed matters, that he has sufficient to pay all demands up to the end of the year. A loan is inevitable for 1860. Cardinal Antonelli is the diplomatist whom the Holy Father has chosen to represent the Holy See at the European Congress.

SPAIN.

The Madrid journals of the 3rd inst. do not contain any detailed account of the last affair in Morocco, but they say there is reason to believe that the major part of the troops with whom the Spaniards have hitherto fought are reinforcements sent by the Emperor Muley Abbas (who is still at the head of a large army between Tangier and Tetuan) to the contingents at Anghera. One of the journals mentions a curious incident in the battle of the 25th: The Moors, in spite of the discharge of grape, succeeded in reaching the Spanish guns, and fought hand to hand with the Spanish artillerymen. Some of them were even animated with such rage that they bit the Spaniards and attempted to strangle them. On the 1st Dec., the weather, says a telegraphic despatch, "was horrible" at Ceuta. It was said that the Moors had carried to Tangier the heads of seven Spaniards.

The Gibraltar Chronicle said that the Emperor of Morocco is endeavoring to lessen the horrors of war by assimilating the practice of Morocco to that of civilized Europe. He has forbidden the slaughter of prisoners taken in battle, and in order to give effect to the prohibition and to save the life of Spanish prisoners has adopted the following plan: Moorish irregulars, being above all irregular in the receipt of pay, are required according to the work done, and get a certain sum for every head of an enemy. The Emperor has now established a graduated scale of bounties, paying only one ducat or about half-a-dollar for a head and four dollars for a prisoner delivered alive.

RUSSIA.

A letter from Warsaw, of the 25th of Nov. says:—"I mentioned in a former letter the courageous demand made by the Polish nobility of the government of Podolia when the Ozar passed through that province, to the effect that the Polish language should be re-established in the public schools and courts of law, and that full liberty to practise the Catholic religion should be proclaimed. I now give you the Ozar's reply:—"Gentlemen," said he, "your demands are illegal. Your province is Russian, and you have no right to make such demands; and I must remind you that though I can be friendly towards you I can, if necessary, be severe."

"The election of functionaries from among the Polish nobility of the same government took place shortly after the departure of the Emperor. The Polish nobility assembled in great numbers, and, after a long discussion on the address the Emperor refused to receive, they resolved unanimously to present the same address to the Emperor through the Governor-General—the legal channel. This constancy of the Polish nobility in the provinces annexed to Russia for nearly a century to maintain their nationality, as well as liberty of conscience, proves on the one hand that patriotic feeling, notwithstanding so much persecution, has not none of its ardour, and, on the other hand, that political agency has ripened by experience. It is no longer by conspiracies and insurrections that the Poles demand their rights, but by the legal course. If you add to this fact the addresses presented to the Emperor Francis Joseph by the Polish youth of Lemberg and Cracow demanding the restoration of their national language in the schools and universities, and again the persevering petitions presented by the deputies of the Grand Duchy of Posen to induce the Prussian Government to acknowledge the nationality of that province, it is impossible not to see in these symptoms a characteristic sign of the force and vitality of the Polish nationality, repressed with so much determination for so many years. History offers few examples of such cruelty as the partitioning Powers committed on that unfortunate nation. Poland is more Polish and Catholic than ever, and after so many painful trials she has advanced in perseverance and in wisdom."

THE FRENCH HOSTILITIES AT TETUAN.—The following extract from a letter, dated Gibraltar, 28th Oct., has been received:—"On Saturday morning, or rather at noon, we were all put in great state of excitement, by a signal from the signal-house—"The French are bombarding Tetuan."

On arriving at the signal station, three men-of-war were distinctly seen blazing away at Fort Martin with shell, &c., the Moors returning the fire with great vigor. The cause of the fire was as follows:—"On the Friday, the St. Louis was cruising along the coast near Tetuan, when the Moors opened fire upon her. She showed her colors, and was again fired at. Upon this she returned here and reported the same to the French Admiral, who, with two other liners, left this early on Saturday morning. On hearing Fort Martin—a small fort of seven guns, three only commanding the sea,—the French Admiral, it is said, hoisted his colours, but was fired upon immediately. The Frenchmen, of course, commenced operations, and razed the fort to the ground; after which they returned to their anchorage in this bay. It appears the Moors stuck to their guns to the last, firing with great precision; and they managed to put seven shot into one vessel and four into another—the flagship, of 131 guns."

As a matter of course the reports we get from Ceuta are favorable to the Spaniards; those from Tangier the reverse. We learn from the latter place that the Moors thrashed the Spaniards, and took four guns, besides four heads and one prisoner. The Spanish account of the same affair states that, after six hours' hard fighting—the Moors charged up to the cannon's mouth,—the latter were dispersed with great loss.

INDIA.

The following is the letter of the Times correspondent, dated

"CALCUTTA, Nov. 2.—On the 22d of October the Governor General made his triumphant entry into Lucknow, and received and decorated all the princes and higher nobles of Oude. Your readers, I dare say, will scarcely care for the ceremonial, the formal speeches and large compliments which make up an Indian reception. The real interest of the scene, besides, does not lie in them. Two days after a grand Durbar was held, attended by the majority of the Talookdars of Oude. After the usual formal greetings, the Governor General rose and addressed the assembled landlords thus:—"Talookdars of Oude,—I am glad to find myself in your country and among you, and to have this opportunity of speaking to you in the name of the Queen your Sovereign."

"A year has not passed away since this province was the seat of anarchy and war. The conduct of its people had been such that the Government was compelled to lay a heavy hand upon it. But peace and order are now restored to every corner of Oude, and I am come to speak to you not of the past but of the future."

"You have all of you who are here present received yesterday the grants of these estates which the Government has restored to you."

"You will have seen by the terms of those grants that the ancient Talookdaree system of Oude is revived and perpetuated."

"It is assured that so long as each one of you is a loyal and faithful subject, and a just master, his rights and dignity as a Talookdar will be upheld by me and by every representative of your Queen, and that no man shall disturb them."

"The same rights are secured on the same conditions to you by every Talookdar."

"Let this security be an encouragement to you to spend your care, and time, and money upon the improvement of your possessions."

"As the Government has been generous to you, so do you be generous to those who hold under you down to the humblest tiller of the soil. Aid them by advances of money and other indulgences to increase the productiveness of the land, and set them an example of order and obedience to your rulers."

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"Let the same security in your possessions encourage you to bring up your sons in a manner befitting the position which they will hereafter occupy as the Chiefs of Oude. Learn yourselves, and teach them to look to the Government as a father."

"Talookdars, I trust that there are none among you who are so infatuated as to believe that the Government has had designs against your religion. Even if there be any such, I will not condescend to repeat the assurances which they have already received on this head. I leave it to time, and experience, and their own senses to dispel their perverse suspicions. But for their own sakes I warn them not to be led into acts of opposition or distrust towards the Government by the false tales of designing men."

"Lastly, Talookdars, wherever in any matter you have doubts to be resolved or wishes to make known, address yourselves to the Chief Commissioner. He will tell you the truth in all things. He is the high and trusted representative of the Government in Oude, and depend upon it, he will be your best adviser and your truest friend. I wish that I could speak to you in your own language. That which I have said will now be interpreted to you, and I enjoin you to bear it in your memories."

"The Talookdars" says a local reporter, "looked satisfied," and well they might. If one could imagine the Duke of Sutherland, say, suddenly assuring his tenants that their farms were their own for ever in fee simple, one would expect some slight marks of complacency to be manifested. That and nothing less is the effect of the Viceroy's speech. The Oude proclamation, the despatches to Lord Stanley, our entire policy since the annexation, are flung to the winds together. The aristocracy are restored to their estates en masse and granted a perpetual settlement; in other words, the rate of taxation is fixed for ever, and all the increase of rental sure to follow our rule will go, as in Bengal, to enrich them, instead of the State."

"The measure, wholly unexpected, and at variance with every profession Lord Oanning has made, is in itself most wise. The people will not revolt without their leaders. They did not even in Behar, where the resumption has created a genuine hate of our rule. The leaders now cannot move. They all accept a perpetual settlement as the greatest of benefits, and they all know that the first act of a native King would be to upset it. They may not personally feel the benefit for a year or two, but they are not fools, and they know how rapidly the Bengalee Zemindars have thriven. They are released at once from all uncertainty as to the future, they recover at once their feudal supremacy, they are exempted at once from the visits and authority of the collector, and, above all, they are made too strong for the native officials. Those gentry, even in Bengal, dare not worry the Zemindars, and in Oude with its martial population they must keep strictly within the letter of the law. There will be some distrust at first, but in five years, I feel assured, if the perpetuity of the settlement is really and honestly maintained, the possibility of rebellion will cease to Oude. There may be any amount of discontent, but the rich never revolt in earnest."

"The terms of the grants are not yet published, and are very possibly severe. The perpetuity of the conditions is, however, the point, and that is distinctly promised by the Governor-General."

"The Speech has been circulated in an official handbill, all over India."

The 45 discharged Europeans who volunteered for China have been sent back as incurably bad characters."

"NEPAL.—From Nepal it is very confidently rumored that the Nana is dead, but considerable suspicion, of course, hangs over a story which it is so much the interest of the miscreant to get believed."

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Cowley's appointment as our Plenipotentiary in the coming European Congress is a definitive act (so far as the present Government is concerned) of British interference in continental affairs. The Cabinet of Lord Palmerston has only acted consistently in resolving, for good or for evil, to stand aloof from all European transactions not directly touching the material interests of this country. We certainly had no locus standi at a European Congress met to complete arrangements arising out of a conflict in which the other consulting Powers either had taken, or were preparing under certain contingencies (other than that of being attacked), to take a part. In moral influence England is doubtless powerful; and her place in the Congress would be a high one, were the other Powers there to be represented, dependent on moral influence for their rank in the scale of relative importance. But, alas, what is moral influence, when pitted against the vast material forces of France, Russia, and Austria? It is the philosopher arguing with the master of an hundred legions. Our withdrawal from European politics is described by the Times as the late resipiscence of an aged sinner, and the reproaches, or gibes of Continental politicians at our "isolation," are represented as the unavoidable penance for early errors—repeated, of but still unexpiated. Once, according to the Times, we united with the despotic powers in a crusade against liberty all over the world; once we were the allies of tyrants, in crushing abroad aspirations after that constitutional government which forms our happiness and our glory at home. Now, we have changed our policy; we have grown wiser; we no longer make war for an idea, but we stay at home—we mind our own business, which is, making money—and we leave other people to mind theirs.—Weekly Register.

A great demonstration in favor of the Volunteer movement has been made in Glasgow, where a large meeting was held in the City Hall, the body of which was thronged on the occasion, whilst some 700 or 800 volunteers in uniform occupied the galleries.—Sir Archibald Alison, in a long and not uninteresting speech, gave a resume of the history of Europe, and in one part brought the following facts to the notice of his hearers, together with the moral to be deduced therefrom:—"I have taken especial care in these remarks to say nothing in regard to that great Power, recently our ally—I hope it may never become our enemy—from which an attack is the more immediately apprehended. I will always speak with respect of the French. I will always speak with respect of the Emperor of the French. (Hisses.) I admire the talent, and I know the ability, of the French Emperor. ('Hear, hear' and 'Oh, oh!') Listen, gentlemen, to what I say. It is because I know the bravery of France, because I know the power of France, and because I know the spirit and the ability of the French Emperor—it is just for this reason that I say the Volunteer movement is indispensably called for by Great Britain. (Tremendous applause.) This is not a case of dispute—it is not a quarrel or temporary necessity. France and England have been old rivals. England was conquered by France 800 years ago in one battle fought on the coast of Sussex. It was conquered by a province of France, and that is a warning and a lesson to us at this time."

CHURCH RATES.—The establishment may doubt its doctrines: it has no hesitation about pounds shillings and pence. My Lord of Ochester may deprecate

suggest, weigh words in different senses, hold out the terrors of hopeless controversy, or seek the shelter of a neutral attitude; when judicious persons wait for a decision, the question of church-rates is a firm as adamant. He gives his opinion, and holds, like St. Chrysostom, to his bond. "There is nothing unjust or oppressive, no real grievance, in the legal system of church-rates: I think that the church, as a national institution, is entitled to a continuance of this measure of national support." He should pause to consider "the difference between the Church and a mere Establishment." We know that in this country Christianity is not free: that the heir of the Crown, and the head of the law must perils their souls to keep their seats: that a certain number of persons in lawsleeves hold a bad pre-eminence in the House of Lords from which thousands of their fellow-subjects long to deliver them: that in common with systems of sewerage, prison discipline, penal servitude, railroads, gas, the suppression of nuisances and the procuring of conveniences, the Establishment is indebted to the Legislature for its existence and its church-rates: but in what sense it is a national institution any more than the Royal Society, Greenwich Observatory, Chelsea Hospital, that is fed by law, we do not know. Certainly, one-half at least of the nation, if they do not excommunicate it as the temple of Antichrist, treat it with indifference or contempt; and it is evident that many of its members are so weary of the insecurity of their position, that they are striving to thicken and consolidate the slippery mass of their opinions by cajoling the Dissenters, and dropping the name of Church of England for the style and title of British Christians.

The London Herald, says Mr. Lever, M. P. for Galway, has again offered to charter the Great Eastern for twelve months, but that his offer has been refused without hesitation by the directors.

THE WORKHOUSE QUESTION.—The subject comes home to the great majority of the Catholic people. The position of the Catholic poor in England is such that no one can tell whose offspring may be subjected to the tender mercies of the Poor-law Guardians. Labor is so precarious, and human life so uncertain, that the most tenderly reared children may have to graduate into adolescence in some of these public institutions which, as at present conducted, afford so many opportunities to the zealous who manage them of robbing the children of the Catholic poor of their only inheritance—the faith of their fathers. Already, through the supineness of the Catholic public, hundreds of children have been lost to the faith—children, too, of fathers and mothers whose ancestors suffered an unexampled persecution for their religion: successfully resisted for centuries the powers of darkness, and the domination of the most powerful kingdom in Europe. History affords no such instance of the tenacity of a nation to the true faith, under the most trying circumstances, as that of the Irish people to the Catholic religion, during the operation of the bloody penal code. They have gloriously passed through the fiery ordeal. They have gloriously passed through the fiery ordeal, and Ireland is still Catholic, as of yore. Monasteries and Convents, Churches and Chapels, Colleges and Educational Establishments, are already established or springing into existence, rivalling, if not surpassing, the ancient glories of the "Land of Saints," during the early centuries of Christianity—and that, too, by the voluntary contributions of a people who have been ever devoted to science and religion. Those of the Irish people who have remained at home and clung to the fortunes of the "Old Land," have nobly sustained the hereditary genius of their country; whilst those whom oppression has driven from the homes of their fathers, have carried into their adopted countries the faith of St. Patrick; and in Great Britain, and America, and the Colonies, have planted the religion of the Saints. Such enduring fortitude, such noble perseverance, should procure for them the sympathy even of those who differ from them in religious principles. But whilst we point with pride to the progress of religion in Ireland and in this country,—whilst we claim for our dissenting brethren a tribute of admiration to the heroic virtues of the Irish poor—shall we rest satisfied so long as they are deprived of the free and full exercise of their religion, when compelled by necessity to seek an asylum in the public workhouse? Shall we stand by with folded arms whilst the administrators of the Poor-law are filching from the orphan children of our kith and kin the faith for which their fathers endured so much? We are virtually doing so, so long as we leave to individual efforts what should be the united work of the whole Catholic body. We say advisedly, the entire Catholic body: for although the poor, whose claims we advocate, are principally, if not entirely Irish, the English Catholics owe the political importance and consideration which they enjoy to their being identified with the Irish Catholics who have immigrated to this country. Much has been achieved by individuals. Mr. James Whitty, of this town, and kindred Catholic spirits in London, Manchester, and Leeds, have been the watchful guardians of the poor, and placed the Catholic public under a deep debt of obligation to them; but the question is too important and comprehensive, and affects the Catholic community too seriously, to be left to isolated efforts, or individual exertions. It requires a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether; it requires a special organization, embracing the whole Catholic body, devoted to a special aim, liberally supported by public contributions, and not desisting from that aim, until its object is accomplished. The principle to be contended for—religious freedom—is one upon which Englishmen especially pride themselves. We have seen within the last few weeks, the most influential men in the country seek the interposition of British diplomacy, to restore a Christian child to Judaism, because his parents are of that persuasion. Surely, then, the obstacles to be overcome are not insurmountable, when we only ask to have the same principles acted upon at home which our fellow countrymen would wish to see respected abroad. Surely the Catholic orphans—children of a race that has done so much for the glory and greatness of Great Britain—are deserving of as much consideration at the hands of Englishmen, as the children of Jews or Mahomedans.

Another variety of deadly missile has just been subjected to experiment, and with signal success.—It consists of a hollow shell filled with iron, molten in a cupola furnace of peculiar construction. One of these furnaces has been fitted into the Stork gunboat, which on Thursday was brought into position for firing upon the Undaunted frigate. The effect of her discharge was most striking. The unfortunate object of her attentions was almost instantly in flames, and but a very short time elapsed ere the Undaunted had sunk beneath the water.

INCIDENTS OF LIFE.—The number of languages spoken is 4,064. The number of men is about equal to the number of women. The average of human life is thirty-three years. One quarter die before the age of seven. One half before the age of seventeen. To every one thousand persons one only reaches one hundred years. To every one hundred only six reach seventy-five years, and not more than one in five hundred will reach eighty years. There are on the earth one thousand millions of inhabitants. Of these 33,333,333 die every year; 91,824 die every day; 7,780 every hour; and 60 per minute, or one in every second. These losses are about balanced by an equal number of births. The married are longer-lived than the single, and above all, those who observe a sober and industrious conduct. Tall men live longer than short ones. Women have more chances of life previous to the age of fifty years than men, but fewer after. The number of marriages in proportion of seventy-six to one hundred. Marriages are more frequent after the equinoxes, that is, during the months of June and December. Those born in spring are generally more robust than others. Births and deaths are more frequent by night than by day. The number of men capable of bearing arms is one-fourth of the population.—Hunt's (New York) Merchant's Magazine.