

News Department.

Extracts from latest English Papers.

ENGLAND.

The Protestant Alliance held its anniversary at Freemasons' hall on Friday, 15th ult., the Earl of Shaftesbury entering and taking the chair in the middle of the proceedings. The report stated among other things, that—

In consequence of the bold and aggressive movements of the Church of Rome in Chelsea and the neighbourhood, an effort is being made to establish a "South-west London Protestant Institute," with objects and plans similar to those of the Islington Protestant Institute.

Also—

By a recent communication from Halifax, Nova Scotia, your committee learn that, in consequence of the intolerable power of the Romish party in the colony, an association similar in aim and principles to the Alliance is being formed, and that there is reason to hope that kindred institutions will be established in the colony.

The particulars were also given of an examination of the young men of the metropolis for prizes, on subjects connected with the Romish controversy; the number of candidates coming forward having been thirty-six. The prizes have been again offered; they are £10, £5, £3, and £2 to the four candidates who shall acquit themselves best in an examination on—1, The Papal Supremacy; 2, Justification; 3, Invocation of Saints; The Rev. Dr. Tyng, of New York, was one of the principal speakers. He said, speaking of the non-progress of Romanism in America:—

I admit that some few clergymen of the American Episcopal Church have turned Papists; but these are confined entirely to two classes—a class of low-bred, half-formed, and half-educated young men, clergymen who had been spoiled in the hatching; and a class of worn-out, degraded, and driven torrid exiles from the Church, who had been spoiled in the using—men who could not get a living in the Church, and have in the end lost the living of eternity. But the instance in the United States has yet to be found of an educated man, in the maturity of his intellect and in the full sense of his responsibilities, voluntarily lay aside everything that is dignified in station and separating in personal character, and elevating in individual habit, and purifying in adopted and proclaimed principles of truth, and herding himself with that low, wretched and bestial crew that make up the majority of the Popish priesthood. (Loud cheer.) But the whole of these perversities put together would not make up a man that any American congregation would consent to put into a respectable pulpit. I state this publicly, that it may go to the land from which I come, and I challenge the whole Episcopal population to deny it. When, then we on the other side of the Atlantic hear of your Mannings and your Wilberforces and your Newman, we lift up our eyes, our minds, and our hearts in astonishment. What, Wilberforce! How are the mighty fallen! (Applause.) What could have made the children of William Wilberforce, with their father's sound Protestantism and practical views written on the table of God's judgement against them, what could make them disallow—I will not say their father's book, but his whole life and character, and all that truth for which he stood a witness before God, is as great a mystery to my mind as anything that has ever been presented in the history of mankind. We have nothing to parallel it. (Applause.)

A special resolution was proposed by the Rev. W. M'Call, on nunneries:—

That evidence, abundantly furnished during the past year, shows more strongly than ever that nunneries should be placed under proper inspection, so as to prevent adults and children in them from being detained against their will, or without the consent of their proper guardians.

G. H. Davis, Esq., in seconding the resolution, said it was an important question how far a free State ought to permit ladies to become nuns at all:—

He believed there was sufficient evidence to prove that the scenes of tyranny enacted in the nunneries in this country were just as vile as any of those which were read of in the days that were past either in Italy or Spain. Some remedy ought to be applied to the state of things, and active exertions ought to be used for that purpose. The Jesuits worked, and talked but little. The Society must adopt the same course, and say little, whilst quietly effecting the object before them. If no flaming accounts appear in the newspapers with respect to the Protestant Alliance, it must

not be supposed that it was doing nothing. It was wide awake, looking at the acts of priests, and endeavouring to counteract them. But further funds were required, and he trusted that £500 would be lodged in the hands of their bankers for two years, in order to send out such an agent as Mr. Macgregor to the colonies to contend against the great adversary which they had to encounter. (Applause.)

In proposing a resolution of thanks to Lord Shaftesbury, the speaker, P. F. O'Malley, Esq., said—

The rank of his lordship placed him near the governing power, and gave him great influence, but he preferred to every other distinction that of placing himself at the head of the Protestant interest in the country. In the palace as well as in the slums of Westminster he had maintained the simplicity of an humble-hearted follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, and had shown that Christianity was not a mere profession but a living power. Amongst the other great things that had recently happened in this country—whether owing to his lordship's exertions he left others to say—the principle had been recognised by the Government that we were to have no Popish Bishops in our sees. For the first time Evangelical Bishops were in vogue in this country, and Evangelical opinion was considered a passport to the Episcopal bench. The country was greatly indebted to those to whom it owed the boon of so many Protestant Bishops—not only Protestants at heart, but Christians at heart, and he trusted that the Protestants of this country would remember to whom they owed so great a boon, and that they would not by any injudicious means drive back those to whom the boon was owing upon the support of those who would give them worse and more prejudicial counsel. (Applause.)

Lord Shaftesbury's speech in reply contained nothing of note.

The Opposition had already shown some signs of life. 'Ministers' money' is a small local impost in Ireland, which has for several years been annually attacked by the Roman Catholic members, and annually defended by the Government, but which Lord Palmerston has at length declared an intention to abandon. It has always been regarded in Ireland as an outwork of the Irish Church Establishment, and Mr. D'Israeli gives notice that he will make as good a fight for it as he can.

The Princess Royal's engagement has been formally announced this week at London and Berlin. Both Houses of Parliament received a message from her Majesty on Monday, and tendered respectful congratulations in return. The 'suitable provision' which is the appropriate sequel, will be taken into consideration on Friday, and members who have pledged themselves to their constituents to oppose the grant will have an opportunity of making such an exhibition of bad taste and false economy as they may desire. Bad taste, because the country stands on such an occasion in loco parentis to the young lady, and has the best reasons for treating her mother's daughter handsomely and considerably. False economy, because the revenues of the Crown are meant to be spent in supporting the state and dignity of the Crown, not to be hoarded up by the Sovereign for poring and establishing her family.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—At the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 16th day of May, 1857:

Present, the Queen's most excellent Majesty in Council.

Her Majesty in Council was this day pleased to declare her consent to a contract of matrimony between Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal and His Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia, which consent her Majesty has also caused to be signified under the great seal.—*London Gazette.*

FRANCE.—The King of Bavaria reached Fontainebleau yesterday afternoon at 6 p.m., and was received by the Emperor at "the bottom," and not at the top, of the principal staircase, as we are duly informed by the *Moniteur*, in his quality of reigning sovereign. A fresh batch of Ministers and visitors are speeding down to meet the new guest, and more drives and hunts and forest picnics are in preparation for his entertainment. In Paris the municipality has been ordered to open its purse-strings, and on Saturday a grand ball, at a cost of 150,000*l.*, was voted at the Hotel de Ville with a "unanimity" vote by of the Corps Legislatif itself!

The *Augsbourg Gazette* takes upon itself to announce "formally" the demand, by Prince Napoleon, of the hand of the Princess Stephanie of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, daughter of the Prince of the same name, and

the Princess Josephine of Baden, and granddaughter of the Grand-Duchess Stephanie of Baden, first cousin of the mother of Louis Napoleon. The Princess is nineteen years and ten months old, and, in addition to her other relationship, is cousin to the "little Wasi" of former days, once thought too good a match for the numerous fortunes of the President of the French Republic.

The *Moniteur* of this morning makes no allusion to this interesting subject, but it informs us that the great Humboldt received the decoration of Grand Officers of the Legion of Honour from the hands of Prince Napoleon ere he quitted Berlin. It also announces the final ratification of the treaty concluded at Paris by the Court of Teheran, and thus puts an end to the rumours so long prevalent to the contrary on this important subject.

An expedition on an imposing scale is about to be made by the French armies in Africa into the Grande Kabylie. The troops, to the number of from 25,000 to 30,000 men, will march under the personal command of Marshall Randon himself, Governor-General of Algeria.

PERSIA.—The treaty of peace between England and Persia was ratified at Teheran on the 14th April, and forwarded to Bagdad on the 17th. The news of a treaty having been concluded reached Mohammerah on the 6th of April, and military operations under Sir James Outram were, of course, suspended.

Some telegraphic despatches prepared the way for the melancholy intelligence brought by the Overland Mail of the suicide of General Stalker and Commodore Ethersey. The *Bombay Times* relates the particulars:—

These melancholy events, occurring within two days of each other, are plainly attributable to identical causes, remote and immediate. Both men should have been in Europe on sick leave, instead of directing operations in the Gulf. In each instance the nervous system was evidently shattered by the climate, and quite unequal to encounter, except under the influence of casual strong excitement, the extraordinary responsibility thrust upon it. For some days prior to the 14th of March, on which the unhappy General destroyed himself, it was observed that he was unusually depressed, and it is generally believed that recent heavy pecuniary losses had come to supplement the harassing responsibilities of his position, and destroy the energies already undermined by disease, and fainting under an exaggerated estimate of what was required from him. It was determined that he should command at Bushire, in the absence of General Outram, who would conduct the operations against Mohammerah, and he seems to have imagined that the force to be left at his disposal was inadequate to the service. There is not the shadow of a suspicion that any unpleasantness occurred between him and General Outram, a friendship the most chivalric and ardent subsisting between them. They breakfasted together, in the company of the staff, on the morning of his death, and no one observed any alteration in his manner. He rose from the table, and having called upon several of his staff, all of whom unhappily were out, proceeded to his own tent, where a pistol shot was heard ten minutes afterwards, and the unhappy General was found in the agony of death. Several of the witnesses testify to his nervous and undue apprehension for the health of the troops during the approaching hot weather. Certain it is, the men and officers loved the gallant old man, who thus cared for them with no ordinary love, and his memory saddens every heart. It is not right to add, that one of the witnesses on the inquest, Colonel Lugard, asserts his strong belief, that the explosion of the pistol was accidental. The verdict, however, determined that the General destroyed himself while in a fit of temporary insanity.

The gloom that was cast over the camp by this melancholy event was to be deepened ere long by another equally, if not more painful. On the morning of the 16th ult., two days after the death of Stalker, a rumour spread through the camp that the Commodore of the Navy, Capt. Ethersey, had destroyed himself in the night; and but too well founded was it. It had been matter of remark for some time that the Commodore, a most able and talented man, was suffering from mental excitement of no ordinary kind, and it is much to be regretted that a too nice sense of honour should have kept him with the force when his state evidently demanded that he should in valid for a time. A strong and apparently well founded suspicion is very prevalent that Sir Henry Locke's conduct towards this unhappy gentleman was the cause of his mental distress. It is certain, that on the night of his death he had been poring over despatches recently received from Sir Henry, and a memorial to the Government of Bombay lay beside them on his dressing table. It would seem that, tired and exhausted, sick and in despair, he at last placed the pistol at his head and destroyed himself. These despatches and that the