

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE CONGRESS OF PARIS.—It was still supposed that the Congress of Paris would assemble before the New Year, but nothing official had been stated. Count Walewski, it is said, proposes that some compensation should be given to Russia for the loss of Belgrade, and Russia proposes to accept a piece of land between the river Tulpuk and one of its tributaries. A Paris dispatch says that Austria is the only power that has not yet named a representative to the Congress; but Baron Hubner will probably represent Austria, and Baron Bruno, Russia.

The semi-official *Constitutionnel* states that this conference will be composed of the secondary plenipotentiaries of the late congress, or, in other words, of the diplomatic representatives of the great powers accredited to the court of the Tuileries; its sittings, it adds, will, moreover, be of short duration. The *Constitutionnel* avers that a preliminary accord has not been established between the powers, and that each one maintains its particular views of the existing difficulties. "This fact," it says, "explains the opportune character of the new conferences. Were the various opinions united, there would be no necessity for deliberating; a meeting of plenipotentiaries would be superfluous. Logic would, therefore, indicate that different opinions may be manifested in the new sittings of the congress; but either the accord will be established by mutual concessions, as we hope, or by the result of a vote and of a majority. In either case, a satisfactory solution is without a doubt. The object of the conference is, therefore, to interpret certain contested points of the treaty of Paris, and to enforce its speedy execution. The difficulties once solved, the motives which have hitherto been the cause of the occupation of the provinces and of the waters of Turkey will disappear; the English and Austrian forces will at once effect their withdrawal, and thus the treaty will receive in the East, as elsewhere, its complete execution."

The *Moniteur* contains an article on the Neuchâtel question, the details of which it explains. The French Government intervened with wise counsels. It asked for the liberation of the Neuchâtelois prisoners so as to prevent any armed conflict, and to obtain a final settlement of the question.

Switzerland would not follow these counsels. The *Moniteur* concludes with these words: Thus France met with moderation, a sincere desire to terminate a delicate question, and a courteous deference for her political situation, on the one side; on the other, on the contrary, an obstinacy much to be regretted, an exaggerated susceptibility, and a complete indifference to her counsels. Switzerland, therefore, must not be astonished if, in the course of events, she should no longer find the good will which she might so easily have obtained at the cost of a very slight sacrifice.

The *Moniteur* also announces the signature of a treaty between France and Spain, for the purpose of determining the limits of their respective frontiers.

The Paris correspondent of the *Nord* writes:—"Some of the most illustrious of English statesmen are evincing uneasiness at the manner in which public opinion in Europe condemns the turbulent politics of Lord Palmerston. The celebrated Tory orator, Mr. Disraeli, has expressed himself here upon this subject with much vivacity. He has been much feted at Paris by the Court and Ministers, and has dined at the Tuileries with many members of the Parliamentary Opposition. Mr. Disraeli was seated at table opposite Count Walewski, and next to M. de Kisselef.—"The Paris correspondent of the *Independence Belge* also says that "Mr. Disraeli shows himself very frequently in our political saloons—especially in that of the Princess de Lieven. He has also paid several visits to M. Guizot."

Considerable attention has been excited by the publication of a Pastoral, addressed by the Bishop of Chartres to his Clergy, in reference to the differences which have existed between certain Catholic publications. It will be seen that no less than 31 Bishops have intimated their concurrence with the views of His Lordship, as expressed in a former letter, addressed to the Bishop of Viviers, in which is laid down the duties of the Clergy, recommending their abstinence from politics—political discussions, and that they should not enrol themselves on the side of either of the disputants so long as the principles and dogmas of Religion were not assailed.

SPAIN.

The Madrid *Gazette* of the 2nd Dec. publishes a circular from the Minister of Grace and Justice to the Bishops, charging them in the name of her Majesty, to cause to be celebrated before the end of the year the ineffable mystery of the Immaculate Conception, in a manner in accordance with all the ardor of Spanish faith and all the pomp of Spanish worship. The circular states that the Spanish nation may hope to be able to reform itself, since it was the first to accept the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, under whose protection all the Spanish dominions are placed.

ITALY.

NAPLES.—People have left off almost talking of the Neapolitan affairs. There seems a general impression that all will remain quiet in that country, since whatever may be the feelings of the middle class, the mass of the people is said to be perfectly well affected towards the Government. Provisions of all kinds are cheap and abundant; taxes are light, and the King is personally popular. Every one seems pleased that England and Lord Palmerston's Government should have made so contemptible a figure as they have done in the whole transaction. The Archbishop of Trebizond has been expected here for some days; his non-arrival is owing, probably, to the bad weather. The Novena to Our Lady is being observed here with great devotion.—*Cor. of Weekly Register.*

Sicily is reported tranquil. Baron Bentivoglio is a prisoner in the hands of the Royal authorities. Many other persons have been captured, and arrive every day in Palermo.

RECATANTION.—General Collegno, a member of the Piedmontese Senate, who voted for the law which confiscated church property in Sardinia, has recently died. Before his death he called a gentleman, notary and two witnesses, made in their presence a solemn retraction of the support and sanction he had given to a law, which his conscience told him was unjust and religious, and charged them to give all possible publicity to his retraction. Such is the force of conscience, such the persuasive urgency of that last hour, man's best and most sincere counsellor.

GERMANY.

Prussia is making great preparations to move against Switzerland. Considerably more than two army corps, as at first intended, will be mobilized for immediate service. It is understood that Switzerland will eventually be made to pay for the expense caused by the demonstration or campaign, whichever it proves. Prussia has already applied to the different States for permission to march through their territory. It is said that the subject will be officially brought before the German Diet, in order to obtain the formal sanction of that assembly.

A Berlin letter states that the Prussian note relative to Neuchâtel, would be read to the German Diet, on the 18th of December.

Mr. Max von Pochhammer, an apostle of the religious community at Berlin which holds the ecclesiastical views of the late Edward Irving, has been tried before one of the superior courts for an offence against the laws, and acquitted.—The charge was, that he had administered the Sacrament to fifty of his followers. So much for toleration in Protestant Prussia!

CIVILIZATION.—Dr. Standen, an Evangelical divine of Berlin, calculates that the annual number of divorces in Prussia is 3000! Prussia is, pre-eminently in Germany, the land of public schools, compulsory education, and all else that people in our day dignify with the name of modern civilization. But of what value is all this, when it co-exists with, if it does not actually beget, such a low state of morality as would shame Hotentots and Pagans?

The Emperor of Austria has just granted a yearly sum of 20,000 florins for the repair of the Cathedral of St. Mark, at Venice. Whenever the whole of this sum shall not be wanted in the course of the year, the remainder is to be capitalised to increase the funds belonging to the cathedral, and the interest is likewise to be applied to keeping the edifice in repair.

VIENNA.—We learn, with great thankfulness, from a private correspondent, that the Fathers of the Society of Jesus, on Thursday last, took possession of the great church which belonged to them before the suppression of the Society. The young Emperor, we are thankful to see, does not belong to that school of politicians which thinks it necessary to balance every act favorable to the Church, by some step against it. He is throwing himself manfully upon the support of that party which embodies all that is good and great in his dominions; not the party, of mere secular order, but of the Catholic Church.—*Weekly Register.*

CONVERTS FROM CATHOLICITY.—We would recommend some of the Protestant Alliance and Priest's Protection Society promoters and patrons to consider well the following from the Berlin correspondent of the *German Reformed Messenger*:—"The German Catholics, or followers of Ronge, are rapidly declining. In Vienna, the most of them have quietly returned into the bosom of the Catholic church. The few remaining congregations are fast going the way of all the earth. They have no moral or theological foundation. They are neither Catholic nor Protestant, but a compound of both with their essential points clipped off with the scissors of Rationalism. Ronge himself has even lost the character of common decency. It is notorious that his sensuality has repeatedly thrown him into the hands of the police. His history is another monumental warning to that anti-Papal credulity, which regards every renegade from Popery as a genuine convert, and to those whose hatred to Rome blinds them to the most palpable vices of its worthless fugitives."

What is here said of Ronge, might with equal truth be said of Achilli, Gavazzi, and hoc genus omne. The remark of Dean Swift, that the Pope throws the worst weeds over the wall into the Protestant garden, has proved true of late in more ways than one.—*Hibernian Catholic.*

THE 23d RULE ON AUSTRIAN RAILROADS.—Within all the Austrian Railway cars are displayed little red flags which have been invented by the truly paternal prudence of the directors of the roads. A notice put up in the cars explains the use of them, they are to be displayed by travellers in case of any accident; the train will stop in consequence, and help will be rendered. But the notice in question takes care to give warning against any abuses of these pretty red flags. Whoever, it adds, displays them unnecessarily, shall be punished according to the prescription of the 23d article of the regulations.

What is this punishment? what are the provisions of this 23d article? The notice does not tell, and this question puzzled two Englishmen who just have been reading it. "Parbleu," said one of them, "there is a very simple way of finding out." "What is that?" "Let us display the flag at a venture and stop the train."

No sooner said than done. Our Englishman put out, and laughed as they did it, the signal of distress. The train was stopped, the people came running and anxiously asked "what accident has happened." "Oh, nothing is the matter," said the Englishmen, "we wanted to know what the 23d article is." "Oh, very well, you shall be satisfied. In the first place be so good as each of you to pay ten thalers fine." "Here it is," said the Englishmen with the most perfect stoicism. "Well, now get out of the car." "Here we are on the ground." "All right. Now stay there till we have the pleasure of meeting again." And the train went off full steam in the face of the sheepish Englishmen. This was the 23d article.—*Courier des Etats Unis.*

SWITZERLAND.

THE NEUCHÂTEL AFFAIR.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"With respect to the question of Neuchâtel, I cannot say that the hopes of an amicable arrangement appear very sanguine. A Paris despatch says that a friendly Power (not named) is understood to have suggested that Switzerland should be required to accede to Prussia's demand for the release of the Neuchâtel prisoners by a collective note from the Powers which signed the protocol of London. This would enable Switzerland to make an honorable retreat."

SWEDEN.

At the opening of the Swedish Diet, King Oscar announced, in very noble language, that a bill would be presented in the course of the session for the establishment of freedom of religious worship in the kingdom. The text of that measure has just been published; and it proves how strong religious prejudices must still be in Sweden, since, notwithstanding the good intentions of the sovereign, and the spirit of the constitution, the government has only ventured to propose enactments of a very limited character, and which do not by any means reach the standard which the king's language had led the people to expect. The following is an analysis of the principal provisions of the bill.—Art. 1 revokes the

clauses and enactments of the penal code relative to the penalties attached to the departure from the true evangelical doctrine, and the profession of another faith. These penalties were holding less than exile and confiscation, and the persons who left the Swedish Church almost in every case, merely became Protestants of another denomination. Every Swede, however, who leaves the National Swedish Church is obliged to make a formal declaration to that effect in the registers of his parish. Art. 2 revokes the enactments of the same code, which entail the penalty of exile for the propagation of erroneous doctrines, and changes the punishment for that offence into a fine, varying from 88 to 1400, or imprisonment of from one to twelve months. Art. 3 proposes that whoever shall seek by persuasion, threats, or other illicit means to lead to apostasy from the Swedish Church shall be liable to a fine of 70 to 1400, and for each repetition of the offence to imprisonment of from two to twelve months. Art. 4 states that children born before their parents have changed are to be brought up in the doctrines of the Swedish Church, and the municipal councillors are ordered to see that this prescription is carefully carried out. Art. 5 states that no one can, in consequence of his religious professions, be released from the observance of the laws in vigour in the kingdom. Art. 6 allows members of the Swedish Church to hold religious meetings in private houses, provided nothing takes place calculated to destroy public order. In every meeting for the purpose of religious worship, at which a clergyman does not officiate, entrance cannot be refused either to the clergyman of the parish, or to the public functionaries of the neighbourhood; and these latter can, in case of illegality or disorder, dissolve the meetings. No such meetings, however, can in any case take place unless by a special permission, under the penalty of a fine of from 68 to 150 for the person lending his house, and of 14 for each person present."

RUSSIA.

We, says the *Weekly Register* have elsewhere given an analysis of the Russian Manifesto, relative to the disputed Moldavia frontiers. The question turns on "the two Bolgrads." One was marked in the map produced at the Conference in May, the other not. It turns out that that which was not marked at all, and which stands on an inlet of the Danube, is the principal place. The Russian Government now places the name to the other, which it styles "a place called Tabak" and argues that it was not responsible for the map produced at Paris, which was not a Russian but a French map. There is an appearance of *chicanerie* in the whole affair. Fifty thousand Russians, commanded by General Bernlof, are ready to march on the frontier of Persia at the call of the Shah.

PERSIA.

Herat is actually taken by the Persians, and, it is said, that fifty thousand Russians are marching towards the Persian frontier. This looks serious.—France is stated to have offered her mediation to the Court of Teheran. Notwithstanding a very deeply-seated suspicion of these distant wars, which our Afghan experience abundantly justifies, we cannot forget that, as a contemporary this week says, Herat is the key of Afghanistan, and Afghanistan is the door of India. It must therefore be far more immediately important to us that Herat should not be held by a vessel of the Czar, than that Bolgrad should not be held by Russia. Through Herat, and through Herat alone, our Indian Empire is open to attack, except by sea. This might not of itself prove the justice of the war, if Herat honestly belonged to Persia; but there is no doubt that whatever power Persia has at times possessed there (and the limits of Oriental Monarchies has always varied pretty much with their power), she has formally bound herself by treaty not to attack it. The meeting of Parliament will probably first open to us exact information. It is a strange part of our constitution, that a minister, appointed to an office which he, and the nation, and the Parliament, alike regarded only as a subordinate civil post, may have to decide most momentous questions of war and peace for the whole Empire; as is expressed by those of our contemporaries who talk about "Mr. Smith's war with Persia."—*Weekly Register.*

PORK AND CHOLERA IN INDIA.—The legend which ascribes to the eating of human flesh the origin of one of the most loathsome of diseases, scarce offers a more horrible picture to the imagination than is presented by a letter in the *Ceylon Examiner* of October. We have already alluded to the ravages made by cholera in India during the early part of this year. The latest accounts inform us that this scourge has also devastated the beautiful islands of Mauritius and Bourbon. These islands are largely supplied with pork from Patna, a province of Hindostan that has itself been overrun by the cholera. Both there and at Calcutta the bodies of the natives are consigned to the Ganges, instead of being interred. "Let any person," says the writer in the *Ceylon paper*, "at daylight start from the gates of Government House, Calcutta, and, whether his walk be to the banks of the river or to the banks of the canals which on three sides surround the city, he will see pigs feeding on the dead bodies of the natives that have been thrown there during the night. During the day the river police clear away and sink all that remains of the bodies. And as is the metropolis of India, it is nothing compared to Patna. . . . Hundreds upon hundreds of human corpses are there strewn along the strand; and fattening, ghoul-like, upon these are droves upon droves of swine. These swine are slaughtered, cut up and salted into hams, bacon, and pickled pork, and then despatched to Calcutta. . . . The great market for this poisonous swine produce is the Mauritius and Bourbon, where it is foisted on the inhabitants as the produce of Europe. Moreover, as these swine are sold in Calcutta at 3s. or 4s. each carcase, it is stated that the inferior class of homeward-bound vessels are provisioned with them, and thus this human-fod pork is introduced into Europe and America. To the conclusion of the writer, that this is a probable cause of the spread of cholera, we do not assent but we would call attention to the revolting scenes described by him, for it is in a British possession and under the control of British rule that these enormities are allowed to continue.—*Lancet.*

UNITED STATES.

THE WALL STREET FOREIGNERS.—Huntingdon has been found guilty by the Jury, and Judge Ospron has delivered the sentence. He alluded to Huntingdon's position in society, and said that that could weigh nothing in mitigation of the penalty; indeed, the circumstances of a high birth, good moral and intellectual training, rather increased than diminished the criminality of the act, as one thus reared and restrained by the influence of correct associations had less inducement to do wrong. And when crime was committed under these circumstances it only evinced a greater depravity in the offender. He should, therefore, in passing sentence on the prisoner inflict upon him the full penalty of the law, which in this season of the year was four years and ten months' imprisonment, at hard labor, in the State Prison.

Nearly all the Negroes hung in the late insurrection in Kentucky and Tennessee, were preachers.

WHAT EMIGRATION DOES.—In the year 1850 the State of Illinois had an aggregate population of 861,000. In 1856 it has, by actual census over 1,350,000, a gain of half a million of souls in about five years. Illinois had been for many years a State, had acquired somewhat the character of a well-settled region, and had lost, in a great measure, the charm of novelty. Emigration had set in towards Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, &c., and Illinois seemed, like the wild districts of western New York and Pennsylvania, to be passed over by it. Suddenly a change came over the prospects of the State. The building of the extended systems of railways was undertaken and carried on with wonderful rapi-

dity and success, and the result is visible in the marvellous increase in the population. Iowa had in the year 1850 only 192,000 inhabitants; in 1856, the total is 600,000, being triple the aggregate of the national census. Iowa has been ten years a State, yet its progress seemed comparatively slow up to 1850. Then it took a start. Emigration, which before had been chiefly directed to other quarters, poured into Iowa in such a steady and uninterrupted tide, that the whole State is swarming with new settlers. The same spectacle is to be seen in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

There were thirty-two deaths by scarlet fever in Boston the past week. This is eight less than occurred from the same cause the week previous.

Geo. Green was murdered near Grainesville, Va., on Christmas evening, and his body burnt by his negroes.

CONFESSION.—"A few days since," writes "J. D. E." of St. Louis, "I was in company with one of the best of his race, and a resident of Canton county, of this State, who told the following anecdote concerning a local preacher in his section; who being a venerable personage, I will suppress his name. At a social meeting of his fellow church-members, among other things each was relating his causes for joy and sorrow, when Rev. M. said: 'In my family of children I have much cause of joy, and also much to distress me. . . . There's my son, . . . a good, reverent, dutiful boy; but there's my son Bill, he's an audacious scamp. He left his poor old gray-headed father many a day ago; and it's been a long time since I've heard on him; and when I last heard on him he was 'way up to the Galensers, a-raftin' sawlogs; playing 'seven-up,' and horse-racing, but thank the Lord he's making money by the trip.' 'Ah, he, sister! 'Yes, brother, he is, and no mistake!' This is strictly true; but to be properly appreciated, you should hear it told as I did."—*Kickerbocker.*

POLITICAL PROPRIETY.—In the late political campaign we have noticed in the reports of speeches, and in the newspaper paragraphs, frequent uses of sacred things, which are as revolting to all correct moral sentiment, as they are offensive to good taste. We have not preserved examples, but two that happen to lie before us will illustrate the remark. A democratic paper announcing the result of an election, says:—"Pennsylvania, against all the combined ins (5,000 Democratic)." There will be waiting and gnashing of teeth!" Another is from the pulpit:—"Jesus Christ is for Fremont," said a Clergyman a few Sabbaths since, "and He expects you all to follow Him." Is it to be wondered at that wicked men take the name of God in vain, and content his Holy Word, when they are prostituted in this manner by those who ought to guard them with vigilance, and treat them with profoundest reverence. Among the unhappy consequences of such a contest as we have just passed through, is the demoralization of the popular mind, not more by the intemperance of strong drink, than by the intemperance of bad language, and we have reason to believe that the pulpit, in many places, has not been a whit behind the stump in the exhibition of such an abuse of words, as must be offensive to God and all right men.—*Observer.*

A HARD CASE IN LAW.—"Mr. G.," a veteran lawyer of Syracuse, used to tell a story of a client, an impetuous old farmer by the name of Merrick, who in olden times had a difficulty with a cabinet maker. As was usual in such cases, the matter excited a good deal of interest among the neighbors, who severally allied themselves with one or the other of the contending parties. At length, however, to the mutual disappointment of the allies, the principals effected a compromise, by which Merrick was to take, in full of all demands, the cabinet maker's note for forty dollars, at six months, 'payable in cabinet ware.'

Lawyer G.—was called upon to draft the necessary papers to consummate the settlement, which, having been duly executed and delivered, the latter was supposed to be fully and amicably arranged. G.—saw no more of the parties until about six months after, when one morning, just as he was opening his office, old Mr. Merrick came riding furiously up, dismounted, and rushed in, defiantly exclaiming: 'I say, 'Squire, an I bound to take coffin?' It seems, on the note falling due, the obstinate cabinet maker had refused to pay him in any other way!"

THE PREVAILING OF FANATICISM.—It is almost paradoxical to say that the age of the greatest enlightenment is the age of the greatest popular delusions. And yet it is strikingly true. What era in the past history of the world was so aglow with the light of intellectual progress as the present? And at the same time let us ask, when was the mind more darkened by superstition, and led astray by vain fantasies? While we boast of the spread of literature, the sciences and arts, and of the rapid progress of refinement, civilization, and all that tends to elevate and ennoble mankind, our ardor and exultation must be checked somewhat by the reflection that society is continually appearing with some new born absurdity. And while glorying in our national greatness, and priding ourselves on the proud eminence our country has attained, it is humiliating to be compelled to confess that this favored land gives birth and sustenance to so many and such glaring errors, that shock religion, stifle patriotism, and shame reason.

But a few days since we read of a "women's rights" gathering in New York, where crack-brained pseudo philosophers, antique maidens, unhappy wives, and immodest females generally, assembled in the Tabernacle, to prattle about the wrongs of woman, and plan for an increase of her power. The fact is the "sweet creatures" do just as they please already; when they come around with their smiles and winning ways there's no refusing anything they ask. Then how ridiculous and unjust to the sex in general to bring reproach and sarcasm upon them by silly fustian about an impracticable equality? But it furnishes a fine theatre for indelicate and brazen faced women to acquire a notoriety, if they can't get husbands. It is one of the fanaticisms of the day, and must run its course, though reason, virtue, and all the beauties and graces of the gentler sex cry out against it as a futile, foolish and vulgar thing.

Spiritualism is still haunting the minds of some of our people, and crowding the insane asylums with its victims. But a week since, a talented, gifted young man, sacrificed himself upon the black and bloody altar of this fanaticism. Is it not surprising that this glaring imposture, so unfounded in reason, and so absurd in practice, should find its believers and votaries in the most refined and enlightened society? It has gone abroad, detroning the intellect, and spreading sadness and desolation around many heartstones; the maniac shrieks or idle gabbling of its victims may be heard in every mad house, or the record of their untimely death may be found upon the register of almost every church. It is a sad and sorrowful exhibition of the blind zeal and obstinate pertinacity with which men cling to the most fearful and fatal error.

There is a fanaticism in politics, also, that is working its mischief. We speak now particularly of its effect upon the Christian church. Ministers with inflamed passions, imagine that the cause of Christianity does not open a field wide enough for the exercise of their powers. They make their churches the head-quarters of their party, where its adherents are gratified with the choicest harangues upon Kansas and the niggers. Discord must inevitably follow all such prostitutions of a holy office. We observe that Dr. Tyng, who was discharged by his congregation for preaching politics, has opened a church on his own responsibility.—If this fanaticism is to be encouraged, there will be no unity and harmony in the Christian church. Instead of praying and working for the redemption of fallen man, the deacons and elders and ministers will be engaged in trickery and wire working for promoting their political views. The evil results of such profanations may be easily foreseen.—*Union.*

THE RESULTS OF PROTESTANT SCHOOLS.—The Times of Thursday begins a somewhat queer article on Education; by disclaiming all "principles" of every sort, and goes on to discuss the actual state of practical education in England.—"The principle of religious education" is now "embodied in all practices of which we have occasionally remarked, and which the more we know of it the less we desire to secure it from change." The great bulk of the children of the poor are taught the awful and touching truths of their religion by the hard race of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, generally of so inferior a class that they do not even venture to sit down in the presence of the clergyman when they do happen to see him in his own house. These unfortunates, who generally take to education because they are not fit for anything else, drive certain textbooks into the heads of their scholars with much the same gentleness, tact, and reverence as when they are teaching six-able words or compound addition. The awful truths of our religion—the Fall of Man, the Incarnation, the Atonement, the Judgment to come,—and even for naming these things we seem to owe an apology to our readers,—these doctrines, for which the Church sets apart highly educated teachers, solemn and beautiful edifices; and one day, in seven,—doctrines which even a parent will mention to his children except in grave tones and on solemn occasions; are dinned and jabbered, and rattled, out into shreds, worn threadbare, and reduced to the lowest order of pedagogues and crowded forms of jaded and listless children. This is the practice, deny it who can. The result of the practice—deny it who can, is that but few of the children so taught grow up attached members of the Church of England, if professors of any faith at all."

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