THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE ____AUGUST 18 1858

FORBIGN INTELLIGENCE

FRANCE: 590

PARIS, JULY 28TH, 1858:-You may remember that in one of my late letters, I insisted upon the activity which the French government were displaying to place their navy upon a most respectable, if not formidable, footing. At the time when I wrote, the official papers were di- as Marie. The general opinion is that the King was rected to deny the fact, which now turns out to be true, and is significantly commented upon by the most important papers of France and Germany. Whilst every eye is turned towards Cherbourg, preparations of a similar nature are going on at Brest, where no less than 16 men-of-war, 12 frigates, and a host of smaller craft are either in the docks or, ready to put out to sea. The whole Paris press echoed on Monday last the details of the concern, evidently with the permission of the government authorities. Now supposing the same impulse from above to act for the two following years, France must inevitably find herself mistress of about 40 ships of the line, and altogether of a navy numbering more than 100 vessels of every description. You are well aware that I do not allow myself to be hurried, away by scarecrows, nor have I any view like the Times in adding fuel to the fire. Still, however, it becomes impossible to deny that the Imperial Government is resolved upon being ready for any forthcoming event. I would not venture to affirm already, that such an event casts its shade upon us beforehand, and yet it may not be irrevelant to the purpose to inquire even now, what may be its probable nature.

I long ago told you that the result of Bernard's trial would continue to rankle in the breast of many a Frenchman. That feeling, naturally enough, is still smouldering among the army, wherein it is easy to trace a bitter feeling of hostility against England. This is heightened by another feature predominant throughout the French military, namely-a strong thirst for preferment. Though the Emperor affirmed six years ago, "L'Empire, c'est la paix,"-the army, his staunchest support, necessarily cling to the con-trary axiom of "L'Empire, c'est la querre," and, above all, a war against England. Of course, not a man among the numerous French staff could divine how such an event could be brought about ; yet still he hopes for it, trusts in it, nay, feels sure of its realization. To such men, the idea of incurring great danger, or causing great damage to their own country, was only a stimulus to the exciting prospect. Above all, the very hope of landing one day upon the British shores, whatever may be the difficulties, or even ultimate failure, is enough to turn the brains of the very drummers, nor is there one who would not venture twenty time his life to run the chance. As to the Emperor's own views, they are and must be of a very different character; his keen cyc discerns the hazards of such a contingency, though, after all, he is not the man to swerve from peril. But a great point is the army itself, which, from the very nature and origin of his power, made apparent from many a trifling circumstance .---The only one I shall mention at present is the late issue of the trial of the officers who acted as witnesses against M. de Hyenne in his unfortunate duel. The officers who forced him to fight a second on the spot was not even brought up before the court-martial, and the whole affair has been hushed up. Does not this speak volumes? And does it not become evident that the Emperor is bent upon granting his army every possible satisfaction? Now, that army can feel no greater than by foreseeing the eventu-ality of a war-best of all, of a war with Old Eng-Thus, whatever may be the festivities of land. Cherbourg, it seems but rational and prudent for our country to put herself speedily into such a state of defence as would dety any attack. Ships of war she has plenty, and brave crews to man them ; but her land army-aye, there's the rub. All foreigners have lately become aware with what great difficulty

Great Britain succeeds in recruiting her troops, and how sadly deficient those troops are in regard to self-organization, and to making the most of every

the elder branch of the house of Bourbon has astonished the entire political world in this city. The Count de Chambord has been received as a crowned visit except to a crowned head. The King not only Indigo factories, public and private bungalows, and paid a visit to the Count de Chambord, but he railway depots have been burned, and we are thank brought the Duke and Duchess of Brabant with him. ful that these deeds have not been accompanied by Leopold and the Count de Chambord addressed each other as cousins, and the count addressed the Duchess of Brabant sometimes as Ma Cousine, and sometimes glad of an opportunity to show that he is no party to the plans attributed to the Orleans family. The Tuileries, it is said, is much better disposed towards the Count de Chambord than towards the Count de Paris."

SWEDEN.

The intolerance and despotism of Sweden is not confined to Catholics. The country which has the audacity to brave public opinion-to insult the great Catholic powers-and above all to call down ven-geance from on High, by sentencing to exile those of her subjects who embrace the Catholic religion, is not likely to be sparing of human life. This week the Stockholm journals record the condemnation to death of a civilian who had, in a quarrel with an officer of the army, been rash enough to strike his military adversary. For the crime of striking a lieu-tenant the authorities of this eminently Protestant and despotic country have ordered the civilian to be beheaded. When will Englishmen learn justice and impartiality? Had such an event been reported as having occurred in France, Austria, or Naples, the English Parliament and Press would have unsparingly denounced such an arbitrary condemnation; but Protestant Sweden must be spoken of—if at all -tenderly, most tenderly .- Weekly Register.

TURKEY.

The Times' correspondent writes :-- "Do not let us flatter ourselves that no outbreak of Mussulman feeling is possible because all Europe would rise against it. The late Indian mutinies may have convinced the most sceptical about the recklessness with which Asiatics follow their impulses, even in the most hopeless of cases-how regiments revolted when all chance of success was over and destruction certain. Let us pause before we drive things to ex-We have gone already far enough to cause tremes. general uneasiness and irritation among the Mussulman population in all parts of the Turkish Empire. There is no disguising the fact; even in the capital, proofs of this are not wanting. They don't appear, perhaps, on the surface, but have been long observed growing by those who have occasion to come more into contact with them. If any reforms, in a Euro-pean sense, are to be effected, they must be made by the Turkish Government itself. It may appear weak to us, but it possesses a prestige over the population, even in the most unruly districts, which far surpasses its actual power, and which, for the gradual extinction of prejudices of caste, is much more powerful than actual force. I have seen, myself, Fuad Pasha in the insurrection of Thessaly in 1854, with scarcely a regular soldier at his command, with no money at all, make from 10,000 to 12,000 Albanians fight, starve, and give back plunder-and all this with the authority of his position, and his smiles and frowns. And you may see such cases every day among Arabs, Kurds, and any other savage tribes. Why, then, not help to support rather than to debase continually this authority, by interfering and making it appear he is bound to keep in good humour. This fact is as under the tutelage of Europe? It is defeating our own object and conjuring up a danger which reasons of humanity as well as policy ought to induce us to avoid."

From Trieste, we have a telegram announcing that 200 of the fanatics, implicated in the massacre of Christians at Jeddah, had been arrested. The news of aggressions, on the part of the Turks at Treligne, is serious. Affairs in the East appear to grow worse; and it is time that prompt and vigorous steps were taken by the English Government in concert with the other great powers, to ensure the safety of the Christians from the deadly hatred of the Mussulman. The Sultan protests against the continued occupation of Perim by the English, so that we have enough complications, in the East, in store for us .- Weekly Register.

INDIA.

"We (Times) have received the following telegrams :--- The capture of Gwalior is confirmed. The enemy lost 27 guns, besides elephants and treasure. The fugitives are said to be hemmed in on all sides by our troops. A large force under General Roberts left Nusseerabad on the 29th, marching towards Jeypore, where the mutineers are said to be assembling. The rebels were utterly defeated on the 13th of June, by General Sir Hope Grant, at Nawabgunge, near Lucknow. The Moulvie is said to have been killed. Oude continues much disturbed. On the 9th the Governor-General, on receipt of Lord Ellenborough's despatch, issued a proclamation giving amnesty to all but murderers. As we anticipated last week, the rebels had succeeded in making good their escape from Gwalior, although many of them were overtaken and routed by a force under Brigadier Napier on the day following their defeat at Gwalior. A week afterwards the rebels-15,000 strong-were stated to be threatening Yeenore and Churpore. Oude and the North-Western districts and the Eastern districts of Bengal continue in open rebellion. The season, however, is our greatest trial, such excessive heat not having been known for a period of twenty-five years. Thirty men are declared to die of sun-stroke for every three killed. Sixty-three men in one regiment were admitted to the hospital in one day, all suffering from sun-stroke. The correspondent of the Times writes that, " all over the north-west, troops are being housed, and operations ceased until the fierce heat has a little abated. On June 15th one Clergy-man in Calcutta buried forty-eight Englishmen, chiefly sailors. In one ship the captain, chief mate, and twenty-six men had all apoplexy at once. Her Majesty's 19th regiment at Barrackpore, who are nearly under cover, and who are most carefully looked after, have two hundred men unfit for duty from immense boils. Colonel Stratton, of Her Majesty's 77th has just arrived from Sidney. He marched his men to Dum-Dum, eight miles, with their stocks on. In an hour after he and his instructor in rifle practice were both dead of apoplexy." Certainly the most discouraging feature of the present intelligence, is the fact of Oude still continuing so disturbed, so much so, as to render it necessary to give battle to the enemy close to Lucknow, in which encounter Sir Hope Grant gained, however, new laurels. As the Daily News remarks : -" The necessity of having to make good our ground by battle in such immediate vicinity to the capital of the province, speaks volumes as to the slight progress we have yet made towards the pacification of Oude." The letters of the Correspondents of the daily papers are now, perhaps, rather more truthful, for even the Times' correspondent is forced to admit that "our enemies are always reported to be decimated, till we arrive and find them in swarms." We learn that the Governor-General had received the celebrated despatch of Lord Ellenborough, and had so far acted upon it, as to issue a proclamation giving amnesty to all but murderers. A most wise and prudent course, which it is to be hoped, will be productive of the best results .- Weekly Register.

ful that these deeds have not been accompanied by the murder of Europeane, though doubtless, not for want of inclination on the part of the rebels. but want of opportunities. It will be seen that our troops have again been engaged on several occasions with the enemy, and although in each instance perfectly successful, yet the majority of the rebels have as usual managed to escape. This, however, can hardly be wondered at, for in the absence of adequate cavalry and with the dreadful heat of the season, pursuit of the fugitives would have been useless, and in all probability only added to the frightful mortality of our brave men, who fall daily victims to the sun. We are not overstating the fact by mentioning that sun-stroke and heat-apoplexy are regularly decimating the several corps engaged in the suppression of the rebellion—an appre-hension which we have frequently expressed, and which, unhappily, is fully realised."

"Next to the affair at Gwalior, the publication of the despatch rebuking the Oude proclamation creates the most excitement. The popular hatred of the Governor-General has in no degree diminished. In spite, however, of this, the publication of the despatch is unequivocally condemned. It is considered almost an act of treachery, and Lord Ellinborough is declared on all hands to have gained nothing either in judgment or in courtesy since he quitted India. The following passage from the Friend of India, a journal which disbelieves in Lord Canning, and condemned the Oude proclamation, expresses the

his duty well. He had mitigated without recalling the obnoxious menace. He had expressed in terms not to be mistaken the disapproval of Her Majesty. He had hinted not ambiguously at the policy which must hereafter be followed with the landholders of Oude, but Nature, who has bestowed upon Lord Ellenborough no stinted measure of her choicest gifts. has denied him the minor attributes of prudence and good taste. He has inserted in the despatch words condeming the annexation of Oude, and, though as out of place as a diatribe against Hengist, they were in the Secret Committee at least simply silly. Secrecy is not in the character of the intellectual charlatan. The paper was shown to Mr. Bright, was hawked about over the clubs, and at last published for both Houses. A proceeding more thoroughly opposed to all maxims of policy, to the most common and necessary etiquetie of Governments, we never remember to have seen. We utterly abominate the Oude pro-clamation. It is to us the most perfect example of what Arthur Helps is wont to call the tyranny of weakness. An official condemnation was required, but no sooner than that condemnation should be published we would have endured another year of administrative anarchy. The publication is a direct attack, not on Lord Canning, which matters nothing, but on the authority of the Governor-General, which is essential to the empire. It proclaims at once to every native that a menace or a promise from the Governor-General of India may be made of none effect. How is peace ever to be secured if the word of the Government for good or for evil is not to be absolutely sacred? The natives distrust our proclamations already. Liars themselves, they believe official words to be only instruments to conceal official thought. Lord Ellenborough has contrived to add one additional distrust-to prove that, even when true, the words may be ineffectual. As for the evil so much dwelt on in England of telling the Onde men they are patriots, it is little in comparison. The Sepoys do not fight for patriotism, or the landholders either. They think themselves already in the right, and no approval uttered by a Kaffir Peer is likely to increase much the happy quiescence of their consciences. But the evil of publicly upsetting such an order, of teaching men in arms that the menaces of their rulers are mere talk, cannot be exaggerated. Nor, to revert to the personal aspect of the question. can we perceive the manliness of publishing such a censure, while declining the responsibility of recall. The Oude proclamation was ground sufficient for the removal of Lord Canning. It would have been ground sufficient for the removal of his father. But, gladly as we should hail the accession of Sir John Lawrence to supreme power, we cannot, as Englishmen, commend the man who, afraid to dismiss a servant insults him into resignation. Lord Canning may hold on in spite of the despatch, but its intention is as manifest as its imprudence.'

are overrup by rebels and budmashes, who move management, the rafts were allowed to go too far but few and light in degree, porter and extra mean about as they please, marking their course by plund over to the right bank, and there the leading fafts to bring up their strength if it'should appear ito be in and destruction of property, and setting at define speedily grounded, while the others were helped into giving way, and a clending ilibrary; to beguile their are overy attempt to restore order and tranquility. a position by the boats of the fleet. Had they taken desure: When they leave, their, "prison" they rethe right direction, the Cormorant would have had a narrow; squeak, as she was rather, right in the mud. Sir Michael, leaving the Cormorant, returned to the Slaney, but Admiral de Genouilly continued on board his gunbaat. The Slaney and Cormorant, with other gunboats, steamed ap, to attack a large fort. mounting thirty-one guns, situate round the bend of the river, while the Nimrod was left to direct her fire at the fort over the spit of ground. In a short time this fell into our hands, and in about two hours and a half from the commencement of the attack the action had ceased by the capture of all the forts.

"We are happy to say the loss on our side was very slight. Only one officer, the master of the Opossum, being severely wounded by a shot in the side and thigh. We have no exact or reliable particulars of the loss on the British side, but do not hear that it exceeds twenty-five killed and wounded. Our allies, we are sorry to say, owing to the ex-plosion of a mine, suffered more severely, fifteen men, it is said, being killed and forty men wounded; some of the latter dreadfully burnt and torn by the explosion. Among the killed are four lieutenants. One, the first of the Fusee, was cut in two by a shot; another had his cap knocked off by a shot, on which he exclaimed—'I am lucky to-day,' but immediately fell down dead, without the mark of any wound on his person.

The Chinese stuck to their guns manfully, and there were the usual acts of self-sacrifice. One bluebutton mandarin was found by the French in the fort which they had captured, dead, beside a gun, having cut his throat; and in the assault on the highest fort of 31 guns, a mandarin jumped out and charged the party single-handed. The officers did all they could to prevent him being killed, but one of the men on the flanks, at some distance, shot him through the neck, and killed him, to the regret of those near, who admired his brave action. About 98 guns were captured, 68 of which were brass or composition metal. Some were 8-inch guns, but we believe they had none of the usual appliances of sights. The loss of the Chinese is supposed to have been very heavy, as the firing was very accurate, the shells bursting with great precision in the em-brasures. The Chinese fired grape, and even attempted shells, but as their fuse was only a piece of common slowmatch, the shell generally burst close to the gun.

"Next day, the 21st, a mandarin went off to the Russian ambassador, who has been acting, in conjunction with Mr. Reed, as a mediator between the parties. Count Pontiatine went with him to the French admiral, but it was some time before they could persuade him to go and see Sir Michael; eventually he did so, and asked for three day's truce. Sir Michael told him he could not give him an hour's truce, as they had given plenty of time, and that he certainly should at once proceed to Tientsin with all his force. The unfortunate mandarin went away considerably crest-fallen. We understand the admiral intends to do much the same as at Canton, securing the river at different points by anchoring a steamer. The river to Tien-tsin is of sufficient depth for the largest ships now over the bar, but above Tien-1sin to Pekin, a distance of eighty miles, the water is said to be very shallow, boats drawing more than five feet not being able to ascend.

"It is said that it was Lord Elgin's intention to push on at once to Pekin, and only in that city negociate, for the effective carrying out of which idea he has sent down for reinforcements. Where they are to come from is by no means clear, looking to the safety of the colony and the Canton garrison.

The London Times thus admirably vindicates the

Martins of our day are not struggling martyrs sustained by their own zeal. They rejoice in comfortable salaries and print their own good deeds at the public cost. Philanthropy has now become a profession. The glory is less, but the supply is greater. In the days of amateur philanthropy we were a very cruel people. Gentlemen used to arrange parties of pleasure to Bridewell on Court days for the purpose of seeing the wretched women who tion. If you intercept the penalty you perpetuate beat hemp there whipped. Judges who came back the crime. from circuit without having hanged the average

ceive presents of books, and are put into good em-ployment, or supplied with money to enable them to wait for it. Buckingham Borough Gaol is rather more select in its character, but is not an ineligible residence. The inmates have 24 ounces of bread and residence: "The immates have 24 ounces of bread and three pints of gruel every day, with an addition of ib. of meat and lib. of polatoes twice a-week. "Sickness," the Inspector remarks, "must be rare, as only one case is "recorded in the surgeon's jour-nal.". The great defect in the Buckingham Gaoi which afflicts the humane mind of the Inspector is that there is no artificial ventilation there. Taken in connexion with the surgeon's journal we think the Inspector has at least reported one important fact. The only ill-used people in Buckingham Gaol appear to be the gaoler, the chaplain, the surgeon, and the matron, "whose united salaries amount to £20 annually." Abingdon Gaol shelters a not uncomfor-table community of 24 men and 8 women. The food and clothing are excellent. There is a good schoolroom, laundry, washhouse, bathroom, a library with books of travels, natural history, &c. The cells (parlours?) are of good size, and as well ventilated as they can be by natural ventilation; but, alast here also there is no artificial ventilation. It is sad to be obliged to add that in one respect some of the worst of the Abingdon prisoners are treated almost as ill as the best of our soldiers and sailors, -none of them, except only the debtors, are allowed sheets The Inspector is naturally indignant at the contempt of health, cleanliness, and economy evinced by this inattention. However, as the Abingdon prisoners consume an expenditure of £41 9s. 1d. per head, or nearly twice the amount which is paid to an honest family for their labour, it is probable that the interests of philanthropy are not, upon the whole, much neglected. The comforts of our caged criminal community, so far as these consist of food, clothing, and medicine, appear to be uniformly well attended to in all the prisons. The grievances, however, vary. In Exeter Gaol they had actually cropped the prisoners' hair, almost like a soldier's ; the Inspector, however, stopped this enormity, and the Exeter prisoners are doubtless growing the most fascinating mustachios. In Glocester County Gaol and in Hertford County Gaol there is positively no church music. Dr. Perry complains that the service is not " attractive" to the prisoners, and reiterates his declaration that some musical instrument is much required to lead the psalmody, and "relieve the tedium of the prayers." At Clerkenwell and in the Surrey County Gaol the prisoners are in want of "something to do." Some light amusing work is recommended, avoiding, however, the example of those ruffianly people at Southampton who have actually put their prisoners to hard labour. Having stopped the hair-cropping, wa only want the organ and choir, the artificial ventila-tion, and the light amusing labour, or rather pastime, and we shall have our prisons as Dr. Perry would wish them to be.

When we read these mawkish reports we are almost tempted to regret the "Little Ease" of old times, for we search in vain for any sign that these costly prisons are places of punishment. Dr. Perry and all his class of official philanthropists are useful people in their way, and they act in accordance with their instincts in seeing nothing beyond their own sphere. We have set them to valet thieves, and they do their work with zeal ; there is no fault to be found with them. It is utter folly, however, to allow these people turn what should be a place of punishment into a Castle of Indolence. Justice to the honest man requires that the thief should have hard labour, and uncompeting labour, and plenty of it, and hard food, enough to maintain health, but no more. We

should like to take the Prison Inspectors who talk to us of linen sheets, and artificial ventilation, and choral services, to see how our soldiers and sailors live, and then to the dwellings of those who pay the rates that are squandered on the pets of chaplains and Prison Inspectors. Nothing can be more demoralizing to a country than to make the criminals objects of envy to the honest classes, but you may add a bitter sense of injustice to the feeling of envy if you make the criminal a compulsory pensionary upon the industry of the labourer. Compassion, like all other qualities, should be under the control of reason, both in its choice of object and in the extent of its opera-

situation. The French are wide-awake on this score, and rely upon those deficiencies as on one of their greatest chances of success in case a rupture should ever take place between both realms. It is almost needless to add that if something is not soon done to better our system we may one day learn to rue our negligence and folly .- Corr. of Weekly Register.

Accounts from Brest inform us that for the last few days much activity is observed in that port, which is undergoing transformation, internally and externally, "as if by magic." Several buildings which were in a dilapidated condition are repaired painted, and made to look like new. The public squares and walks are placed in perfect order. Nor are the docks neglected, as will be seen from the list of the ships-of-war afloat .-- Cor. of Times.

CHERBOURG .- According to a report addressed to the Emperor on the harbour, roads, and docks of that place, these are capable of receiving S0 ships of the line. This number is a considerable increase on the estimates furnished in 1803.

The Univers has an article on England and English affairs. Coming to Cherbourg it says :-

'But we have just written a word which darkens every brow in England. Our neighbours are hard to be pleased. After all they have done, permitted, and written for the last six months, they are not yet satisfied with being invited to our festivities, as if we had nothing to reproach them with. It is true that the Times, which has most shown its hatred against France, sees a sort of derision in the invitation sent to the Queen of Great Britain to be present at the inauguration of the Port of Cherbourg, the completion which it regards as a direct menace against England. It almost directs a declaration of war in this invitation. The Times has forgotten the adage, Si vis pacem para bellum. The best way for the people to have peace with England is to show that they do not fear her, and she has everything to lose by war. The works of Cherbourg are, therefore, a guarantee of peace with Great Britain. When the United States have to complain of John Ball they point to their cotton fields, and John Bull becomes pliant and accomodating. So when we see John Bull assume airs a little too superb towards ourselves we will show him Cherbourg, and this will be to tell him that we wish to live on good terms with him.

The Paris Conference will have terminated its labours before the Cherbourg fetes, and the pacific re-sults will be announced by the Emperor in the presence of Queen Victoria and the Ambassadors, who will meet her at Cherbourg.

The Courrier de Puris comments in these terms on the interview between Count Cavour and the Emperor at Plombieres :- "Without exaggerating the bearing and consequences of the journey of Count Cavour to Plombieres, we may assert that the honour conferred by the Emperor Napoleon III. on the Prime Minister of King Victor Emmanuel is a decided reply to the suggestions of the Austrian journals which depicted Piedmont as abandoned by France, com-promised by England, and replaced in her former obscure position in Europe. Sardinia, far from having lost favour of late, has fully justified, by her perseverance and prudent policy, the distinction conferred on her by France and England when they obtained her admission into the councils of the great Powers."

BELGIUM.

The Calcutta Englishman has the following observations on the general condition of affairs in India :---

"We therefore cannot hesitate any longer to impress upon the attention of our readers at home our present position, which will be best understood when we state that whilst the British hold every fortress and place of importance throughout the disaffected provinces, the country itself may be said to be in possession of the rebels. Delbi, Agra, Juansi, Bareilly, Shajebanpore, Calpee, Lucknow, Cawn-pore, and Allababad are protected by European troops, but our authority scarcely extends beyond

CHINA.

The Hongkong Register of June 1st gives the following account of the successful operations at the mouth of the Peiho :-

"The mouth of the Peiho is defended by forts on each bank, about a mile and a half from the upper edge of the bar, which averages from a half to threequarters of a mile in width. Beyond this and about four miles and a half distant lay the larger shing ----On the evening of the 19th all preparations were made for the attack by the gunboats and ships lying inside the bar. At seven a.m., Captain Hall, of the Calcutta, pulled in and desired the forts to surrender, telling them if the flags were hauled down by nine a.m. the forts would be taken possession of peacefully; if the flags were not hauled down, firing would commence, and the forts he captured by force. Nine o'clock came, but with no sign of surrender, and another hour was given them. The two admirals were on board the gunboat Slaney, with the English and French pennants flying. The Cormo-rant, which was the leading ship of the attack, had been lying close up the forts on the right bank of the river, and the people of the forts had been observed training their guns on her. At ten a.m. the flag of battle was hoisted by all the gunboats and steamers along the line, with the exception of the Cormorant, which ran up the French flag, almost at the same moment running her anchor up to her bows, and getting under weigh. On her deck were only to be seen three solitary individuals, the Captain, Soumarez, the master conning the ship, and the steersman, the men lying down at their quarters. She gradually edged over towards the forts on the right bank, running past them in beautiful style, fired upon as she passed each fort without returning a gun. During her passage she got hulled ten times ; but, owing to closing so much on the forts, their shot, for the most part, passed over her without doing damage. After passing them she ran over to the left shore, and, running into the mud with her broadside to the forts on that side, commenced the action. She was followed by two French gunboats and the Nimrod, which latter vessel came to the assistance of her comrade. The different gunboats took up their stations, and as they fell into them opened fire with precision. After about an hour's cannonading, to which the Chinese reply was quick but ineffective, the Slaney, with the admirals on board, ran straight up through the fleet, towing the attacking columns under Sir F. Nicholson, of the Pique, and Opossum towing another party under ed pleasure. It will be found a gentle sedative af-Captain Hall. The French supplied an attacking ter reading of the hard fare, the heavy labour, the party for the forts on the right bank. The boats pushed off and the men were soon on shore. Then followed the usual scene-the Chinese bolted, and the French attack being made quick, a mine was sprung which caused them considerable loss. The forts on the left bank were taken by the British without much loss, although mines were also exploded on their advance, by the bursting of one of which fat and asstrong as possible, in order that they may, the carpenter of the Calcutta and two seamen were at the expiration of a defined period, return to their killed. In about an hour and forty minutes we were in possession of all the forts at the mouth of the river. The admiral then proceeded on board the Cormorant, while Admiral de Genouilly went on diousness, arising from uniformity and repitition. board one of his gunboats. At this time a mass of Of Reading Gaol we are pleased to read that the in-"The reception given by our King to the head of the reach of our guns, and the intervening districts ing round a point of land higher up; by some mis- ding in good order, no severe labour, punishments reduce it down to eighteen t-Colonial Presbyterian.

number of pot-stealers, Gipsy haunters, or twig-cutters, or who had spared some child from the gallows because he was too light to hang without putting stones in pockets, were received with jeers by their brethren in Serjeants' hall and nicknamed "Mr. Justice Mildman" and "Mr. Baron Softheart." Lean and yellow culprits, as Macaulay tells us, brought with them from their cells to the dock an atmosphere of stench and pestilence which averged them upon society incarnate, in the bench, the bar, the jury, and the audience. A memorial of the gaol fever still survives in the disinfecting herbs wherewith the Old Bailey is strewed ; but the precaution is all unnecessary. The chances are that the prisoner is the cleanest and the strongest and the healthiest man in court --- in full possession of what the cynical Frenchman declared to be the highest requisites for happiness,--a good stomach and a bad heart. A restless and sensitive compassion has long since succeeded to a savage enjoyment of suffering. It is 15 years since Captain Maconochie began to regale his convicts on the Queen's birthday with fresh pork, weak punch, and a play in the evening. After a reasonable interval Archbishop Whately was able to compile a catalogue of criminals who had committed crimes on purpose to be transported. A captive housebreaker became more interesting than a well-taught parrot. Benevolent visiting magistrates never failed to interrogate him in private, expressing a hope that the beef was good, and that he was not overworked. Philanthropic ladies took their pastime in the prisons, and were importunate with the Governor to show them "interesting cases." Amateurs in crime obtained a muster of the prisoners, and called on boys who had been three times in prison to stand up; then boys who had been four times in prison; then those five times. The six times' imprisoned were doubtless as proud of their convictions as a veteran of his clasps, and the youngsters envied them their honourable experience. The stocks have been fortunately disused, or processions of young ladies would probably go forth to crown the victim with a garland, and to hold roses under his captive nose. The pillory has been forbidden, otherwise a cordon of philanthropists would draw round to save the feelings of the criminal by screening him from the public gaze, and also to intercept any unsavoury missile thrown by some unregenerate antiquary mindful of old customs.

The annual reports of our professional philanthropists-the Inspectors of Prisons-gives us opportunity to glance from time to time at the working of our new system. One of these has just appeared. We can recommend it to all our philanthropic readers as a book which must afford them almost unalloyconsuming heat, the stiff stocks, and the overwhelming accoutrements which are wearing out the lives of our soldiers in India. It will be comfortable to be able to reflect that one class at least of our countrymen is well housed and well fed, clothed and bedded with unexceptionable warmth and cleanliness, put to no heavy or unprofitable labour, and made as usual avocations in the highest condition of efficiency. A happy country has a dull history; and for the same reason there is in these reports a certain te-

UNITED STATES.

THE DEFAULTING SUNDAY SCHOOL AGENT .- Mr. Fred. W. Porter, the defaulting agent of the Sunday School Union, whose fall made such a sensation a short time since, has at length made a full and comnlete confession of the great wrong he has done .---He stood very high in the Society and in the church. and he was almost the last man who would have been suspected of so foul a deed. In a letter recently laid before the Board of the Sunday School Union, be has made a complete confession. He began his wrong-doing nineteen years ago! The plan was the same that he pursued to the last. His temptations began with the Mubery and Silkworm speculation, nineteen years ago, and under the gar of religion he has for that long time carried on his dishonest plans. He allows that at the start he knew it was wrong; but he hoped to be able to meet the notes as they matured. But he was unable to do so : he was compelled to renew his notes and pay a heavy bonus. Thus, for nineteen years he has been treading the thorny path of sin, praised for virtues that he knew he did not possess, and taking of the sacrament, which, according to his own professed faith, was adding damnation to himself with each unworthy reception. He defrauded the Society out of over \$80.000 ; but the Philadelphia broker, who aided him to the dishonest gain paid all the notes that his name was on, and the loss was lessened nearly 40,000 .--Mr. Porter confesses that in the nineteen years of his fraud, he had used the name of the Society to the large amount of \$600,000 by rewards and re-issues. No wonder he is a sick man, one whom, if the laws does not reach, the grave will soon cover up.-Ninetcen years of fraud and crime, and perpetrated in the name of religion-with despair looking him in the face-exposure waiting for him at the corners of each street with remorse gnawing at his heartand the worm that dies not hastening to his repast ! Mr. Porter's confession will soon be made public.-N. Y. Correspondence of the Boston Journal.

SUICIDE OF A FREE LOVER .- DYING WITH A CURSO on mis Lips -We have already announced the death by suicide of a young man named Charles Latch, at Berlin Heights, Ohio, After firing the fatal shot he kept on uttering a perfect tirade of blasphemy until the death rattle choked his utterance. Among other things he said :- "I unite my protest against and I utter my curse upon marriage ! And I curse religion ! And I carse 'God,' the Father-monster! Most of you will only think of me as having 'passed on to a happier sphere;' but I see no existence beyond, and I think I know what death will be to me, and I welcome the 'great fate of silence,' which the Universe has in store for its abnormal child ! I dic-as I have lived-alone ! Farewell !"-Banner of Liberty.

ANCIENT PREACHING .- Mr. Trumbull, of the Connecticut Historical Society, has been looking over & collection of sermons, nearly three hundred years old. He notices the habit of preaching many successive discourses, sometimes twenty-five, from the sume text. A Chaplain of Cromwell's army preach ed eight hours upon the word " Pomegranate, taken from the description of the priestly robes of Israel.-He said he would proceed to unfold the divine truth contained therein, seed by seed. After discoursing eight hours, he postponed the remainder to the next day. We beard of a modern preacher once, who might have been a descendant of the latter, who announced that his subject naturally divided itself into