

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

An Imperial decree in the *Moniteur* calls into active service the contingent of 1855, amounting to 140,000 men. This levy is not an increase of the army, but is principally destined to replace the soldiers whose time of service has expired.

Paris commercial letters continue to speak with confidence of peace, and also mention that the speculation mania increases. The more cautious fear that peace will bring out a commercial catastrophe. It is generally supposed that the treaty would be signed on Saturday. All differences, however, are not yet adjusted.

The approaching accouchment of the Empress has, we are told, rendered the proceedings of the Conference a topic of secondary interest in the public mind in Paris. It is expected that the event will take place between the 15th and 24th instant, "such being," says one writer, "the period indicated by the data of science, and also by the article inserted in the *Moniteur* of the 12th of October last, which stated that Her Majesty had just entered on the fifth month of her pregnancy. The health of the Empress is excellent and, if it may be permitted to judge by appearances that are generally held to be significant, the long desired event will pass off naturally and successfully."

It is said that the great desire of the Emperor of the French is to have it in his power to proclaim that peace is made at the same time that the cannon of the Invalides announce the birth of the Imperial Prince or Princess. For this latter event he will not have long to wait. Signals are already prepared at the Palace of the Tuileries, communicating directly with the Invalides, so that in an instant the important intelligence will be announced to the people of Paris.

A decree appears in the *Moniteur* which has given rise to a good deal of remark. It is not the nomination it announces of the widows of the two superior officers (one of General Bizot, mortally wounded before Sebastopol, and the other of colonel de Brancion, of the 10th Regiment, killed also before Sebastopol) to a responsible and dignified position that has excited the spirit of criticism; on the contrary, nothing could be more praiseworthy than the selection of these ladies for the post of governesses to the future children of the Emperor. The terms used in designating them are, however, what people find fault with. Madame Bizot and Madame de Brancion are named in the decree "Governesses of the Children of France" (*les enfants de France*). This designation was, as everybody knows, peculiar to the elder or legitimate branch of the Bourbons. "Prince Imperial" has as noble a sound as "Enfant de France." Louis Napoleon is Emperor of the French, and not Emperor of France, and his children should be Imperial Princes and not Enfants de France. The expression too is ominous: it calls to mind the fate of those who last bore that title in France.

Prince Jerome Bonaparte was attacked with inflammation of the chest on the 7th, at Paris, and bulletins continued to be issued up to the 10th, at which time he was in an improved condition.

## HOLLAND.

Some "new lights," at the Hague, have revived the old sects of "Adamites," who worship "in the state of nature." There are here some thirty fanatics joined together. This is a new phase of Protestantism—we only wonder what notion of decency or morality any executive can have to permit such revolting exhibitions. Withall, there is no country where so-called Protestantism is at present more wildly fanatical against Catholicity than in this Holland.

## ITALY.

The Inspector General of Prisons in the duchy of Parma was assassinated in the street.

ROME.—The frequency of the visits interchanged between Senor Canovas, the Spanish agent here, and Monsignore Franchi, formerly Papal Charge d'Affairs at Madrid, has led to the conjecture that Spain is desirous of accommodating matters with the Holy See. We sincerely hope the conjecture may be verified.

Letters from Piedmont, noticed in the *Univers*, represent the financial condition of that kingdom in the gloomiest colors. Notwithstanding the promise of M. Carour to raise no more loans, a new one of 30 millions of francs has been added to a debt of about 800 millions, which the Sardinian States will have to bear without the slightest hope of reduction. Meanwhile the persecution of the Catholic clergy and the licentiousness of the press continue to increase. The *Gazzetta della Alpi* the official journal of the province of Coni, has rendered itself especially infamous for its blasphemies against the most sacred objects of belief.

## GERMANY.

Despatches from Berlin and Vienna state that Prussia has been invited to send representatives to the Conference, and that she accepts the offer. Baron Manteuffel would leave Berlin on the 14th, for Paris, as Plenipotentiary.

A letter from Berlin, says:—

Two Russian couriers from Paris to St. Petersburg passed through this city 7th inst., without stopping. The deliberations which have taken place in Russia relative to the proposed recognition of the kingdom of Poland closely interests Prussia, and national feelings in the Grand Duchy of Posen have been much excited.

The Prussian Government has, therefore, applied to Russia for explanations as to its intentions with regard to Poland, in order to judge of what measures it may be necessary to take in the Duchy of Posen. The Cabinet of Berlin has declared in a formal manner that it will take no further part in the Conference

on the subject of the Dues, feeling confident that they will not lead to any result.

## RUSSIA.

Paris, March 10.—The *Patrie* of this date says that a naval engagement between the Russian and the English squadrons in the Baltic is considered not unlikely; the armistice not applying to operations by sea:—

"Letters from Helsingfors contain some information on the subject of the Russian vessels, the departure of which from Sveaborg has been announced by telegraph. It is stated that they have steered for the coast of Sweden or Denmark, for the purpose of attacking the advanced guard of the English Baltic squadron. It is moreover stated that the Grand Duke Constantine intends to bring on a naval combat with the English in the neighborhood of Sveaborg or Cronstadt, preferring to thus run the risk of defeat to prolonging this year the inaction of the naval forces of Russia."

The *London Globe* of the 11th March, says:—"The news that Russian ships of war had issued forth from Sveaborg is formally contradicted by an interchange of electric despatches between Berlin and St. Petersburg."

The *Times* correspondent states that on two points Russia makes ample concession: the dismantling of fortresses and the non-reconstruction of Bomarsund.

Paris, March 9.—Letters have been received from Norway, announcing that the Russians have made good use of winter in adding to the defences of the White Sea.

The bar at the entrance to the Bay of Archangel has been rendered impracticable for vessels of large draught, and gun and mortar boats of a small draught of water would be exposed to a cross fire from batteries on both sides.

Berlin, March 9.—Besides the steamers that have got out of Sveaborg, it is stated here that three or four Russian cruisers have left Revel and steered towards the coast of Sweden.

Various changes have been made in the distribution of the Russian Baltic fleet, so as to equalize the strength of the various squadrons.

## CRIMEA.

The White Works of Sebastopol were blown up on the 28th of February. Generals Timoleff, Martimprey, Windham, and Colonel Pettitt, met on the 29th ult., at Traktir bridge.

The three latter presented conditions for an armistice agreed upon by the Commanders-in-Chief. General Timoleff transmitted them to General Liders. The health of the troops is excellent. The bad weather is over.

Accounts from Constantinople state that the allies continue building hut-barracks on both banks at Constantinople. The English are surveying ground for the formation of a camp in Asia.

A dispatch has been received from General Codrington, dated February 26th, giving an account of the parade and inspection of the infantry of the British army on the 24th ult. He speaks highly of the general appearance, cleanliness, and steadiness of the troops who were in the finest health and vigour. The report of Dr. Hall, on the sanitary state of the army for the week ending February 23rd, ult, is remarkable, as it is stated not one death from disease had occurred in the whole army. There had only been 14 deaths in the three weeks preceding. In the Highland Division of 4,160 men, out of 6,460 men not a single death had occurred for 28 days. In the Light Division there had been no deaths for a fortnight out of 6,460 men.

## UNITED STATES.

We read in the *American Celt* that, in May next a great Protestant meeting will be held in New York—under the title of "A World's Convention"—for the purpose of testing the divine origin of the Bible. It is expected, from the known opinions of the leaders in this movement, that the "World's Convention" will pronounce the Bible a humbug, and Christianity, a farce.

THE CONVENT QUESTION IN MARYLAND.—Annapolis, March 4.—Mr. Fiery, from the committee who were appointed to examine the petitions for the protection of females in nunneries, reported to-day that the law already in force sufficiently protected them, and that further legislation on the subject was unnecessary. So ends the grand crusade commenced by the Rev. A. H. Cross, and kindred fanatics, against helpless, innocent women.

INHUMAN TREATMENT.—It becomes our painful duty to chronicle a most revolting affair in Marion, Grant Co. On 10th inst., a man, living in the west suburbs, going by the name of Morris-Neeman, called at the cabinet shop of S. Whisler, and wanted a coffin for a child by 10 o'clock, and seemed in much of a hurry for it, as he said the corpse was swelling, and he wanted to put it away. The workmen told him that he could not have it before 3 o'clock, at which he seemed disappointed, but finally he waited for it. The child was buried that evening. The *Journal* says: The body was exhumed. A gash in the head near the crown, which had been done some time since, and partially healed before death, first met our view. Another through the skin just over the right eye. of an inch in length and much distended, was evidently from a more recent blow, perhaps from the sharp corner of a stick of stove-wood. Under the left eye was a blood-shot spot the size of a quarter, while on the eyebrow the skin was cut through to the bone. We noticed another cut on the face, but from recollection cannot locate it. The rump had the appearance of being frozen or bruised, and sloughed off. It was now dark and very much seared in appearance. The flesh around it and up to the small of the back, was red and much inflamed. Upon application of the knife it was found to be rotten and suppurated. Passing down the inside of the left thigh was a crease or wound that the finger could have been laid in, having the appearance of being burned by a round hot iron, or bruised by a stick of considerable size, and sloughed out. The wound

terminated just below the knee in two oblique marks which were also suppurated. Both heels were gone as though cut off by a knife—having been frozen and sloughed off to the bone. All the toes, except the fourth one on the right foot were sloughed off from being frozen, and were very black. Some fingers were in the same condition—the ends having been sloughed off to the bone. Hands and feet had the appearance of being much swollen, and now like the hands of a washer-woman in the hot suds. The deceased was a fair skinned, sandy-haired little girl of eight or ten years, the daughter, as they own, of Morris Neeman and wife. It is rumored, and the facts seem to be confirmed by the coroner's investigation, that the child was abused and neglected during the winter; at any rate so exposed as to cause the most severe freezing of the extremities, and excruciating misery. The other marks bear a corresponding degree of cruelty, either of which (the freezing, or beating or maiming) would have caused. But in addition to this torture, the little creature was inhumanly starved! A post mortem examination by Drs. Lomax and Hartner proved the entire absence of sufficient food in the stomach or intestines, which were found to be in a healthy state, and not diseased by dysentery, as would be the case if it had died of that complaint, as alleged by the parents. Neeman ran away when the examination was resolved upon, but with his wife, was arrested and examined.—*Freeman's Journal*.

Celibacy of the Protestant Clergy.—WOMEN IN CHOIRS, ETC.—Our neighbor of the *Churchman* is in a peck of trouble, again, we are sorry to see. He thinks the clergy, in these days, are too much addicted to wedlock. Ministers, he thinks, should not be incumbered with the care of a family—these hard times—and he goes strong, therefore, for celibacy.—"Women in choirs is another trouble. They create, and figure in, scandalous scenes behind the curtain. He goes, therefore, for turning the women out, and putting chorister boys in their places.—*N. Y. Paper*.

MORALITY OF THE HINDOO CHIEFTAINS EVERY WHERE THE SAME.—Andrew J. Parker was indicted for a shameful offence at Rochester in the first week of the present month. He was bailed for \$1500 and will stand his trial at the next term of the Oyer and Terminer. The criminal's character and standing among the brethren of the Secret Order is thus stated by the *Rochester Union*:—"Parker was the founder of the Know-Nothing Order in this city, and for a long time had such absolute supremacy in the councils of the order, that he was styled 'Pope Parker.'"

As Catholics we have rights which we will not surrender to any man or to any party, and we care not whence the proposition comes it must be distinctly stated that for Catholics nothing less than separate education, separate schools, separate grants and total independence and absolute exemption from connection with the present Superintendent, or with the Normal School, will suffice. If Protestants are content to submit to him we have no reason to complain, but we wish to express the feelings of the body whom we represent. Thank God we have experience of the working of the system in other countries and we have no notion of sitting down quietly while so degrading a yoke is imposed on us. Education must be free, Catholics as such have a fair share of the public funds, and any act which does not guarantee this much to them must be considered as a penal law, no matter by whom or by what party it is introduced. On this question we know no party. We have no wish to impose our system on others, and we have a perfect right to expect that others will not impose their systems on us. We are not satisfied with the present law, and it must not be supposed for a moment because we have tolerated its abuses that we will allow any system of a similar kind to be fastened on us. Elsewhere we have referred to some clauses in the new Bill, but we may here state we condemn one clause which states that all French, Gaelic, or German Schools must be looked upon as second class schools. This is only such a clause as we could expect from the arrogant assumptions of the Superintendent, who can find nothing worthy of praise that has not had its origin in Scotland, Prussia, or New England. We do not want to interfere with the education of the children of Protestants. We do not desire to impose our system on them, and we respectfully insist that they will not impose on us any of their systems, or oblige us to recognize the leader of a No-Popery Parson as a fit Superintendent of Education, or qualified to train our teachers or regulate our schools.—*Halifax Catholic*.

LIQUOR LAW IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—It is true that in Reporting Police proceedings we have had to record that fewer cases of drunkenness are now brought before the Magistrate, but we did not say, and we do not think, that this proves that there is any abatement in drinking to excess among us. It probably arises from the fact that the Rumsellers take better of their customers than they formerly were: in the habit of doing, for fear of penalties, but if keeping drunkards from the streets is all that the law can effect, we presume that its friends will not be satisfied that it has done the good they intended. It is said, and generally understood, that in this City, and throughout the Province, there is as much or more liquor sold and used as before, and this not clandestinely or in a corner, but openly and in defiance of the law. We have even heard that in Fredericton, under the very eyes of the Legislature, liquor is sold in almost every house and shop where it was sold before, and that probably three-fourths of the Members are daily cognizant of the fact. Now if this is so, we put it to the Prohibitionists, whether it is worth while to embarrass the finances of the country, to set class against class, and produce an amount of rancor and ill-feeling never before known, for so little real good?—*Cour*.

After reading this, we took the pains to ascertain at the Police Office the number of cases of drunkenness for the months of February, 1855, and the month of February, 1856. In February, 1855, there were in all 41 cases of drunkenness, there being six days on which there was no case, and the whole amount received in the office, exclusive of costs in suits for the recovery of taxes, was but £22 17s 6d. In February, 1856, there were, it is true but 23 cases of drunkenness, but there were 20 persons arrested on other charges, and the whole amount received, exclusive of costs on taxes, was £33 14s. When it is remembered that money is now much scarcer among the persons liable to become obnoxious to the charge of "drunk and disorderly," "picked up drunk," &c., and also that rumsellers now take some pains to keep those who get drunk in their houses, out of the clut-

ches of the law, it will be obvious that these returns do not prove that so far, the Prohibitory Law has done much to check drunkenness in St. John's. As for the members, at least three-fourths of them drink liquor every day. We would not say positively that they always pay for it.—*St. John's Freeman*.

USE OF TORTURE IN BRITISH INDIA.—The misgovernment of the British in India has long been proverbial. But even those persons in Europe or America who have entertained the worst opinions of English misrule in Hindostan have had no idea of the lengths to which this oppression has been carried.

It seems, for example, that the use of torture in the collection of the revenue has been common. Men and even women have been whipped; have been hung up by the arms to a tree, have had their hands, their ears, their thighs, and other still more sensitive parts of the body squeezed between boards, till the blood came or the sufferer fainted. Some have been tied in the most painful postures, and compelled to remain thus for hours, in a boiling sun, tormented by thirst and by venomous insects. Others have been subjected to modes of torture which decency forbids us to name. Not a few have been maimed for life. Death has even been the result. Nor have these things been done in a corner, or visited only on defaulters of the deepest dye.—They have taken place with the knowledge, if not connivance of the British officials. The Presidency of Madras, in which this system of torture is carried on most extensively, has a land-system peculiar to itself. The whole soil is owned by the government, that is by the East India Company, and the holdings are parcelled out to the peasants as mere tenants at will. The cultivator is at the mercy of the government for the amount of his rent and the permanency of the tenure. The collector, whom the government employs, virtually holds the peasant at his mercy. He is generally a native, and left to manage affairs as he chooses; and it is this indifference, on the part of the government, which has led to the use of torture. Nobody has cared to interfere, both because a residence in India soon renders Englishmen callous to the treatment of the Hindoos. Thus, year after year, this nefarious system of torture has been carried on, with the general knowledge of the British residents in Madras, and under the direct responsibility of the government; yet no one has cared to interfere. At last, to its honor, the British Parliament has interfered. The knowledge of the mode and extent of the torture employed, we owe, in fact, to a commission, which took testimony under a resolution of that body.

We make no comments on this revelation. Every reflecting American will have suggested to him sufficient. The British press, which is so fond of drawing invidious comparisons between England and the United States, which can see the mote in our eyes, yet not observe the beam in those of Great Britain, which records every riot every instance of Lynch-law, and every cruelty perpetrated here, would do well to think of the tortured peasants of India, before it animadverts further on social evils in America.

We extract the above article from the *Ledger* of this city, the truth which it utters might if necessary be substantiated by other testimony.

Now, had British India been a Roman Catholic province, and the officers of the British Government had exercised such beastly cruelty as is set forth above, what a howl should we not have heard from the sainted presses about the murderous cruelty of the "Scarlet Lady." Societies would be formed to mitigate the horrors of Popish rule. Sermons would be preached, and it is not impossible but some flat-nosed, myrtle-eyed Bramin convert would have been imported purposely to spatter maledictions upon the Pope and his practices. We have in our eye at the present moment a few pious laymen who would sign a call, a few noisy persons who would attend the meeting, and a few penny-seeking editors that would puff the object, and try to sell their papers by comments in addition to the proceedings reported. But the evil is the natural fruit of Protestantism, and the work of the bulwark of the Reformed religion, so it is "let alone."—*Catholic Herald*.

FOREIGN PROTESTANTISM.—M. Bunsen has at length alarmed the Germans, and shown himself in his true colors. The Lutherans and the Reformed are everywhere exclaiming at his statements, that the doctrine of Christ's Divinity is not vital to the Christian scheme, and justification by Faith a non-essential point. In Bavaria, the Irvingites have been making considerable sensation. The converts in the diocese of Wurzburg have been formally excommunicated. Much excitement prevails in Sweden, in consequence of the spread of a desire for religious liberty. The State Protestantism is vindicating and maintaining itself by unscrupulous tyranny, which, in a Popish country, would be properly called persecution. There is "persecution," too, in Geneva. The Roman Catholic Bishop has again been obliged to retire, by popular violence. The Council of State, in the absence of M. Fazy, seems to have acted with much weakness; first yielding to the tumult of the Radical clubs; then attempting to defend their pusillanimity by tergiversation; and finally submitting to be rebuked for their whole conduct by M. Fazy—who himself half doubted, at first, what course he should take. The whole offence of the Bishop is, that he said Mass in his Church; and is popular among his people. Swiss Protestantism is in a sad state, when it can descend to such weapons as the Genevese have used—terror, violence, cowardice, and fraud.—*Literary Churchman*.

## THE PROPHECY OF ST. COLUMBKILLE.

A work has recently been published in Dublin, being a translation of the Irish prophecies by Nicholas O'Kearney. The famous prophecy of St. Columbkille will be read with interest. The *Dublin Telegraph*, in noticing this remarkable paper, says:—"Were this production written but a century ago, nay, twenty years ago, surely it would be extraordinary for its prophetic allusions to O'Connell and Father Matthew. The poem, however, is alleged to be of high antiquity which, if true, as we have before stated, enhances the value and the wonder. Yet, Mr. O'Kearney states that the text has never been before translated. The allusion to the Liberator is, we perfectly agree with Mr. O'Kearney, extraordinary—or something more.—After foretelling the defeat of the Danes, the prophecy (entitled 'Eiri i Noit') refers to the coming of the English, and its effects."

Another race of invaders will come hither across the seas. Their numbers shall be few, though their power prove great. Six hundred years and ninety more in full. Shall they impose their tributes upon us? (1)