

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

The united and imposing attitude assumed by all the great powers of Europe, and especially by the northern powers, has already produced a most salutary effect on the conduct of the French government, and it is to be hoped that the lesson will not be lost on the world. A few weeks ago everything looked warlike, and the organs of the *Elisée* were filled with speculations calculated to rouse the ambition of the nation. We heard of nothing but of the glory of the empire, and of the absurdity of attempting to bind France by the treaties of 1815—treaties which had been framed for her humiliation, and which deprived her of the fruits of a thousand victories, and of years of conquest. The government aided the movement by its lavish expenditure, both of money and of flattery, to the army; by military *fêtes*; by the ostentation with which it sought out every opportunity of honoring every one, however humble, who could connect his name with the *grande armée*; and, finally, by getting its instruments in the press to hint that, the empire once established, France, with her present limited frontiers, would be insufficient for so glorious a sovereignty, and that the recovery of the fifty departments which she lost in 1814 would consequently become a matter of necessity. But all these ambitious plans have been forced to yield to the firmness evinced by united Europe to resist such aspirations. The period of day-dreams of glory has passed away, and the period of disclaimers has arrived. Some time ago it was the invasion of England that the *Moniteur* was instructed to disavow; then came the disavowal of the annexation of Belgium; on Friday last there was a disavowal of any intention on the part of France to destroy the constitution of Spain; on Saturday it will be seen, by the subjoined paragraph, copied also from the *Moniteur*, that there is a disavowal of the intention to establish the empire itself:—"Some foreign journals endeavor to attach credit to the report that the northern powers, in the provision of certain eventualities, would be ready to renew the coalition of 1815, and that they have determined beforehand the limits beyond which France would not be permitted to modify her government. This report is a falsehood; the eventualities which are the pretext of it have no probability. There is nothing to indicate the necessity for any change in our institutions. France enjoys the most complete tranquility. All the powers keep up the most amicable relations with her, and they have never made less pretensions than at present to interfere with our domestic régime. They know that France will, in case of need, cause her rights to be respected, as she respects those of other nations; but these rights are neither threatened nor disputed. Let fallen parties rely, as formerly, on foreign intervention to cause the triumph of their pretensions over the national will; they will find that this old system of tactics will have no other result than to make them more odious to the country."—*Tablet*.

**THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND LOUIS NAPOLEON'S ENVOY.**—The real nature of the reception given by the Emperor of Russia to the Baron de Heckeren is now beginning to ooze out, and it must be admitted that there was a blunder committed in the choice of an envoy who was known to be personally so objectionable to the Autocrat of all the Russias. M. de Heckeren, it appears, was formerly an officer in the Russian Imperial Guard, and was not only dismissed the service, but forced to leave Russia, on account of a duel, in which he killed the celebrated poet Pouchkin, after having inflicted upon him what is considered the severest injury that domestic life is exposed to. At the late interview, on M. de Heckeren's appearance in the room where the Emperor of Russia was waiting to receive him, the Czar expressed himself in nearly the following terms:—"Ah! there you are, sir. You have been an officer in my guard, and it is on that account that I receive you. I had no great reason to be satisfied with you—but let that pass. You come from France. Eh, bien! what have you to say to me?" After this rather abrupt commencement, the conversation gradually was brought round to the subject of the President of the Republic. The Emperor spoke of him twice as Monsieur Louis Napoleon, and only once called him Prince Louis Napoleon. The Emperor declared that he acknowledged the services rendered to society by the President, and added that the sovereigns of Europe would assist him in suppressing and destroying revolutionary ideas and parties. He twice said, in the course of the conversation, "Tis my part, I am Legitimist, and my family has pretensions to legitimacy." The last words of the Emperor were, "Que le Président ne fasse pas de sottises; mais il a trop de bon sens, il ne fera pas de sottises." M. de Heckeren, having touched on the visit of the Grand Dukes to Austria and Italy, made allusion to the happiness which it would give the President of the Republic if they would also visit France, to which the Emperor replied that he should have liked them to see France, but that in the circumstances the thing was impossible. It is said that M. de Heckeren took occasion to give both to the Austrian ministry and to the Emperor of Russia formal assurances that Louis Napoleon was determined not to favor any attempt to establish either Italian or Polish nationality. The President of the Republic lately honored the Marquis of Douglas with his company at dinner. Among the guests invited to meet him was the Princess Lieven, who was placed on Louis Napoleon's right hand. It appears that the Princess Lieven is about to leave Paris for Schlangenbad, where she is to meet the Empress of Russia. The President spoke a great deal to the Princess, and endeavored to prove to her that in his conviction liberty in France in its popular sense was dangerous to the peace of

Europe. He also alluded to the liberty of the press, and declared that if the liberty of the press were allowed to exist, there would be a general war in Europe before a week passed. In speaking of England, he seems to have expressed doctrines which will be most gratifying to the *réactionnaires*, for he stated that England was going headlong to revolution; and that before ten years was over the French army would be obliged to re-establish the Queen of England on her throne. It will be gratifying to Queen Victoria to know that she has so efficient and respectable a protector. After such an assurance, what occasion has she for either a fleet or an army.—*Chronicle*.

**THE BILL ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.**—The *Ami de la Religion* says:—"It is stated that the bill on public instruction meets with considerable obstacles. We think we can affirm that the Bishops, and in particular Cardinal Gousset, Archbishop of Rheims, have addressed grave observations to the government, and that the general sentiment of the Bishops and of the Catholic body is, that this bill would not be attended with the advantages which its authors expect from it; but that it might compromise the good relations which exist between the Church and the State."

## SWITZERLAND.

**THE CATHOLIC PARTY IN FRIBOURG.**—There are symptoms of a great reaction on the side of the Catholic and Conservative party in the canton of Fribourg. A meeting was convoked by the most eminent men of that party, to be held at Porieux on the 24th ult., to protest against the tyrannical system of the minority at present in power. The government attempted to prevent this meeting coming off, made several arrests, and issued a proclamation, but it was nevertheless held on the day appointed, and passed off in the greatest order. Not fewer than 18,000 were present, and the following resolutions were carried without opposition:—

"The people of Fribourg disapproves of the political systems pursued by the government, because it is incompatible with the material and intellectual progress of the country.

"It resolves to adopt the annexed petition addressed to the High Federal Assembly, the object of which is to demand that the constitution of the canton should be submitted to its sanction; that, according to the example of other states of Switzerland, they should revise it; that free and loyal elections should take place as soon as possible in order to re-establish conscientiously the reign of the majority.

"That this assembly, composed of citizens of various religious creeds, but friends one with the other, clings energetically, each according to his own Faith, to the Christian principle, so audaciously attacked by the detestable doctrines of Demagogism and Socialism.

"That before separating it determines on the organization of a great Fribourgian assembly for the recovery of its liberties, and charges the committee to labor with activity, but strictly within the limits of legality, in the broad light of day, and by every means avowable before God and man. Each member of the assembly will be bound, as far as concerns him, to engage himself to this upon his honor."

## GERMANY.

**DEPARTURE OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.**—The Emperor of Russia left Berlin by special train on the 27th, on his return to Warsaw. He had deferred his departure in order to be present at the festivities in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the wedding of Prince Charles, the King's brother. During his stay at Potsdam the Emperor paid very close attention to technical military affairs. On Monday last he had a trial made on a large scale with the needle musket. Though he had hitherto been of opinion that this weapon was not adapted for practical use by troops of the line in general, he was forced to admit that the performances witnessed very much surprised him. The range of the needle musket, and the rapidity of loading and discharging it, were extraordinary. The evil, however, it said to be that the musket so easily gets out of order. A trial was also made with a peculiar bullet, which, shot from a musket, explodes on hitting its mark, and is very effective for setting fire to houses, or blowing up the enemy's ammunition waggons. During the late war in Holstein these bullets were used, and enabled the Prussians, at the distance of nearly half an English mile, to set a thatched roof in flames with a couple of musket shots. On Tuesday last the Emperor gave the court and the chief military authorities a sample of his far-famed mastery in the practical execution of military evolutions. At eight in the morning he put himself at the head of a regiment of cuirassiers in the great exercising field, and after beginning with the simplest movements, proceeded to feats which excited as much astonishment as admiration. The King, in order to return the compliment, took in person the command of the first regiment of foot guard, and exercised it before the Emperor.

## THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

## ARRIVAL OF SIR HARRY SMITH.

By the arrival of her Majesty's ship *Gladiator*, which brought to off Torbay on Saturday afternoon, we have despatches to the 17th April. She has brought back the late Governor of the Cape, Sir Harry Smith, and family. Sir Harry left the frontier the very day after being relieved by his successor, General G. Cathcart, and embarked in her Majesty's ship *Styx*, in the *Buffalo*, for Table Bay, where the vessel arrived on the 14th ultimo. As soon as it was known ashore that Sir Harry Smith had arrived an immense concourse of people assembled in the central causeway to receive him. Sir Harry was met on the landing stairs by the Chief Justice and many others of the principal functionaries of the colony, and was accompanied to his carriage

by a very numerous body of merchants and gentlemen of all shades of politics, to testify their respect for the late Governor. A triumphal arch had been erected at the foot of the wharf, decorated with banners, flowers, evergreens, &c., and bearing the motto "Gratitude" on the one side, and on the other "God speed Sir Harry," as expressive marks of the general feeling. Invitations to public dinners were afterwards offered but declined; and the gentlemen who had formed the committee for the purpose of showing their respect for the gallant veteran by their banquet, resolved to devote their subscriptions to the purchase and presentation of a suitable piece of plate as a more lasting memorial of their attachment to, and esteem for, the veteran hero. The *Gladiator* arrived off Portsmouth from Torbay on Sunday afternoon, where Sir Harry landed.

The *Kaffir* war is reported as having been brought to a close by Sir Harry Smith prior to his leaving; the result of the operations detailed by the last mail having had the effect of inducing the chiefs to sue for peace. In consequence Sir Harry had entered into negotiations with them, and these were being continued by his successor, Major-General Cathcart.

The following is the latest news from the frontier:—"KING WILLIAM'S TOWN, APRIL 5.—It appears that Col. Michel has taken the Hottentots and Kaffirs in by a very ably-planned manœuvre. Large bodies of Kaffirs and Hottentots were frequently seen at a considerable distance from the camp, and knowing from experience that it was utterly impossible to get at them—for upon the troops moving towards them they made off, so that it was only harassing the troops—he hit upon a very excellent plan, by sending the 45th Regiment into the basin, and unperceived by the enemy advanced the 60th Rifles in support, and as it was expected, the Kaffirs and Hottentots mustered in strong force, singing their war-song and dooming the 45th Regiment to destruction; but happily they were grievously mistaken. The Rifles surrounded them, giving three cheers, and drove them headlong down precipices. The groans and cries of the killed and wounded were terrific, numbers bit the soil of their redoubted fastness, with a very slight loss on our side; only five wounded, and these very slightly.

"APRIL 6.—The division under Colonel Eyre has been doing good work latterly in the direction of the Kei; 1,300 head of splendid cattle arrived here yesterday, captured by Colonel Eyre's division. The Kaffirs did not fight with that determination that they formerly did. At times they showed themselves in large numbers; but their sole object appeared to be to harass the troops and dodge them with the cattle. Major-General Somerset has also captured about 1,500 head. The governor presented Messrs. Crouch and Conway with a span of oxen each—which, from all accounts, they deserve for their exertions in guiding the troops. We have scarcely a day pass without hearing of more of Umhala's treachery. If any man ever deserved punishing that villain does."

## INDIA.

## THE WAR IN BURMAH—CAPTURE OF RANGOON.

Despatches in anticipation of the India mail have brought full particulars of the first grand act of our new tragic drama of War in Burmah.

Steam has done its work, and Rangoon and Martaban have fallen under a rapid energy of assault for which the enemy were apparently unprepared.

The capture of Martaban occupied only three hours. At daybreak on the 5th of April, the steamers *Rattler*, *Hermes*, *Salamander*, and *Proserpine*, with 1,500 men on board, approached the main wharf of the town, Lieutenant-General Godwin in command of the forces, and Rear Admiral Austen of the naval squadron.

The loss on the side of the Burmese has not been computed, but about one hundred guns, of all sizes, fell into our hands.

The advices from Bombay mention that the north-west frontier continues in an unsatisfactory state. It is now clear that the only result of Sir C. Campbell's operations last cold season has been to weaken the force at Peshawur by the detachments required for three strong and distant outposts, the establishment of which, instead of curbing the incursions of the hill tribes, has only irritated them into combinations against us. Sir C. Campbell is again "out" with a force, and skirmishes had taken place on the 15th of April, and subsequent days.

It is reported from Cabul that the people of Kohistan had rebelled against Dhost Mohamed, and worsted a body of his troops. The Dhost's youngest son had marched against the rebels. Gholan Hyder Khan was expected to leave Cabul about the 25th with a strong force for the occupation of Herat.

The state of the Nizam territories continues as bad as well can be. The government is unable to realise its revenue, and credit is at an end; even the Contingent is months in arrear, and all other departments are, of course, still more so. The country is covered with predatory bands of Rohillas; parties of the Contingent are, however, as last, everywhere in chase of these, and this evil at least will be suppressed.

## THE MAYNOOTH DIFFICULTY.

(From the Times.)

How is the Maynooth discussion to end? The importance and the difficulty of that question will be readily apparent to all who have ever studied effect—effect theatrical, poetic, political, or even horticultural. The difficulty is how to get a climax, how to wind up your story, how to crown your vista. Nothing is so easy as a public procession, but when the procession is once on the move it must go somewhere. If it is merely to emerge from one portal in order to disappear in another, or to make a detour, and then return to its starting point, it is only a link in a series or a fragment of something else, but not a complete work in itself. A Fifth of November *Guy*, after being duly

carried through the streets, is hung on a gallows and consigned to the flames, and though the finale is painfully uncharitable the pious ingenuity of Clapham has not yet suggested a termination that shall combine moral and dramatic propriety. The tenderest Puritan has not yet ventured to suggest that *Guy* should hear a sermon, become a Protestant, be clothed in sanctimonious apparel, have his hair cut close, and his conical hat changed for a broad brim, and then be committed to the care of the parish clerk. A novel must have a story, and a story must have an end, whether that end be a marriage, a suicide, or the discovery of a wax figure in a recess, as in Mrs. Randolph's celebrated tale. It is a difficulty that pervades human life. A hundred proverbs warn us against unnecessary action, "let well alone"—*quieta non movere*, &c. The Maynooth discussion having been once taken up, and the House of Commons having sunk we forget how many weeks of valuable time in the miserable investment, it begins to feel its honor involved in doing something. The question now is, "Shall we ignominiously confess 'an error'?" or, "Shall we go on throwing away good 'time after bad'?" Perhaps the former is the wiser as well as the humbler course, simply because the latter, after a world more of trouble and disgrace, will lead to the same result.

Lord John Russell, Mr. Goulburn, Mr. Hume, and some other sensible men hold that after what has occurred an inquiry into Maynooth is inevitable.—Their meaning is, that when you have advanced up to the point of inquiry you cannot well recede without asking a question. There is no doubt that if you are caught trespassing on your neighbor's grounds, you may as well pretend to be looking for something; and if you find yourself addressing a stranger, it is one escape from your embarrassment to ask if his name is *Brown*, or what o'clock it is, or whether he has seen a man on horseback pass that way. The House of Commons, in the guise of an elderly lady, has accepted Mr. Spooner's arm and walked up to Maynooth. It has just put on a pair of tortoiseshell spectacles, and commenced, "I hope I don't intrude." That is the very point at which we stand at this moment, and the question is whether to finish the sentence with a question, or to confess to a mistake and walk away. The statesmen we have just mentioned being keenly alive to the honor of the House, are of opinion that the sentence should be finished, but then they hold that, as Ministers are responsible for having let things come to this pass, they are bound to ask the question themselves. So they recommend a Royal Commission, which would answer the double purpose of relieving the House of Commons and finding an agreeable occupation for the Government in the recess. A Royal Commission, too, might ask as many questions as it pleased, without being able to compel answers, so that the professors and students of Maynooth might freely tell everything on the one side of the question, and shut their mouths the instant the examination seemed likely to take an unfavorable turn. When a shifty or an uncivil answer is apprehended all people wish somebody else to ask the question; and Lord John, Mr. Goulburn, and Mr. Hume are none of them men who would take it much to heart if Lord Derby's Commission got the worst of it at Maynooth. Lord Derby, on the other hand, wishes the House of Commons to share the trouble and risk of a disagreeable scrutiny. But why was the subject ever opened if it leads to such difficulties? Why was this synod of mice ever held if there existed on all sides such a reluctance to bell the cat? There is no lack of courage, it is true, in those who are indifferent to the results. If Ireland was driven to the verge of rebellion, and, as a natural consequence, the Protestant clergy could not get a farthing of their tithes, what would it matter to Mr. Spooner or the fanatical divines of Liverpool and Manchester? What would it matter to them if we had to increase our military establishment, and legislation was rendered impossible for several sessions? Nothing at all. But statesmen of all parties do feel these things and endeavor to avert them. They are afraid because they can feel the impending calamity.

The upshot of the matter thus far is, that next Friday the House is to take another turn at the controversial treadmill. The debate last night was as near as possible an exact repetition of that the day before, and next Friday will doubtless have the same family resemblance, and so on for ever, till the House finishes the debate in that unblest region where Milton says that "free will and fate" form the prominent subjects of conversation. Nothing is more likely than that the natural reluctance of members to appear advocates of Maynooth on the eve of a general election, will give Mr. Spooner and his friends, the Ministers, a majority on the question, and we shall then have the notable farce of parliamentary inquiry on a most delicate and intricate subject, opened just a fortnight before a dissolution. Were this all—were there nothing but absurdity in their proceedings, we might content ourselves with expressing our disgust at the injury thus done to the character of the House. But there is more in it than absurdity; there is a base end in view. In the East a dirty fanatic will sometimes pitch his tent before a man's door and demand his maintenance. If he is denied he will set up a dismal howl, loud and harsh enough to wake the dead from their graves.—Being almost independent of sleep, he will repeat that howl almost every minute day and night for weeks together, the religious prejudices of the country giving him perfect immunity for his brutal behaviour. His howl is formally a prayer, though virtually an attack on the provisions and property of his unfortunate victim. The latter being at length fairly wearied out succumbs, and buys off the sanctimonious scoundrel, whose system and perseverance are such that he positively sows seed and plants trees before the threshold he invades in order to signify how long he means to carry out his game. Surely those "who devour widows' purses" and for a pretence make long prayers" are the very model of the Protestant Protectionists, who have pitched their tents before the door of the Legislature, and are howling day and night incessantly what sounds like a melancholy sort of devotion, but is, in fact, a demand for a slice of the poor man's loaf. They have kept it up a fortnight, and we shall have a fortnight more of it. The devotees at Westminster are echoed by their fraternity all over the kingdom, and the land will have no rest—at least that is the speculation—till the prayers are granted and our pantries laid open to the noisy and ravenous foe. But is there no remedy for this? Even in the East the natural sense of man will sometimes revolt against this hypocritical mummery and give the impostor his deserts. Are we less sagacious to see through the artifice, less bold to assert our rights, or less prompt to defend ourselves? Let this be thought of during Whitsuntide, and perhaps next Friday will see a change come o'er the spirit of this scene.