

whether they who had joined in the acts for the suppression of convents might be sponsors at baptism, &c., he solved thus: "By the Extravagant of Martik Vih, *Ad evitanda*, the faithful are not bound to avoid an excommunicated person, unless sentence has been formally promulgated." To the second question—Whether priests can marry persons under ecclesiastical censure, it is answered, "That the priest should endeavor to make them seek absolution; but if he fails, he may, for the sake of peace marry such, with the bishop's consent." A third question was asked, relative to the burial of the excommunicated, and the enquirer, in reply, is told to consult the "best writers" on the subject. The fourth question is, perhaps, the most pregnant with importance,—May those who have bought Church property be absolved? The answer is,—Yes, provided, 1st, that they hold it at the disposal of the Church; 2dly, that they improve the land and administer it well; 3dly, that they assist those who suffer in consequence of the present state of things; and 4thly, that they transmit it to their heirs on the same understanding."

The archbishops, bishops, and vicars general of Turin, Genoa, Verceil, and the Island of Sardinia, have addressed to the Minister of the Council a protest, similar to that of the bishops of Savoy against the circular of MM. Rattazzi and DeForesta, issued in June last. Independence of action for the clergy, and protection in their rights, are vigorously demanded, but no answer is made. The bishops have thought it right to abstain from the denunciations of Scripture reading, which they foresaw to be inevitable during the continuance of the freedom of the press. The Bishop of Asti has gone so far as to tell his clergy to allow the people, at present, even to read the interdicted journals.

The strife about the separation of the canton of Tessin from the diocese of Milan still goes on. The grand council of the canton has determined, in the event of the Pope's not granting their request, they will separate without his permission, and appoint an administrator of the diocese. The difficulty is, that the clergy cannot receive any separation contrary to the papal command, and his Holiness does not seem inclined with the Emperor at his side, to hold out very satisfactory terms.

The Pope is somewhat elated, too, just now, at the state of his relations with Russia. He sent Prince Chigi, Bishop of Myra as his ambassador extraordinary, to represent him at the Czar's Coronation, taking three other bishops in his suite,—some what to their agrin. And the Empress-Mother, in turn, is to pass a winter at Rome.—*Ibid.*

FRANCE.

The case of the Abbé J. H. R. Prompsault attracted some attention about year ago. The Abbé was at that time Chaplain of the Hospital for the Blind in Paris. He entered the arena of controversy in opposition to the Ultramontane Liturgist, Dom Guéranger. In turn he was assailed by an Ultramontane opponent, and in his defence wrote a very able and learned work, entitled *Du Sûr du Pouvoir Ecclesiastique*, arguing in the old Gallican and Catholic spirit, that Church authority was not vested in the Pope, but in the Church, represented by its bishops. This book appealed largely to history, and was difficult to answer argumentatively. Naturally enough, it gave offence to the advanced Ultramonians, and Cardinal de Bonald, Archbishop of Lyons, issued a *mandement* on the subject. But the Archbishop was in no position of authority over a priest officiating in Paris, and M. Prompsault, instead of succumbing to him, took to quess his *mandement*. In a reply which showed both the ignorance and heterodoxy of the Cardinal Archbishop, and the soundness of his own principles. Meantime, however, the Archbishop of Paris was going through that singular transformation which has converted the Gallican and Republican prelate into an Ultramontane and an Imperialist. M. Prompsault was too bold, and must be silenced, so the Archbishop entertained a charge of some minor ecclesiastical irregularity against him. M. Prompsault was forced to give up his chaplaincy, and retire from clerical work and from Paris. With this, Cardinal de Bonald has not been contented. At the same time that he published his *mandement* he presented a Report to the Congregation of the Index against the book entitled *Du Siège du Pouvoir Ecclesiastique*, and it was accordingly condemned. M. Prompsault has now seen this report, and has replied to it with the same spirit and boldness which he showed in his answer to the *mandement*. What will the Congregation of the Index do, now it finds that the report is false, and misrepresents the accused?—*Ibid.*

RUSSIA.

The great ceremony of the coronation at Moscow having been related at length, we shall not attempt to follow the order of the other proceedings in regular succession, but combine a more general view of Russian life in full dress, as it has presented itself to the comprehensive but superficial eyes of newspaper correspondents, ignorant of the language. There have been two reviews, pouring rain, and balls and fetes daily. The Grand Duke Michael and Nicholas were present at a ball given by the Countess of Granville. Our extracts are taken from the *Times*, except when otherwise indicated:—

The Czar and his Visitors.—His Majesty was very gracious to M. de Morny at the levee, and conversed with him for some time. He alluded to the readiness evinced by France to conclude the peace, and to remove all impediments to an *entente cordiale*. With Lord Granville he was, on dit, more reserved, and he is understood to have made some pointed allusions to the attitude of the British cabinet. "We were *tres-tires* in days gone by," said his Majesty, "but it is to be hoped that the estrangement will not continue."—Lord Granville replied in a low tone of voice. To Prince Esterhazy the manner of the Emperor was at first exceedingly dry and cold, but the veteran diplomatist spoke with such effect, and gave such assurance of the sincere desire which actuated a large party in Austria to return to their *premiers amours*, that the Emperor was visibly moved, and held out his hand ere the Prince ceased. When the Turkish minister was introduced, he read at some length his letters of credence, but the Czar became impatient ere the conclusion, and dismissed the Envoy with a few short sentences.—At the ball in the evening the Emperess danced with M. de Morny, Lord Granville, and the Turkish Minister. Shades of Mahomet, Suleman the Magnificent and Selim the Terrible! what must ye have thought when the Ambassador of the Sublime Porte led the Czarina forth to the polonaise? The Emperor danced with the Countess of Granville, and was very gracious in his manner towards her.

The Rival Ambassadors.—If M. de Morny was able by judicious management and early preparation to eclipse Lord Granville at St. Petersburg, one may say, without being quite odious, that the English Ambassador and the more appropriate *chomp de bataille* of Moscow has achieved a victory over the Ambassador of France. The English dinners have been admirable, the hospitality large; and if those who could not get invitations are not satisfied, assuredly those who did have been abundantly pleased. It has been observed, that as yet Englishmen have received but little of that large hospitality for which the Russians have been so famous, and that those invitations to the chase, to dinners, and to balls, of which so much was heard, have not yet been forthcoming. All this, however, is said to spring out of the Isle of Serpents and the Bay of Naples. In the meantime, however, the relations of the gentlemen and ladies of both countries are marked by the most exquisite politeness, and the Russian nobility are on excellent terms with our representative. What seems to give the most uneasiness here is the apprehension that England intends to act without the concurrence of France in matters in which she is not strictly bound—as by the last treaty of Paris—to operate in concert with that power. The appearance of independent action is most unwelcome to many continental politicians, who are, however, comforted very much when they recollect that all questions relating to the Eastern difficulty, any isolated action, will be a *casus belli* for the other signing powers, according to that famous treaty by which peace was secured to us at Paris. It is very amusing to see M. de Morny, with his usual bland, calm, and gentle manners, chatting in the most insouciant way with Lord Granville, who to the full as *dowce at amiable* as his brother diplomatist, in the midst of a society where many of the guests would have liked to see a *combat à l'outrance* between the representatives of France and England, and to hear the gossip, which insists that, under all this polished exterior, there is a chaos of boiling passion, envy, malice, and all uncharitableness "the study of revenge, immortal hate."

Uniforms at the Levee.—On Monday the diplomatic bodies felicitated the Emperor, and, as usual, the British equipages were the things most admired, the American uniforms the things most stared at. Brother Jonathan, determined to please the Emperor of Russia at any price, has invented a Court dress of his own, the most remarkable feature of which is a cocked hat, with a tremendous yellow plume, which, like the white plume at Ivry, may be distinguished afar off in every *melee*. At the levee three unfortunate individuals might be seen in this grotesque costume, and they were the objects of general curiosity, if not of admiration.

It was noticed that the English alone—thanks, I suppose, to the stern discipline of Sir E. Cust—were the only strangers who, on being presented, retired without turning their backs upon royalty. The Americans, of course, bolted; but better drill had been expected from the French and from the representatives of the older Courts. But no, every one wheeled on the steps of the throne but the Islanders, who kept their faces to the Emperor until the intervention of a pillar enabled them to look before them without any violation of respect. Amongst the uniforms there was one English Court dress, that of Dr. Kent, from London; and I can assure you that it excited universal curiosity. The carriages of the various Embassies made a grand display, the most noticeable being the French, English, and that of the Prince de Ligne. It was generally admitted that the English equipage surpassed all others in substantial grandeur, and Lord Granville's horses and footmen were generally admired, the latter perhaps as having selves to their legs, an appendage in which the French "Jeunes" is singularly deficient.—*Daily News*.

From Constantinople we learn that the squadron of Admiral Lyons has received, by telegraph, an order to remain, in consequence of the dispute relating to Holgrad and the Isle of Serpents. Some French ships also will soon arrive. The Austrian troops will, for the same reasons, remain in the Principalities.

The *Post* correspondent at Marseilles says—"England and Austria support Turkey in the affair relative to the Isle of Serpents and Holgrad. On this question France will pursue a more reserved policy. An English squadron is to remain in the Black Sea until the solution of the diplomatic differences."

The Persian Government has dismissed Colonel Alaterrazzi for refusing to renounce the protection of England.

Information has been received that twenty-seven privates and four non-commissioned officers of the British Italian Legion, recently discharged at Malta, were forthwith, on their arrival home in Turcom and Parma, incarcerated *sans cérémonie* in the prisons of the above States; the Lombards, thirteen in number, were forwarded, on their arrival on the frontiers, under military escort to Mantua, to be tried by court-martial, for accepting service in a foreign State without the permission of the ruling Power. It has caused a great sensation among the discharged legioners in Piedmont, who were preparing to return to their homes throughout Italy after their British service. They are now deterred, and will be compelled to remain stationary, watching the course of events. The English ministers at these Courts have protested against the course pursued with regard to the treatment those men received, and have demanded their release.

The *Daily News* states that the guests at Moscow are already tiring of the continued festivities, and many hurrying away in a state of acute dyspepsia, and even the Emperor himself has exhibited an unmistakable symptom of weariness in the proclamation just issued, anticipating by five days the original date of the "feast du peuple"—

"But," he adds, "amidst all this pervading lassitude, the British Ambassador keeps steadily on the even tenor of his hospitable way, and greatly dines, or merrily dances, or courteously receives, with that unflinching pluck and bottom which are the proud characteristics of his race and nation. I think I mentioned in a former letter the anticipations of the St. Petersburg English, that at Moscow Lord Granville would overtake his French competitor in the festive race, and in the long run maintain for the 'Roast Beef of Old England' its traditional supremacy; and they have not been disappointed. The Count de Morny has been distanced in the race, fairly dined and danced down, and to Lord and Lady Granville is now universally conceded the palm for dinners, for balls, for receptions, and, best of all, for unflagging graciousness and courtesy of demeanour. I do not say this in any ungenerous spirit of depreciation towards the French Embassy, who have well and splendidly represented both the wealth and proverbial taste of their great country; but then the Hotel de Morny is Bachelor's Hall, while at the British Embassy the wives and daughters of England offer a 'material guarantee' to the wives and mothers of Russia, and, consequently, the latter find themselves as much at home there as in their own domestic circles. This, I can assure you, is no exaggeration."

A letter from Widdin, of the 27th ult., says—"We have this morning heard a sound which the people of Bulgaria have not heard for ages—the sound of a bell calling the Christians to church in order to thank God that the Sultan has been pleased to restore to us our liberty of worship. Widdin is the first Bulgarian town that has received a bell.—The Turks have complained to the Pacha about it, but he has referred them to the Sultan."

The Emperor of Russia has confirmed General Mouravieff's military sentence, which degrades Lieutenant Prince Zerokeli to the rank of a private, for killing an ensign, Prince Bagration Muchranski, who had grossly insulted him. The possibility of promotion is not destroyed by this sentence, and Lieut. Zerokeli retains his princely dignity.