

near his fire by a demand that I should blow out his brains with my revolver; the French army, two days ago, he said, had taken all the wire of his vine trellises to make a telegraph with, and now the Prussians had come, and taken what remained of his property, and life was not worth having. He hated the French, and he hated the Prussians, and, above all, he hated that cognin of an Emperor, who had brought all this misery upon him; and with that he burst into a violent fit of tears, and implored that he be put to death. This state of hysterical desperation is not uncommon among the French peasantry, and is a painful illustration of the terrible effects of war upon those who are most completely innocent of any complicity in it or desire for it.

A correspondent of the Times writes:—"The Germans themselves appear to have become ferocious from this kind of warfare with irregular troops. At one time I saw three wretched boys and an old man who had been found with arms in their hands, and the soldiers at whose heads they marched testified their pleasure in the fact that awaited the captives, for they were all to be shot. A moment afterwards I heard platoon firing, and the screams of the victims, and I confess that to me the occurrence was sickening, although I have become tolerably hardened by many battles. An officer of the Lanciers told me that he had heard a heavy musketry fire from a clump of trees, and was astonished to find that it came from a single old man. I asked him what they did with him. "I sent a lieutenant with four men to him, and he made a significant sign of the Lanciers jobbing the man with their lances. I afterwards learned more of this incident. It appears that when the Lanciers came up with the man he was lying on his back on the ground, and although one of them had bored him through with his lance in such a way that it took two men to withdraw it, he had strength enough to discharge his piece and kill one of the Lanciers, and after the lieutenant had shot him through the breast with his pistol, he once more discharged his gun, and it required three more shots to kill him. The Germans, as I said before, are rapidly becoming brutalized from this kind of work. At Dreux, on the 17th, no quarter was shown, and even the wounded Frenchmen were stabbed with the bayonet.

The same correspondent treating of the morale of the new French levies, tells the following tale:—"I saw regiments advancing firmly, and even coolly, under the full fire of batteries every volley of which told with murderous effect upon them, and even the retreating regiment, which I happened to be near when it fell back, was retiring in perfect order. All this was in the open, but, on the other hand, I am this as a venacious historian to state that in the woods and the village (Champigny) I saw more shirking than was pardonable, even in young troops. Perhaps there is something demoralizing in proximity to cover, or possibly it may be peculiarly trying to the nerves to have shot and shell poured in upon you when you are so placed that you cannot evade from that quarter they come, and have no chance of retreating. Such was apparently the case to which some of the French troops had been exposed. The wood they were in had been so riddled by shot that the bark was torn from many of the trees, and the boughs were hanging by shreds as if some one had been hacking at them with a knife, while huge holes gaped in the walls and roofs of the adjoining houses, some of which had been so knocked about that it seemed a marvel they remained standing. Yet from the position of the ground the troops exposed to the fire which made all this havoc must have been pretty near as helpless as a flock of sheep. Some of them were almost as scared, and it was half painful, half ludicrous, to watch them, although they were no longer in any danger, at least no momentary danger, taking as eager advantage of every bit of wall or ground that seemed to afford safe shelter as if the shells were still pouring in showers over their heads. An officer galloping just got so furious at the sight of one such group that after firing into them a volley of adjectives scarcely less terrible than the shells, he wanted my companion and myself to assist him in kicking them to the front—a request with which, however, we did not, for more reasons, perhaps, than one, think it desirable to comply. It must be heart-rending for French officers—a class than which no braver exists in the world—to have to lead raw troops who can't stand fire. A few pretended to be wounded, and almost the only chance I had of plying my office of amateur infirmary was obligingly offered me by a gentleman who wanted me to carry him, on the plea that he had a "contusion in the back, but who was really suffering from fright. It was fortunate for him that the angry officer, who believed in kicking as the proper treatment for complaints of this kind, was not near or the patient would speedily have had a real "contusion in the back," though probably rather lower down than the quarter he vaguely indicated to me.

One of the special correspondents at Versailles writes:—"Some days ago a friend with whom I was walking called my attention to a soldier—a fine, tall, handsome, clean-limbed, fair-haired Northman, who, seated on a door-step, was playing with a little child, fondling and caressing her long flaxen locks. He looked pleased and gentle, while, confident in the kindness of his nature, the little girl laughed and scrambled on his knee. My companion addressing the soldier, remarked that it was a pity the child could not understand him. "Ah," he answered, "she understands me well enough; she knows what I mean. I am accustomed to these little ones. I have a wife and children at home—a long way off! The other evening, in a dingy room in Boulogne, lying on a floor wet with blood, trampled with dirt and filth and trodden straw, was the same man, dead and stiff, with an expression of sorrow rather than of pain upon his rigid features, as though his last thoughts had been about those dear ones who never again shall see his mortal form.

A good fat cat in Paris now costs ten francs.

The most recent Paris papers inform us of some facts connected with the internal condition of the city which are not without interest. It is stated that one of the Generals in command upon the western side of Paris has adopted the stern measure of shooting three women of loose character who had been detected in furnishing information to the enemy. The course of lectures at the University of Paris is about to commence, and while the Germans are devastating the French territory young Frenchmen are studying at the Sorbonne the great productions of German literature, and sounding the praises of the illustrious Goethe. The number of deaths from small-pox which had risen to an appalling figure is reported to have declined to less than 400 in the week before last. The general mortality of the city had also diminished. The scarcity of paper caused by the siege, although it seriously affects the size of journals and the material upon which they print, has not prevented the appearance of newspapers, some of which have had but a very ephemeral existence indeed. The *Garde Nationale*, the *Drapeau Rouge*, and the *Rubrounien* have lived and died since the investment of the city. The *Moniteur des Citoyennes*, a weekly publication, made but a single appearance. The *Garibaldi* published two numbers. Another new paper, with the symbolical title of the *Sion Blesse*, has made but occasional appearances. The most singular novelty is a paper called the *Trac*, which is recommended for perusal in the cellars and underground apartments in the event of a bombardment. In order to provide for all eventualities the authorities in Paris are adopting measures upon a large scale for the grinding of corn into flour. A contract for the fixing of 200 pairs of millstones has been effected with the well-

known firm of Cail and Co., and one half of that number are already in operation. It is noticed as a singular circumstance that just at the moment when reports favourable to the French arms were circulating in the capital, many commodities which had been supposed to be non-existent, made their re-appearance in the shop windows, such as butter, sardines, Bologna sausages, &c. Even ham at 5f. a pound was offered in the Rue Neuve de Capucines; but a few hours later all these tempting delicacies had disappeared, and the shopkeepers vowed that they had not possessed any since a few days after the commencement of the siege.

Some members of the Paris Jockey Club determined a few days since to have a *diner de sige*, comprising all the recently adopted elements of food.—The famous epicure Baron Brisse was entrusted with the preparation of the menu, which consisted of the following items:—*Hors d'œuvre*, radishes, herring *mariné*, onions *à la Provençale*, slightly salt butter, gherkins, and olives. First course.—Soup of slightly salted horse, with vegetables; ass flesh cutlets, with carrots; mule's liver *sauté aux champignons*; horse's lights, with white sauce; *œufs à la maitre-oté*; fried gudgeons; celery heads, with seasoning. Second course.—Quarter of dog braised; leg of dog roasted; rats cooked upon the ashes; rat pie, with mushrooms; *Ed à la broche*; salad of celery and small salad. Dessert.—Dutch cheese, apples, pears, marmalade *au Kirsch*, *gâteau d'Italie au fromage de Chester*. The banquet which was served in one of the principal establishments of the Chausse d'Antin, is stated to have been a complete success.

The Paris *Gambis* of the 29th refers to a Court of Honor, presided over by General Trochu, to which General Ducrot submitted the question whether he was justified in escaping from imprisonment. He represented that he had refused to sign the capitulation at Sedan, and was, therefore, considered a prisoner. He then gave his word of honor to repair to Pont-a-Mousson, in order to report himself to the military authorities there as a prisoner. This he did, but was told that the first train was full and he must wait for the next. On this he deemed himself freed from any obligation, as he could not be responsible for the *Gambis* not having secured his person. General Trochu and the other members, with the exception of a brigadier and a lieutenant-colonel, who remained neutral, decided in his favor. General Ducrot apparently appealed to this tribunal on the eve of the recent sortie, in order that if he fell or became a prisoner his reputation might be absolved from any reproach.

A few recent items from Paris are not without interest. Mr. Richard Wallace, the heir of the late Marquis of Hertford, who had previously given 300,000f. for an ambulance, has presented 200,000f. for the supply of fuel to the inhabitants. Gas has disappeared from the shops, and the various devices to which tradesmen have resorted instead of it produce a very curious effect. The bill of fare in the first week of December was as follows:—Monday, salt pork; Tuesday, codfish; Wednesday, preserved meat; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, fresh meat. On the 30th ult., some women from Belleville mustered before the Hotel de Ville and demanded the release of the Red Republican prisoners. They received a polite refusal, and two of them were arrested. During the sortie of the 30th, a carrier pigeon arrived in Paris with official despatches and 250 private messages. The lycæums and colleges now present a singular appearance, the professors wearing the National Guard uniform instead of the classical toga.

The Prussians, according to the Paris *Steele*, are extremely cunning. When they reconnoitred night pigeons go forth, leading dogs, which on hearing the least noise or on approaching the French sentries, stop and make a gruff noise. If a spy arrives at a spot where he does not feel secure, he posts himself behind a tree or wall and lets loose his dog. As long as it advances he fears nothing, but if it goes sideways or stands still he knows he must be on the alert. The Prussian patrols, moreover, instead of showing themselves like the French, get behind anything they can, and in default of this dig holes, which they creep into. Added to these precautions is an iron discipline, which prescribes the most absolute silence. The dog is not the Prussian's only ally in this war; they have trained hawks for the purpose of catching carrier pigeons. "Should such cunning," asks the *Steele*, "frighten us? Not at all. It is time, however, that we broke through the circle which coils us in."

The commandant of Plaisbourg, according to a Strasbourg letter in the *Catrouche Gazette*, offered to capitulate on the 11th on condition of marching out with arms and baggage. This was, of course, rejected. Fourteen mobiles deserted from the fortress that day. The smoke of powder which ascended every evening from the place evidently indicated that a surrender was imminent, and that the stores of gunpowder were being gradually burnt, in order that they might not fall into the hands of the enemy. The commandant had been inquiring in the suburb for provisions. On the 12th, as has been already announced, the virgin fortress which was designed by Vauban capitulated. Bitch is the only remaining fortress in German Lorraine which is now in French hands. Its natural position is so strong that it is unlikely to yield except to famine, and there has for some time been a tacit understanding on both sides to suspend firing, and thus avoid useless bloodshed.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Catholics of Ireland have already contributed very largely to the relief of the French. His Eminence Cardinal Cullen and several of the Bishops, Lord Granard, the Rev. Dr. Spratt, and others, have been active promoters of this work of charity, and their exertions have been gratefully acknowledged by France. Similar exertions are increasing all over Ireland.

The recent letter of Mr. Gladstone in reference to the Pope is commented upon unfavourably by some of the Catholic journals.

MR AGAR-ELLIS AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—The *Kilkenny Journal* states that Mr. Agar-Ellis has forfeited confidence of his constituents because he did not attend the recent Papal sympathy meeting in Kilkenny. He wrote a letter of apology, stating that he would be happy to present to Parliament any petition which might be adopted; but this is not considered a sufficient excuse for his abstention from more active support to the Papal cause.

IRISH ARMY CONTRACT.—It is stated that Sir Peter Taft, of Limerick, has contracted to supply 150,000 uniforms for a continental Government, and further contracts are expected.

In the event of Sir Colman O'Loughlin's retirement from the representation of the county Clare, Lord Francis Conyngham, who has signified his intention to become a candidate, will probably be elected.

The Irish Times states that the Lord-Lieutenant and the Irish Executive have decided that the militia of that country shall be called out for training in the coming spring. The enrolments and re-enrolments will commence at once.

THE REPRESENTATION OF MEATH.—Mr. Palfes, Q.C., has issued his address. He promises to use every exertion to restore the Holy Father to his rightful position as a Sovereign. He advocates denominational education, and considers the full participation by Catholics of all State endowments for educational

purposes as essential to perfect religious equality.—The Hon. George Plunkett has also issued an address. His views are also similar to Mr. Palfes; but whereas the latter gentleman considers that the Land Act of last Session requires, and must receive material amendment in order to make it thoroughly acceptable, the Hon. Mr. Plunkett is satisfied with what has been done on the Land Question. There is therefore a very important issue laid before the electors.

In Master Burke's office, the jury assessed damages in an action brought by Thomas Egan against Father Reynolds for assault and battery. The plaintiff claimed £500. The action arose out of a meeting during the canvass preceding last Longford election, when plaintiff, a prominent opponent of Greville Nugent, was, while addressing a meeting, interrupted by defendant, who caught him by the breast, shook him, and called on the crowd to remove him. In the scuffle the plaintiff received a kick which incapacitated him from pursuing his occupation for seven weeks. The defendant allowed judgment to go by default. The jury now assessed the damages at £50.

FEELING IN IRELAND.—We implore the Government to pause before it commits itself to complicity with the Italian aggression, and to sympathy with what are called "the national aspirations of Italy." Our letters from Ireland are very unmistakable in the policy they point to. A person in high social and political position writes to us:—"I do not think that Ministers at all realize their position in Ireland. Up to the present moment they have had the support of the Catholic party, strong and united; but if they approve of the Italian misdeeds they will lose it. Nothing would be easier than to create almost insuperable difficulties for them, as for instance, by going in strongly for Federalism. Hitherto the Bishops and all moderate men have deprecated this course. But it is a weapon which may be used, if the Government (and I hope they will not) support the enemies of the Holy Father. This is a question upon which I, and I believe every other Irishman, will stand no nonsense." If the Government does not intend to commit itself to the Italian cause, if it has really any pretension to protect the public safety, it need tremble upon no charge of Popery before the supreme tribunal of the House of Commons; it has but to take its stand upon the sanctions to which England became a party at the Treaties of Vienna and of Paris, and upon the policy which was pursued by Pitt and Grenville, and Castlereagh, and even by Brougham and Palmerston. To proclaim a policy favorable to Italy is to proclaim a policy of revolution at home as well as abroad.—*Tablet*.

IRELAND AND THE RUSSIAN DIFFICULTY.—Although there is every prospect of a peaceful solution of the Russian difficulty, it is still worth while considering, even though the immediate danger seems to be passing away, if England is in a fit position to repel an invasion of her territory coming from Russia or any other powerful nation. The fact that 5-1-1 Austria a few years since, and which France is suffering from now, may befall England at any moment, for so far from being better prepared to resist an invader than either of these nations have proved to be the very reverse is the fact. Ireland is the great difficulty, and will continue to be so until she has the power of making her own laws, so that those enactments may be in accordance with the requirements and aspirations of her people. At present there does not appear to be much political excitement on the surface, but for all that so deep rooted is the feeling of discontent, that we venture to say that if a plebiscite were taken it would be found that a large majority of Irishmen would vote for total separation from England. Now this is a serious matter for the British empire, and not to be overlooked by those who have the Government in their hands, because other powerful nations are fully aware of the state of Irish feeling and consequently England has lost weight in their eyes. It is right, therefore, that Englishmen as well as Irishmen, Protestants as well as Catholics should ponder on this condition of affairs so as to devise a remedy which while injuring none, would be beneficial to all classes of the community. It is quite true, and the fact is most gratifying, that the position of Irishmen who have cast their lot in England is day by day improving, both socially and politically. The late School Board elections were a proof of how strong the Catholic (and consequently the Irish) element is becoming in England. We have the more reason to rejoice that Irishmen are coming to the front in the race of social advancement with their fellow citizens, from the fact that every obstacle has been and is thrown in the way, for at this moment the mere possession of an Irish name is a fatal impediment to any man of ability gaining a public office. The No-popery spirit is not so rampant as formerly, but the suspicion that the candidate is a Catholic is often sufficient to bar the way in the case of the applicant for the highest appointment as well as in that of the humble maid of all works.—*Liverpool Catholic Times*.

Another outrage is reported to have been committed in the County Westmeath. A correspondent of the *Daily Express* states that ten men armed with revolvers came to the house of a man named Farrell, living at Kiltuam, and putting him on his knees, warned him that if he did not give up some land which he had taken from an under tenant he might prepare his coffin. Before leaving the house they fired several shots. It is to be hoped that the Peace Preservation Act may be able to reach this lawless land. Westmeath is now the only county in which such outrages are perpetrated.

The magistrates of Derry are firmly resolved to prohibit the celebrations which have lately given so much trouble and anxiety to the authorities. It is the only course left to them to maintain tranquility and order. Every effort has been used by persons having influence with the organized partisans on both sides to induce them to come to an amicable understanding, to abandon on the one hand displays which, whether truly or not, are represented to be of a party nature, and to be offensive to a large section of the population; and, on the other hand, to dissolve an association formed for the avowed purpose of compelling the Apprentice Boys to discontinue, and the Government to put down, commemorations which have been observed for over a century without interruption or, until lately, any serious complaints. Both parties obstinately refuse to yield, and the magistrates have to consider under such circumstances whether they will incur the risk of a violent collision or put down the demonstration with a strong hand. There is a strong conviction that to repeat the proceedings adopted last year, and have the celebration conducted under the protection of an immense civil and military force, whose presence made it the more imposing, would be absurd, and calculated to bring the Executive into contempt with the masses of the people. It has, therefore, been determined to forbid the holding of the anniversary, and proclamations with that object are ready to be issued. In order to enforce obedience a requisition for reinforcements of the police to the number of 1,000 men has been communicated to the Government.

The Irish Protestant Church is rapidly putting its house in order, and but little remains to be done in completing its preparations for the coming change. Several of the Diocesan Synods constituted under the statutes of the Convention have been held; and all the elaborate machinery necessary for conducting its spiritual and temporal affairs in future will be ready before the end of the year. In one respect only is there reason to anticipate much serious difficulty. The collection of funds has not proceeded as satisfactorily as might have been expected, and it will need a very great effort to place the Disestablished Church in a position of financial security.—Many circumstances have acted as drawbacks to check the liberality of friends who possess abundant means of helping it, but think it prudent to wait until it shall have been reorganized. The hope of realizing a considerable sum from commutation and composition of life interests to form the basis of a re-endowment is becoming fainter every day. This is owing to the fact that the clergy, as a rule, are driving a hard bargain with the representative body, and have insisted upon such advantageous terms for themselves that there is little chance of a surplus for the future Church, and some of the laity apprehend that if a considerable number of the clergy avail themselves of the privilege of compounding there will be serious risk of a deficit.

DEBILIS, DEC. 9.—The tenantry on the estate of Colonel and Lady Charteris have promptly come forward to express their horror at the late murder of Lonergan, the steward. They are anxious to remove the stain which has been cast upon a peaceable and well-disposed locality by this terrible crime. On Monday they met at the Market-house of Cahir for the purpose of making known their sentiments. Mr. James Archer Butler, J.P., was appointed chairman. He bore testimony to the kind disposition always shown to the tenantry by the murdered man, although he faithfully discharged his duty. Resolutions were passed to the effect that the feelings of the people in that industrious, order-loving, and peaceful locality, which had hitherto been a stranger to violence and crime, had received a fearful shock on hearing of the murder, and they pledged themselves to use their best exertions to bring the assassin to justice. It is believed that the murder had no connexion with agrarianism, and that it was not premeditated.

DEC. 14.—A remarkable trial came on yesterday in the Court of Queen's Bench. The plaintiff was a Catholic clergyman, the Rev. Mr. O'Keefe, P. P. of Callan, County Kilkenny, and the defendant, the Rev. Mr. Walsh, was one of his own curates. It was an action for slander, and the words complained of were uttered at the altar in the plaintiff's chapel. Some misunderstanding arose between the plaintiff, his congregation, and his Bishop in reference to the maintenance of national schools in the parish and the manner of appropriating a sum of £210, collected at the doors during a special mission by the Oblate Fathers. The plaintiff made a statement in explanation, which the defendant afterwards contradicted in strong terms, and stated that he was authorized to do so by the Bishop. The plaintiff complained of being charged with falsehood in the presence of his congregation, and having failed to obtain satisfaction which he demanded from the Bishop, he brought an action against his diocesan. When it came into court the Bishop swore that he gave no authority to utter the words, and the plaintiff was nonsuited. He then took the present proceedings against the curate, after having, as he alleged, made other efforts to obtain redress. In the course of his examination he stated that since the action commenced he had been threatened with suspension if he persisted with it, and having been pressed by the defendant's counsel he produced the following letter which he had received:—"To the Rev. Robert O'Keefe, P. P., Callan, "Rev. Sir,—From a subpoena served on me, and in other ways, I have become aware of your action at law against the Rev. John Walsh, to be tried before the Court of Queen's Bench, in Dublin. It is my duty to tell you that your proceeding is a grave offence against the sacred canons. Of course I do not find fault with the lenient and impartial Judges who preside in the court referred to, but, in common with every Catholic, I feel that respect for the discipline of your own Church should keep you from bringing your brother priest before any lay tribunal. Some communications already received from you leave me no grounds to hope that you will desist from your present proceeding by reason of any mere remonstrance of mine. At the same time it is my duty to employ the powers which I possess to stop it if I can. Therefore, I hereby command you to withdraw the case of the Rev. Robert O'Keefe against the Rev. John Walsh, in the Court of Queen's Bench, under pain of suspension *ad officium et beneficium*, to be *ipso facto* incurred the moment your counsel begins to state the case to the Court and jury.—Your obedient servant, "Ed. MacDONALD, Vicar General of the Diocese of Ossory."

DEC. 10.—The Chief Justice observed that if any person attempted to interfere with the witness or intimidate him he would be committed, no matter who he might be. There was immediate applause in court. Chief Justice Whitehead, in his charge to the jury, condemned the secrecy observed in communications between the defendant and the Bishop relative to the conduct of the plaintiff. If the latter had done wrong the Bishop should have asked for an explanation; but the plaintiff should not have been denounced from the altar. The jury, after half an hour's deliberation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £100 damages and costs.

DECEMBER 14.—A public meeting in connexion with the Home Government Association was held last night, at which about two dozen persons were present. Mr. Butt, Q.C., and the Rev. Professor Gallwey were the principal speakers. Mr. Butt claimed for the association that it had achieved great results, inasmuch as it had banded together, for the good of their country, 500 gentlemen differing in politics and religion. They had educated the public mind on the question of Federalism to an extent they never could have expected. The time had come when they might do a great deal more. There was now a lull in foreign politics as affecting the position of England, and if they saw complications coming that was no reason why Irishmen should not act. On the contrary, it was the very reason why they should. England should seek to win over the Irish nation and conciliate the loyalty of the Irish people, and then she might fear nothing. If, however, she did not settle her affairs in Ireland before the storm broke over her, perhaps that storm might affect her in a way she had never dreamt of. These sentiments were loudly applauded. In a subsequent speech Mr. Butt said:—"They endeavored to obtain what they required by moral force, but if anything else were required they could bring to their aid the physical force of 12,000,000 Irishmen, who England could either make friends or foes by her decision in this question of Federation. The English Minister who would make them the foes of England would be a traitor to his country."

Professor Gallwey, in moving a resolution expressing great interest in the movement now being made to obtain a Federal Constitution for the Australian Colonies, denied that the English people had, as was alleged, made great sacrifices for Ireland.—He said:—"What was the great sacrifice made in the Church Bill? They put money into their own pockets by the proceeding. What great sacrifice did they make in the case of the Irish Land Bill? Nothing the Irish knew of except the sacrifices of their time; and what fools they were, if the Irish could have done it themselves. He believed the state of Irish feeling at present was highly dangerous to England. He did not say anything by way of threat, but merely as a friendly warning."

Why is a pig with a twisted tail like the ghost in Hamlet? Because it could a tail unfiled.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE PONTIFICAL ZOUAVES.—We have much pleasure in informing our readers that the Bishop of Montreal has written to the Earl of Denbigh and Mr. Henry Sharples, thanking them for their exertions on behalf of the Canadian Pontifical Zouaves, when passing through Liverpool. To the Catholics of Liverpool, likewise, he conveys his gratitude for the splendid and hospitable manner in which they entertained these noble soldiers during their stay here. It was truly fortunate that such an organization as the Catholic Club existed in the town of Liverpool to take the initiative in such a matter at a moment's notice, and it is only right to say that the whole Catholic body of the town responded in the most admirable manner, and thus entitled themselves to the warm gratitude of the Zouaves on whose behalf the Bishop of Montreal now writes.—*Liverpool Catholic Times*.

The London Telegraph announces on authority that the demands made upon Prussia by the British Cabinet relative to the seizure and sinking of English colliers in the Seine are in a fair way of adjustment.

The London Times of the 13th December, in an editorial on the likelihood of Prussia absorbing Luxembourg, notwithstanding that its integrity is guaranteed by a treaty to which England is a party, says:—"We cannot keep the peace of Europe alone, and it is unhappily very doubtful whether we can trust any other power to keep it with us."

The Pall Mall Gazette warns Englishmen that they cannot do worse than to persist in the idea that the people of the United States are friendly to England; the fact being diametrically otherwise.—At any moment the Americans may inflict intolerable insult on the British people.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE "EDINBURGH REVIEW."—It is rumored that the last article in the *Edinburgh Review*, on "Germany, France, and England," was contributed not, as is generally reported, by Mr. Gladstone, but by his eldest son; it is too, *sed dit*, not without touches from another hand.

The constituents of Mr. Gladstone have signed a petition asking him to resign because his policy has reduced them to pauperism. The address gives as reasons why he should resign, the destruction of trade through a parsimonious economy, the silence in the dock-yards—a fact which Russia seems cognizant of—the suicidal apathy amidst the terrible complication on European questions, and the aggression of Prussia.

A NORTH BERKSHIRE LABORER SHOT.—A gentleman-farmer, named Blair, was riding on horseback towards Mordach on Saturday afternoon, and when he was near "the Kennel," a mile and half outside the town, a labouring man, who was lying in a hedge-side, armed with a double-barrelled gun, fired at him and shot him on the head and in the face. Mr. Blair fell from his horse, bleeding and insensible, and his assailant thrice down the gun and ran towards the river Wansbeck, into which he plunged. The report of the shot attracted the attention of some persons near, and they had Mr. Blair removed to a house, where a number of shots were extracted. Mr. Gillard, an inn-keeper of Tyntemouth, and expert diver, went into the Wansbeck after the rufian, whom he succeeded in getting hold of, but by the time he got the would-be murderer to land the latter was quite dead. The body proved to be that of Samuel Smith, a man about 70 years of age, who at one time had been in Mr. Blair's service, but latterly a laborer and occupier of a cottage on the Mitford estate. Two years ago he ceased to be employed on the estate, and in November last, it is said, he received notice to quit his cottage.

BABY FARMING AND INFANTICIDE IN ENGLAND.—There may have been a time when the practice of baby-farming did not necessarily imply baby-killing; but it seems in the nature of things that the one practice should suggest the other, and that the crimes which have recently horrified society were not discovered sooner only because the criminals were more careful in their concealment, until long impunity induced a less degree of caution. In the consigning of infants to strangers for convenience, as in the abandonment of them at birth to conceal shame, there is an indifference to their welfare, and even to their lives, which cannot but be suggestive to the hirelings who undertake their charge. For such people, the best of whom display an indifference concerning their own offspring which shows sadly and painfully the miserable effects of selfish indulgence—the sole consideration must be whether the life or death of the infants entrusted to their care will be most profitable to them. If a "nurse child" is well paid for it, it will be better cared for than the nurse's own infant, supposing she is required to supply it with the food nature has provided with her own; though it just as often happens that the former's life is sacrificed by the nurse's ignorance, or the existence of the latter is by her selfishness or cupidity. Even when the sum paid for an infant's nurture is miserably inadequate, self-interest dictates that it should have a fair chance of holding its own against the ignorance, neglect, and insufficient or improper nourishment which destroy so many thousands of infant lives in the lower strata of society. But the larger proportion of illegitimate birth raises the question, not so much of providing for the offspring as of getting rid of it. The lapse from chastity of the mother must be concealed by drawing a veil over the existence of the infant. The system of "adoption" was suggested by this requirement of feminine frailty, and met the views of all the parties in the most convenient and agreeable manner. The woman who provides accommodation for unwed mothers in the time of their extremity finds an invaluable conductor in the baby-farmer who adopts the offspring for a pecuniary consideration proportioned to the means of the unfortunate little creature's maternal relatives. The consideration received, the baby-farmer's interests require that as little should be given for it as may be possible. Every day that the infant lives a deduction is made from the profits of the transaction. Hence the horrors disclosed on the trial of Margaret Waters, and which there is reason for believing are being repeated by wretches upon whom the execution of that remorseless sinners has had no other effect than to render them more cautious. Nothing that travellers or missionaries have ever told us of the details of Hindoo and Chinese infanticides excels in horror the recent revelations of what is done in our midst, in the principal cities of a civilized and Christian country. Systematic neglect of adopted infants, culminating in the disposal of them under hedges or in dust-heaps, to avoid doctors' bills and funeral expenses, to say nothing of inconvenient explanations—the extinction of life at birth and midnight burial of the tiny corpse in quick-lime—what can Rajapootana or Cathay afford to excel in the depths of depravity disclosed, or in the horror of the surroundings, such incidents as these?—*Allion*.

UNITED STATES.

A Pierce City (Kansas) gentleman entered a ball-room lately, and, accidentally remarking, "I haven't had any fresh meat to-day," began firing into the crowd. He killed four men.

A Los Angeles, California paper is "glad to see that most of our citizens have had sense enough to return to the use of the bowie knife."

A one-legged young woman in Chicago advertises for a husband similarly situated, in order to utilize the odd shoes of the pair she buys.