

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE EXCOMMUNICATION.—In France every precaution is taken to prevent the publication of the brief. The Minister of Justice has addressed two confidential circulars to the Presidents of the civil tribunals and the Procureurs-Imperiaux, one recommending them not to neglect prosecuting clerical offenders, without regard to rank, for any infraction of the organic laws of the Concordat; the second recommending an inquiry into the origin of the property held by religious communities, and as to the period at which such property may lapse.—*Times* Cor.

The *Courier de la Moselle* announces that a member of the Order of Christian Brothers, known as Brother Beltran, has been condemned by the Correctional Tribunal of Metz to a fortnight's imprisonment and 50*fr.* for having addressed his pupils in language calculated to excite hatred and contempt of the Government.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Paris has addressed a circular to his clergy directing them to continue the prayers for the Holy Father until the Festival of the Assumption. He engages the faithful to associate more closely than ever in the sentiments and desires of the Head of the Church. This precatory command to his clergy, says the *Star*, "is considered the boldest manifestation of opinion which Cardinal Morlot has ventured ever since the great struggle began."

M. de Larocheboucault, brother-in-law of the present Princess Borghese, who is reported by the *Independence* to possess an income of 550,000 francs, (£22,000) a year, has determined to live upon 50,000 and to give 500,000 francs for two years to the Pope. "He equips at his own expense 500 men," says the *Paris* correspondent of the *Universel*, "paying down immediately 500,000 francs in addition to the million which will follow during the two next years. He has himself set out three days ago (on the 30th ult.) He will march at the head of the regiment of which he will form the chief nucleus, Messrs. de Bourbon Chabot and de Rindosac accompanying him in this pious expedition." The latter before his marriage, was a lieutenant-colonel in the Austrian service. According to the same authority, the French legion in the Papal service is to number 6,000 men. The French Government grants leave to go to all former officers.

The *Armonia* says that a M. de la Rochetaillat, of Lyons, having recently received a rich inheritance, has ordered the first year's revenue of it to be offered entirely to His Holiness; and it has been forwarded to Rome through a banker of Marseilles.

When it was first known to the Emperor Napoleon that General Lamoriciere had listened to the overtures from Rome to organize the Pontifical army, His Majesty is said to have exclaimed, "C'est vous, mais c'est chevaleresque!"—whether in pity for the folly, or sympathy for the chivalry, they who know how it is His Majesty's glory to make war for an idea only, will decide.

When the rumors of those negotiations first got abroad a few of the papers declared that Lamoriciere would, by accepting service under a foreign Government, forfeit his rights and conditions as a Frenchman, and they hinted that it was little short of treason. It was then, of course, supposed that the Emperor would refuse his sanction; since the contrary is known this dutiful portion of the press has been silent. To these objections on the loss of citizenship an answer could easily be given. The Emperor of the French once entered the service of a foreign State—Switzerland—the loss of whose neutrality it, seems, to be the retribution for her acceptance. In the military schools of Louisbourg (Wurttemberg) His Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon first acquired the knowledge and showed those talents for military command which were afterwards signally displayed in the Crimea and in the memorable operations at the head of the 5th Corps during the Italian campaign. These are undeniable facts, yet I do not believe that either the Emperor or his cousin forfeited the character of Frenchmen.—*Cor.* of *Times*.

DEATH OF M. HCC, THE CHINESE TRAVELLER.—The Abbe Huc, formerly a missionary in China and Tibet, and well known for his excellent work on this last-named country, has just died in Paris after a short illness.—*Morning Star*.

ITALY.

The *Times*' correspondent draws a gloomy picture of the state of public feeling in the late annexed Provinces:—

A new provisional Government has thus been established in Tuscany, which will certainly last for the best part of a year, and may also be indefinitely perpetuated. The solution of the problem of reconciling the administrative "autonomy" of Tuscany with the union of this province with the rest of the kingdom presents difficulties which the present arrangement is more calculated to increase than to smooth down. Even the War department, I am told, is to be entrusted to a special Director or "Regent" (*Reggente*), as he is to be called. The oldest circumstance connected with this appointment is that the officer designated for this task is said to be no less a personage than our late Minister, General Cadorna, who will stoop to a rank so much below the one he occupied—no doubt for the sake of the public good. Up to this moment it seemed clearly understood that the annexation or fusion would be entire and absolute, as far at least as the direction and administration of military affairs was concerned, but the choice of a functionary especially charged with the War Ministry, and the condition of the Tuscan Division under General Stefaneli, which is carefully maintained in its *status quo*, are all important facts, which give no little uneasiness to the partisans of downright, frank, and durable annexation. What is the real destination of Tuscany? For what Sovereign or for what State is it maintained in this separate and self-standing condition? Surely this is a mode of proceeding far different from that followed by the Sardinian Government in the Emilia, where the work of assimilation, absorption, and regular fusion is going on with an alacrity proving the right good will of the governors no less than of the governed.

Piedmontese troops have occupied Tuscany, Tuscan troops have marched into Piedmont, but how can the Piedmontese look to Florence or the Tuscans to Turin for their central administrative organization? How can either Ministry keep the accounts of troops which are constantly shifting their quarters, and passing from the jurisdiction of one into that of the other?

Now we are looking into the accounts of the late Administration we begin to see to what awful extent the Tuscan finances have been burdened by an almost incredible amount of vain and unprofitable expenditure. You have been told already that, according to the very clear and circumstantial budget published by the late Minister of the Finances, Baron Busacca, the expenditure of this Tuscan province must needs in ordinary years exceed the revenue by about 14,000,000 francs, though the total revenue of the State under the Grand-Ducal Government averaged between 32 and 35 millions of francs annually. Where, then, are the yearly additional 14,000,000 to come from? What was the remedy proposed by the ex-Minister for the cure of this grievous disorder?—Why, the sale of the State property, valued by himself at only 35,000,000 francs—a sum to be absorbed in two or three years.

Under these peculiar circumstances of financial distress, who can think without dismay of this administrative "autonomy," which implies a gradual and successive increase of expenditure, without any hope of proportionate increase of income? Now, Farini in the Emilia, and the three Governments

under him at Parma, Modena, and Bologna, have been as madly and recklessly extravagant in the outlay of public money as our Tuscan Ministers were. Indeed, I suppose anything like moderation or economy is incompatible with a revolutionary Government; but in the Emilia revolution is at an end, and things will find their own level there, if they ever find it in the other parts of the kingdom. In Tuscany the provisional state continues to be the order of the day, Heaven knows for how long, Heaven knows for what hidden deeply political purpose. No present could be made to Tuscany more fatal than this separate administration. Her public debt is greatly increased; the number of her public officers is nearly doubled. Three Universities, a Lord-Lieutenant, a Governor General, five or six Ministers, yclept "Directors," are all persons, or aggregate of persons, whose keeping costs not a little. Large sums will be absorbed by public works, some of real, others of very questionable utility. The army alone causes an increase of expenditure of 17 millions—more than half the total outlay of the State under the Grand Dukes. Can Tuscany bear all this? Is all this to last, or what are our prospects for the future? What do Piedmont and France really intend to do for Tuscany, or how do they mean to dispose of her?

The solution of this problem is now to be found only in the teeming brains of the Emperor Napoleon and Count Cavour. For the present rational beings are strongly inclined to suspect that the annexation of Tuscany to Piedmont has been accomplished only in words, and that the connection, even such as it is, is meant to be, and will actually prove, of no long duration.

There is hardly an Italian able to explain to me how it was that Count Cavour was betrayed into that shameful declaration, "that the King's Government had never dreamt of giving up Savoy or Nice," how it was that he afterwards promised that "nothing should or could be done without the vote of the people and the consent of Parliament." There is no compromise between principle and expediency, and it was even better either to avow that Sardinia was acting under irresistible coercion, or to plead the great gain to the Italian cause, in consideration of which it was worth while to strain a point or two and break the statutes of the realm than to involve one's-self in a maze of deceptions which, after all, imposed upon no man, and added to the loss of two provinces and the violation of the national liberties, the blot on the King's fair name, and the ruin of his Minister's well-earned reputation.

But now *consummum est*, and wise men do not re-pine at the irrevocable past. The cruel mockery of an appeal to the popular suffrage will be hurried on in Savoy and Nice. Parliament, if it have a chance to speak at all, will only have to deliver a funeral oration. Garibaldi himself will be too wise not to "let the dead bury their dead," and Europe will hardly go over a transaction by which none of the parties concerned declare themselves aggrieved.

Cavour's conduct in all this matter is not praised by any man, but there are those who attempt to explain it—those who fancy they get an insight in its vast and distant bearings. "France," they say, "is the only ally of Piedmont; in France itself Italy can reckon only upon one man—that man, the Emperor Napoleon. It was he alone who wished for the war; he who dragged the reluctant nation after him against Austria; he who wrenched Lombardy from the latter Power by might of arms, and the Central Provinces by a series of diplomatic feints and devices, by a whole pack of unutterable lies. Napoleon has set his mind on the deliverance of Italy—of the whole of Italy. His vast mind comprehends at one sweep the vastness and variety of the obstacles he has to contend with. He knows the means by which the great end is to be attained. He must needs be allowed to work in his own way. Already, in spite of the curses of friends and foes, he has triumphantly acquitted himself of a great part of his own task. For the attainment of the final object he must use France as a willing instrument. He cared never a rush himself for Savoy and Nice; it was a sop with which he gratified the vain ambition, the childish greediness of the French nation. For the sake of those poor 'dupes' (now he has given them a taste of conquest) Napoleon could easily lead the French armies to the Rhine, to the Danube, across the Channel, wherever the enemies of the Italian cause may have their headquarters. Savoy and Nice he must have—nay, he must have them in his own way, the way which best may flatter the French nation by giving it a high notion of his dexterity, of his imperiousness, of his omnipotence,—that way which best may wound the pride of Europe, and be resented as a most unprovoked, unjustifiable outrage. Hence must Cavour not only yield to him, but connive at, make shift, and quibble with him—above all things, boldly and shockingly lie with him. It is part and parcel of the scheme, and *in parole nous est donnee pour deguiser nos penes*. The Piedmontese constitution is in danger; but who would not let even that perish that Italy may live?"

This, be it understood, is not my way of reasoning; it is the logic I bear urged forward daily by Count Cavour's partisans when this hateful subject of Nice and Savoy is mooted. That the new Italian kingdom is in the hands of France no man would undertake to deny. Cavour's policy finds no support beyond the Alps, except in England—a power that shrinks from active interference in continental matters. Were there anything like political wisdom presiding over the Council of the European Powers, it might, perhaps, not be impossible to induce, if not Cavour, at least some other Sardinian statesman, to borrow a leaf out of the book of old Savoy history, and bring this kingdom to join the array of a European coalition against France. There are not a few patriots here who are satisfied neither with Napoleon nor with his fellow plotter at Plombieres. French policy is, to a great extent, forced upon the Italians as an incubus not to be shaken off. To go over from France to Austria would sound simply unnatural and monstrous; to give back the earnings of the last 10 months, or even to renounce the hope to which just successes have given rise, would be sheer madness. Rather stand by and fall with France!—But let only a glimpse of light be made on the other quarters; let it only be supposed, for one moment, that Austria is still to be persuaded to part with Venice, or at least with the line of the Mincio, in consideration of the help the Italians might give Europe, while wreaking their own vengeance on the man who betrayed them at Villafranca, and in cold blood wrenched the Western Passes of the Alps, 50 miles of Mediterranean shore, and some of their most loyal fellow-subjects bravest fighting men,—let there be such a loophole opened, and we shall hear then the real mind of the Italians as to the merits of their "magnanimous ally."

These are not thoughts to be uttered in a tone above a man's breath. Piedmont and Italy are in the toils of France, and there is no practical good in the supposition that Austria may ever be made to hear reason. It is quite certain, nevertheless, that the Italians see themselves in a false position, with a kingdom frontierless on both sides, at the mercy of two colossal Powers, with a constitution broken at the outset, with their faith shaken as to the value of men and men's words, heir sick of the French, unwilling to turn to the Austrians, and yet unable, as of old, to seek in themselves that strong determination which alone, under any difficulties, can work out the real emancipation of a nation.

We have on several occasions called in question the validity of the so-called popular voting which is alleged to have contributed to the annexation to Piedmont of the Romagna and the Duchies. Some further examples have come to light which it is desirable should be placed upon record. In a recent pamphlet entitled "Sketches on the Temporal Sovereignty of the Pope," the Bishop of Algiers, Mgr. Parry, says:—"Is there anything in the world that can equal the injustice of the Romagnole ballot? It is opened without authority; it is accomplished

without liberty; it is published without control." The following is given as the official result of the vote in the Romagna:—Voters inscribed, 588,668; of whom 427,512 have voted; 426,008 for annexation to Piedmont, and 756 for a separate kingdom; while 750 votes have been annulled. It is a farce! Without speaking of the exclusion of the Pope from the programme of the vote, and to limit ourselves to numbers, we find that the Romagna contains a millions of inhabitants, out of whom there are thirty thousand foreigners. The four Legations together reckoned 223,698 natives, married or widowers, 6,616 priests or friars, and 108,632 young men, above eighteen years of age, half of whom may be considered as of age; and giving, therefore, the number of 64,316 voters. The total of electors to be inscribed would therefore be at the maximum, 354,620; of whom have not voted, according to the late election return, 98,746; while annulled and anti-annexationist votes amounted to 1,506. Total to be deducted 100,253, leaving the real number of possible annexation electors, voting under Piedmontese pressure at 154,368. From that number, to that 426,006, announced by the Piedmontese authorities, there is an important difference! And yet what truth is there even in an amount so very much adulterated? The future will reveal to us many strange things, audaciously committed under the name of the liberty of Italy.

Again, according to the *Civiltà Cattolica*, the Municipality of Milan had drawn up a list of little more than 5,000 voters according to the new Piedmontese election law, for a city of more than 150,000 inhabitants. We note this as a practical illustration of the tricks of the oligarchy which represents the Italian people. Out of the above mentioned number not more than 4,000 even claimed the privilege of being inscribed as electors.—*Weekly Register*.

ROME.—LETTER OF THE POPE TO VICTOR EMANUEL.—The text of the letter of Pope Pius IX. to the King of Sardinia has been published by the *Journal de Mityence*, as follows:

"Your Majesty,—The thought which your Majesty expresses to me in your letter is unworthy of a honest man, of a Catholic, and particularly of one who springs from the noble race of the House of Savoy. The rest I have answered in my Encyclical Letter. I grieve not for myself, but for the state of your Majesty's soul, which, for the deeds committed by the counsel of those who surround you, has already incurred the censures of the Church, and will incur them yet more for those acts which you contemplate. I remind your Majesty that the time is not far off when you must account to a most inexorable Judge for the scandals you have already given, and for the evil which, by your conduct, you are bringing on your poor Italy."

PIUS IX. P.P.

General Lamoriciere, writing to a friend in Paris from Rome, speaks very hopefully of the prospect of affairs. He says, "With the assistance of God, and our own diligence, I hope soon to have Roman Zones."

The Holy Father is daily receiving practical proofs of the affectionate devotion and solicitude of his spiritual subjects in all parts of the world. Some instances will be pleasing and encouraging to our readers. From Spain we learn that the Bishops and Vicars capitular of the Ecclesiastical province of Saragossa have sent to the Queen of Spain an address expressing their sympathy for the Sovereign Pontiff, and placing at the disposal of the Queen their property and lives in order to contribute to the defence of the Holy See.

A rich Polish gentleman having obtained leave from the Holy Father to be enrolled in his troops, has paid 50,000 dollars to the Papal Exchequer on entering the Papal service.

GERMANY.

The Emperor of the French finds it necessary to reassure the flattered spirits of Germany, and, if the remedy were only adequate to the disease, we may readily admit that it never was more called for. At first sight it might appear that Germany had the utmost cause for alarm. If twelve millions of Italians, menaced on the North-west by Austria and her formidable Quadrilateral, with the sea-coast open to the superior navy of France, and a Government not yet consolidated by time, can inspire such terror into the breast of the conqueror of Magenta and Solferino that he cannot believe himself safe unless he seize Savoy and Nice in order to shelter himself behind them, what amount of territory will be required in order to secure France against the evil designs of forty millions of Germans united for centuries in a federal league, and disposing of military and material forces far more formidable than any that are wielded by these terrible Italians? The Emperor assures the Germans that by the cession of Savoy and Nice all his apprehensions are terminated. The separation of Belgium from Holland, and its formation into a neutral kingdom, have put an end to all those apprehensions which France might otherwise have entertained of an invasion of the Dutch. To be sure, there is something wanting to the complete protection of France on the North which she has just obtained in the South. The neutralized districts of Savoy—neutralized, we apprehend, if the truth must be spoken, not for the purpose of defending France from the invasion of Switzerland, but rather of shielding Switzerland from a new French protectorate—have now fallen into the hands of France herself, while Belgium, which was doubtless intended to do the same good office between France and Holland, is still an independent though neutral sovereignty. The Emperor Napoleon has the magnanimity not to complain of this. Perhaps he thinks the time not yet come for annexing Belgium, as he has annexed Savoy. Perhaps he thinks that Belgium on his northern frontier is a very efficient protection, and secure his left flank in case of an advance on the Rhine. Be this as it may, the Emperor of the French is pleased to profess himself satisfied, and Germany may, if it will, accept his moderation and spare him Belgium as a set-off to the highly aggressive instinct which has been evinced in the matter of Savoy. For ourselves, the only fault which we have to find with these demonstrations is that we have a difficulty in believing what the French Emperor assumes as self-evident—that fear was really the motive which prompted the seizure of Savoy. Fear or necessity, which comes practically pretty much to the same thing, has always been supposed to be the defence which suggests itself most readily to the minds of absolute Princes. But if Germany should happen to be of opinion that it was not fear of Italy and Switzerland, but rather the determination to be still more formidable to them, which led to the occupation of Savoy and Nice, all the eloquence of M. Thouvenel will do little to reassure her.—*Times*.

Several attempts have recently been made by England and Prussia to induce Austria to give her support to Switzerland in the matter of the neutralized districts of Savoy, but they have proved fruitless, this Government being resolved "not to meddle in or with the business of other people." In political circles it is stated that Austria will remain inactive, "even though the French should invade the German provinces on the left bank of the Rhine," but a military man of the highest rank yesterday declared this to be "dummes geschwatz" (mere stuff and nonsense). It is very generally believed that the so-called "rectification" of the French frontier towards Germany will begin on the Upper Rhine, and great preparations for the defence of the Palatinate (Rheinisch Baviaria) are now being made in Bavaria. Proper Should France make an attack on the Rhenish provinces of Prussia, this Government would doubtless be very slow in its movements, but it would not refuse to give assistance to its Federal ally. Austria entertains no kindly feeling towards Prussia, but she cannot break with her, as the Germanic Confederation would be entirely dissolved if she did so.

THE FRAUDS IN THE AUSTRIAN COMMISSARIAT.—The engrossing topic of the day is the gigantic frauds discovered in the Commissariat Department, which, no doubt, were in no small degree influential in bringing to so sudden a termination the recent hostilities between the Austrian and Franco-Italian armies; and which, drag to light, despite most powerful artifices involving a multitude of names, some of them holding positions so high as to render even allusions hazardous, in charges of the most flagrant and moral turpitude. The accounts in the Vienna and other Austrian newspapers are meagre in the extreme; and, but for the suicide of General Eynatten on the 7th-8th inst., which admitted of no concealment, these frauds would probably have never been alluded to. The deficit amounts to the astounding sum of no less than 17,000,000 florins, or £1,700,000 sterling, of which 3,000,000 florins, or £300,000, is laid to the charge of some of the leading capitalists of this city. One was imprisoned, two have fled, and others are undergoing forced examinations of books, papers, documents, &c. The strangest part of the tale is, however, that which is certainly the least known. It is said, and from the sources from which I hear it I believe it is true, that at the celebrated meeting of the rival Emperors which led to the armistice, and subsequently to the preliminaries of the treaty of peace at Villafranca, when Napoleon and Francis Joseph were left quasi alone for nearly three quarters of an hour, the former, addressing the latter, said, "Your Majesty would do well to listen to friendly and well meant counsels. You are surrounded by traitors. Your Majesty believes that your fortress of Mantua is provisioned for six months; I tell you," emphatically raising his finger, "it has not food for as many days. Test my information, and act accordingly." And so it proved, and afforded another lesson also of the infinite superiority of the French over the Austrian system of espionage.

To give some idea of the bare-faced effrontery of the fraud, and the number of accomplices necessary, one instance will suffice, though, if needful, I could adduce many others. Mantua is a walled city, and the bullocks were driven in at one gate passed through the town out at the opposite, and then, making the half circuit of the walls, re-entered at the first gate, and every bullock made this parade five times! The richest part of the tale in connexion with Mantua is yet to come. A firm in Trieste made a contract with the Austrian Government for the hides of the bullocks supplied for the use of the troops. Now, although each bullock did duty living for five, still he could only be killed once, and supply one hide. The contractors, therefore, called upon and actually received from the Government the forfeit, as stipulated by contract, of one florin upon every hide short delivered; thus profiting to the extent of 30,000 florins for the non-delivery of the skins of animals which had never been killed! Solferino and Magenta might each have told another tale had not the hunger caused by Austrian fraud weakened, if not paralysed, Austrian valour.—Enough of this for the present.—*Corr. of Times*.

SWITZERLAND.

The *Times* remarks that Switzerland continues in the state of disquietude into which she has been thrown by the sudden appearance of an army of 600,000 men upon her frontiers.

This is her real position. The whole force of the French Empire is by the occupation of Upper Savoy brought not only to the frontier but to the open and unprotected frontiers of Switzerland. For Germany the occupation of Chablais and Faucigny is a much more important affair than the annexation of Nice, and Prussia does well to protect it. England is interested, but not to a sufficient extent to assume the championship of a cause which belongs to the whole of the powers of Europe.

RUSSIA.

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 9th of April says that the *corps d'armee* under the command of General Bezac, is about to be concentrated at Odessa, where his headquarters are at present. It is further stated that the four *corps d'armee* placed on the war footing during the war in Italy have not since been reduced to the peace establishment.—Prince Gortschakoff, Governor of Poland, has arrived at St. Petersburg. He went there to take the Emperor's command with respect to the conscription about to be levied in Poland. A ukase is shortly expected to appear commanding a levy of troops to supply the vacancies caused in the army during the last four years, when there was no conscription enforced. The writer of the letter adds that there never existed a more friendly feeling than at present between the Russian and French Governments.—Letters from Bulgaria received at St. Petersburg announce that the prayers in the churches in that province are no longer repeated in the Greek language, but in the native tongue. This change does not please the Russian Government, which expects shortly to unite all its co-religionists under one head.

INDIA.

The following appears in the *Bombay Gazette*:—"We scarcely know whether our readers will be more pained or relieved to hear that Miss Emily Wheeler, the daughter of General Wheeler of Cawnpore, is still alive. Captain Harvey, superintendent of the department for the abolition of Thuggee, has had communication with the unfortunate young lady, who, we understand, is so utterly broken in spirit that she treats her friends not to seek to bring her back again, but to leave her to her wretched fate. Yet it were better, surely, for the poor girl herself that her request should not be complied with. Time may obliterate the remembrance of even her sorrows, and it were no real kindness to her to obey what wild wishes her present morbid nervousness of feeling may suggest. It is necessary, too, that the Government should vindicate its own dignity and justice by ascertaining the true particulars of this sad story, and punishing the guilty parties with relentless severity."

CHINA.

The preparations for the northern expedition are going on steadily here, and we learn that the Chinese Emperor is also making the best use of his time in defensive preparations in and around Peking. Her Majesty's ship *Acteon* and the steamer *Sampson*, with two gunboats, left Shanghai on the 16th inst., under sealed orders, which has given rise to various speculations as to the special service on which they are bound. The current report is that they have gone to intercept a fleet of junk which lately sailed for the north, principally grain laden, but also carrying munitions of war for Tien-tsin.

General Montauban and suite arrived by the mail steamer, and, we understand, proceed immediately to Shanghai. Admiral Le Page remains here. Sir Hope Grant is expected shortly from Calcutta. We hear the 24th Regiment had reached Singapore, and may soon be here now. All the available men-of-war steamers have been sent to Singapore to tow up the transports.

From Japan accounts are unsatisfactory. A native interpreter employed by the British Minister has been murdered, and the Government are pursuing a course of action likely to lead to complications. The Japanese Ambassadors were to leave for San Francisco on the 10th inst., in the United States steamer *Powhatan*, and a steamer belonging to the Japanese Government, but temporarily commanded by Lieutenant Brook, of the American navy.

WAR WITH CHINA.—The *Leader* gives the following article, which, though written from a British point of view, contains some advice that England might well ponder on. John Bull is not in a position to go to war just now with any nation, no matter how he may boast; if he sends another expedition to China it may, very probably, meet the fate of that which went to smash before the bot-shot and deadly balls of the Peiho fortress:—

When Mr. Gladstone in his budget speech, debited the national account for the year with no grimmer sum than £500,000 for the probable expense of the impending expedition to Peking, the more serious of

his hearers stared, incredulously, and those of more impulsive temperament laughed aloud. What could he mean by talking of a "bagatelle" of this description? To defray the cost of one of the most difficult and questionable enterprises ever undertaken by venturous obstinacy or ambition? When Napoleon planned his memorable expedition to Moscow he had for the base of his operations the neighboring States of Germany, whence he was able to launch an army consisting of half a million of men, amply supplied with an abundant commissariat and all the munitions of war. He had to traverse, indeed, several hundred miles of thinly populated and ill-cultivated country, and to encounter a brave and disciplined enemy. But he was not dependent on the regions he proposed to overrun for provisions, and if his antagonists were numerous and brave, he had much to gain in a political sense by successive victories over them. The state of the case as between our government and the Chinese is in every respect different, and in every respect the difference is disadvantageous. The base of the Elgin expedition against China is between four and five thousand miles from the first scene of its operations. Every item of commissariat, every pound of gunpowder, and every ton of coals must be borne that distance over sea before it can be landed, on the outermost rim of the vast empire Lord Palmerston threatens to humiliate, if not to dismember. Thence to the inland capital the distance is greater than that which Napoleon had to traverse after he had crossed the Vistula. Glory there is none to be sought or hoped for on the way.

A swarming peasantry may be bargained with by our soldiers, or bullied by our soldiers in detail, and wholesale contributions may be exacted from towns and villages by order of our commanders; but military reputation cannot be acquired anyhow, though the safety of the devoted troops who are to form the expedition may be hazarded, and the lives of the greater portion of them forfeited by the way. Sir De Lacy Evans was told by ministers the other night that he reckoned too high when he assumed their number to be 40,000 men; a careful silence was observed as to what their numerical strength was really to be; and we are left to conjecture, therefore, whether the actual number of victims doomed to be sacrificed in vindication of Mr. Bruce's reputation as a diplomatist be twenty, twenty-five, or thirty thousand. All we are told is that these gallant men are to scramble and scuffle their way as best they can from the mouth of the Peiho to Peking; and that when they get there they are to remain long enough to humble the pride and wound the prestige of the imperial government, get the treaty of Tien-tsin ratified, and then make their way back again as best they may. All this is easily said behind the red box in the House of Commons at Westminster. It sounded just as easy forty years ago in Napoleon's cabinet at St. Cloud to say—Go to Moscow, sleep in the Kremlin, dictate a spoliation treaty, and return triumphant by Christmas Day: but every wise counsellor of the French government in 1813 deprecated the desperate and wanton enterprise, and foretold its failure; and every humane and disinterested statesman in England at the present hour, publicly or privately, deprecates the foolish and cruel expedition projected against Peking.

UNITED STATES.

POLITICAL MORALITY OF THE UNITED STATES.—The New York *Times* boldly accuses several members of the New York Assembly with selling their votes on many important questions lately discussed in that body. It further says that if the Grand jury at Albany would do its duty, a score of members, at least, would be convicted and sent to the Penitentiary, for the crime of selling their votes to put money in their pockets.

A NEW SECT.—Rev. Mr. Cumming, of the Christian denomination, opens to-morrow a new Church enterprise in Lamartine Hall, corner of Eighth-avenue and Twenty-ninth-street. Services will be held regularly every Sunday, morning and evening. This denomination now number some 300,000 in the United States and Canada, and are rapidly increasing; yet they are without a church at the present time in this city. They take the Bible alone as their only rule of faith and practice, and hail as their brethren all who give evidence of Christian faith and character by conformity to the requirements of the Bible. They freely give to all the right of private judgment in matters of opinion, and claim that Christian faith should be expressed in the precise language of the Book of God.—*Tribune*.

PROTESTANT EXCOMMUNICATION.—An unusual ceremony took place at Park-street Church, Boston, on Sunday, it being the formal excommunication of three members of the church—one for rejecting the doctrine of the atonement, and neglecting public worship; another for believing in Spiritualism, and neglecting the communion; and the third for wicked treatment of his wife. The last, being a moral heresy, was justly treated as damnable, whatever may be said of the others. The public declaration of excommunication is an innovation on modern practice, but was formerly the custom in New England, and the formula of excommunication in those days was frightful enough to make a man's hair stand on end.

A MAN PLEADS HIS OWN CASE.—One of our Philadelphia exchanges says: In the Quarter Sessions, on Wednesday, a man named Pierce Kitchen was tried for an assault upon his wife, Mrs. Kitchen was brought to the stand. She couldn't swear that her husband had ever struck her, but swore that he indulged in whiskey and failed to support his family. The defendant, who pleaded not guilty, said that the lawyers were bunglers, and informed the Court that he would plead his own case. Mr. Kitchen spread himself, and made a speech. He faced the jury and went through the motions in a manner that would have made no discredit in any of our best Quarter Sessions practitioners. He informed the jury that, having failed to prove that he ever laid an angry hand upon his wife, he couldn't possibly be convicted of an assault upon her. As to the other charges he pleaded justification. "Mrs. Kitchen gentlemen of the jury," said Mr. Kitchen, is a member of a church. Mrs. Kitchen forsakes her kitchen, and spends half her time in the church lecture room. While my breeches are going to seed, and the children going about with ill-kept noses and dilapidated extremities. Mrs. Kitchen is indulging in confab with a lot of old ladies about the shocking nudity of the South Sea Islanders. While willing to provide for her, gentlemen of the jury, I want willing to feed all the brethren of the church, nor to give Bodea parties to 20 people a week, neither. If I've got tight on the strength of such provocation, gentlemen of the jury, it ain't a bit more than the best of you would have done if placed in my circumstances; and if you was me and I was you—knowing the case as I do—I'd render a verdict of acquittal, and served the woman right." Having said this, Mr. Kitchen discontinued the subject, and the jury placing their heads together, tendered a verdict of "Not Guilty."

A Ohio paper adds up the expenses of the Ohio Legislature at its late session at \$35,750, and remarks that its principal acts were the passage of a dog law, and the election of a Senator. It concludes that Senators and dogs are expensive luxuries.

Nothing is more easy than to grow rich. It is only to trust nobody; to befriend none; to heap interest upon interest, cent upon cent; to destroy all the finer feelings of nature, and be rendered mean, miserable, and despaired, for some twenty or thirty years, and riches will come as sure as disease, disappointment, and a miserable death.

A revising barrister having asked a voter the value of a house, the answer was "That depends upon what sort of a wife there is in it."