

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The debates in the French Senate were brought to a close by M. Billault (*Ministre sans portefeuille*). On the affairs of Italy and Rome, and in reply to the violent tirade of the notorious Pion-Pion, M. Billault spoke as follows:—

"Gentlemen, Senators, the Government understands that, in a question which so closely concerns both conscience and politics, public opinion is seriously occupied; but the Government could not understand that to judge the present, to presume the future, we should forget the past. Sensible statesmen will understand that the past necessarily binds the present and influences the future. Last year we left this Roman question in a sort of voluntary halt. We simply watched the course of events, to act according to circumstances. The Great Powers understood this. I often hear calumnies expressed outside these walls against the Government. The strength of a good Government consists in not easily being induced to change its line of policy, not to be carried away by popular clamour and to trust to public common sense finally to approve its acts. The Government has resolutely followed this line of conduct. While asking only to be judged by its acts, its two great fundamental principles remain intact; those two principles are, the independence of Italy, the independence of the Holy See. Last year our Minister of Foreign Affairs wrote as follows to Rome:—

"The Pope can await at Rome in perfect security, and in full liberty, the issue of a crisis which is as painful to the feelings of the Emperor as it is to His Holiness. Beyond the stipulations of Villafranca and of Zurich, His Majesty has not taken any engagement, and it is in a Congress that he will be able to give a new proof of his kind intentions towards the Holy See."

"That precise declaration of last year is still the faithful expression of the intentions of the Emperor." After a passing allusion to the propositions of Spain and Austria, M. Billault said:—"Let it suffice for the present to proclaim with M. Thouvenot that it is the interest of great social questions that the Head of the Church should be maintained upon the throne occupied by his predecessors for so many centuries. We confidently refer ourselves to France to see this opinion respected, and we are prepared to second it with all our power, to assure the incontestable triumph of a principle which we regard as the basis of all social order."

"As regards Rome," continued M. Billault, "the reserves made by France have been perfectly understood by the Italians. A third incident presented itself. The Italian Government seeks for a combination between itself and the Court of Rome, which may give to the new kingdom that Roman capital to which so many popular manifestations aspire. By such a combination it pretends to solve the temporal difficulty and yet guarantee the independence of the Holy See. Our Government has declined to act as an intermediary; it did not think it either opportune or acceptable. Gentlemen, such are the characteristic features of the past year; that past explains and commands the present. The Emperor, you will observe, has not on a single occasion abandoned the principles of his policy. He continues firmly to desire at the same time the independence of Italy and the independence of the Holy See. The Emperor, however, has tried a means of conciliation, for the question is beset with immense dangers. Without any preliminary steps with the Court of Rome, he has simply notified to the Court of Rome, 'Things cannot continue like this much longer; perils of every description threaten us, threaten you; religion suffers, the public mind is troubled, the peace of Europe may be compromised; how do you intend to act to meet these formidable eventualities? Free from all engagement, I have reserved towards you the whole situation, either in a congress or in regular negotiation, or in unofficial conversation. I place my good will and my authority at your disposal.' Observe, gentlemen, the deference, the extreme delicacy, with which the Government of the Emperor has acted. The reply was an absolute refusal. Thus we find ourselves in the presence of the Holy Father, or rather in that of his temporal Government, refusing every negotiation for Rome to become the capital of the new kingdom. . . . At present, gentlemen, under these circumstances no solution is possible, but, be sure of it, it will come."

M. Billault then came to Prince Napoleon's speech:—

"I have listened, gentlemen, with that attention which they deserved to the powerful arguments of an illustrious orator. In those arguments I recognise principles and tendencies which the Government of the Emperor cannot accept. The hon. speaker has observed that he cared very little whether the Minister-Commissionary of the Government approved them or not (Prince Napoleon bowed in assent); that he knew very well it would end by his sharing the Emperor's views. The views of the Emperor, gentlemen, are those which I express. . . . I have special powers to declare as much to you. If you compare the policy advocated by the illustrious speaker with that of the Emperor you will find a marked difference. The illustrious speaker has observed that the Emperor's idea from the beginning was Italian unity. Italian unity was now a fact which he would be sorry to see disturbed, but his idea was, when he first sent his eagles across the Alps, the enfranchisement of Italy from foreign domination. What he wished for was, the confederation of all the Italian States united under the honorary presidency of the Holy Father. When the Emperor took his glorious flag on to Italian soil, it was unity by the confederation of the Italian States which he wished to realize; it was not to dethrone Sovereigns, to destroy the power of the Holy See, to confound everything in the formidable and complicated problem of Italian unity; he went there for one sole and glorious object, profitable at once to France as to Italy,—to enfranchise the people from a foreign domination, to break the Austrian yoke from off their necks. I well remember with what eagerness he expressed himself after his return from his glorious campaign. 'Do you think that it was not without regret that I have left my programme uncompleted, and that, instead of enfranchising Italy from the Adriatic to Venice, I have stopped on the Mincio? Central Italy was not then considered.—It was the west against the East, and against Aus-

trian domination that our Army advanced. I now come to the possibility and consequences of an evacuation of Rome. The illustrious orator alludes to said, 'How ought my Government to act?' Various Senators.—'Our Government.' M. Billault.—'Decidedly so. In his speech, the Prince repeatedly said, 'my Government,' 'my Sovereign.'"

Prince Napoleon (turning to the reporters' gallery).—'Please to notice this interruption.' The immediate result of the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome (continued M. Billault) would be an insurrection in that capital. The temporal power of the Pope would be at an end; the spiritual power would go with it. I doubt even if the lives of the Pope and of the members of the Sacred College would be safe. What a scandal for Christendom! In virtue of what right are we at Rome? Is it not by an exceptional violation of that principle of non-intervention which we have proclaimed throughout the rest of Italy? Grave motives of a superior order have rendered this exception necessary. But how can we say to the other Powers, 'We have protected the Pope for 10 years, but we protect him no longer; we protected him yesterday, we prohibit you from protecting him today?' (Hear, hear, and great sensation.) Before adopting so radical a resolution all the consequences ought to be calmly considered. M. Billault pointed out 'negotiation' as the only means. He admitted that Rome was the great obstacle; the King of Italy was willing to negotiate. M. Billault then quoted a despatch from Count Rossi to M. Guizot, dated July 28, 1847:—

"The catastrophe (it says) can only be adjourned, not avoided, and the question of the fall of the temporal power of the Pope is simply a question of time."

"(Hear, hear!" from Prince Napoleon.) 'It was said here the other day that this question was ripe; that it ought to be settled. The Government of the Emperor knows perfectly what it wishes and what it does not wish.' Prince Napoleon.—'Let it state its wishes.' M. Billault.—'It has done so, and will repeat the statement. It does not wish to see reaction which by invading the revolted provinces would hand them over, bound hand and foot, to the Holy Father. It does not wish for evacuation, which would hand over Rome to revolution, would lead to the fall of the Papal power, and cause profound trouble throughout the whole of the Catholic world. It wishes to conciliate the two extremes. It does not wish to sacrifice either of the two fundamental principles of the policy of France.'"

M. Billault sat down amid loud cheering. The paragraph was put to the vote and adopted. The *ensemble* of the Address was then put to the vote. The result was:—

Ayes 123
Noes 6
Majority 117

The Senate then adjourned. The suspension of M. Ernest Renan's course of lectures at the College of France, by order of M. Rouland, Minister of Public Instruction, must rank as a great political event. M. Renan is a Protestant of more advanced school, and his appointment to the post of Professor of Oriental languages at the College of France gave much annoyance to the Catholic party, who looked upon it as an outrage to religion. We find the following notice of this affair in the Paris correspondence of the London Times:—

The *Moniteur* publishes an order signed by M. Rouland, Minister of Public Instruction, suspending M. Ernest Renan's course of lectures at the College of France, for that, "in his discourse delivered on Saturday last at that college, at the opening of the course of lectures on the Hebrew, Chaldean, and Syriac tongues, M. Renan professed doctrines which affect Christian belief, and which may produce deplorable agitations."

M. Renan was originally destined for the clerical profession. He spent some years as an ecclesiastical student in the College of St. Sulpice, in Paris, but quitted that seminary before taking orders. He subsequently devoted himself to the study of the Oriental languages and of Bible literature. He has the reputation of being an able, if not a profound Oriental scholar, and has published several works of much interest and research. He obtained the Volney prize in 1847 for an essay on the Semitic languages, and another in 1849 for a work on the Greek of the Middle Ages. He obtained from the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres a literary mission to Italy in 1849, where he collected materials for a work on the Hispano-Arab philosopher Averroes, who was the first to translate into Arabic the writings of Aristotle. In 1850 he was appointed one of the keepers of the manuscripts of the National Library, and in 1856 was elected member of the Academy of Inscriptions. He has besides published *Essays on Comparative Philology*, which appeared in various periodicals, and were afterwards published in a collected form under the title of *Essays on Religious History*. He was very lately employed on an antiquarian mission in Syria, and the results of his labours still appear in the form of reports in the *Moniteur*. The merits of these various works in a literary point of view is pronounced by competent judges to be very great, and to show an amount of erudition of no ordinary kind. On the other hand, M. Renan is said to have carried his speculations on revealed religion, and particularly on Christianity, to the utmost limit; indeed, almost to the negation of a Divine Being. His recent appointment to the Chair of Hebrew, Chaldean, and Syriac, at the College of France, produced a certain degree of sensation in the press, especially in what are called the religious journals. The opinion as to his peculiar views on religion was so general that the Minister of Public Instruction thought it necessary to calm the apprehensions of those whose sons were to benefit by the lessons of the Professor, by declaring that M. Renan would not, in the course of his lectures, emanate doctrines tending to disturb those principles on which a belief in revealed religion, irrespective of sect, reposed; but that he would strictly confine himself to ancient languages and history in a literary point of view. Still, the feeling was very strong, both against and for him. The fact of the clerical journals having thought proper to sound the alarm was sufficient to call forth a counter-demonstration from their opponents. An immense crowd mustered in the streets leading to the college on Saturday last, and with loud exhibitions of party feeling. In fact, M. Renan, on his first appearance as a lecturer, had to be protected by squads of police, who, with some little difficulty, succeeded in obtaining a hearing for the Professor, who was cheered a good deal by his friends. In order that you may form some notion of the character of the lecture, I give the following passages from it:—

"Amid the enormous fermentation in which the Jewish nation was plunged under the last Assyrian the most extraordinary moral event of which history makes mention occurred in Galilee. A man, incomparable, and so great that, though here everything must be judged in a point of view of positive science, I would not contradict those who, struck by the exceptional character of his work, call him God, effected a reform in Judaism—a reform so profound, so individual as to be a creation in every part. Reaching the highest religious point to which man ever attained, coming to look at God face to face in the relations of a son with his father, devoted to his work, with a total forgetfulness of everything else and an unselfishness which has never been practised so highly; finally the victim of his idea, and made Divine by his death, Jesus founded the eternal religion of humanity, the religion of the mind, discombarred of all priesthood, of all worship, of all observances, accessible to all races, superior to all castes,—in one word, absolute."

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says the affairs of the students has become rather serious. A great many arrests were made on Sunday. The *Independence* and the *Nord* were seized to-day on ac-

count, it is supposed, of the details relating to the excitement of the students. The *Travail*, a literary journal, directed by students, has published a number with a black border. The *Correspondance* says that arrests have been made in the provinces as well as in Paris. At four o'clock this afternoon a strong body of police made a descent upon the office of the *Courier du Dimanche*, seized papers, and arrested several clerks compositors. The *Courier* is said to be an organ of the students. The odious invention alluded to by the *Moniteur* is that a student was killed in an affair with the police. The students have got into their heads that the assumed invention is a fact, and they intend to go in procession to the cemetery, where, it is said, their comrade was buried. The arrest of the ring-leaders will prevent any procession. There were reports that any demonstration of the kind would be put down, not by the police, but by the military force."

The *Globe* correspondent says there is a very uneasy feeling prevailing in Paris just now. The correspondent of the *Star* says the excitement caused by the dismissal of Ernest Renan is growing every hour hotter. The police are aroused to the fullest possible degree of watchfulness, and students are hourly summoned before the Commissary. The classes in the Sorbonne have been temporarily suspended, lest anything of an outbreak should occur.

The *Moniteur* of the 3rd instant says:—"Culpable intrigues having excited the students to manifestations based upon an odious invention, the Minister of Public Instruction has informed the Vice-Rector that the students or scholars who should take part in any riotous assemblage shall be immediately expelled from the Academy of Paris, and deprived of their academic inscriptions."

After a long period of repose Paris is once more agitated by a threatening movement which may have serious results. The origin of this agitation, which is said to cause deep uneasiness to the authorities, is but ill understood; and this uncertainty is itself a dangerous symptom. The alienation of Catholic feeling from the Emperor's Government and dynasty has undoubtedly shaken the basis on which his throne rests, so that a comparatively slight shock might now suffice to overthrow a structure so laboriously raised. The policy which aimed at conciliating the revolutionists is at length shown to be as shallow as it was devoid of principle. The revolutionists are ready to seize on any pretext to turn on their imperial patron; and but for their wholesome dread of military repression would, perhaps, repay his patronage by depriving him of his crown and life. The present critical state of things has been brought about by a variety of causes—the distress of the working classes, the admitted extravagance of the Government, and, above all, the dissatisfaction of the Catholic masses with the conduct of the Emperor to the Pope. General Montauban's donation, and M. Renan's dismissal are mere straws that indicate how strongly the popular current sets against the Imperial Government.—*Dublin Telegraph*.

MARCH 5.—In to-day's sitting of the Corps Legislatif, a letter from the Emperor was read, sincerely deploring the misunderstanding which had arisen upon the question of the rejection of the bill for Gen. Montauban's pension. The Emperor adds:—"The rejection of this bill could involve no difficulty, as the laws are now discussed with regard to the intrinsic objects, and not with a view to overturn ministers. . . . But in order to re-establish the mutual confidence which ought never to have ceased between the legislature and executive bodies, the government will withdraw the present bill, and introduce another destined to reward exceptional military services in China. The reading of the letter was followed by shouts of 'Vive l'Empereur!'"

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS IN FRANCE.—PARIS, March 2. —The *Moniteur* of to-day states that the *Nantes Journal l'Esperance du Peuple* has received a first warning for containing a correspondence conceived in an infidel spirit, and making a manifest appeal to passions most hostile to the established order of affairs.

The *Moniteur* also announces, that the *France Centrale* has received a second warning for the propagation of false news calculated to excite hatred and contempt of the Government.

M. M'Sheehy, responsible editor of the *Union*, appeared yesterday before the Tribunal of Correctional Police, charged with exciting hatred and contempt of the Government by the publication of an article commencing "Liberty of evil; that is the whole theory of the Revolution," and M. Lauretie, the writer of the article, M. Duboussin, printer of the journal, and M. Carion, director and printer of the *Emancipation* of Cambrai, into which the article was copied, were charged as accomplices. M. Benoit supported the charge, while M. Berger defended the accused. The tribunal condemned M. M'Sheehy and Lauretie to two months' imprisonment and 2,000*fr.* each; M. Carion to one month's imprisonment and 500*fr.* fine, and M. Duboussin to 500*fr.* fine.—*Times Cor.*

The authorities have been for some time past on the track of guilty intrigues, and have just ordered the arrest of the ring-leaders. The matter has been referred to the Tribunal.

The following singular *dit* is furnished by the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Star*:—

"A very curious anecdote circulates throughout Paris, which has had no small effect in making a great many of the deputies vote against the Emperor, but whether they have or have not reason for believing it is not in my power to determine. If true it bears some analogy to a great turning point in French history, a bracelet, or rather two bracelets, being the cause from which it sprung. The story goes that the English correspondents who said that the French looted for some time previous to the arrival of our soldiers the imperial palace at Peking, were correct in their assertions; and that General Montauban filled his pockets from the caskets of the Chinese empresses. Amongst the most precious of the spoils appropriated to his private use, were the two necklaces, one of which was made of a very rare kind of dark grey pearl, and the other of diamonds, emeralds, and gigantic rubies. On the return to Paris of the victor of Palikao, he not very well understanding the value of jewellery, made a present of the pearl necklace to the Empress, who, not liking the setting, sent it to her jeweller to be broken up, and also desired him to let her know its value in money. The jeweller is said to have supposed that money was scarce at the Tuilleries, as it was during the financial crisis that he received the message, and he offered for the precious ornament 1,800,000 francs. Notwithstanding his reputation for coarse rudeness that makes him so disliked in Paris, Montauban, meanwhile gave a further proof of his devotion to the ladies, and proceeded to the hotel of the newly-arrived Duke of Malakoff, to whose wife he offered the other necklace, which rumour says is still more valuable than the one made of grey pearls. The duchess, who understood the value of such things better than the would-be donor, said she could not accept it till she showed it to the Duke, who, when he saw it, went straight to the Tuilleries and displayed it there, at the same time demanding what he was to do. The Emperor is reported to have said,—"Since the Empress has accepted another nearly as valuable, I don't see why the duchess should not do likewise," and the duke accordingly put it in his pocket. Some conversation then took place as to the enormous value of the gems, which was duly repeated to their former possessor, who was by all accounts on the verge of desperation at having thus so simply let a fortune slip through his fingers. A benevolent busybody is generally supposed to have in turn told at the Tuilleries all about the intense anguish which the general suffered, to the great amusement of the Emperor, who, to indemnify him for his lost property, proposed the donation that has got him into the false position in which he now is. This anecdote is implicitly believed by several deputies who express themselves as being deeply insulted at being made the means by which 'Madame Malakoff' necklace should be paid for." On the other hand, I have been assured by some who have many

opportunities of being well informed that there may be a little foundation in this piece of Paris gossip, but not sufficient to justify all that has been said on the subject.

DOWNFALL OF RICASOLI.—The successor of Oroyout and inheritor of his policy and projects, has fallen from power, to the great regret of the English journals and other friends of the Italian revolutionary cause; but to the satisfaction of every honest man in Europe. It is said already that his downfall is final, that his political career has closed, and that, "in a short reign of a single year he has offended the King, the Court, the French Emperor, and a large proportion of the Italian people." The storm had long been gathering against him; and his resignation was fully counted on at an early period of the session. His speech last week in defence of the secret societies seems to have filled the cup of his misdeeds, and to have led directly to his fall. Ratazzi, the favorite of Napoleon III., has been appointed successor to the displaced Minister, and no doubt is entertained that his appointment is mainly due to imperial influence. The complaints urged against Ricasoli were manifold and heavy. He had burdened the finances of Sardinia and the annexed provinces by an extravagant outlay for warlike preparations, had rashly defied Austria, offended the French Emperor, and grossly insulted the Sovereign Pontiff. On the whole, he had proved himself a reckless statesman and a bad administrator, and nothing but the favor and support of the Mazzinian faction so long averted his merited downfall.—*Dublin Telegraph*.

The *Times* correspondent assigns the following reasons for the change of Ministry:—

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.—Turin, March 1.—Baron Ricasoli laid before the King his resignation last evening, for himself and the whole of his Cabinet *en masse*. Intense excitement has been aroused in the town by these long expected and alarming tidings, and the most active minds are eagerly speculating on the probable consequences of what seems to many persons a very decisive measure. Before indulging any prophetic propensities it is my duty to collect all the particulars which public rumour assigns as the probable causes of this important catastrophe.

There are those who think that the resolution of Ministers arose altogether from an internal disorder, a dissension among the members of the Cabinet. The Tuscan party among them, and especially Peruzzi and Bastogi, are said to have been wounded by some rather pungent sarcasms which fell from the lips of Cordova in the heat of an extremely able and eloquent speech delivered by the Minister on Thursday last, in support of his own Bill for the extension of the gold currency into those provinces where hitherto only a silver currency legally existed—viz., in Naples and Tuscany,—a measure which the Tuscan opposition upon what Cordova described as old-fashioned "Chinese and Japanese" views. To this must added the defeat suffered by Bastogi in the Senate, where his Bill for the Reorganization of the Exchequer Court (*Corte dei Conti*) was wounded in its most vital principles. Were these the only reasons for the Minister's retirement this would hardly amount to a crisis, as the Cabinet would remain sound at the head, and Baron Ricasoli would still have it in his power to reconstitute an Administration by a *rimpiasto*, or new combination, similar to that which occurred early in the spring of last year when Cavour was anxious to rid himself of some obnoxious colleagues.

Other persons, however, think that Ricasoli himself finds his position untenable, and has long been anxious to quit it—first, on public grounds, for it is supposed that his speech in answer to the Boggio interpellation on Tuesday last has been a political plunder, especially where he said that he considered the Committees of Provision, or Mazzinian Committees, useful, in so far as they contributed to keep up the public spirit, an expression which won him the applause of the Left and seemed to submit him to the rather subversive notions of that party. There is no doubt also that the telegram which yesterday conveyed Lord Russell's observations that the event of the alleged proclamation of an Italian General in the South turning out to be authentic, he (Baron Ricasoli) would deem it his duty to remonstrate with the Italian Government, greatly wounded and indisposed Ricasoli's proud mind. The Baron was heard to ask what an English Minister would have said had any foreign Government deemed it expedient to remonstrate with him on the rather severe measures said to have been adopted to quell the Indian mutiny of 1857.

That the resignation is now before the Sovereign is an undoubted fact; but, if these last comments upon the event have any good ground, it seems rather clear that a reconstitution of the Ministry under Ricasoli has become somewhat impracticable, as a Ratazzi Administration, either with his former friends or in league with Farini, Minghetti, and other used-up, and in the public estimation, somewhat damaged statesmen, has become inevitable, though a dissolution of Parliament may also be the unavoidable consequence of their first appearance in the Chambers.

Mayhap a new Parliament will bring forward new men. The present Chamber was elected under the influence of Count Cavour, almost at his dictation, and consisted of men who would follow him stoutly and almost passively, in the conviction that he could never lead them wrong. His successors have clearly lost the track that lay so plain before him, and it may, perhaps, be necessary that the nation should, in its turn, take the lead, and point out through a new batch of its representatives, and under altogether altered circumstances, its real views, intentions, and aspirations.

Garibaldi has had a conference with Signor Ratazzi.

JACOBINISM TRIUMPHANT.—The *Trieste Gazette* contains a correspondence from Milan, in which it is declared that a general persecution of the priests is taking place in Lombardy. At Milan, Brescia, Bergamo, Lodi, and Crema, says the letter, many priests, known to be faithful supporters of the Pope, have been insulted and subjected to personal violence.—At Leghorn, a canon, after a sermon in which he had spoken in favour of the temporal power of the Pope, was set upon by a furious rabble, and so grievously ill-treated that one of his eyes was knocked out, and his recovery was looked upon as almost hopeless. Many priests, out of fear of popular excesses, have fled from Lombardy to Switzerland and Venetia. Every morning, in Milan, placards appeared upon the walls bearing the words, "Death to the Pope!" "To the gallows with Antonelli!" and the like inscriptions; and on the public squares preachers excited the people against the Pontiff, and in favour of a crusade against Rome.

The *Patrie* says we believe that we are able to say that the programme adopted by Signor Ratazzi will follow in the interior a form of policy capable of resisting the influence of secret societies. Signor Ratazzi, in his foreign policy, will oppose the agitations relative to the Roman question, the solution of which can only be arrived at pacifically and with the concurrence of France. Signor Ratazzi has also decided to take the initiative in all European combinations which may bring about a diplomatic solution of the Venetian question.

ROME.—In order to stop the popular manifestations against the Pontifical Government, General Goyon had occupied the Corso with 3,000 French troops, marching in lines as if on the field of battle. Cavalry were stationed opposite the Piazza del Popolo, and the Piazza Barberini. This display of military force was disapproved of. Monsignor de Merode has discovered the secretary of the Roman National Committee. He is stated to be one Penazzi, at whose domestic important documents have been found, including a list of patriots, and letters from a French officer of high position to a lady who was in connection with the Committee. Thirty-six persons in all have been arrested. An assembly of 20,000 persons sat on Thursday, on the forum to protest against the

Carnival patronized by the Government. Great irritation was displayed.

AUSTRIA.

Religious Liberty.—The scheme presented by the Commissioners to the Chamber of Deputies guarantees to every one full liberty of conscience and of profession, the domestic exercise of his religion, and the right to choose his belief according to his own free conviction. The enjoyment of civil and political rights is not to be dependent on religious profession, nor to be subject to any restriction on that account. Difference of religion will not form a civil obstacle to marriage. Professors of all beliefs are equally admissible by law to all dignities of public employment. Every church or religious society has the right publicly to carry out its worship; the law grants to all churches and to religious societies this legal right. There is to be no State privileged religion.

PRUSSIA.

Le Nord publishes the following:— "At Berlin political matters are beginning to look very serious. The attitude of the Chamber of Deputies in questions of foreign policy tends to exercise a pressure upon the Government which the latter wishes to cast off. Thus the Committee of the Chamber having, with the exception of one vote, unanimously adopted the proposition relative to the recognition of the kingdom of Italy, Councillor Hebbe, in the name of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, declined to take part in the deliberations, 'because the Government could not consent to subject its foreign policy to the influence of Parliament.'"

The German question has also given rise to very serious complications.

POLAND.

A letter from Warsaw states that persecutions and outrages are getting more and more frequent. The soldiers are still bivouacking in the streets, and pounce on every one that comes in their way. The other day they seized a poor man who was going for a doctor to attend his wife, she being on the eve of her confinement. His prayers and protestations were of course unheeded; and when, two days after, he was liberated, he found both mother and child at home dead. Not satisfied with imposing upon the unfortunate Poles a government which authorizes the performance of such atrocious deeds, Russia actually insists upon forcing its charity upon them. A short time ago the Emperor ordered a sum of about £3000 to be distributed among the poor of Warsaw by the police. Many refusing to accept this boon from the hands of their oppressors, they were called to the police office. One, a bootmaker, with seven children, who was not aware of his having been entered on the list of those entitled to the Emperor's bounty, on being informed that he was allowed 15 roubles, refused to take it, saying that it was true he was poor, but he did not want nor had he asked any one to relieve him. This speech cost him dear; he was taken to prison as a revolutionist, and his wife and children would have starved had not some charitable persons taken care of them.

HOW THE ITALIAN "PLEBISCITE" WAS TAKEN.—The *Times* correspondent has admitted that the plebiscite, or popular vote, in favor of Victor Emmanuel, Annexation to Sardinia, and Italian Unity, was a humbug, as all plebiscite are. How this "humbug" was effected at Modena, we know from the "Revelations of a Secret Agent of Count Cavour," published by the Baron of Ricasoli. Here are some details:—

The elections which took place a few days afterwards resembled very much the scene I have just described. We had the registers brought to us that we might prepare the list of electors; we made out all the bulletins. For these first local elections, as afterwards for the annexation vote, only few electors presented themselves to take any part in it; but at the moment of closing up the urns, we threw in the bulletins naturally on the side of Piedmont; not of course, quite all; we left out some hundreds or some thousands, according to the population represented by the college.

It was necessary to try to keep up appearances, at least abroad; for on the spot they knew pretty well what was going on. Let no one exclaim "impossible." I do not exaggerate a little. Why even in France, where the people are accustomed to electoral proceedings, where the formation of the *bureau* is regular, where a number of persons really interested and jealous of their rights surround the urns, even in France, similar false practices in the result of the scrutiny are not without example. One can, therefore, well understand why these sad manoeuvres and tricks should succeed in a country entirely new to the exercise of universal suffrage, and when, in fact, the general indifference and systematic abstraction wonderfully aided these frauds, by taking away the only effectual check. At the same time we acted in such a way as to render all guarantees of publicity and surveillance which the law offers to the electors, in practice perfectly illusory. Before the vote was opened, agents of the police, and disguised Carbiniers choked up all the entrances to the Hall, and it was from among these impartial persons that the president of the bureau and the scrutineers were always chosen. We were, therefore, not crippled in that regard. In some colleges, however, this wholesome introduction into the use of the bulletins of the absent, which we called "completing the vote" was done with so little care, that upon the proclamation of the result, it was found that there had been more voters than electors inscribed. No reflection could be made to the *procureur verbal*. As for the bulletins negative or hostile to Piedmont, necessary to give an air of sincerity to the vote we reported them ourselves to the electors. I can speak with truth as to what regards Modena, for everything was done relating to it under my own eyes and by my direction. I may say the same thing with respect to Parma and Florence.—*Revelations of a Secret Agent of Count Cavour*.

UNITED STATES.

CONVERSION.—The Rev. W. A. Leach, late minister of the Episcopal Church at Lee, Mass., has recently been received into the Catholic Church.—*N. Y. Tablet*.

The *N. Y. Tribune* gives prominence to the fact that a Union man has been found by its correspondent, in Arkansas. His name is Thos. Williams, and he has been twenty years a severe sufferer from rheumatism, which prevented his impressment into the Confederate service.

Seventeen divorces were granted in one county in Vermont, at the recent term of the Supreme Court, and thirteen of the petitioners were women.

The *New York Herald* of the 18th instant says:—"We shall never allow the Powers of Europe to build up a Monarchy side by side with our Republic to undermine it; and if they do not speedily desist from the attempt, we will not only drive them out of Mexico, but from every portion of the North American continent and all the islands which geographically belong to it. 'Westward the course of empire takes its way.'"

Among the letters found in the rebel camp on Roanoke Island was one from a young lady in the South to her lover in the rebel army, in which she says:—"I hope we shall see each other again here; but if we do not, I hope we shall meet in heaven, where there will be no Yankees."

Of the results of the civil war is the alarming increase of pauperism in the United States. In Great Britain, with a population of about 22,000,000, there are 900,000 persons receiving parish relief; in the State of New York, with a population of less than 4,000,000, there are 314,797; the number having increased 90,000 since 1850. Pauperism in Great Britain is 4 per cent of the population, and in New York 8 per cent.

Gen. Beauregard, has issued the following proclamation to the Army of the Mississippi:—"Head-quarters Army of the Mississippi, Jackson, Tenn., March 6th. Soldiers, I assume this day the command