FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, June 14.—The Emperor's letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs is the event of the day. It says, indeed, little more than what from a knowledge of the past had been already conjectured or positively known; but it is important from the fact of its being a formal declaration of Imperial policy at the very moment when men are on the watch for the first sounds of war. The allusion to Austria is significant. It will be difficult for her to answer the charge that, while in concert with Prussia, and regardless of the Treaty of 1852, she made war on Denmark on behalf of German nationality, she now refuses to Italy the application of the same principle by completing Italian independence.

It was never expected that the declarations of the French Government as to absolute neutrality, and the assurances that Italy, if she attacked, would do so on her own responsibility, at her own risk and peril, meant that Austria, if victorious, would be allowed to re-establish her old domination in Lombardy. Lombardy was ceded by Austria to France, and not to Italy; and no one is, therefore, surprised to learn from the Emperor's lips that he will not suffer 'the work which he contributed to construct in Italy' to be undone. His Majesty gives no explanation as to the nature of the 'equitable compensation' which he suggests Austria might find for her sacrifice of Venetia, and we cannot tell whether he means compensation in money or compensation in territory. Probably it is the latter which he had in his mind, but at whose cost is not clear. Turkey may have been the Power expected to furnish the means of making up for losses. The Emperor Napoleon, in conversation with a foreign diplomatist passed a judgment on Turkey after the Crimean war, not very different from that of the Emperor Nicholas, and he may now think that it might still be useful in that way. In what other quarter compensation could be found for Austria, if Austria agreed to give up Venetia to the Italians, it is difficult to guess.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys was instructed, as the Emperer says, 'to repudiate, in His Majesty's name all idea of territorial aggrandizement so long as the European equilibrium be not disturbed.' It was observed that when the Minister of State read the first part of this sentence, repudiating the notion of territorial aggrandizement, he was interrupted by loud acclamations from the deputies, but when the condition of repudiation was heard silence prevailed.—It struck them, perhaps, as it struck many out of doors, that when three Powers are at war one must come out of the conflict seriously diminished. If Prussia be the winner in this terrible game she annexes the Elbe Duchies forthwith; if Austria triumphs over her rival she may think of recovering Silesia, which she is known to yearn after; and if the chances of war are favorable to Italy, Venetia will, of course be hers. There must be a winner and a loser; and the question is whether the indemnity which the winner takes may not be considered as a 'disturbance of the European equilibrium,' and, consequently, just ground for 'territorial aggrandizement' for France. If this be so the Emperor shows his usual sagacity in waiting for the result. This result, whoever may gain the day, whether Prussia, Austria, or Italy, will be a gain to France; and France would not refuse to accept territory won without the cost of blood and treasure to herself.—His Majesty declares that he has received the assurance of the Courts engaged in the conflict that, whatever be the issue of the war, not one of the questions involved in it will be settled without the assent of France; and of this no one entertains the slightest doubt.

By the public the Imperial letter has been received with a sort of mingled feeling. It is regretted that the deputies were not allowed to express their opinions on a communication of such importance.—M. Thiers repeatedly tried to get in a word, but in vain. Discussion was considered by the Minister and by the President of the Chamber to be inopportune, and the deputies could not obtain an assurance that in the event of France being obliged eventually to take part in the conflict the Legislative Body would be allowed an opportunity of giving their opinion.

As for the belligerent Powers, none of them can allege now or hereafter that the Emperor of the French has not acted towards them with the utmost straightforwardness. He frankly informs all whom it may concern what he expects when the war is over, and when the settling day comes.

A French financier and political economist has examined the financial portion of the three Powers about to engage in war, and, setting aside the advantages which each may derive from the gallantry of its army and the skill of its generals, he seeks out the one who shall be best served by its material resources. He begins with Prussia, whose finances previous to Count Bismark's Administration were in excellent order. Her funded debt was only about £44,000,000, and her annual expenditure £24,000,000—only the third of that of France. Count Bismark, however, called 500,000 men to arms, and all the savings of former Ministers have been expended.—Confidence, moreover, is destroyed, so that Prussian paper money is at a discount, and the Prussian Bank has found it necessary to raise the discount to 9½ per cent.

Turning to Austria, he says the financial picture is very dark. Austria has not ceased to increase the deficiency in her Budget during the last 18 years, and to contract loan upon loan. Consequently, her debt is increasing, and her credit is diminishing in an equal proportion. The Austrian debt is estimated at 240,000,000. The Austrian Minister of Finance has increased all the taxes so as to arrive at a revenue of £40,000,000. The interest on the debt absorbs so much of the revenue that it will be impossible to maintain the present standing army with the balance. Her bankruptcy is becoming imminent, but the loss will fall chiefly on Frankfort, Amsterdam, Antwerp, and Brussels, from which Austria has derived her supplies of money.

Leaving the Government of Francis Joseph, he arrives at that of Victor Emmanuel. The Italian debt in 1860, after the annexation of Tuscany and the Marches, amounted to £100,000,000. It has been since doubled. The Italian Rente was quoted at 84 in May, 1861; at present it is quoted at 37.—The Italian Government has been constantly increasing its army since 1860 without engaging in war. It has, moreover, contracted engagements with railway companies which amount to above £2,000,000 a-year. The two thirds of these railways are completed, but their bonds have fallen considerably below par. The Italian Government has just issued paper money, which, according to the *Finance*, is at a discount of 20 per cent., and according to the *Semaine Financiere* at 8. The truth is that there is no fixed rate at which Italian paper money can be converted into gold. It is under these auspices that the Italian Government is about to attack the Quadrilateral.

PARIS, JUNE 21.—The *Constitutionnel* of to-day points out the pacific sense of the Emperor's letter to M. Drouyn de Lhuys. 'Peace,' it continues, 'has the preference and the best wishes of the Emperor, and his hopes must be also on that side, for, after having positively declared that France would not engage in war except under a decisive state of things, he has grounds to believe that none of the belligerents will desire to assume the responsibility of provoking it by creating such a position of affairs.

PARIS, JUNE 22.—The *Moniteur* of to-day says 'Certain persons seek to shake public credit by spreading false news respecting the events of the war or the imminent failure of some credit or industrial companies. Some journals do not hesitate to receive and propagate these inaccurate assertions without taking the trouble to verify them.—The Government is observant of such acts, and will not hesitate to institute legal proceedings against the authors of false intelligence.'

EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE.—It is said for certain that the French Senate is about to take into consideration the question raised by Mr. Durny, touching the exemption from military service of the members of religious societies who devote themselves to instruction. The Minister of Public Instruction intends to confine the exemption to the Christian Brothers who labour in the *communale* schools, and not to extend it to those who teach in private schools. The question has been brought before the Senate by the Archbishop of Rennes, who sent the following notice, along with his memorial, to the President: 'I have the honor of forwarding to your Excellency the petition hereto annexed, with a view to call the attention of the Senate to the measures recently taken by the Minister of public Instruction in relation to religious educational congregations. Convinced as I am that this novel legislation must of necessity destroy those pious institutions which are so useful for the religious instruction of the lower classes, who need that instruction more than ever at the present day, I consider that I am doing an act worthy at once of a good citizen and of a bishop in showing to the Senate that the Minister of Public Instruction has misinterpreted the law of 1850 in his circulars, and that not only religion, but the country and society at large will suffer severely from his error.'—*Bien. Public.*

ITALY.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE POPE'S ENTHRONISATION.—On the 17th instant, the anniversary of the day on which Pius IX. ascended the throne, His Holiness addressed the Cardinals in reply to their congratulations, and raised his voice against the persecution to which the bishops and priests are being subjected in Italy.

On the 12th instant the Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna blessed the colours of the Tyrolese chasseurs in the Cathedral of that city. His Grace after the ceremony addressed the men as follows:—'We live,' said the Archbishop, 'in days which remind us of the portentous calm that precedes a storm.' With God all things are possible, but humanly speaking war is inevitable. It is clear that, should it break out, they who fight on the side of Austria will be fighting for the right, for the whole of Europe, and not for Austria alone. The cause in which you are arming is glorious and holy. Brave sons of the Tyrol under the chief whose courage and fidelity have been tried so often, you will show yourselves worthy of your ancestors. God abhors the pride and hardness of heart of those who covet the goods of others, of those who do not scruple to sacrifice the blood of man to their idol, but He accepts as homage to Himself the ardour of those who offer up their lives for the altar, for justice, and for their country.'

The Florence Parliament is discussing two measures of flagrant injustice, one to force a worthless currency on the wretched Italians, and the other to suppress the religious houses in the kingdom.

ITALIAN MILITARY FORCE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Standard* quotes the following appreciation of the critical state of the Italian Government, extracted from the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, and written by M Michel Chevalier, whose sympathy for that country is well known:—

'The Italians say that armed peace exhausts them; but war would exhaust them still more. Have they, in fact the means of carrying it on? Not that they are deficient in courage or discipline: on this point I am persuaded they would do their duty, and pursue an honourable career; but the material resources required for war are wanting to them. The truth, which peoples as well as kings should be resigned to hear, is that the Italians, who had displayed an admirable spirit before being united into one single state, have not been the same since they have formed only realm from the Mincio to the southern extremity of the former kingdom of the Two Sicilies. The wisdom which had been remarked in them until then has experienced a total eclipse on one essential point—the finances. They have not known how to frame a budget, and have accumulated deficit on deficit. Whilst the most able financiers are unanimous in declaring that a loan is a resource which ought to be reserved for a time of war, the Italians have contracted in times of peace enormous foreign ones, in France, especially, unhappily for the small capitalists of Paris, who have engulphed their savings in them. They have been totally wanting in resolution to raise by taxation receipts adequate to their expenditure, or to reduce their expenditure to the level of their possible receipts. This grave fault, of which at present they perceive the full magnitude, is not imputable to their Ministers of Finance. M. Sella frankly recommended them to impose taxes on themselves. M. Scialoja has repeated with all his force similiar salutuary recommendations: but they closed their ears until too late. They have given themselves the satisfaction of uttering fine sentences, and nourished themselves with reminiscences of the Roman Republic—to-day out of season. Like the Roman Senate, who, after the battle of Cannæ, sold, by auction the ground on which Hannibal was encamped, they thought they would give a magnificent example of patriotic pride is claiming boldly as their own property Venice and the famous Quadrilateral; by which, in the judgment of the most experienced men and of their most sincere friends, they have ruined their situation. By these inconsiderate menances they have irritated an enemy it was their interest to appease, so that, once entered upon a course of conciliation, they could have negotiated and treated for the cession of Venetia on equitable conditions, for which, when all parties were cool, an understanding would very likely have been possible.

M. Petrucelli della Gattina continues to contribute to the *Debats* from Italian head quarters; he supplies, in the midst of a great deal of eccentric and sensational rubbish, a little useful information, which I condense. His last letter is dated from head-quarters, Piacenza, May 27. Piacenza, he says, is a fortified town, surrounded by a wall in good condition, a deep moat, which may be flooded and covered by a fortified camp, with what he calls '*une triple enceinte*'—(by which I presume he means the old-fashioned plan of three parallel ramparts of earth, separated from each other by wet ditches, the re-entering angles of the outer wall being at right angles. Strasburgh and Valenciennes are fortified in this way—it is still held the most formidable defence against a storming party—but with the long-range artillery now in fashion, its value has never been tested.) M. della Gattina tells us that the walls are only partly provided with guns; but for this he gives a curious reason, which will amuse your military readers: 'Why condemn to rust in the open air these Italian tenors? There is good reason, why, though he does not state it. It is this: That in the event of the Italian army being defeated, an entrenched camp at Piacenza would not enable it to make a stand. The district of Piacenza at the time of his writing was occupied by a *corps d'armee* of four divisions—1st, that of Prince Umberto, quartered at Firenzuola, half-way between Parma and Piacenza; 2d, that of General Cuggia, at Pontennove, between Firenzuola and Parma; 3d, that of General Bixio, Pacenza itself; and 4th, that of General Gavone (at present in Berlin), at Codognno, between Piacenza and Lodi. This is plain enough, and, with the aid of a tolerable map you will see that the Italian army is in a position which (see my extract from the same writer in my Sunday's letter must greatly tempt the Austrians to strike a blow, as the wing at Pizzighettone might be crushed before the centre or the right wing knew anything about it. But this may be part of the system. If the Austrians do not chose to attack they deprive themselves of great advantages—and their reluctance is only due to their desire not to be considered the aggressors—a feeling which does them honour, but which will not avail them—as we find the whole of the French semi-official and Radical press, and the *Times* itself, (*proh pudor!*) casting the responsibility of war upon the Cabinet of Vienna, because it refused to affect, in the transparent sham of a conference, a belief which no man in his sense has entertained from the time of its being first put forward.

The 3rd Italian *corps d'armee* is under General della Rocca, whose frankness so far, exceeded his courtesy as to prompt him to tell M. della Gattina that he wished 'those horrid newspapers' would hold their tongues about the army. He might safely say so to M. della Gattina, for, with the exception of what I have given you above, I can make out no thing intelligible of the confused and contradictory account he gives of Piacenza and its fortifications.

MILAN, June 9.—The *Lombardia* publishes the following declaration addressed by Kossuth to the Hungarians:—

"TURIN, June 6—A large number of my compatriots in various parts of Italy having requested counsel of me by letter upon what they ought to do under present circumstances, and as it is impossible for me to reply personally to all, I declare by the present that in my opinion all those of my compatriots employed in the military service, or in any other manner, will do well to remain for the present where they are, tranquilly awaiting the course of events. Those, on the contrary, who have no occupation, are fit for military service, and desire also to enter it, will do well to enrol themselves in the Hungarian Legion. They may all rest assured that if matters progress in such a manner as to offer a field of action to their patriotic zeal they will receive due previous notice.

"L. KOSSUTH."

A new fear, and one of no common magnitude, begins to dawn upon Italian statesmen. The hatred of the southern population for the new *regime*, instead of being weakened by the lapse of years, or crushed out by the mailed heels of the Piedmontese, is springing into fresh life and activity in presence of events that agitate Europe. The Neapolitans begin to think that the time when 'the King shall have his own again' is swiftly and surely approaching.—This feeling accounts for the revival of the reaction in the Two Sicilies, for the daring manner in which the outlaws defy the troops, and the air of general insecurity that pervades Naples and all the cities of the South. Butchery failed to extinguish the patriotic spirit of the adherents of the exiled King, and now that an opportunity is afforded, or is likely to be afforded, for striking a blow at the Sardinians, the old veneration for the Bourbon family blazes up afresh. It must be confessed that the Sardinians contributed in no small measure to perpetuate this popular detestation of themselves. They know well that if the best part of their armies were to be kept engaged by Austria, it would be impossible to hold the South for a day. A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* describes very fairly, as it seems to us, the oppression under which the Neapolitans groan.—He say—"The only thing to be said is that for Italy under her present circumstances peace is almost more ruinous than war; her expenses cannot amount to less 4,000,000 francs a day even by the account of those who are anxious to put them at the lowest figure. It is easy to see what distress must be occasioned by such expenditure in a country already bankrupt and possessing no resources on which to fall back. Gold is at seven and eight per cent., silver at five and six per cent., and even for copper a premium of one per cent. has to be paid. To remedy this dearth of precious metal, the banks of Naples, Genoa, and some other towns have been authorised to issue notes of various amounts from five francs upwards—such notes as they are! Their size is fully that of a leaf of this journal, and their texture is considerably coarser than that of the paper ordinarily used by grocers to wrap up their sugar.—These clumsy notes are paseed from hand to hand, and signed successively by each recipient. Value, away from the place where they are issued, they have absolutely none. The taxes are frightful—ten per cent upon income, twenty-five per cent. upon house rent, and endless smaller impositions in like proportions; not to say that salt and tobacco are Government monopolies, and that there is a Banco del Lotto in every street. Whilst in the northern cities the enthusiasm with which the very idea of war was greeted has increased day by day, as the probability of its outbreak has grown into absolute certainty, in the Neapolitan territory, after a burst of factitious excitement, the whole desire for active fighting has oozed away. Few indeed are the volunteers which Naples herself has furnished—some 800, may be—whereas Leghorn, a city scarcely more than one-tenth her size, has sent out over 3,000.—The contrast is the more striking seeing that at the time when Milan and Turin were first clamoring for war (now some six weeks ago) there were not 40,000 troops north of Florence, and the Austrians could have marched from one city into the other without let or hindrence. But it is the same throughout. The Neapolitans have not the cause of Italy at heart; they regret the departure of the Court from their city, they detest the Italians who have come down from Genoa to settle in Naples, and they detest still more the taxes levied as they are in a most searching manner.—*Tablet.*

PRUSSIA AND AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government, in sending the Prussian Ambassador his passports, informed him that it took this step because it looked upon the withdrawal of the Austrian forces from Holstein as having taken place under compulsion from Prussia.

Prussia has addressed a Note to the German Governments which voted on the 14th inst., against the mobilisation of the Federal army, requesting them to abstain from participation in any discussion with the Powers who are at war with Prussia, as such conduct would necessarily disturb their peaceful relations with the Prussian Government.

The troops of Electoral Hesse are concentrated near Fulda. Prince Wilhelm von Hanau, third son son of the Elector, has been taken prisoner by the Prussians.

Prince Alexander of Hesse has now officially assumed the command in chief of the 8th Federal Corps d'Armee.

The railway communication between Casse and Warburg has been restored.

The Hamburg military contingent has received orders to hold itself in readiness to march into the Duchies.

Hamburg will be occupied by a Prussian corps, and placed under a Prussian Commandant.

The concentration of the 8th Federal Army Corps, 60,000 strong, under the command of Prince Alexander of Hesse, has been accomplished.

The head quarters of the Bavarian army have been removed to Beyreuth.

In consequence of the decision of the Federal Diet of the 16th inst. that Austria and Bavaria should enter Saxony, the representative of Luxembourg has presented a declaration to the Diet, stating that the Netherlands decline to take part in any course of action which shall imply a recognition of the continuance of the Federal Pact.

The Austrian troops will probably assume the offensive in Upper Silesia.

A telegraphic message received at Prague states that they have crossed the frontier into that province.

In Italy the Austrians expect to be attacked on three sides—at Venice, by the Italian fleet; on the side of the Tyrol, by Garibaldi; and lastly, by General Cialdini, who will cross the Po.

It is stated that the English, French, and Russian representatives at the Saxon Court will shortly follow the King of Saxony to Prague.

Immediately on the announcement of the death of Prince Sigismund the Queen of Prussia left this city for Potsdam.

The following telegrams have been received during the week:—

Hostilities have commenced between the Prussians and the Federal army.—The 4th Darmstadt Infantry Regiment has been almost annihilated by the Prussians at Friedberg, between Frankfort and Giessen. Large bodies of Federal troops are massed at Mayence and Frankfort, where the Wurtemberg contingent will arrive to-night.

According to intelligence received, an engagement has taken place between the outposts at the extremity of Saxony, towards Loban or Rumburg, between the Prussian hussars and an Austrian corps. A considerable Austrian force is massed in that direction, and other large corps are stated to be upon the Silesian frontier, in the neighborhood of Troppau.

The 8th Federal Army Corps is following closely on the track of the Prussian forces to Marburg, in Electoral Hesse. Large bodies of Federal troops are marching in a northerly direction.

It is stated that the Prussians have occupied Wiesbaden.

A slight encounter took place yesterday between some Austrian and Prussian cavalry on the road to Rumburg and close to the frontier. The Prussians retreated.

Marienthal, Ostritz, and Leuba are occupied by two Prussian regiments of infantry and one of Hussars, and Bernstadt by two regiments of cavalry.

The Prussians are also closed to the frontier near Wurzelsdorf, and they are hourly expected to advance into Bohemia.

The Prussians have not taken possession of Zittau, but have placed a strong garrison, with 12 pieces of artillery, in the town of Bautzen.

The Prussians occupied Dresden at half-past 11 to-day.

The Prussian troops entered Cassel this morning. The Elector is at Frankfort.

Hundreds of Saxon inhabitants are flying into Bohemia. The Prussians are forcibly enrolling men up to 40 years of age.

General Manteuffel, at the head of the Prussian troops, entered Luneberg, in Hanover, this morning.

The Prussians are reported to have cut off the communications of the Hanoverian army, and rendered its junction with the Austro-Federrl troops impossible.

The Prussian Lieutenant-Colonel Cranach arrived at Stade last night and disarmed the garrison, dismissing them to their homes. He took possession of 21 guns and numerous mortars, rifles, and other war material.

Railway communication between Eisenach and Cassel is interrupted. The Bavarians intend to cut the railway line between Coburg and Bamberg, and to blow up the railway bridge at Lichtenfels. The Austrians have destroyed the railway bridge at Oswiecin, on the Galician and Silesian frontier. The railway communication between Oswiecin and Myslowitz is interrupted.

In consequence of the Austrian war manifesto, all the available Wurtemburg troops have been sent to the northern frontier of the kingdom.

The Austrian Cabinet has summoned the Bavarian Government, in consequence of the decision of the Federal Diet on the 16th inst., to unite with Austria in carrying on Military operations in Saxony.

Oldenburg and Anhalt have officially notified their withdrawal from the Germanic Confederation.

Baden declines to take active part in the hostilities against Prussia. The assertions of some German papers that riots had taken place among the Baden troops are unfounded.

The object of the Federal plan of operations is said to be the reconquest of Holstein.

The *Moniteur du Soir* published the following:—

'A private despatch announces that an engagement has taken place near Frankfort between the Hessians and the Prussians coming from Giessen. The Prussians are said to have gained the advantage and continued their march after having secured possession of the railway.'

The *Neue Freie Presse* publishes a rumour that the Emperor will invite the German princes who have remained faithful to the Confederation to assemble in Vienna, for the purpose of discussing question referring to the Federal Constitution.

The Imperial manifesto has been enthusiastically received in the capital and the provinces.

It is stated that the Duke de Gramont, the French Ambassdor, is negotiating with the Vienna Cabinet respecting the guarantees which France desires to receive in Europe. The negotiations are represented to be progressing satisfactorily.

The Vienna papers publish intelligence from Rome stating that a subsidy sent by the Prussian Government to Italy, consisting of 130,000,000f. in gold packed in casks, has passed through this city *en route* for Florence. They also state that the Porte has notified to the Great Powers its intention to interfere in the Principalties. The Conference upon the Roumanian question will shortly conclude its sittings.

As soon as the Volunteers are completely equipped they will proceed to Bergamo and Brescia.

THE MASS OF THE MARTYRS.—About two miles, in an easterly direction, from the town of Dundalk, in the county of Louth, stood the Castle of Dunmahon. It was, at the time of Cromwell's appearance in Ireland in the possession of a gentleman named Fitzwalter, a sincere Catholic and true Irishman. He loved his country. He had joined the Catholic confederacy in the old Cathedral at St. Canice, in the 'faire citie,' and he had long fought in its ranks.

The gallant Herbert MacMahon, the Bishop of Clogher, had led on the last remnant of the once powerful confederates, at Skirfolas, but after doing all that brave men could do, they were forced from the field with a loss of two thirds of their number, by an overwhelming force, under the command of the cruel and treacherous Sir Charles Coote.

The gallant Fitzwalter was one of the survivors of that sanguinary field. He immediately returned to his Castle of Dunmahon, where he resolved to remain for the present.

Meantime, a Parliamentarian garrison was placed in Dundalk, and deep and many were the schemes laid by the Puritans for the surprise of the Castle of Dunmahon. They feared openly to attack the garrison, for they knew that the people would support Fitzwalter to the last. At last a plan was proposed which seemed to be the most feasible of any yet offered.

Fitzwalter had a daughter, and an only child, the love and admiration of her parents, and of the country around. Upon the youth and inexperience of this young girl they resolved to found their diabolical plan. The second in command of the garrison was a young man of very prepossessing appearance, but with a heart as bad as his countenance was fair. He was to personate an English Earl, and to hover about the vicinity of the castle, to try if possible to win the heart of the unsuspecting girl; and when once master of her affections, he could easily obtain entrance into the castle.

All turned out according to his desires. By means of an old woman, who procured several interviews with her; he became a constant visitor at the castle, and he acted the consummate hypocrite so well, that no one for a moment thought of suspecting his intentions.

But the morning had at last arrived upon which he was to admit the Cromwellian garrison to their work of death. It was Sunday morning; God's holy Sabbath morning, that the hypocrite had chosen for the slaughter of the inmates of the castle, because he knew that upon that blessed morning the neighboring people were in the habit of assembling at the castle to hear Mass, as they had no priest amongst them, and Fitzwalter had always kept a priest in the castle. The morning was unusually dark, and the sky was covered with lowering clouds as if the very elements were horrified at the appalling massacre which was about to take place.

The gates were thrown open by the perfidious villain. In rushed the enemy, who had been secreted in a wood since the preceding night. The work of death commenced; the hoary and venerable priest was butchered on the steps of the altar. Fitzwalter and his wife, together with three hundred and nine persons, all were butchered indiscriminately without regard to age or sex. The sun suddenly shone out in all his splendor, as if heaven rejoiced at having received the glorious martyrs who had sealed their faith with their blood on that day.

There was a great rejoicing amongst the Puritans; a sermon was preached by the ranting chaplain, in which he extolled the zeal of the soldiery in the destruction of the Ammonities. As for Fitzwalter's daughter, she became a raving maniac, and after wandering about the country for some time, she was found dead one morning in the ruins of her once happy homestead.

ON THE LOVE OF RETREAT.—To a christian who lives in the world, this love is frequently an illusion. Worldlings, themselves, sometimes form plans of retreat. When one speaks to them about being converted to God, and of reforming their conduct, they reply, that they wish to quit all, and abandon all, as if the disorder of their life were inseparably annexed to their condition, and that it was out of their power to find a cure for it. But, observe here: it is not the tumult of the world, and the exterior agitation of your business, which prevent you from serving God, it is rather the interior cry of your passions to which you lend a willing ear; it is the tyranny of your vicious habits which you cherish.

We may find, where we please, retreat and solitude even in the midst of the world. May we not by a good use of time, always gain some hours or some moments of retreat, to meditate on the law of God? May we not habitually make for ourselves a sort of retreat, in the bottom of our hearts, where we may entertain ourselves interiorly with God, though we may appear to be engaged only with the cares and interests of the world? At such moments the spirit is attentive to the business of the world but the heart is with God.

PAY YOUR DEBTS.—At such a moment as the present, every man who has the money, or can raise it in any way, should promptly liquidate his obligations. To refuse or neglect to do so, at any time, would be wrong; but now such neglect or refusal is a double and inexcusable wrong. One dollar set in motion, may pay fifty times that amount of debt in a very few days. For people realize this matter of debt paying as they should. They have no conscience on the subject. They excuse themselves by saying they are 'very busy.' Suppose you are busy. You are not too busy to neglect such a moral obligation 'I will attend to it in a day or two.' You don't know that, for you may die—your property may be burned, or some other providential circumstance may happen to prevent it. 'Oh, he dosen't want the money. How do you know that? Who gave you that piece of information? Nothing but the voice or message of your creditor can settle that matter. 'He is rich, and dosen't need small sums.' Indeed! is that your excuse? How can you know but that your neglect to pay him hundreds, may cost him thousands? 'I can't stand such a high rate of exchange.' You are *bound* to stand it, for while in business you must take all its risks. If you can't stand the exchange, how do you expect your creditors can stand your delinquency? If he wants money, he has only to go to the bank.' Well, that will do. When a man lets himself down to such a level, he had better 'snuff the candle,' and desert the ranks of business men.

A GREAT FRENCH HISTORIAN ON THE CELTIC RACES.—The following is from the great French historian Michelet. It will be seen that English accounts did not blind his keen appreciation of Ireland's state.—The inability on the part of France is, thank God, no more:

Singular fate of the Celtic world! Of its two great divisions, one, although the least unfortunate, is perishing, wearing away, or, at all events, losing its language, costume, and character—I allude to the Highlanders of Scotland and the people of Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany. Here we find the serious and moral element of the race, which seems dying of sadness and soon to be extinguished. The other filled with inexhaustibleness of life, multiplies and increases despite of everything: it will be felt that I speak of Ireland. Ireland! poor elder child of the Celtic race, her sister, who cannot stretch out her arm to protect her across the waves—*the Isle of Saints, the emerald of the sea*, all fertile Ireland, whose men grow like grass, to the terror of England, in whose ear is daily shouted—'they are another million'—land of poets, of bold thinkers, of John Scotus Erigena, of Berkley, of Toland—land of Moore, land of O'Connell—land of the brilliant speech and lightning sword, which in the senility of the world still preserves the power of poetry. The English *may* laugh when they hear in some obscure corner of their towns the Irish widow improvising the coronach over the corpse of her husband *pleurer c l'Lilandaise* (wailing after the manner of the Irish), is with them a bye word of scorn. Weep, poor Ireland, and may France weep as well, as she beholds at Paris, over the gate of the asylum which receives your sons, that harp which asks for succour. Let us weep at our inability to give back the blood which they have shed for us.

In vain, within less than two centuries, have four hundred thousand Irish fought in our armies. We must witness the sufferings of Ireland without uttering a word. In like manner have we long forgotten and neglected our ancient allies, the Scotch—and the Scotch mountaineer will soon have disappeared from the face of the earth. The Highlands are daily unpeopled. The conversion of small holdings into large farms, which ruined Rome, has destroyed Scotland. Estates may be found ninety-six square miles in extent, others twenty miles long and three broad: so that the Highlander will soon only exist in history and in Sir Walter Scott's novels. When the tartan plaid and claymore are seen passing the inhabitants of Edinburgh run to their doors to gaze at the unusual sight. The Highlander expatriates himself and disappears; and the bagpipe awakens the mountains but with one air.

DIETING.—Some persons eat themselves to death, others diet themselves to death. When a man is sick he is weak, and concludes that as when he was well he ate heartily and was strong, if he now eats heartily, he will become strong again: well meaning, but ignorant friends are of the same opinion, and their solicitations to eat become one of the greatest annoyances of a sensible invalid. Nature purposely takes away the appetite under such circumstances, and makes the very sight of food nauseating. A sick man is feeble; his feebleness extends to every muscle of the body, and the stomach being made up of a number of muscles, has its share of debility. It requires several hours of labour for the stomach to 'work up' an ordinary meal; and to give to it that amount of work to do when it is already in an exhausted condition, is like giving a man, worn out by a hard day's work, a task which shall keep him laboring half the night. Mothers are often much afraid that their daughters will hurt themselves by a little work, if they complain of not feeling very well; and yet if such daughters were to sit to dinner and shovel in enough provender for an elephant or ploughman, it would be considered a good omen and a harbinger of convalescence. A reverse of such procedure would restore multitudes of ailing persons to permanent good health; namely, to eat very little for a few days; eat nothing but coarse bread and ripe fruits, and work about the house industriously or, what is better, exercise in the open air for the greater part of each day on horseback, in the garden, or walk through the woodlands or over the hills, for hours at a time. Objectless walks, and lazy lolling in carriages, are little better than nothing.

Why are presidents like vagabonds? Because they are associated with vices.