

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

All the Emperor's Ministers are said to be now in favor of peace, and the industrial population of France look with aversion upon war.

Among the rumors current were one that Walewski was to be superseded by Persigny as Minister of Foreign Affairs; another that the Austrian Ambassador had left; and another of the formation of an army of observation on the Alps. None of them were confirmed.

The Paris correspondent of the "Times" says that the French Marshalls are charged to take command of the great Military Districts, and all Generals on leave of absence are ordered to their posts. He also says Walewski has protested against the ruinous impression that appeared to rule supreme, and determined to retire from action when moderation is no longer listened to.

Among the rumors from Paris is one that General McMahon is to command the army in Italy, and that 30,000 men of the African contingent were to cross over to Italy.

The "Constitution" has an article admitting that there are serious difficulties between France and Austria concerning the Danube and Servia, but says war is only probable in the event of the rupture of treaties.

MARRIAGE OF PRINCE NAPOLEON.—The Paris journals announce the marriage of Prince Napoleon with the Princess Clotilde Savoye. The Prince leaves on the 13th Jan. for Marseilles, and will embark for Genoa, where he will remain eight days, and then return.

From the Nord we derive the following:—"I am told on credible authority that the exact words spoken by the Emperor to M. Pereire when he met him at the railway station on his way to shoot at Rambouillet were—'L'Aurriche a fait des betises, mais de la la guerre il y a un abime—du reste j'enverrai une note a Monsieur.' M. Pereire saw the Emperor the next day at the Tuileries, and remained with him three-quarters of an hour. His Majesty said—'Well, the Bourne has been a little better today.' M. Pereire answered—'Yes; because I ventured to report your Majesty's promise to send a note to the Monsieur.'"

The Paris correspondent of the Daily News writes:—"I am informed that, with the express purpose of counteracting the disastrous effect of the few words which the Emperor addressed to M. de Hubner on New Year's Day, His Majesty has arranged a hunting party at Fontainebleau to-morrow, to which the Austrian Ambassador is invited. This news is the more significant that M. de Hubner did not once go to Compiègne during the whole autumn sojourn of the court there. You will remember how much his absence was remarked upon. Not only the Emperor but his Foreign Minister are now prodigal of attentions to M. de Hubner; he dines with Count Walewski to-day. The opinion gains ground that the great historical event of the week was from the first nothing more than a Bourne manoeuvre. All eyes are now turned to Italy, and the King of Sardinia's speech, which will be pronounced on Monday next, is looked for with intense interest. It is confidently reported that it has been settled at the Tuileries. I am inclined to think it will be much in accordance with the analysis I sent you two or three days since. A story is told of a note of Victor Emmanuel on New Year's day, which forms a curious contrast to what Napoleon III. said to the Pope's nuncio here. Speaking to a president of one of the law courts the King of Sardinia is reported to have said in an under tone, 'Let us hope that this year will be less insignificant than the preceding ones.'"

It is said the Emperor of the French has promised a gift of a million and a half of francs for the restoration of the Cathedral of Lyons.

FRENCH GUN BOATS.—The Journal de Cherbourg announces that the French Government is about to establish a depot of masts and other dockyard materials at Mayotte, for the use of French vessels.—Eight gun boats on a new principle are ordered to be forthwith laid on the stocks at Toulon. They can be taken to pieces and put together again with the greatest facility for the purposes of navigation in shallow waters.

RUSSIA.

ST. PETERSBURG, JAN. 5.—By order of the Emperor, British subjects resident or trading in the Russian empire are entitled to enjoy (sans appel adjoint) all the immunities which are granted to French, Greek, Belgian, and Dutch subjects.

ITALY.

ROME.—A letter from Rome, of the 4th inst., supplies us with an account of the reception of General de Goyon and his staff by the Holy Father on the occasion of the New Year.—"The General, on his admission to the audience chamber, addressed the Pope in few words. He said how happy he was to come for the third time to lay at the feet of His Holiness the expression of his homage, his profound respect and devotion, and those of his brother soldiers. He added that his sentiments were those of his august Emperor, and of all his officers and soldiers, and they were engraven on his heart. 'In conclusion,' said the General, 'when I contemplate the majesty of your throne, I see in you a King, and, what is more, a Sovereign Pontiff—the first exercising, like other monarchs, his temporal power within the limits of his States, an authority to the support of which is devoted our entire force; the second, still greater, exercising his spiritual authority throughout the universe without any boundaries than those of the globe itself. We salute, therefore, in your sacred person, the monarch and the noble and worthy successor of St. Peter.' The Pope replied in French.—'He thanked the General for the noble sentiments he had expressed for his person in the name of his officers and soldiers, and added—'On that brilliant day—less from the sun which was shining on the Vatican than by the recollection of the name given to the Sun of Sanctity and Justice, Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world—he invoked with all his heart the benediction of heaven on the Emperor and Empress of the French, the Imperial Prince, the brave army, and the entire nation; and he prayed to support his feeble arm in the good of all, in order that peace should reign throughout the world. The Holy Father then gave the apostolic benediction, and graciously admitted each of the officers to the foot of the throne to kiss his hand.'"

THE STATE OF ITALY.—PARIS, JAN. 6.—There is a rumour in Paris to-day that Milan is in a state of siege. The news seems highly probable, for the few words addressed to M. de Hubner by the Emperor on New Year's day—which have produced the effect which you know in London, and caused a panic for three days running on the Paris Bourse—must have driven the people in Italy nearly wild. The impression that we are on the eve of a general war seems ground immensely. A few days ago it was said—and said truly—in a Belgian journal that war was not believed in except in barracks. That exception had, perhaps, far more importance than was generally attributed to it. I can now assure you beyond a doubt, that at whatever turn events may subsequently take, the "French army of Italy" is at this moment ready to march "on paper." The Commander-in-Chief, the generals, the aid-de-camp, the staff, the regiments, the artillery, the engineering corps, are all fixed upon, and the telegraph might in half-an-hour send them on their way across the Alps to-morrow. I am not habitually emphatic, but be well assured that I do not say this lightly. Now, notwithstanding all these symptoms, my own personal opinion is that a great war is scarcely enough internally to risk the tremendous discontent which would be engendered in France by the catastrophe, the desolation, which would be produced by a war of any long duration. The national vanity is great, and doubtless the news that the tri-coloured flag was waving in Lombardy would for a time silence many hostile par-

ties. If Napoleon III. could see his way to a grand military demonstration, ending in a triumph, without any serious opposition, there is no doubt the movement would be popular. But the "tug" of real war I am sure the nation would have no stomach to stand. There is no doubt, however, that a French army might sweep the Austrians from Italy like chaff before the wind, if no opposing elements came into operation to check their onward course. There is no knowing how far France might be committed by a first and possibly, too sanguine step.—Correspondent of the Times.

TURIN, JAN. 7.—The Piedmontese Gazette publishes a note relative to the navigation of the Danube, in which, after giving a sketch of the various points of the question, it declares that the act signed at Vienna, on the 7th Nov., 1857, is contrary to the principles of liberty, justice, and general utility established by the declarations of the Congress of Paris in 1856. It further expresses the hope that the Powers will maintain the rights of the Conference, and uphold the rules laid down for the purpose of destroying a privilege favorable to Austria alone.

A letter from Milan of the 4th says:—"The cry of 'Viva Vittorio Emanuele,' which is everywhere raised, is incited by Piedmontese agents, and is a demonstration against Mazzini and the Republicans."

TURIN, JAN. 10.—It is certain that a great many persons have come into Piedmont from Austria Italy to avoid the conscription. There have also been arriving here some time past, and there are still arriving, from both Lombardy and Venice, families and persons of the higher classes who have been alarmed by the state of things in their own country.—Cor. of the London Times.

SPAIN.

In the Madrid Chamber of Deputies on the 3rd, the President of the Council confirmed the statement that "Spain had obtained complete satisfaction from the Mexicans who occupied Tampico, and that amongst other things they had restored the loan extorted from the Spaniards." The semi-official Correspondencia Autografa announces in addition that the Government had received official information from Mexico, both from the French Minister, who now represents Spain in that country, and the Spanish Consul, that General Zalozaga, President of the Mexican Republic, had intimated his readiness to give satisfaction to Spain for all her other grievances; but the Correspondencia adds that the Spanish Government will not relax any of its military measures until this promise be completely fulfilled. The same authority says:—"Our financial statement could not possibly be more satisfactory than it is.—Not only were all debts due on the 31st December paid, but the obligations of the Government are provided for, and sums sufficient to pay the expenses of the first two months of the year in hand."

The bill for authorising the Government to levy the taxes without waiting for the vote of the budget, was approved of by the Chamber of Deputies on the 3rd instant without a division. In the Senate a debate took place on the message of the President of the United States. In the course of it, the Minister of Foreign Affairs declared formally that the Cabinet of the United States had not yet made any proposition for the purchase of Cuba, and that if any were made it would be "energetically rejected." A resolution approving of the ministerial declaration was unanimously adopted. Some of the journals mention a rumour that the Queen contemplates making a visit to Rome to have an interview with the Pope.

AUSTRIA.

The Nord publishes the following as the text of the speech made by the Emperor of Austria to the French Ambassador on Jan. 4:—

"I am sincerely touched by the personal sentiments of the Emperor. Assure him that, notwithstanding the dissidences occasioned by political necessities, I have never ceased to feel the profoundest esteem and the most cordial sympathy for his person."

The Nord observes that these words, though less emphatic than those of the French Emperor, show no less clearly the existence of the state of things which has so greatly alarmed public opinion.

It was intended, (says a letter) to send 2 divisions to Italy, but on the 6th inst. orders were issued that seven brigades, that is, three divisions and a half, should move towards the southern part of the empire. The writer adds that, notwithstanding the above warlike preparations, his impression is that there will not be a collision between Austria and Sardinia.

When all the reinforcements have reached their destination, the Austrian forces in Italy will consist of 150,000 men.

INDIA.

The sentence of transportation passed some months ago upon his Majesty the ex-King of Delhi has at last been carried into effect. The fiat which brought the ill-fated King down from Allahabad arrived, a few days before the advent of the monsoon, at Diamond Harbour, where her Majesty's ship Magra was in readiness to receive the prisoner on board, to convey him to his final destination. His Majesty was accompanied by two of his wives and several other members of his family. The Cape of Good Hope is to be honoured with his custody.

The long talked of pyrotechnic exhibition, in celebration of her Majesty's assumption of the Government of India, took place at Calcutta on the evening of the 26th of November. A magnificent programme which would have astonished even the people of London or Paris, was published and duly circulated, but "this" was all the display we had, for the fireworks themselves unhappily proved a failure."

The most important feature in Madras news is the fact that a commissioner to inquire into the titles of Emudars has been appointed under the authority of the late Court of Directors. The gentleman selected by Government to hold that office is Mr. G. N. Taylor, and the date of the despatch authorising the inquiry is the 1st September.

CHINA.

Hong Kong advices to the 30th of November have come to hand.

Lora Elgin started on his trip up the Yang-tze-Kiang on the 8th, with a Chinese official who had been deputed to accompany the expedition by Kwei-tiang and Hwah-shan, the imperial commissioners, who remain in Shanghai until his lordship's return, which was not expected to be within a month.

Mr. Reed, the American Plenipotentiary, had arrived at Hong Kong, but Baron Gros still remained in the North.

The French forces at Cochin-China are said to be suffering greatly from dysentery, engendered by the unfavourable climate.

AUSTRALIA.

The Sydney correspondent of the Guardian writes:—"The resolutions respecting the right of Roman Catholic Prelates to assume territorial titles were thrown out in the Legislative Assembly by a considerable majority. Last night Mr. Denchey moved the following resolutions on the same subject.—That this house, having had before it the despatch of the Right Hon. Lord Stanley to His Excellency the Governor-General, relative to an act to incorporate St. John's College within the University of Sydney, resolves—1. That the proceeding of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in declining to submit that act to her Majesty the Queen, is not justified by the reason assigned; it is calculated to disturb the harmony which now prevails among the various religious bodies in the territory, and to cause the greatest dissatisfaction to the Parliament and people of New South Wales. 2. That this house deprecates in the strongest manner the perseverance of her Majesty's imperial advisers in a course opposed to that entire religious freedom and equality which it desires to assert as a fundamental principle in the constitution of New South Wales. 3. That the foregoing resolutions be embodied in an address to the Governor-General, with a request that his Excellency

will be pleased to transmit a copy thereof to her Majesty the Queen.

The learned gentleman was again defeated, the house being counted out. The fact is that there is a decided majority who think that the question of equal civil and religious rights is entirely different from the right of the Pope to give territorial titles to Bishops within the British dominions, but as the Roman Catholics vote pretty generally as a united body, and a general election will take place early in the ensuing year, there is a strong disposition to evade the question if possible.

THE "TIMES" AND HOLY SEE.

To the Editor of the Tablet.

MY DEAR SIR,—You have no doubt seen with surprise the late articles of the Times respecting Italian politics, and especially the affairs of the Pontifical States. Those articles would be unaccountable, if we were not fully aware of the ignorance which exists in this country regarding foreign countries, and the way in which topics of Italian politics are constantly used as a sort of makeweight in party struggles in England. But the statements of the Times about the Papal Government exhibit an unusual degree of recklessness—and disregard of facts—which could not have been possible, unless the writer had been encouraged by the circumstances which he alludes to in the first sentence of his article of the 4th, namely, "The long antagonism existing between England and the Papal See." This sentence is the key to the whole subject. It seems that the English are ready to believe any assertion against the Papal See, without one atom of truth. And so they are willing to believe with delight, any, even the most absurd statement against the Catholic Church or the Catholic Clergy. Thus, in the very next article we find in the Times clearly pointing out that the Catholic Religion is the one thing to be got rid of in Ireland, and the reason alleged is a remarkable instance of English Protestant feeling. It is that the Catholic Religion withdraws the minds of the people from more material interests and money-making! And the writer does not see that his attack on the Catholic Church in Ireland is an eulogium on it; and, at the same time, a reflection on the materialism of Protestantism! But any assertion against the Catholic Church is thought weighty and sufficient. Now, let us see what the Times says against the Papal Government. It says, that during the last ten years the States of the Church have been going from bad to worse, and that neither the Ultramontane devotee, nor the "Crochetty English perverser" deny this to be so. The Times here follows the precept of single-speech Hamilton in his infamous book called "Parliamentary Logic," in which he recommends a debater to assert boldly that his opponents admit the very thing that they strenuously deny. The truth is, that the assertion of the Times is utterly false, and entirely unsupported by proof of any sort. The Times eulogises the Roman Republic. But that Republic overturned a regularly established Constitutional Government with two Chambers, trial by jury and a free press. It commenced by the murder of Rossi, the constitutional Minister, and the destruction of a Ministry which contained only one ecclesiastic. I say nothing of the atrocities committed under the Triumvirate, the murder of unoffending and blameless ecclesiastics, and the violation of private rights. I will only observe, that after eulogising the Republic, the Times says that "a heavy debt has been incurred, and there is no advantage, domestic or international, to show for it." I admit the fact. But who incurred the debt? It was contracted by the Roman Republic, and the Papal Government has, with enlightened liberality, paid off the liabilities of that infamous predecessor, rather than expose private persons to loss and injury by repudiating the debt. So much for the assertion respecting the debt of the Roman States. But the Times goes on to say that the Roman Government "cannot manage the finances of the country!" It is very well to say that; but where is the proof? The fact is, that there is a considerable and increasing surplus above the expenditure. And in the model state of Sardinia there is an enormous deficit, notwithstanding the confiscation of the private property of the members of religious houses. The present Minister of Finance at Rome is a disciple of Sir Robert Peel, and the last tariff is based on Peel's tariff, on principles of free trade. The result has been a great increase of revenue; and I should have no difficulty in showing that the Papal States are more lightly taxed than any other country in Europe. The Court is the cheapest, and yet by far the most dignified and majestic in the world. The Pope's household costs only fifteen hundred pounds a year, and the Prime Minister receives a salary of 500*l.* a year. There is no conscription. That great impost, so grievously felt in the Sardinian States, does not exist in the dominions of the Pope. Surely this is a most important exemption, and a great privilege of the subjects of the Pope's Government, which the Times describes as the worst of Governments. "Then we are told that the roads are bad.—This is a simple falsehood. I will venture to say from my own observation that the public roads in the Roman States will bear comparison with the high roads in England. The Times says that the streets of every town are infested by ruffians, who make a walk after nightfall dangerous, except when a French sentinel is within hearing." Now, there are no French sentinels except at Rome and Civita Vecchia; and I assert without hesitation, that the streets of Rome are more secure than those of London. In the very same number of the Times we find an account of a robbery in the streets of London, and we see reports of the same kind every day in the Police-Courts, and it is impossible to walk about London at night without being molested in the most offensive manner by sturdy and importunate prostitutes. Nothing of the sort exists in Rome. You may visit the Colosseum by moonlight, and wander through the most unfrequented streets without the slightest annoyance, as I can say from my own personal experience, though there are English travellers in the Piazza di Spagna, who delight in the absurd cock-and-bull stories of daggers and assassinations with which they are entertained by the hangers-on of the hotels. Really I am ashamed to enter into these particulars for the refutation of slanders, which rest only on bold and unblushing assertion, without a single tittle of evidence, but which find a ready acceptance in this country, where anything is at once believed against a Catholic Government.

Any one reading the Times would suppose that Rome would be happy, rich, and great, if it could only get rid of the Pope and Cardinals, and the whole establishment of the Papacy. But can anything be more utterly absurd? I have no doubt that an itinerant spouter, in a public house in Oxford, would be loudly cheered by his unwashed audience in a cloud of tobacco smoke, if he denounced the University as an incubus upon the freedom and the industry of the citizens, and a tyranny of the most degrading description, and his eloquence might, very likely, stir up a town and gown row. But every sensible man knows that Oxford, without the University, would soon become a swampy village. And what would Rome be without the Pope, and the Cardinals, and Prelates, and all those circumstances which make it the centre of the Christian world? It would soon be a museum of antiquities, and a deserted town full of modern ruins. The people who call themselves Italian Patriots are, indeed, insane or dishonest, when they denounce the Papacy, which is the greatest glory of Italy and the only thing that gives to Italy a great power over the civilized world. Julius II. said to the Doge of Venice "there are only two Italian titles in Italy, one is your Ducal Cap, and the other is my Tiara." The cap is gone, but the Tiara remains, and the false friends of Italy wait at it. It is the crown of the most ancient dynasty of Princes in the world. A few years ago we heard people in this country boasting that Pius IX. then in exile, was the last of the Popes. Many time the same bust

has been made by the enemies of the Holy See. But the Vicar of Christ still reigns and no human power can overturn his throne.

I will not occupy any more of your space by a detailed refutation of the inaccuracies of the Times respecting the Papal Government. I will only add that I know the anxiety of that Government to make improvements and avail itself of every means of obtaining information of a useful description. The prisons—the revenue—the administration of public affairs—all are improved and improving under a skillful and wise management. The country is improving. The railroads are progressing. And the fact that foreign capital is invested in them shows that the state of things cannot be such as the Times describes it. I have not had time to go into details, but I trust that what I have written will serve at least as a protest against calumny—and will induce your readers to distrust and disbelieve accusations which consist only in appeals to popular ignorance and to sectarian prejudice.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

GEORGE BOWEN.

(From the London Tablet.)

No one who observes the efforts made by the Propagandist societies of this country to turn the heathen from the wickedness of his ways, to evangelize the African, convert the Jew, and remove from Popish eyes the errors of an idolatrous superstition, could imagine that the Propagandists have in their own country, and under their very eyes a mass of human beings, whose spiritual and bodily miseries are quite as deplorable as the worst which the most benighted and suffering populations of other lands can show. He would still less suppose that, though this fact has been long notorious, the desire to establish a spiritual protectorate wherever they can extend their Propagandism, openly or stealthily, abroad, is such that home miseries have enjoyed the least share of their attention; have indeed been comparatively neglected by them. It was enough apparently for the native heathen that he lived within the shadow of the righteous, that he had opportunities which by dint of exertions he was morally certain not to make, might bring him within the active influence of such Christianity as the better sort of his countrymen could impart to him. Moreover, the emissaries of Exeter Hall were compassing heaven and earth to make a proselyte of Jew or Turk, Heathen or Pagan; backed by funds almost inexhaustible, but essential to a creed whose converts require to be comforted bodily as well as spiritually. Your benighted Englishmen penned up in filthy alleys, crawling through their days, hungry and naked, living in habitations not fit for a dog, seeing their children grow up around them, with the stamp of future crime already upon their brows, and lisping in blasphemy; Englishwomen shut up in miserable garrets, often without fire in the bitter depth of winter, toiling from morning till night, fortunate if even so they could secure a pittance sufficient to prolong life, and suffering boys prowling about by day for food, and sleeping by night on door-steps or in the cellars of empty or unfinished houses; women old and young huddled up on the pavement before the workhouse in great public thoroughfares; men, women, and children swarming in miserable lodging-houses, worse provided than beasts, and heaped together, twenty, thirty, forty, in a single room—these are some of the features of our great Metropolis, and of every great town in Christian England, which one would think should claim priority of attention, not to speak of forms of desolation more shocking still in the streams of human pollution, which nightly and perennially flow through our streets, and for which, as yet, no cure has been attempted.

For these are evils for which society is unaccountable till she has done all she can to remove them.—For more or less they are the fruit of which her vices are the seed; not wholly the spontaneous growth of nature. It is not natural that in the richest country in the world there should be more poverty than in any other, more misery, more degradation, more vice. It is not natural that, having all this destitution, and paying a forced subsidy of millions every year to relieve it, the sharpest pangs of hunger should to thousands be preferable to an appeal to the workhouse. It is a thing unheard of in any other country professing Christianity, that men and women die from want; not such, observe, as conceal their woe in their breasts and leave it to consume them, but persons who have submitted to the last humiliation which humankindure in this meretricious of lands can undergo—the attitude and suit of a pauper. The whole world knows that it is not a rare thing for people in England to die of want. Within a few days the journals have recorded several instances of Christians thus abandoned. Fortune has turned her back upon them; a Christian public has sent them to the workhouse; the workhouse has closed its doors upon them; and they have gone back to their garrets, or stolen away into some corner wretched and deserted as themselves, and in answer to their last sigh, let us trust, have obtained that mercy from Heaven which men denied them. But for the units who have thus found a period to their sufferings, thousands upon thousands remain to reproach the luxury and splendor, and the boastful pride of this great country, which every now and then, stung with a passing remorse, pours a stream of subscriptions into the hands of the nearest active philanthropist; and when it has done that, relapses into the same consciousness of British superiority in all things. While we write, the stream of donations is flowing in favor of the Field-lane Refuge, of which a correspondent of the leading journal has given us a description:—"On entering," he says, "we were at once admitted into a large room, well-lighted and warmed, and moderately well-ventilated. The entire floor, with the exception of certain narrow strips necessary for communication, and encumbered with numerous boots and shoes (so-called), with here and there a wooden leg, or a crutch, was covered with cribs, bearing a stronger resemblance to wretched sheep-troughs than to anything else with which I am acquainted, natural or artificial. These cribs consisted merely of boards, raised a few inches from the brick floor, and inclined to it at a small angle, so as to elevate slightly the head and shoulders of the occupants, each man being separated from his neighbor by a partition a few inches high." And on these boards lay old and young, not a handful of straw to soften that hard couch for the weary sides, and the swollen or wounded feet, which the writer observed almost in every instance. No covering was provided. Those who had jackets took them off to cover their feet with, and those who had none did without them. Bread and water was the evening meal, and with bread and water they would again be nourished the following morning before being sent out to renew the hopeless battle of life. But there were prayers for them morning and evening, whether they liked them or no; for this is the indispensable condition of every act of your Heretic Propagandists' charity.—You cannot touch even their bread and water, but, perforce, you must swallow their prayers too.

And yet, compared with the English workhouse, this miserable refuge, cold, ungenerous, niggardly, and exacting though it is, has comparatively a cheery look, when we think of the ordinary fate of poverty in this Christian land, and the habitual cruelties of a godless Poor Law, spite of its hypocritical parade of Christisms far which our contemporaries have just trumpeted through the length and breadth of the land. Think of the long series of dismal stories which have shocked and filled us from boyhood up, of deep done in the tombs of English charity more heartless, more wicked, than those which lie at the door of the brave and the murderer, and yet systematically done, year after year, and approved of on deliberation by men of authority. Not to go back for instances, take the case of the guardians of High Wycombe only the other day, three clergymen of the Establishment looking on and approving. Among the applicants for relief was a poor woman with a family of children, whose husband

had been committed to Aylesbury gaol on some felonious charge. This poor creature had previously applied for a little outdoor relief to enable her to support her children, and, upon again presenting herself, she was told by the chairman that in her case the adverse decision of the board was unalterable.—The applicant roared, mournfully, "Surely, your hearts are not so hard as to wish to drive me and my children into the workhouse, and thus make it cost the parish more than it would to give me a little outdoor relief?" The chairman replied, "This is my order;" to which the applicant rejoined, "Then upon your heads be whatever I do to get my children bread."

And why should she not go to the workhouse? What right has man or woman who has committed the crime of poverty to cavil at the sentence which indignant society passes upon them? The poor indeed alight on this refuge. Some accept death as a lighter evil. Many take a hold heart and charm open the doors of the comparative paradise of a prison by committing actual crime. But all shrink with instinctive dread from passing under a yoke, after which they can never again lift up their heads with the pride of manhood, with the dignity of an independent spirit. For a reformed religion and free institutions, and British intelligence, invincibility, and pluck, and Heaven knows what else, have defaced the Christian aspect of charity, and that sacredness wherewith the Gospel has invested the poor and which they wear still wherever the errors of Popery have blinded men's eyes. They who in the eyes of Protestant Englishmen are paupers, the refuse of the parish, an eye sore to ratepayers, a pest to parish officers, a curse to industry, a shame and an offence, are in the sight of Holy Church, the Poor of Christ, the children of Her Divine Spouse, the Companions of Our Lord in his poverty. And wherever the Catholic heart beats warm and true to Catholic principles, stands firm by the Holy See, is heart and soul Popish and Ultramontane, its charity is clearest, and deepest, and purest. In no Catholic country do we see society corrupted to the core by the doctrine that poverty is crime, and men's faith in one another destroyed by a debasing thirst for gain, to appease which every principle of honor and honesty is cast aside. Nor have we such a spectacle as every now and then presents itself in England, of mighty epamorphic efforts to cast off the load of misery made by a good-natured public, which pays its subscription and goes its way in peace, helpless to do more than occasionally keep the flames down a little, but certain to see them burst forth again before long. How many times within these ten years have we seen efforts like that which is now made for the Field-lane Refuge, and how surely has the evil again and again risen above the remedy, and mocked the most lavish expenditure? And why? For that same reason which has left England without any of the holy brotherhoods which she possessed before she ceased to be Popish and became enlightened; which has given her poor-laws instead of monasteries; political economy for Gospel Charity.

THE LAST OF THE STUARTS AND THEIR PERSECUTIONS.—A discovery made last week in the Church of Nonancourt, in France, brings back to memory an episode of the reign of the successors of the Stuarts, in which a British Ambassador played the part of midnight assassin, and was prevented from having the last descendant of James II. murdered, only by the courage and energy of a French lady.

In opening last week the richly-embroidered but faded chalice veil which for half a century had been used in the Church on great festivals, a paper was discovered in the interior folds of a ribbon, the contents of which were as follows, the French being in the orthography of the time of Louis XV.—"I am the ribbon (cordón) of James, last King of Great Britain—last King of the Stuart family. If you wish to know how I have been transformed into this ornament consult the anecdotes of the time—the History of the Regency of the Duke of Orleans under the minority of Louis XV., his private life, and anecdotes of the reign of Louis XIV., and those of the reign of Louis XV."

The following is the authentic account of the way the ribbon fell into the hands of the ancestor of the lady who gave it to the Church of Nonancourt:—

The British Ambassador had assassinated placed in ambuscade, who were to have murdered the unfortunate Prince, when by the courage and assistance of Madame l'Hopital, grandmother of the late respected Mayor of Evreux, he was enabled to escape from their pignards, leaving to her as a souvenir his Bath ribbon, which was given by her daughter-in-law, in 1805, to the Abbe Heron, Curate of the Church, and most probably an Irishman.

Madame l'Hopital died in 1740. Occupied in collecting documents for a work on the times in which these events were enacted, I add to this a letter written by the unfortunate Pretender in 1758, which I copy exactly from the original, written in a large and bold hand:—

Ye 20th December, 1758.

MR. GORDON, PARIS. Sir—I cannot but be in a great concern as ye state of health regarding a certain gentleman, as I here by different ways, he is declining. Be pleased to let me know what you here on that subject. I wrote you last concerning a remittance, which I hope you received. So remain yr most sincere friend, J.R. For Mr. Gordon, Principal of yr Scotch College, at Paris.

The "certain gentleman" was his unfortunate father son of James II.

I shall endeavour to get more minute details relative to the honourable conduct of the Ambassador of the British monarch. Comparisons with the past may be useful at present.

*Except the Cardinal of York.

UNITED STATES.

CONVERSION.—Mrs. Mary Johnson, wife of James Johnson, a respectable and well-instructed lady was received into the bosom of the Catholic Church, the 20th inst., by Rev. D. M. Winand, pastor at Onn-at-Dover. The new convert was formerly a member of a branch of the Presbyterians.—Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph.

ORITVANY.—Oliver Rice, a soldier of the Revolution, died in Mayfield, Fulton county, N.J., last week. He was ninety-two years old. He was employed as an express-rider in the Revolution, and in that capacity executed commissions for Washington.

A GROWING YANKEE.—A teacher of one of the public schools in the town of Essex (Mass.), while imparting moral and religious instructions at the opening of the school in the morning, asked why he ought to love God. Whereupon a bright little arch of five years of age very promptly answered, "Because he gives us our parents to take care of us and gives us our clothes, and learns us how to make money."

A gentleman of Boston, who takes a business view of most things when recently asked respecting a person of quite a poetic temperament, replied, "Oh, he is one of those men who have soarings after the infinite, and divings after the unfathomable, but who never pay cash."

David Wittkowsky has been sued by the Jews of Chicago for laying his Gentile hands upon the Five Books of Moses, in the ark of the covenant, in their synagogue. They claim ten thousand dollars damages for this "enormous profanation," as the Rabbi termed it. The Jews occupied a small room belonging to defendant as a synagogue, but failing to pay the rent took possession, and in piling up the furniture he committed the alleged desecration.

In a train of cars from Fitchburg to Boston, a short time since, an elegant and fashionably-dressed lady was forced to travel ten miles, standing in the passage-way of the car, not being able to compress her garments so as to enter the seat. The fair one made sundry endeavors to force herself into a seat, but failed.