

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lord Napier of Magdala will succeed Sir William Mansfield as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India.

The centenary of Beethoven's birth occurs this year, and it will be celebrated with all honours at Bonn, his native place.

It is said that the Empress wrote a long letter to M. Ollivier, as to methods of shortening the last agonies of those condemned to death.

Mr. J. Bright's popularity is on the wane. At a large meeting of workmen at Bethnal-green, Mr. Anderson's remark that Mr. Bright was "the friend of the working man" was received with a storm of hisses.

A murder, rather similar in its features to that of Pautin, has just been discovered at Poitiers, France. The victim was killed and then buried under a walnut tree. The murderer only secured the paltry sum of one franc forty centimes.

The Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master of Freemasons of England, has consented to preside at the 72nd anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, in March.

DIPLOMACY IN YOUNG LIFE.—The Archduke Rudolph, heir to the Austrian throne, has invited the Prince Imperial to visit him at the Court of Vienna, and promises to return the visit to the Tuileries. The Prince Imperial is fourteen, and the Archduke Rudolph twelve years of age.

M. Emile Ollivier is believed to have in contemplation a measure which may possibly abate the present rage for duelling. Instead of a short time of imprisonment, a fine of 100,000 francs is to be inflicted both on principals and seconds. A few sentences of this sort rigidly enforced would produce a most salutary effect.

"A Benevolent Lady" is the heading given to the following announcement in a Limerick journal:—"Mrs. Fallon, of Cabre Castle, near Thurles, has given instructions to her agent, Mr. John C. Cornwall, Dublin, to forgive all the arrears due on her large estates. From three to six years' rent was due. She has also distributed £200 worth of blankets and clothing amongst the poor living on her property."

The Glasgow Scotsman contains the following curious statement:—"At a point of the Clyde, some ten or twelve miles above Lanark, a few scores of labourers, by driving a dam across the river any forenoon, could send the waters down the Tweed to Berwick. We have not yet quite resolved to do this, but we have the power, and let Glasgow see to it."

The King of Burmah intends to present each of the 750 Fathers of the Council with a pastoral cross enriched with gems. That of the Pope is reported to be an Oriental masterpiece. The crosses will be transmitted through the Propaganda, which is daily expecting their arrival.

Rochefort has lost half his popularity since he refused to lend his admirers against Marshals Canrobert and Bazaine, and in all probability he will shortly be called upon to resign his seat in favour of M. Gustave Florens, who did his best to bring about a collision.

It is not unlikely that Traupmann's execution will lead to the abolition of public executions in France. M. Ollivier has promised on behalf of the Government to consider the propriety of abolishing public executions, and to lay the result before the Legislative Body before long.

A revolting incident recently occurred on board one of the Waterford steamers. The captain had allowed himself to run short of fuel, and in order to keep his fires alight so as to reach the English coast in time, he burned one hundred of the pigs which formed part of the ship's cargo. Such passengers as may have witnessed the holocaust, or heard (as they could hardly have failed to hear) the wretched animals' cries, must have thought that punctuality in reaching their destination was rather dearly purchased by this device of the captain's.

A bluebook has been issued containing some interesting correspondence relating to the kidnapping and enslaving of young Africans by the Boers of the Trans-Vaal Republic. The Boers obtain their slaves from the natives in the Amaponda country, or beyond Zoutpansberg, in exchange for cattle or blankets. This traffic is usually spoken of by the cant name of "black ivory" or "black goods." The slaves are worth from £15 to £20 each, and are often treated with gross inhumanity. For the most part the slaves are children who have been captured in the exterminating wars waged by the natives of the interior, and a form of "booking" or indenturing is gone through, by which the services of a native are secured to his master until he is twenty-five years of age—a limitation, however, which is practically disregarded.

A child while playing near Drogheda, Ireland, found a curious piece of metal which she gave to an old woman, who took it to a dealer in old iron and got a shilling for it. The dealer in his turn sold it for two pounds and a half, and it has finally been purchased for the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin, for £300. It proved to be the celebrated Tara Brooch, one of the most remarkable pieces of goldsmith's work known to exist. It is formed of white bronze—this probably saved it from the melting-pot to which countless treasures of gold and silver have been consigned—the surface overlaid with gold filigree of work of surprising intricacy and marvellous delicacy of execution. Such is its excellence, that one of the most accomplished living goldsmiths declared that he could not find a workman, with every apparent advantage of modern knowledge and appliance, competent to make such another.

There has, it would seem, been a somewhat undignified fight over the body of Traupmann between different professors at the Ecole de Medecine. For several years the Prefect of Police has been in the habit of granting the bodies of criminals to M. Robin, who is well-known for his experiments on "tissues" of the human body. Formerly he was allowed to enjoy his privileges undisputed, but it seems that there was a general desire to dissect so notorious a criminal as Jean Baptiste Traupmann. Three different professors have, ever since the Pautin murderer was sentenced to death, literally besieged the unfortunate M. Pietri with requests to have the body made over to them. The Prefect, like many a wiser man before him, seeing that he could not please everybody, has settled to give no cause of jealousy—has declined to assign Traupmann's body to anybody, and hence the assassin's family will have the satisfaction of knowing that, thanks to the ever-engerness of the faculty, their relative has escaped the dissecting-room.

The *Moniteur Universel* announces that a proposition will shortly be laid before the Senate, tending to the division between the two great bodies in the Senate of legislative and constituent power. By the same proposition the Senate will receive a new organization, and will be invested with the right of electing its own Bureau. Among those who have signed this proposition are Prince Napoleon, M. Bonjean, M. de la Gueronniere, M. Michel Chevalier, M. Chasseloup Laubat, &c.

A contemporary states that no less than 27,000 penny song-books are sold every day throughout France. What is still more surprising is the immense number of persons engaged in the trade. It is the custom for a man or family of beggars to procure the song-books and tramp the whole country round singing the songs in them. This attracts attention, and then they sell the little books. The singers in France number about 800,000. They may be divided into three great orders; those at fixed posts, the tramps who wander about and sing in the streets, and those who frequent the low eating-houses. The song-book which has sold the most is once containing the "Femme à Barbe," which Theresa made notorious. This song, however, is of German origin.

Mr. Scott, reporting on discoveries of great interest made during the restoration of Bangor Cathedral, writes:—"This exhuming and restoring to their places of the fragments of the beautiful work of the thirteenth century—reduced to ruin by Owen Glendower, used as mere rough material by Henry VIII., and re-discovered by us four centuries and a half after their reduction to ruin—is one of the most interesting facts I have met with in the course of my experience. Its carrying out to perfection is a matter of great historic and artistic importance, and demands every effort, and all the study and thought which can be brought to bear on it, with a view to ensuring the perfect fulfilment of the task we have undertaken."—*Illustrated London News*.

An alto-relievo of the head of Christ, executed in Carrara marble, and inclosed in a framework of Rosso Antico marble, is reported to have been discovered under circumstances which would indicate it to be one of the earliest relics of Christian art in existence. It is stated to have been found, with other antique carvings, during the progress of some excavations made in Rome by Signor Ammendola, with the view of erecting a fountain in the grounds of his residence. At a considerable depth below the surface, an entrance to one of the large catacombs was discovered, which had evidently been undisturbed for centuries. Coins, marble columns, statues, and other works were found, together with the relief in question, the extreme antiquity of which is proved by the symbols carved on the frame-work, among which is the fish—the earliest of Christian symbols. The head is artistically treated in the classic style, and is of great beauty.

The *Times* correspondent at Athens writes as follows:—"In terminating this letter I am sorry to say that brigandage and a forced paper currency are still arresting the progress of the country. We receive daily accounts of acts of disorder and robbery, and of skirmishes between the brigands and the royal troops; and it is the prudence of the banks, and not the financial wisdom of Mr. Zaimes' Cabinet which keeps down the premium on specie. The publication of a monthly official abstract of the criminal statistics of the Kingdom is required to strengthen the power of public opinion and awaken the Government and Chamber to a sense of duty. Some returns from a part of the Peloponnese recently published in the *Albion*, prove that crime exists to an almost incredible extent. Mr. G. Platys, who was captured by the band of Beloula near Hypate, has been released on payment of 20,000 drachmas (about £750) as a ransom. A French ship which went on shore at the south-eastern cape of Zante, has been plundered in open day, and it is said that a boat-load of armed men from the town divided the plunder with the peasantry of the neighbourhood. The affair is now under investigation."

The following is from the *London Canadian News*:—"Three able letters on the policy of England in regard to her colonial possessions have within the past few days appeared in the *Times*. They are simply signed "A Colonist," but they are so ably written and display so intimate a knowledge of the subject upon which they treat that we are sure our Canadian readers will have no difficulty in recognizing in their style and substance "the fine Roman hand" of one who was but recently among the foremost of their politicians. Indeed, so clear and forcible are the arguments he adduces in favour of the position he takes up, viz, to maintain inviolate the unity of the empire, that we shall be much mistaken if these letters are not made the text-book of the advocates of this policy in opposition to that of the Goldwin-Smith school. These letters should, therefore, be preserved from their present ephemeral character by being reprinted in pamphlet form and freely circulated, so that the views of their author—and no man living is better qualified to express the feelings of colonists generally—may be made widely known throughout this country, and especially at the present moment when the future relations between England and her colonies occupy so large a share of public attention."

The *News* no doubt refers to Sir John Rose.

The Hamilton *Times* learns from a gentleman who lately arrived there from the Eastern provinces, that certain sections of the Inter-colonial Railway are being rapidly proceeded with. Mr. Worthington has made very great progress in his sections, and if the other sections are pushed forward in the same ratio, the road will soon be open for traffic. Mr. Worthington's contract is composed of sections 1 and 2, extending 40 miles eastward, commencing at Rivière du Loup. Of this 30 miles of the road is graded, 40 structures of masonry built, and 18 miles of fencing completed on both sides. The balance of materials for masonry will be delivered on the ground during the winter. One of the heaviest pieces of work on the Inter-colonial is the viaduct at Trois Pistoles, being 5 spans of 100 feet each, and 63 feet above the bed of the river. The foundations of this work are already built above high water mark. The quarrying and cutting of the stone will be proceeded with during the winter, and the structure completed early in the spring. The approaches at both ends are in a forward state. Green Island Bridge is 2 spans, 80 feet each, and 40 feet above the bed of the river. The stone is ready for this structure, and the building will commence as soon as the weather will permit. At Rivière du Loup is a bridge of 3 spans, 1,000 feet each, and 35 feet above the bed of the river. The stone for this work will be all cut and delivered during the winter, ready for spring operations. So far it understands that Mr. Worthington has got along quite smoothly with the authorities, and has no fault to find with the Commissioners.

A TOUGH CASE.—In Arkansas, Elder Knapp, while baptizing converts at a revival meeting, advanced with a wiry, sharp-eyed old chap into the water. He asked the usual question, whether there was any reason why the ordinance of baptism should not be administered. After a pause, a tall, powerful looking chap, with an eye like a blaze, who was leaning on a long rifle, and quietly looking on, remarked:—"Elder, I don't want to interfere in this yere business any way, but I want to say that is an old sinner you have got hold of, and I know that one dip won't do him any good. If you want to get the sin out of him, you'll have to anchor him out in deep water over night."

DRY GOODS SLANG.—AN AMERICAN BUYER PUZZLING AN ENGLISH SELLER.—A contemporary tells this story: An expert buyer, junior partner of one of our large American firms, at a recent first visit to his correspondent in an English manufacturing city was complimented by the senior partner of the house, who insisted on personally showing goods to his American purchaser. "There sir," said Dowlas, throwing out a roll of goods, "what do you think of that?" "Oh, that's played out," said the American. "It's what?" said Bull. "It's played, I tell you," said the customer. "Played, ah! really; we call it plaid, by 'yar in England, but this isn't plaid—plaid, you know." "No," said Yankee, "I don't mean plaid; I mean 'ter say it's gone up." "Oh, no," said the Britisher, "not at all; it has not gone up—quite the contrary. We've taken off from the price." "Over the left; it's threepence too high now." "No doubt of it; but our neighbors, you know, on the left, are not manufacturers, you know." "Very likely; but I don't care to be 'stuck' when I get home." "Really. Most extraordinary. Is it as dangerous in New York as the news-papers say?" "Yes, but I don't want these goods. I've got some already that will knock the spots out of 'em." "But my dear sir, there's no spots on the goods, I assure yah. They are perfect." "Well, well, suppose we 'switch off' on these goods and try something else." "Certainly!" and the Englishman, to the infinite amusement of the American's friend, called a clerk with a wisp-broom and direct him to "switch off" any dust he could find, while he proceeded to find something else. "There," said the Englishman triumphantly, spreading out another fabric, "there is the handsomest piece of goods in England, 'art a guinea a yard." "I can't see it," said his customer. "Can't see it? why you are looking right at it; however, suppose you try the light of this 'window.'" "No, I don't mean that," said the American. "I haven't got the stamps for such good." "Stamps! no stamps required but a bill stamp, which we are happy to furnish." This misunderstanding might have continued longer, had not one of the younger members of the house, seeing his senior's perplexity, reached the American and "put him through" after the manner of his countrymen.

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending February 15, 1870, observed by John Underhill, Optician, 387 Notre Dame Street.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
Wednesday, Feb. 9	30°	36°	30°
Thursday, " 10	27°	34°	22°
Friday, " 11	14°	20°	12°
Saturday, " 12	32°	40°	24°
Sunday, " 13	6°	12°	6°
Monday, " 14	8°	18°	20°
Tuesday, " 15	28°	38°	30°

  

	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.
Wednesday, Feb. 9	38°	22°	30°
Thursday, " 10	36°	20°	28°
Friday, " 11	24°	4°	14°
Saturday, " 12	43°	4°	23° 5
Sunday, " 13	26°	2°	14°
Monday, " 14	26°	0°	13°
Tuesday, " 15	40°	16°	28°

An-roid Barometer compensated and corrected.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
Wednesday, Feb. 9	29.58	30.53	30.57
Thursday, " 10	29.72	29.74	29.80
Friday, " 11	30.18	30.12	29.97
Saturday, " 12	29.48	29.40	29.68
Sunday, " 13	30.26	30.26	30.26
Monday, " 14	30.10	29.86	29.73
Tuesday, " 15	29.86	29.95	30.02

MUSIC.

MR. J. B. LABELLE begs to announce that he has resumed the teaching of instrumental music, and will be happy to give lessons on the Organ, Piano, Harp, or Guitar, either at his own, or the pupils' residence, on very moderate terms. Mr. LABELLE may be addressed at the Office of this Paper, No. 10, Place d'Armes.

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