

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—In the Assembly to-day a Bill increasing President McMahon's salary was passed.

In his official report to the company of the loss of the "Ville du Havre," Captain Surmont says that he had hardly time to jump on the bridge of the steamer after the discovery of the "Loch Earn," before the latter struck right into the side opposite the main mast; an enormous hole was made rendering it certain that the ship could not remain afloat but a short time. In fact the water rushed in so quickly there was not time to close the door of the bulkhead of the coal bunker; having been forced into the engine, the water poured in that way into the boiler. The second officer was instructed to superintend the work of disembarkation. Captain Surmont then describes how two boats were crushed and many persons killed by the falling of the main-mast, and gives other details not hitherto published. He then describes how he sank with the steamer, and was afterwards picked up, tells how the small boats of the "Loch Earn" rescued all the drowning persons they could reach, and adds there was no more than 12 minutes between the collision and the sinking of the ship.

THE EFFECTS OF OVERWORK IN FRANCE.—The Medical and Surgical Reporter thus speaks of the effects of overwork:—"Undoubtedly, France, who owes so much wealth and prosperity to its manufactures, also owes to them, that is, to the excessive labour of her children in the workrooms, her recent defeats. Other statistics of military recruiting inform us that of 325,000 young men conscripted during one of the late years, 109,005 were discharged for want of stature, diseased spine or constitutional weakness.

MURDER OF TWO CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES.—Once again (says the North China Herald), in the province of Szechuen, a French Catholic Missionary has been murdered, though he was provided with a passport from Peking in perfectly good order. The Rev. Pere Hue, accompanied by a native priest named Ta'y, went to the city of Ki'en-kiang-hi'en with the intention of taking possession of a small house bought with the express permission of the high authorities of the province superior to the local mandarin, who, himself seemingly acquiescing in the project, had previously informed the missionaries that nothing hindered their entering his territory. This mandarin, named Kou, has always shown a spirit of violent hate against foreigners and an ill-will to Christians, whom, in spite of the imperial edicts, which, generally, he did not post up, he had constantly refused hitherto to admit within the limits of his subprefecture. As to the city people, they were all most peaceful and showing a good spirit towards the missionaries, whom they had oftentimes before invited to come and reside amongst them. Suddenly, on the 5th of September, the residence of the two missionaries was invaded by a mob, who, rushing upon them, dragged them along the street, beating, and wounding them till they had in their hands but two dead bodies. Naturally the mandarin Kou, to whom suspicion points strongly as the author of the riot, stopped quietly in his yamen throughout, and did not attempt to restrain the outbreak. It is to be hoped that the foreign legations will at last join in a common understanding to put an end to such frequent, illegal, and abominable crimes.

The Paris Univers says of the Comte de Chambord:—"Faithful to the resolutions of his whole life, which would not permit him to cause his country even an hour of trouble or agitation; he came quietly, without ostentation, to follow with anxiety the march of events through which it was allowable to catch a glimpse of the salvation of the country, and of the end of an undesired exile. The moment is not come to reveal what attempt the Comte de Chambord has made to bring the ship in distress back to port; but when the hour of God shall have struck, and that hour is not far off, France will learn with admiration what unselfishness, simplicity, and devotion there is in this royal and fatherly heart, which knows no party, and so nobly fulfils its duty. She will be astonished that she has so long misunderstood so much self-denial and true greatness." It is hard to imagine to what the expressions unselfishness and "self-denial" (abnegation) refer, unless it be to a project of abdication, and this is the interpretation which the Bourne immediately put upon them; going up in consequence. The Univers, however, positively denies that this is what the King has done, and recalls his former declaration, je n'abdiquerai jamais; so that we are left completely in the dark being only certain of this, that whatever the Comte de Chambord has done or attempted, is something honourable, straightforward, and disinterested. The Univers adds a correction which leaves us in a more hazy state than ever. The Comte de Chambord "did not put up at the Marquis Dreuze-Breze's in Paris," as was reported; he did not reside either at Paris, or at the Chateau de Luynes, or at the Duc de la Rochefoucauld Bisaccia's.

SPAIN.

MADRID, Dec. 18.—The bombardment of Cartagena continued all day. There was a terrible magazine explosion within the insurgent line to-day. General Donaguen offers pardon to all who surrender. The insurgents are still able to obtain provisions, but their ammunition is failing.

ITALY.

Italy has not done so much after all for education within the last ten years of freedom. "Ten years ago" says the official Gazette di Milano in its issue of November 10, "there were 12,700,000 of Italians who could not read, and now there is 19,500,000 an increase of over 200,000 of ignoramuses. When Rome and Venice were annexed, it was found that those two cities contained fewer persons who could not read, than any other in Italy."

Ruffianism riding first-class at the expense of a needy country is a curiosity peculiar to Italy. Shorn of this privilege a seat in the Italian Parliament would cease to be an object of ambition to its present votaries. The inconveniences of summoning princes to keep the stools of the absentees warm might suggest that the time had come for inventing a remedy;

dissolved and the Comitia—for our ruffians love to talk like ancient Romans—shall be convoked. A futile expedient, of which the only fruit would be that the usual six-sevenths of the electors would vote again for the men but invention is at fault. Already indeed it is suggested that the present Parliament shall be whose interest is concentrated in these free passes. The Parliament would remain a veritable "wilderness of monkeys," for which Shylock would not have given his turquoise ring, but which the Savoyard princes are eminently qualified to adorn. Nor have Catholics profound motives for regretting the degradation of monarchy in Italy, or in certain other countries. The benefit the Church is likely to receive at the hands of modern potentates disposes us simply to condemn them who have brought contempt upon royalty. The time has passed for regretting that they are reduced "to suckle fools and chronicle small beer." The so-called kingdom of Italy is, however, in a situation which borders so nearly on bankruptcy that the wisest of rulers might despond over its irremediable disasters. The financial difficulty will be easily understood by all who will be at the pains of making themselves acquainted with a few figures which we subjoin. A milliard of francs, or lire italiane, equals forty millions of English pounds sterling. The public debt of the Italian kingdom amounts to fifteen milliards, that is, to six hundred million pounds. The annual interest on this debt is seven hundred and seventy-five millions of francs; that is, thirty-one millions of pounds. Within the last nine years this public debt has grown at the rate of a milliard per annum.—These tremendous figures have to be considered by the lurid light of others, which render the situation more desperate. Thus the deficit for 1874 is double the deficit estimated for 1873. Taxation has been carried to an extent which paralyses industry and commerce. Banks are ruined and manufactures closed from sheer inability to pay the imposts which exceed in number anything previously known in the history of the world. The Church property, excepting that which is now being disposed of in the Papal States, has been already sold. The State domains—possedimenti demaniali,—the State railways, the monopoly of salt and tobacco, in a word, everything saleable in the State has been sold. The condition of "the youngest sister of the Latin kingdoms," which makes so imposing a figure in the cartoons of Punch is that of the man in the story, who having drunk up all the furniture, was fain to send a boy out with his wooden leg for any money it would fetch for matches in the rough. Happy the usurping Kingdom if it could only find a purchaser, at any price, for that same leg which stretches out into the Mediterranean. How many patriots would be found—not blushing that they were selling their country, but—thanking heaven that they had a country to sell! Naturally, however, debt under such government grows. When Italy consisted of seven independent states the entire expenditure for the seven amounted to twenty millions sterling per annum. When three years ago Italy, from the Alps to Sicily, was subjugated to the dominion of the usurper, the annual expenditure had risen to sixty millions. During the current year it will reach eighty millions, exceeding, by about nine millions, sterling, the gross annual expenditure of England for 1873. Tedious as these statistics may appear, they are essential to a right understanding of Roman affairs. All confirm the assurance with which Catholics expect a future in which the august head of Christ's Church on earth will not be the prisoner of a beggarly, unprincipled, and bloodthirsty faction.—And here it may be proper to mention one of the numerous facts which illustrate that captivity. On one of the evenings of the past week, at exactly one hour after the Ave Maria, a band of serenaders assembled under the windows of the Vatican, where, without molestation from the grinning sentinels of Victor Emmanuel, they sang a song of which the chorus was:—"E! E! E! Accidente al Papa-re." Imagine a mob howling underneath the windows of some other royal palace:—"Sing! sing! sing! D—the Church and d—the king," which is a translation, literal as we dare venture to offer of the serenade with which the present tyrants of Rome allow the Holy Father to be outraged in his captivity.

ROME, Dec. 17.—The Papal nuncio, at Paris, has been notified that the Archbishops of Paris, Cambrai and Valencia, have been elevated to the College of Cardinals.

AUCTION AT THE GESU.—The furniture of the Jesuit Fathers left in their Casa Professa, and taken possession of by the Italian Government, was sold by auction, according to advertisements printed in the Official Gazette and bills pasted on the church, upon Wednesday the 12th of November, on the premises. The furniture was of the simplest description, consisting of old beds, tables, chairs, and writing-tables, and plain presses of wood. These were arranged in the corridor and refectory on the ground-floor. Two Carabinieri were on guard at the doors. Brokers and their men were the only buyers. The auction lasted from half-past nine a.m., to eleven a.m. An hour and a-half was sufficient to clear off the lots.

THE CHOLERA.—Rome has at last been visited by the cholera, in spite of the fumigations at the railway station. It broke out among some soldiers in the Cimarra Barracks, to whom had been served out for rations—according to some Liberal papers—unsound preserved meat. This is denied by the Government, and the journals which spread the report about the bad preserved meat are threatened with prosecution. Now it is asserted that no new cases have occurred, and that the pest has disappeared. But the truth is not told. The cholera has been, and is now in Rome. Its ravages are not confined to the poorer quarters or the soldiers. Yet it is to be hoped that the deaths will not be many, and that the disease will not continue long.

CEYLON: RELIGIONS AND RELIGION.—The letter of "An Occasional Correspondent" in the Times of Monday (Colombo), gives the results of the Census taken in 1871 of the population and religious statistics of that beautiful island, extracted from a blue-book just presented by the Registrar-General to the Colonial Legislature. The Correspondent says:—"Some of the results are sufficiently startling, and as regards the teachers of religion, looking to the mere numbers ranged on the different sides, it can scarcely be matter for surprise that our ministers and missionaries have been able to make so little impression on the stronghold of the heathen. While there are but 217 Protestant clergy and missionaries among the two-and-a-half millions of the people, and 87 Catholic priests, there are no less than 5,345 Buddhist priests, 1,078 Sivite priests, 44 Mahometan priests, and 862 Devil Dancers. With regard to the religious denominations of the inhabitants, the num-

bers may be thus stated:—Buddhist 1,520,575; Sivite, 464,414; Roman Catholic, 182,613; Mahometan, 171,542; Protestant, 24,786; Wesleyan, 6,071; Presbyterian, 3,101; Baptist, 1,478." We commend these figures to the attention of those who say that the Catholic Church goes in for a priesthood disproportionate in its numbers to those of the laity. Here we have the aggregate of the Protestant sects in Ceylon, numbering all told, but 35,406, and yet possessing a body of "clergy and missionaries" consisting of 217 officials; giving an average of one Protestant minister to every 163 Protestants (omitting fractions), while the Catholics have but 87 priests to 182,613 of the people, or one to every 2,099. The Mahometan proportion is 1 to 381; whilst among the two millions (or thereabouts) of Pagans—without including the "Devil Dancers," whom we conclude to be sort of Jumpers or Terpsichorean Spiritualists—there is a bonzo or sacrificer to every 399 of the heathen population. Thus it would appear, that of all the "denominations" in Ceylon, the Catholics have the smallest and the Protestants the largest body of clergy.

AN AUTHOR'S CHARITIES.—There is much humor in an anecdote of Oliver Goldsmith relieving the necessity of a crafty applicant. The good Doctor, with his many virtues, was, as is well known, not a little vain. The circumstance was not likely to be overlooked by his eleemosynary dependents, for there are no closer students of character than beggars and borrowers. They calculate their patron's weaknesses to a hair, with an acumen which would do honor to a La Bruyere. It is their business, too, to possess a very respectable knowledge of their amphitryon's hour of dining, banker's account, etc. One of this class was in the habit of asking money from Goldsmith immediately after the publication of a new book. It was a compliment to a successful author, and, what was of not less importance, there was a probability of cash on hand. The application succeeded several times; but money, even at that early stage, was sometimes gone. At last the Doctor suggested that, as his friend thought writing so profitable a thing, he should try a little of it for himself, and mentioned that a bookseller had just made an application for a description of China, interspersed with political reflections, which, if his friend would undertake it, he would pass off as his own. The manuscript was prepared and put to press by Goldsmith, without reading. When printed, it was discovered that the Emperor of China was a Mahometan, and that India lay somewhere between China and Japan! The result of the adventure was that Goldsmith paid the expense of canceling two sheets of the work, and was under the further necessity of kicking the newly-made author down stairs.

THE DANGER FROM LIGHTNING.—An American gentleman who has been figuring up the chances of being struck by lightning arrives at the following reassuring results. Taking the figures of the last census reports, we find that during the year 1870 there were, in the whole country, 202 deaths from lightning-stroke. Let womankind take notice that, out of these, 148 deaths were of males, and only 54 of females. The total number of deaths from all causes was nearly 500,000. There were 2,437 deaths from other causes to one death from lightning, and there were 190,883 persons living to every one killed by this cause. It is somewhat singular that the lightning was decidedly more destructive with both males and females between the ages of 10 and 30 years than with any others; between 10 and 15 years is the most fatal time; but even then the number is very small. Much comfort for those still inclined to be timorous is to be found in going back further on the record. The deaths by lightning in 1870 were only 11 more than in 1860, while the population had increased more than 7,000,000, and the rate is declining, in spite of the hasty conclusions formed by reading the news of a day. In 1860 there were 48 deaths by lightning out of every 100,000 deaths from all causes; in 1870 the rate was only 42. But now, while only 202 persons died from lightning-stroke in 1870, there were 397 deaths from sunstroke, or nearly twice as many. Yet the number of persons who shudder when they see the sun shiner would bear a very small ratio to those who shudder at the rising of the thunder cloud. The rate of deaths by sunstroke has declined during the decade from 91 to 81 in 100,000 deaths from all causes, and, with the increase in care and information on the subject, is likely to decrease still more, but it will always probably be largely in excess of the lightning-rate. It is also noticeable that there were 1,345 deaths by suicide, while there were only 202 deaths by lightning—in other words, an individual is six times as likely to kill himself as lightning is to kill him.—London Medical Record.

WHAT SHADE TREES TO PLANT.—For the open streets and grounds the following comprise the most choice selection: We place first in order those which we consider the best, all things taken into account, Silver leaf maple. Oriental palm, English and American elms, tulip trees, sycamore, maple, sugar maple, pin oak, burr oak, catalpa, linden, deciduous cypress, liquidambar or sweet gum, laburnum, cucumber magnolia, Kentucky coffee-trees, etc. We omit the evergreens, as we recommend setting them in spring, unless, it be done early in autumn. All of the above trees can be obtained of first-class nursery men, and they all may be set in spring, we prefer this season of the year, if it can be done before the ground becomes solid. The silver leaf maple in its foliage somewhat resembles the silver leaf poplar, and is by many persons preferred to it. It is the most rapid growth of the maples. The other maples are well known as strong robust trees with thick, dense foliage, holding on till late in autumn; and they are among the most desirable of shade trees. The elms are well known—the American for its gothic arch and the English for its dense foliage. The oaks are of a more slow growth and are well known. The pin oak is the finest of them, on account of its pyramidal form and glossy foliage.

SHE NEVER LEAVES HIM.—Look at the career of a man as he passes through the world; at man visited by misfortunes! How often is he left by his fellow-men to sink under the weight of his afflictions, unheeded and alone. One friend of his own sex forgets him, another abandons him, a third, perhaps, betrays him; but woman, faithful woman, follows him in his afflictions with unshaken affection; braves the changes of feeling, of his temper embittered by the disappointments of the world, with the highest of all virtue; in resigned patience ministers to his wants, even when her own are hard and pressing; she weeps with him, tear for tear, in his distresses, and is the first to catch and reflect a ray of joy, should but one light up his countenance in the midst of his sufferings; and she never leaves him in his misery while there remains one act of love, duty, or compassion, to be performed. And at last, when life and sorrow end together, she follows him to the tomb with an ardor of affection which death itself cannot destroy.

THE LION'S FEAR OF MAN.—Lichtenstein says that the African hunters avail themselves of the circumstance that the lion does not spring upon his prey till he has measured the ground, and has reached the distance of ten or twelve paces, where he lies crouching upon the ground, gathering himself for the effort. The hunters, he says, make a rule never to fire upon the lion till he lies down at this short distance, so that they can aim directly at his head with most perfect certainty. He adds that if a person has the misfortune to meet a lion, his only hope of safety is to stand perfectly still, even though the animal crouches to make a spring—that spring will not be hazarded if the man has only nerve enough to remain motionless as a statue, and look steadily at the lion. The animal hesitates, rises slowly, re-

turns to look earnestly about him, lies down, again retreats, till having thus by degrees got out of what he seems to feel as the magic circle of man's influence, he takes flight in the utmost haste.

BE CHEERFUL.—Come now, be cheerful. If you cannot pay your debts immediately, do the best you can, and pay them as you are able. "Care killed a cat." If you have not fifty cents to luxuriate upon the delicacies of the season, appropriate half of that amount for something more substantial and wholesome; kiss your wife, if you have one; if not, kiss some pretty girl and marry her immediately—for acts of desperation frequently result happily and beneficially in their effects. If you have children, romp with them; if not, romp with your neighbors. Look upon the bright side of everything—put on a cheerful countenance—keep your mind in the right trim, and if you find that your native town will not support you, pack up and go somewhere else. At all events be cheerful.

THE BRETON WOMEN.—Among the many strange customs which mark the Breton peasantry, there is none more remarkable than that of wearing the hair. For while the men cultivate long tresses hanging down to their waists, and of which they are very proud, the women do not show a single lock, and the girl who might be tempted by the beauty of her chevelure to allow a ringlet to escape from beneath her closely-fitting cap, would not only lose all chance of obtaining a lover, but would be regarded by the young men as a fille perdue—that is, a coquetish girl unworthy of their affections. To this strange custom many London and Paris ladies are indebted for the magnificent hair which adorns their heads, but which was grown in the wilds of Brittany.

Benevolence is a thing to be cultivated; not the incidental impulse of sympathizing soul, merely, but a holy habit of mind, patterned after the mind of Jesus, and affording not impulses, but steady and constant tendencies. And surely, while we should seek to cultivate this grace in one another, it will pay well for each to cultivate it in himself so long as it remains true that he that gives is always more blessed than he that receives.

The Congregationalist advises its readers to "sit down at the feet of a horse and learn humility."—"Just so," says the California News-Letter, "sit down at the feet of a mule, and if he don't humiliate you, pull his tail and tickle the inside of his legs with a stable fork."

Peter Van Dyke, an old chap who died in New Hampshire the other day worth \$140,000 in cash, requested in his will that no one should snifle and shed crocodile tears at his funeral, but cover him over, and then hurry home to fight over his money.

A Californian paper says:—"Born—A son, a regular fifteen pounder, to the wife of Elder Manheim, the eloquent expounder.

"Mr. Brown, I owe you a grudge: remember that! I shall not be frightened then; for I never knew you to pay anything that you owed."

"Brown, what did you clear by that speculation?" "I cleared my pockets," said Brown.

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INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869. AND AMENDMENTS THEREON. In the matter of MARTIN FINN, of the City and District of Montreal, Trader, An Insolvent. The Insolvent has made an Assignment of his Estate to me, and the Creditors are notified to meet at his place of business, No. 145 St. Peter Street, in Montreal, on Monday, the Twenty-ninth day of December next, at eleven o'clock, A.M., to receive statements of his affairs and to appoint an Assignee. JAMES RIDDELL, Interim Assignee. Montreal, 19th November, 1873. 21113.

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869. In the matter of LUDGER LACROIX, Insolvent. A dividend sheet has been prepared, open to objection, until the 5th day of January next, after which dividend will be paid. G. H. DUMESNIL, Assignee. Montreal, 16th December, 1873. 21118.

CANADA PROVINCE OF QUEBEC DISTRICT OF MONTREAL No. 2565. DAME MATHILDE LANDE, of the Parish and District of Montreal, wife of SOLOMON ERIGE DELAPLANTE, of the same place, Shoemaker, duly authorized injuncto to the effect of these presents, Plaintiff.

vs. The said SOLOMON ERIGE DELAPLANTE, Defendant. An action en separation de biens has been instituted in this cause, returnable on the Thirtieth of August last. TRUDEL & TAILLON, Plaintiffs' Attorneys. 16-5