

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

That a very angry feeling against England generally prevails is obvious. Even we, to whom it seems clear that the Congress would be likely to produce war than peace, cannot help feeling that Lord Russell's answer to the invitation might as well have been couched in terms more civil and flattering. No wonder, then, that the French are enraged. They unanimously pronounce the answer 'brutal,' and there are few papers which do not indulge more or less in violent abuse of England. Let us take as example a paper which, as strongly professing the principles of the Catholic Church, is bound at all seasons, and at this more especially, to promote 'peace on earth.' The *Monde*, in urging Austria to unite itself to France says the great danger of Europe is lest France should unite herself to Russia, or Austria to England, the greatest enemy of the human race, and especially of her own allies. It goes on to say, that, although Austria may fear to lose on the side of its Polish and Venetian provinces, this may be compensated by giving the provinces it surrenders, as independent States, to Austrian Archdukes, and by compensations to be taken from Turkey; while even Turkey may be compensated by having Austria interposed between herself and Russia, as well as by additional territory in Asia. This may all be done, as the Congress will be free from the presence of England and Russia. It continues: 'Free, thank God, from all entanglement with England, the Congress will be able, by the way, to solve the American question by calling in the Archduke Maximilian and the two Presidents. One of the Presidents has already asked for the arbitration of Pius IX. This arbitration, supported by the Congress, will gain a sanction which will make its decrees obligatory. When America is restored to peace, France will find there a support against the intrigues and the navy of England. The destinies of the world are in the hands of France and Austria—of France, if, setting Piedmont on one side, she starts in her might and liberty in support of justice—of Austria, if she unite herself cordially with Rome and France.'

It is plain that those who write thus look to the Congress to remodel the whole order of the political world. Nothing could go further to prove that our Government did right in declining to join it; although, we repeat it, the answer should have been worded in the manner the least galling to French vanity.

The *Monde* proposes, as a condition of the Congress, that instead of requiring unanimity in its decrees, as has been suggested by some papers, a *veto* should be given to any vote of the minority, on condition of its being supported by the voice of the Holy Father as President.

To our English ideas it is indeed strange, but in France everybody seems to think it perfectly natural, that it is quietly assumed that just now France must of necessity either join with other Powers against Russia, or else, as the only alternative, join Russia against them. The causes of such a necessity are indeed strange to us. The only temptation which one would say France has to go to war at all is that Russia is cruelly oppressing Poland, with which the French people has the strongest and most laudable sympathy. It is easy to see why such a state of things may endanger war between France and Russia. But why does it tempt France to combine with Russia against anyone else? Plainly because it is assumed that war from time to time is the natural and normal condition of this great Empire, and if there is anything to prevent its going to war with Russia, the next thing is to fight by her side. And, unfortunately, this really is the too general feeling in France.—*Cor. of Weekly Register.*

The *Europe* of to-day says:—  
M. Drouyn de Lhuys has addressed a circular to the French diplomatic agents abroad relative to the Congress. The circular does not trace out the programme to be adopted, as has been asked by some Governments; for such programme cannot be the work of one Government, or even of two or three. The refusal of England has frustrated the combination of an European Congress, but France is ready to come to an understanding with the Governments who shall think it useful to debate pacifically among themselves those questions which, if left to chance, circumstances might conduct to the most fatal complications.

The Government of the Emperor would consider it in its duty if it abstained from profiting by the dispositions so cordially manifested. The programme of the questions which a Congress thus brought together should discuss is still considerable enough to encourage the Cabinets in the path marked out.

The *Europe* adds:—  
The events which are every day occurring justify this new appeal of the Cabinet of the Tuileries, which would not think it desirable to accept a discussion upon the general affairs of Europe by correspondence or by telegraph. The Powers would never come to any understanding, much less arrive at any conclusion.

The *Europe* adds that several Governments have accorded a favourable reception to the proposition of France.

Considerable attention has been excited in Paris among the French papers by a pamphlet entitled "The Papacy and the Empire, or the Solution of the Roman Question," which has lately appeared with an announcement that it is to be published immediately in English and German. It urges the necessity of maintaining the temporal dominion of the Holy Father, and at the same time suggests reforms in the temporal government of the Ecclesiastical State. The importance of course depends upon the authority with which the writer speaks. What this is we do not undertake to decide. That the impression in Paris that the pamphlet is to be regarded as a manifesto of the Roman Government is well founded, we are far from sure.

The Paris *Charivari* publishes a caricature, in which a French soldier, having a blouse over his uniform and a pickaxe on the shoulder, is looking languidly on at a huge edifice tottering down, and from which are issuing in succession Austrians, Russians, English, &c., all carrying off bag and baggage. The crumbling edifice bears the inscription of "Treaties of 1815."

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.—A Paris correspondent writes:—The Prince Imperial passes his days at Compiegne chiefly in drill! He has a regiment of children, and over them he rules with a strict military discipline, which strangely brings back to the memory the stories of his great ancestor and the scholars of the college of Brienne. One day, when M. de la Drome had decided that there should be rain, the battalion of literal 'infantry' was paraded

in a room. The Prince is busy at his work of drill sergeant; the commands are given and executed with wonderful precision. During a stand at ease of five minutes the Prince looks round and sees he has a superior officer on the parade-ground, and at once salute the Emperor. The Emperor advances, takes the little musket from the hands of his son, and proceeds to teach the child of France several movements which he had not yet learned. I think the picture as striking as it is interesting, and would rather have seen this private lesson in the elements of arms than behold Napoleon III. surrounded by his most splendid entourage. 'Train up a child,' says the proverb, and a Bonaparte must add 'to arms.'

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The *Moniteur* of to-day publishes the answer of the King of Denmark to the Emperor's letter inviting him to the Congress. His Danish Majesty laments that death surprised his predecessor at the very moment when he was about to consecrate by his signature the new Constitution for the common affairs of his non-German provinces, and accept the invitation addressed to him by the Emperor. King Christian completes what the late Sovereign left unfinished. He replies that he is resolved to associate himself frankly and without reserve in the efforts of His Imperial Majesty to realize that great thought, and he accepts the invitation with the greatest pleasure. He is not quite sure whether circumstances will permit him to go to Paris, though he should be most happy to share the cordial hospitality that awaits him, and to offer in person his warmest congratulations, as he did in other circumstances. Meanwhile he avails himself of the present occasion to assure his Imperial Brother of his profound esteem and his inviolable friendship.

Whether or not the answer of King Christian, who probably accepts the more readily that he believes the Congress will never meet, is the last of the kind the *Moniteur* will publish, it is now made patent to the world that, come what may, no man, at least no Sovereign, has ever had a more numerous, more powerful, and more loving band of 'brothers' than His Majesty the Emperor of the French. With one or two exceptions, nothing can well be more polished, more complimentary, or more fraternal than the language in which real mistrust and doubt are clothed. It requires but a glance to see that each of these Sovereigns is disposed to attend the Congress provided nothing unpleasant to himself should be discussed or proposed. The correspondents are of three sorts. One accepts, but requires to see a programme of what he has to deliberate upon; another accepts unconditionally; but the third, in language precise, blunt, unamiable, and unanswerable, refuses to take part in an act which can produce no good result, and may end in war. Between the letter of Lord Russell and the Emperor of Austria there is the difference only of style, but the objections of the latter are the same as those of the former.—*Times' Cor.*

Those who ask for a programme as a preliminary condition must know very well that, if the Emperor Napoleon ever seriously thought of this matter, the most effectual means to keep them away would be to give them what they require. Any programme the Emperor could frame so as to avoid offence should be like the *Juntille* which Figaro was permitted to found at Madrid, and which should contain no allusion to the authorities, to religion, politics, morals, people in place, constituted bodies, opera, public entertainments, or anybody who owned anything whatever. If the Emperor can hit upon a programme that will not allude to Venice, Rome, Poland, the Eastern question, &c., well and good; but it is unfortunately to deliberate on these very questions that he summons a Congress.

A sort of reaction seems to be setting in with respect to England which may save M. Michael Chevalier the trouble of underrating the mission of enlightening the English people which M. Emile Girardin proposed to confide to him. Many who found it difficult to refute a single sentence in Lord Russell's despatch accused England of wishing to insult France, and proclaimed the end of the alliance. Some, with the answers of the other Powers before them, now think that they were to hasty. They find that if England has asked for explanations, so have those Powers. The explanations have not satisfied England; they must see that they are as little satisfactory to others; and that, if England has refused, the rest, with the few exceptions named, mean to do the same. The terms may not, indeed, be similar; England has not overlaid her refusal with flowers of rhetoric and sentiments of tenderness; but it is admitted that her conduct may not be less respectful because it is frank, and that it is not unworthy of France because it is one which becomes a great nation.

One of the very few Paris papers which have taken a sensible view of the subject has the following passage:—

France has less right to be hurt at the refusal of England because that refusal was never for a moment doubtful. It was in the very nature of things. To accept would have been for England to repudiate her traditions, and even her national character. To us she leaves grand ideas, generous projects, views extending to all human kind. It would be unjust to be angry with her, because she merely reserves for herself plain common sense and genius in the conduct of public affairs, and because she is more anxious about what is possible than about what is desirable.

The *Journal de la Société de Statistique de Paris* publishes a very singular paper by M. Legoyt, showing the cost of the cost of the present 'armed peace.' It appears that the number of troops kept under arms in France from 1830 to 1863 inclusive has been 513,349, whose annual maintenance exceeds 27 millions sterling. Russia keeps up an army of one million of men at a cost of 20 millions sterling; England 350,000 men, at nearly the same expense as the French army; Austria 400,000 men at an outlay of 13 millions sterling; and Italy 314,000 men, who stand her in 13 millions sterling. According to this calculation, Europe, in these piping times of peace, keeps up an army of 2,800,000 men at a cost of upwards of 123 millions sterling, each soldier standing the people at £33, and one man out of every 76 inhabitants being a soldier. M. Legoyt dwells strongly on the advantages that would result to Europe if these armies could be reduced to a tithe of their present gigantic proportions. These advantages are indisputable, no doubt. But the reduction which he suggests will scarcely take place whilst France has one sixth of this huge number under arms for 'philanthropic purposes,' as a member of the Corps Legislatif stated last session with no other view than that of maintaining abroad the legitimate influence which France considers due to her.

ITALY.

PIEDMONT.—The Government of Turin continues to show how fully it deserves the character given of it by M. de Montalembert as exemplifying 'a Church under tyranny in a free country.' We have week by week instances of these things in the *Correspondance de Rome*. This week we read in the Turin correspondence of the *Monde*, that Mgr. Caccia, who is acting as Vicar-Capitular at Milan during the vacancy of the See (which is kept vacant because the Milanese have the misfortune to be the subjects of Victor Emmanuel) has been summoned to Turin to answer the charge of having forbidden the Cures of the Diocese to allow any of the Priests who signed Pasagaglia's address to preach in their churches. Happily it is needless to explain to English Catholics that this is a matter with which the State has nothing to do—for, little Catholic as is the English Government, no English Minister would for a moment think of interfering in any matter of the sort. The reason of the wrath of the Ministers of Victor Emmanuel is, that in Milan, where a year ago a large proportion of the Clergy were refractory, there are this year only three or four out of twenty-five Cures and five members of the Cathedral who have not

cordially submitted to the ecclesiastical authority. The *Monde* mentions as another sign of the times that a journal taking the side of the Church has now, for the first time, been published in Milan; it is the *Osservatore Lombardo*. Since 1859 it has appeared at Brescia, and is now published in Milan. In the Parliament of Turin the Minister Pisanelli has made a speech to prove the liberality with which his Government has treated the Church. Against this who in the world protested but the Abbe Pasaglia, who condemns the conduct of the Ministry, though without identifying himself with that of the Bishops.—*Weekly Register.*

The Italian press has rather more than its usual modicum of swagger about Venice and the Quadrilateral this week, and seems to consider it a matter of course that 'i nostri prodi' should drive the Tedeschi off the face of the earth before many months are over. I don't know on what grounds they count on the fidelity of the Modenesi, Neapolitan, and Toscan recruits in the field, but I think it may be fairly set down as a very rash calculation.—We are getting daily revelations regarding the amnesty. On those the Piedmontese Government considers dangerous it has inflicted 'domestic confino' on their enlargement, or banishment to the islands or a town in Northern Italy. The now old blind cavalieri Quattro mani is one of these, and 230 have been just disembarked at Glava for distribution in the vicinity. All brigandage is excepted, and this includes everybody suspected of Royalist tendencies and a great many Garibaldians, and in fact, any body and everybody against whom the police have a grudge, or whom there is any interest in retaining in prison. The brigands seem as active as ever, and there are six new fustillations by virtue of the Legge Res. The Neapolitan deputies are protesting in vain in the Chambers, and Count Ricciardi has refused to assist at any further debates if Neapolitan interests are not attended to. He left, however, on pretty good terms with Government, as they are in hopes to force a war on the Ministry; and the King, it is well known, desires no better than to be in his saddle again. The House of Savoy are born soldiers, and it is only a pity the old Catholic stock of Victor Emmanuel and Prince Eugene should ever draw its sword in such an ignoble cause; one, too, which will entail its ultimate downfall as certainly as thunder follows lightning, for no Sovereign ever hatched treason so shamelessly in the States of his brother Kings without paying for it in his own sooner or later.—*Cor. of London Tablet.*

It is strictly true that Renan (who is too impious it appears even for the Tuileries) has been decorated by Victor Emmanuel with the grand cordon of S.S. Maurice and Lazarus. I sincerely commiserate those unfortunate patron Saints of Sardinian chivalry, for there is not a traitor or a spy, a gaoler or a degraded Priest, who has done good service to Piedmont; a Lieutenant of Bersaglieri who has disposed of so many heads of peasants in a reactionary battle, or an agent of the Quæstra who has captured a given number of Royalists, who has not been decorated with a badge no honest man would wish to see at his button-hole. Several of the officers of the National Guard to whom it was given the other day on occasion of the King's visit, refused to receive it; and, though the Garibaldian catechism is profane enough there is one of its commandments worthy of quotation and obedience, 'thou shalt not covet the Cross of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus.' M. de Sartiges has had the honour thrust upon him—let us hope unwillingly, and comes to us decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order.

M. MAZZINI.—A Turin letter in the *Semaphore* of Marseilles says:—

'The *Unita Italiana* of Milan, the organ of the party of action, publishes a correspondence which, in the absence of any other interest, has at least that of singularity.  
A duly sworn officer belonging to the Court of Appeal of Genoa has claimed non-officially from Mazzini the amount of the costs, capital and interest of the whole of the judicial proceedings which took place with regard to the outbreak of 1854, when 70 persons were sentenced to different punishments, and Mazzini, among others to the penalty of death. All were jointly condemned to the expenses, but as out of these seventy individuals sixty-nine have been pardoned and amnestied, they are released from their liability; and Mazzini alone, who is excluded from the amnesty, is now requested by this officer to pay the whole of these costs. Mazzini has replied in ironical terms. This tardy claim is at least a strange one.'

ROME.—The Congress is accepted by the Holy See, and there is even a rumor of the Pope attending in person, which, however, I cannot look on in any other light than as a *canard*. Cardinal Antonelli will, in all probability, represent His Holiness as Plenipotentiary. It would be worth while seeing His Eminence *vis-a-vis* with the ex-communicated King of Sardinia. The rumor which daily gains ground is of the Franco Russo-Italian Alliance, in which case the sooner a tombstone of decent dimensions is erected to the memory of English supremacy in the Mediterranean the better. We poor Papists have long been stigmatized as unpatriotic, un-English, heaven knows what—but when we are gathered to our fathers we shall have no treason to our country to answer for so black or so unutterably stupid as that which has given Genoa, Livorno, Spezia, Gaeta, Naples, and the Sicilian ports, Manfredonia, Ancona, and Brindisi in the Adriatic, and which wants to make over Civita Vecchia, Porto Danzico and Venice to a Power so notoriously un-French influence that if a war comes and Napoleon says, 'Shut up your ports against all English ships,' we have not a harbor between Gibraltar and the Levant to run to and our communication with the East is utterly cut off. Save Malta we don't hold a Mediterranean Station—and how long we may have that is very problematical if Whigs hold office much longer. Such is the credit, and now for the debasement. Suppose the Pope loses Rome, what do we gain? (I take the Protestant view.) Why Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Whalley, and Dr. Cumming will be greatly elated, and there will be a fearful amount of spouting at Exeter Hall, but the whistle will have to be paid for, and perhaps at a price even John Bull's bigotry may think too high. The certainty grows daily of a war with Austria, and England can scarcely look on with indifference, especially if the price should be what is strongly rumored, a cession of Liguria to France. What a solemn sham Unity is turning out to be, and how long will English statesmen look on coolly at the intrigues carrying on under their very eyes for sapping the naval influence of England in Southern Europe and the East.—*Cor. of the London Tablet.*

THE FIELD OF CASTELFIDARDO.—A priest who has recently returned to Rome from a pilgrimage to Loreto, states that troops of all arms are crowded near the Pontifical frontier. Zermi and Narni are filled with cavalry, infantry, and artillery, while the whole of Central and Northern Italy, as far as Ancona, is without soldiers. The invader is ready, and seems to wait only for French leave to fall upon his prey. This pious pilgrim visited the field of Castelfidardo, and saw the superb marble monument which the Piedmontese are raising there to perpetuate the memory of their cowardly sacrifice, and tell history that, to the number of 45,000 they managed to defeat 4,000 men at most, exhausted by six days forced marches, and most of whom were but new soldiers. It may be recollected by some of our readers that the oldest son of Victor Emmanuel, the young Prince Humbert, laid the first stone of that glorious monument. But the pilgrim saw also on a low mound the plain wooden cross which marks the spot where rest the brave martyrs of right and fidelity, and of that wooden cross there only remains but very shapeless parts, as each pilgrim takes with him some small bit of it as a precious relic.—*Correspondance de Rome.*

The Pyramid Tomb of Gains Oestius, so well known to all visitors to Rome, has recently been re-

stored, by order of the Pontifical Government. Some excavations made in a cemetery near San Sebastiano resulted in the discovery of many symbols and inscriptions which proved it to have pertained to the Jews of Rome. The burial place was in the form of a long gallery on one level, not as with the ordinary Catacombs, on different floors, one above another. In the sides of this gallery were placed in tiers. Some doubts were raised, and may be still entertained, as to the Hebrew character of these inscriptions, from the fact that no inscriptions were found in the language of that nation, but all appears in Greek or Latin. Even the seven-branched candlestick is no decisive sign of Hebrew origin, nor are such the palm, lemon-fruit, birds, baskets of fruit, hens and chickens, the cow and calf, &c., which appear to have been found. The cylinder, probably indicating the Book of the Law, the oil-jar, the ark within the circle, and, above all, the 'Archi-synagogus,' which occurs more than once, are tolerably sure evidences of the Jewish origin of the tombs. In this cemetery were found two vaulted chambers, painted with a Victory, with palm and crown, winged and bestowing a reward on a youth who kneels at her feet; a female figure bearing a cornucopia; the genii of the seasons; Pegasus; the peacock; and other symbols, which would seem to indicate the accidental juxtaposition of a Pagan place of interment with that of the Jews.—*Athenæum.*

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.—The police of Naples are being mostly sent to Upper Italy, and their places supplied from the North, and the work of demoralisation is in full progress. A hundred and twenty persons were embarked on the 30th for the Isle of Pozzu, and fresh events are causing the prisons to be no losers by the fractional measure of leniency just accorded. Robberies, murders, and disorders of every kind are the staple of the Sicilian papers, and this has been going on without any effectual remedy for three years.

Cialdini, who was recovering, has suffered a relapse, since Victor Emmanuel paid him a visit of enquiry; whether the King of Sardinia is a 'gettatore,' and carries ill-luck to his faithful servants, or whether the honor was too much for the hero of Pontelandolfo, I do not pretend to decide, but he appears to be much worse. The ex-Minister of Grace and Justice, Signor Minghetti (the words are a very burlesque in the kingdom of Italy) is also dangerously ill, but he has had the sense to 'make his soul,' as Paddy has it, and sent for a non-Pasagalian Priest at once, to the great Annoyance of the Italianisimi who surrounded him, and has received the Sacraments of the Church.

Naples cannot continue in its present state. The brigandage is on the increase, and daily encounters and defeats of the Piedmontese troops tell what is the value of the boasted pacification. As to the amnesty, it liberates not quite 300 persons, and the 50 liberated in Naples itself were more than supplied by 63 arrests the next day; 230 had been already arrested the day before in Terra di Lavoro. There are 1,000 fresh arrests and in all there are more than 40,000 political prisoners in the kingdom of Italy. So much for Victor Emmanuel's mercy. Those liberated are the Conte De Christen, Cavaliere Carracciolo, Mr. Bishop, General Legghardi, De Luca, Tortora, De Angelis, Cavaliere Quattromani, and a few others of minor note—precisely those to whom attention has been called in the press and in the Houses of Parliament, and which I trust may act as an encouragement to those among our Catholic members to whom is mainly owing the scant measure of clemency forced on Turin, to continue in their work of mercy, for such it is in the highest sense of the word, and obtain a like amnesty for the poor peasants, soldiers, Priests, farmers, and other helpless classes condemned for Reaction to the gallies not one of whom is reached by the mockery of clemency acted at Naples.

TORTURES IN SICILY.—The *Unita Italiana* publishes the following:—

'Apyosis of the tortures inflicted on the deaf and dumb man at Palermo.  
'The Regulation of the 31st March, 1855, for the execution of the law of Juries, after having declared by its process, that 'in general any disease, which would in itself be a disqualification for military service, may be regarded as suspected of dissimulation,' contains in Art. 38, alluding to deafness and dumbness, the following excellent sentences.

'In simulated dumbness, or when real dumbness is produced for a time by the employment of any poisonous substance, some painful test, or else deprivation of food, or confinement, will not fail to restore speech to the dissimulators. The pretended mute easily forgets his own assumed character, when, alone in darkness, he believes that he is to be assassinated, or when he is obliged to cry out in his own defence. Then he will utter a well articulated cry, instead of the moan which should issue from the real mute.'

'Finally, after having tried starvation, imprisonment, painful tests, and the fear of death, the regulation draws to a serene conclusion thus:—'After having vainly exhausted all possible means for the discovery of the pretence, it will be necessary to resort to the usual enquiry, prescribed by the regulations for verifying the existence of physical affections suspected of simulation.'

'The usual enquiry, be it known to those who are ignorant of its meaning, is an examination of evidence, public rumor, notorious acts, &c., &c.

'Austria, never upheld as a humane civil State, began by a prescribed enquiry, but we terminate by that expedient, after having tried all possible means of moral and physical torture!  
'Now, why should we lament for the Palermitan doctors if such be the doctrine?  
'Who can define a *painful test*, if imprisonment, if hunger be not painful tests? Who can say where the faculty of proof stops, in a military hospital, where they experiment on presumed refractories, and where they make the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak? Who cannot explain, the regulations in his hand, the *revulsivi* of Doctor Bestelli? We are willing to hope that the case of the unhappy *Cappello*, by attracting public attention so that complication of barbarities, the regulations on the law of Juries, may awaken sentiments of humanity in our rulers.'

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, Dec. 9.—The following is a summary of the Emperor of Austria in reply to Napoleon III., dated the 15th of November:—

'The Emperor acknowledges the important objects of the Congress for the settlement of the political questions at present pending and the security of the future; but wishes, before taking part therein, to learn with some accuracy the bases and programme of the deliberations of the Congress, unforeseen accidents, which might overthrow everything, would be less to be feared. The dangerous and insoluble problems, which would create fresh instead of removing existing complications, would then be set aside.

This idea is more fully explained in a despatch of Count Rechberg to Prince Metternich, of the same date as the Emperor's letter. It says:—It is not sufficient to put forward a programme of a negative character as the basis of such important discussions. The Austrian government wishes to know how the declaration of the Emperor Napoleon relative to the Treaties of 1815 is to be understood. These treaties have been partially modified; but, so far as they have not been altered, they are considered as the foundation of public right in Europe. Some improvements are necessary. Let the French Government point out those it considers desirable. Certain remedies might be more dangerous than the evils themselves. The programme of the Congress must fulfil all the conditions for the maintenance of peace, which is its principle object to be attained.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—The Archduke Maximilian considered the recognition by the Washington Government of the new Mexican monarchy as indispensable to his acceptance of the throne. The proposal was formally made by the French Government to President Lincoln's Cabinet.

A despatch from Washington in reply was to the effect that the American Republic would never tolerate very much longer a monarchy established at their very door: It is supposed that this will decide the Archduke to abandon the idea of accepting the throne of Mexico.

GERMANY AND THE DROMES.—Within a few hours the troops of the German Confederation will enter the Duchy of Holstein as the army of execution of the Frankfurt Diet. The Saxon contingent is on its march northwards, to be followed by that of Hanover, and behind both are the Austrian and Prussian reserves of 52,000 men, to act as supports in case the Government of Denmark should attempt to offer any resistance. The Danes will not, we trust, provoke a collision with the great military Powers of Germany, and peace may still be preserved; though to occupy a neighbor's territory is, in the present state of Europe, a dangerous approach to hostilities. As in 1848, 'War is the word in Berlin.' The Prussian army thirsts for an opportunity of distinguishing itself. Then, as now, the death of a Danish Sovereign precipitated a crisis it was possible for the Prussian Government, involved in a political conflict with the people, to turn to its own advantage. Then, as now, the Prussian army was moved to insure other objects than those avowed. As another chapter in the military history of Prussia appears about to be opened, the incidents of the campaigns in the Duchies of 1848 and 1849 may have some interest. The Russian and Italian wars, Sebastopol, Soferino, and the sanguinary battles of the American Republic have been fought between the first German and Danish conflict and the present time. As military events, the engagements in the peninsula of Jutland do not make a large figure in the retrospect; but in 1848 Europe had been at peace for thirty years, and was started by the first battles in the West since 1815. A Schleswig-Holstein war opened the era of strife through which we are now passing, and revives again to complicate its dangers.—*Times, 15th ult.*

POLAND.

A private letter from Wilna gives a list of the persons arrested in that city from the commencement of the insurrection on the 30th of August. It contains 1,245 names, and in that number there are 1,147 men and 98 women. There are 40 Roman Catholic priests, 2 sisters of charity, 1 priest of the Greek Church, with his daughter, 2 assistant curates, 105 proprietors, 521 nobles, 332 peasants, 73 middle class, 38 petty noblesse, 8 tradesmen, 4 professors, 16 physicians, 33 employes, 13 students, 29 retired military officers, 4 artists, 3 apothecaries, and 34 Jews. All classes have, it seems, furnished their contingents.

The smaller towns of the district have suffered in proportion. The number of prisoners of Vilkomir during the same period is stated to be 156 nobles and proprietors, 4 priests, 2 of the middle class, 2 of the petty noblesse, 3 physicians, 2 retired soldiers, and 67 peasants—total, 237 men and 4 women.

RUSSIAN BARRIQUES.—On the night of the 27th November, fifteen omnibuses were taken to the citadel of Warsaw for the use of the persons sentenced to transportation. About 100 persons were thus taken to the railway station, besides a much larger number that proceeded on foot under a strong military escort. An eye witness, in the *Cologne Gazette*, says that the friends of the prisoners were only allowed to exchange a few words with them at the station, and that he himself saw how a lady, who begged to be allowed to see one of the prisoners while they were waiting for the train, was brutally ill-treated by an officer. Among the prisoners who were treated in this manner were several high officials with decorations, and several ladies of high respectability, among whom was the wealthy Madame Niemcewiska.

RUSSIA.

We have always felt a greater difficulty in interpreting the professions of the present Emperor of Russia than of any other European potentate. He has been more than ever in the annals of his country. He has been accused of weakness of character and want of resolution. His father, on the contrary, was the delight and admiration of all admirers of strong government. Yet the enterprise which the stoutheaded father recoiled from the milder and less resolute son carried into complete execution. He broke the stubborn will of an incensed and powerful aristocracy, and he curbed the Socialist tendencies which the new possession of freedom and the hope of obtaining the land they cultivated for their own had sown in the minds of an ignorant peasantry. The Emperor Nicholas for 30 years devoted himself to the task of tearing to pieces and denationalizing Poland; but at the end of his long and severe reign the work was not accomplished, and the nationality on which he had trampled so long rose up to confront his son. Here also the gentler son seems likely to do what the sterner father only dreamt of doing. Poland is now not only oppressed, trampled on, and decimated, but threatened with absolute extermination. The mild and philanthropic Alexander, the modern Titus, 'the delight of mankind,' is treating his Polish subjects much as his predecessor did his Jewish rebels. He seems inclined to make thorough work, and if he leaves a successor milder than himself will leave him very little in Poland on which to exercise his clemency. A few years, and the bitter, the sick, the mines, the dungeons, and the dreary Siberian journey and still more dreary Siberian climate will have swallowed up what once was Poland, and Russia will become gentle for want of conquered rebels to subdue and execute.

For the embarrassments which have led the Emperor of the French to call together a European Congress no potentate is so deeply responsible as this same mild, philanthropic, and conciliatory Emperor of Russia. Whether his gentleness be of that peculiar kind which exhausts itself upon object near at hand, and has no sympathy to spare for remote and unseen persons; or whether his feelings are purely national, and do not extend beyond the limits of holy Russia, certain it is that he has contrived to provoke a rebellion by the utmost cruelty, that he is engaged in putting it down with the most relentless ferocity, and has answered the appeal of humanity, though urged by France, England and Austria, with the most contemptuous indifference.—*Times' Cor.*

RUSSIAN PRISONS.—The Rev. F. L. Anderson, mentioned last week as having been thrown into prison by the Russians, writes to the *Times* describing how he fared. He says:—The prison in which I was confined at Grodno for four days was the best of the three in the town, being reserved for the upper class of political offenders; and, if this is the best specimen, what must the others be? The building had been formerly a convent, and contained when I was taken to it more than 400 prisoners among whom were several ladies. My cell was spacious enough, but, as its single window was high and boarded up, it had little light, and still less means of ventilation. The floor was abominably filthy; a nuisance left in the cell by a former prisoner was still there, and when I made signs to the Cossack turnkey to have it removed, he only grinned and shook his head. My bed and mattress (stuffed with pig's bristles) swarmed with vermin. On petitioning for clean sheets they were supplied, it is true, but of the roughest and coarsest texture. My food the first night was black bread and greasy water-gruel of a most insupportable odour, which I was enabled to taste, and which the next morning had become intolerable. The gruel was followed the next day by soup, quite cold, with a piece of sodden meat. I did not enter any of the prisons in the town, but, from the information of the prisoners in one of them, which was an old church, I learnt, and have no reason to doubt the veracity of my informants, that no separate beds or rooms were allowed in any part of the building; that straw, indeed, was given to the inmates to lie upon, but that they were all huddled together like pigs in a sty, and that no egress, even for the shortest time, was allowed, for any purpose, to anyone.