

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE FRENCH EMPIRE.—The Paris correspondent of *Le Nord* says that when Prince Jerome went to communicate the news of the Russian acceptance of the peace proposals to his daughter, the Princess Mathilde, that lady threw herself upon his neck "weeping for joy" also, that when the Emperor Napoleon read the despatch to the council of war, Admiral Lyons cried: "Sire, I don't exactly understand it; there must be some mistake!" Louis Napoleon smiled, and read it again. Then "the English began whispering busily amongst themselves. The Duke of Cambridge rose, saying that his mission at Paris was ended, and that he had only to take leave of the Emperor and start that evening for London. Louis Napoleon insisted that his grace should remain three or four days. As to Prince Napoleon, after the despatch was read, his Royal Highness's remark was, "Then Italy and Poland are sacrificed." The same writer asserts that lively differences have taken place in the council between the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Napoleon, the former warmly resisting any project of the re-establishment of Polish independence.

I learn from an unusually good source that the French Emperor was so much moved when he received the despatch announcing the "pure and simple" acceptance of Russia, that he almost fainted.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

La Presse says:—"Preliminaries of peace are in existence; they have been accepted by Russia, and it only remains to give them full value, that the signature of the powers interested be attached. No further discussion can take place upon propositions perfectly defined and drawn out. The Austrian propositions will be transcribed word for word, and recorded in a special protocol, at the foot of which the signatures of all the plenipotentiaries will be affixed. A general armistice will immediately follow, and the definitive negotiations will be opened immediately afterwards. Russia demands, it appears, that the congress assemble either in a small German capital or at Paris. A previous question, that of the admission of Prussia, will, however, be decided before the opening of the congress."

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"I am told that the following speech was really made by the Czar to an eminent diplomatist who was at St. Petersburg a few days ago:—'J'ai les Allemands en pitié, les Anglais en haine, et les Français en admiration.' 'I pity the Germans, hate the English, and admire the French.'"

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* attaches importance to a report that the Senate is expected to oppose the regency of the Empress both in the case of the Emperor's death, and in the probability of his proceeding to the war.

Disturbances were apprehended on Saturday 19th ult., in the Quartier Latin. 2,000 soldiers of various corps of infantry of the line arrived on Friday at Paris by the Northern Railroad. There have been recently a great many political arrests in the eastern departments. We read in the *Tablettes des deux Charentes* of January 10—The population of Rochefort has been, for several days past, greatly excited, in consequence of judicial proceedings simultaneously taken in the Charente Inferieure and the neighboring departments—proceedings connected, as we are assured, with the discovery of a plot against the safety of the State. While awaiting for the truth to transpire, we may at once say that on the 11th and 14th of January there were numerous domiciliary visits in our town, and some arrests.

THE PEACE CONFERENCES.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"I have good reason to believe that the Peace Conferences, which according to the present aspect of affairs, will certainly be opened, are to be held in Paris."

A Russian diplomatic circular has been issued in which Count Nesselrode makes known to the representatives of Russia, in foreign countries, the motives for accepting the propositions of Austria. The circular declares that Russia has made concessions with a view to the re-establishment of peace, out of deference to the representations of friendly powers, but not because the interests of Russia call for the conclusion of that peace.

A despatch from Berlin, Wednesday, says:—"The acceptance of the Austrian propositions has been published officially at St. Petersburg. The announcement states that the chief condition is the neutralisation of the Black Sea, to be secured by a treaty between Russia and Turkey. Russia is ready to discuss the other points."

COUNT ESTERHAZY'S INSTRUCTIONS.—*Le Nord* publishes the text of Count Buol's despatch to Count Valentine Esterhazy, serving as his instructions when conveying the Austrian propositions to St. Petersburg. The following is the note:—

"VIENNA, Dec. 16, 1855.—The words which your Excellency has had the honor of hearing from the Emperor's own lips must have again confirmed to you the intentions that have invariably guided the policy of his Majesty during the different phases of the contest now weighing so heavily on Europe. Unswervingly constant to these same principles, the Emperor would have deemed himself unmindful of what is due to his own people and the nations of Europe, had he allowed the present moment to escape when a superior power imposes a virtual truce upon the combatants, without making one last effort to open new paths towards that peace which is evidently a most urgent necessity for Europe. Convinced, on the one hand, of the sincerity of the declarations so repeatedly made by the Emperor Alexander, that he was willing to assist in arriving at any peace not re-

pugnant to his own dignity and the honor of his country, his Imperial Majesty has felt himself called upon to employ his best efforts in order to ascertain what degree of reciprocity might await those inclinations at the Courts of France and Great Britain. His Majesty deigned in consequence to entrust to me the duty of sounding the cabinets of Paris and London on this subject. But while we found them most firmly resolved not to initiate any pacific overtures, we nevertheless have, to our great satisfaction, found in those cabinets a disposition such as to inspire us with the hope that they will not refuse to examine and accept conditions of a nature to present all the guarantees requisite for a serious and lasting peace, and to adjust satisfactorily the question that gave rise to the war. Not merely this: we believe we are authorised in expressing the hope that these powers, while maintaining in its full force the right of presenting such conditions of peace as may seem fitting to them, would be no less disposed at this present time not to deviate from the principle they laid down at the commencement of the contest, which was, not to prosecute any private advantages, and to limit their demands to the sacrifices necessary for reassuring Europe against the return of a state of things so deplorable and involved as the present. Encouraged by these signs, the Imperial Cabinet has not shrunk from the task of conscientiously taking the present state of affairs into serious account, and of stating the basis on which, in its own opinion, the structure of a solid peace might be reared. The four principles already accepted by Russia have always appeared to us to be the best initial point. Only, for the sake of warranting the work of peace, and especially of avoiding the rocks on which the last conferences were wrecked, we have deemed it indispensable to develop the four principles in such a manner as to render them consonant with the general interests of Europe, and facilitate the final agreement by a more precise definition. The fruit of this labor is contained in the document subjoined, which, from the fact of its acceptance by the belligerent powers, will acquire a value tantamount to the preliminaries of peace. The signature to these preliminaries would be immediately followed by a general armistice and definitive negotiations. This labor having been honored with the approbation of his Majesty the Emperor, your Excellency is charged with its representation for acceptance by the court of Russia, adding, while doing so, the most pressing intreaties that it weigh well its contents and communicate to us its determination, which we consider of the greatest importance to know as soon as possible. If, as we hope, our propositions meet with a favorable reception, we shall lose no time in warmly recommending their acceptance at the courts of Paris and London, expressing at the same time the confidence we feel that they will not use the right of eventually presenting special conditions at the negotiations, save in the interest of Europe, and to an extent such as will not raise serious obstacles against the re-establishment of peace. We entrust the court of Russia calmly to examine the propositions we submit to it. We shall not enlarge on the grave consequences that would be produced by a refusal to enter the path we open for a second time, in order that an honorable reconciliation may be effected—a refusal that would entail upon it the weight of an immense responsibility. We prefer relying on its wisdom to weigh well the opportunity now offered. We believe we are now interpreting the wishes and true requirements of Europe. It remains for us to appeal to the exalted sentiments of the Emperor Alexander, whose supreme determination will decide the fate of so many millions of beings. His Imperial Majesty will, we are firmly persuaded, choose the part which appears to us to be the only one consistent with the real interests of his own people, and with the wants of humanity."

"COUNT BUOL."

SPAIN.

MADRID, Jan. 18.—The Cortes yesterday rejected the vote of censure on the Ministry by a majority of 152 to 57. The Parliamentary Committee is favorable to the credit establishment proposed by some Spanish capitalists.

ITALY.

A letter from Rome of the 12th ult., in the *Univers*, says:—"Great regret is felt here at the approaching departure of Mgr. de Segur, who has so long filled the post of Auditor of the Rota. The Emperor Napoleon, wishing to recompense the services rendered to religion and France by Mgr. de Segur during his possession of the important post which he has just resigned, has appointed him one of the Episcopal Canons of St. Denis. The Pope, on his side, wishing to remove every difference of condition between the new Canon and his future colleagues, has nominated him Bishop, but without stating by what title he is to be designated. In fact, M. de Segur has been on all sides specially honored. The excavations in the Aventine hill are being actively continued, under the direction of the Dominican Fathers of St. Sabine, and are constantly producing objects of great interest, which date from the time of ancient Rome. All these articles are placed in a large hall of the Dominican Convent, and the intention is to form a museum of them after a little. Excavations are also being effected in the Appian Way, and always with satisfactory results, and the works of restoration are being proceeded with without ceasing in the Coliseum. In fact, if the Popedom of Pius IX. is to be remarkable for nothing else, it will be celebrated for its archaeological labors."

PERSIA.

The rupture of relations between Persia and England is confirmed. The Shah has declined the mediation of France. Immediately after learning the fall of Kars, Mr. Murray, on his part, declined to make any concession, and quitted Teheran with the whole of

the English legation. On the 6th December he arrived at Kions, near Moussel.

IS THERE TO BE PEACE?

(From the Dublin Nation.)

The attitude of England about Peace reminds one of a cowardly bully who has been dodging all the hard knocks of a row, and who, when it is fairly fought out, rushes in and says he has had no fair play. His pluck and bottom have only just been stirred, and only let him at them! It is very likely that England will be taken at her word, and that the War will go on for another year at least; and then, for Providence only knows, how many more. At the same time, however, that England, smashed as to her military and naval prestige, is blustering before Europe, that she does not want Peace upon Austrian Propositions, she declares herself ready to strike in the most humble and miserable manner to America. The *Times* has this week declared, after a series of articles against the States characterised by the 'most ruinously insolent and the most audacious falsehood,' that England must submit to whatever conditions the Cabinet of Washington is pleased to impose—that her conduct in Central America has been unfaithful and disgraceful—and that it must be abjectly atoned for. This is significant, from the journal that lately refused to print a brief letter from the American Minister in reply to its unwarrantable assaults upon his conduct. If such a miraculous change, from the most audacious insolence to the most sneaking cringing, does not act upon Uncle Sam, as a stronger hint to go to War than even the old cowering tone, we are much mistaken in him. The guarded way in he has been getting ready, and the necessarily quiet tone which has accompanied all his manifestations, are explained in a second article of the *Times*. America is building a new navy—has got rid of 210 of her old officers—is rigging and arming a fleet of the best quality in the world—and when they are quite ready, we may see the Baltic blockade raised even in the dog-days.

We remain of the opinion that we expressed last week that there is not the faintest prospect of a Peace in Europe. Russia is in fact at the present moment master of the situation—in Asia, where she has already converted the whole district of Kars into a province of her empire, and where by the fall of Herat she menaces England by India now again in a highly inflammable condition—in the Crimea, where it is now quietly admitted that she holds the Allies perfectly at bay and immovable—in Turkey and the Baltic, where every day of frost or negotiation enables her to place herself in an offensive position upon the one frontier and a defensive upon the other—internally flushed, as she is with the sense that her policy is gaining ground, that she has proved herself a match for all the rest of Europe in strategy as well as diplomacy, and that even her enemies now begin to admit that the effort has cost her far less suffering than it has cost them.

But she also observes, and knows well how to profit by divisions springing up between the Powers that are opposed to her. Even within the last week, there have been remarkable symptoms of discord between England, France, and Austria—becoming more manifest in the same comical proportion that the rumours of Peace have dwindled down from their original proportions—from the unconditional acceptance of Peace which was first announced, to the mere signature of a protocol upon which to base preliminaries for a negotiation! Preliminaries which, if we are to believe Lord Palmerston's organ, are not those of the Allies, but Austria alone; and if so, seriously compromising the position of Austria to Russia's advantage. At the same time, the Russian press, with their characteristic astuteness, seize upon the growing difficulties which menace England, and tend to sever her from the French Alliance. If England go to War with America, it is an affair in which France can have no conceivable concern. A French writer even goes so far as to say in the *Journal des Debats* that France has no business with the War in Asiatic Turkey. France went to War to maintain the European equilibrium. France is not menaced by Russia in the East as England is. If the fall of Kars and the fall of Herat be calamitous, they are especially so to England, and it is for her to see to it. Indeed, in all the writing of the French Press upon Peace there is a remarkable difference of tone from that of the English, and we observe that *Le Nord* and the *Independence Belge* watch it with care, and make capital of it.

The summing up of the case is, that England and France would both have Peace, if they possibly could, but that Russia is in the position to make it only on her own terms, and that Austria will back her therein.

A CREED WANTED—ANGLICANISM DURING 1855.

(From the Dublin Tablet.)

We have been thinking that a compilation of Anglican Church history for the year 1855 would be an act of considerable charity. The Anglicans do nothing without payment, and their half-disowned Irish step-brothers do nothing without the Anglicans, so we thought that a true narrative of real Anglican progress during the year '55, written, printed, and published from true Anglican records, without any money to be received, or any office or benefice to be expected, if not acceptable, might at least be edifying, as it is gratuitous. We, therefore, to use the solemn phraseology of our friend, the *Church and State Gazette*, proceed to the performance of this duty, conscious that hitherto "we have been precluded the possibility of devoting as much space as we could have wished to the prominent incidents of its (the Anglican) history."

First of all, then we have to agree with the orthodox journal just mentioned, that there has been this year a most awful and significant forgetfulness of the Ten Commandments. Robbery has had no limits, and murder has had neither feeling nor compunction. Mothers have been flinging their children as burthen-some puppies are flung into ditches and rivers; and husbands have been strangling their wives as taxed dogs were strangled during the last war. All things have been losing their sacredness, and all obligations have been laughed at as humbug. The immortal glory of money and good feeding has been celebrated in every species of infamy and every gradation of crime. To be sure, this is to be expected in a people that knows how to estimate the golden store of English "prosperity," and spurns the miserable sufficiency of nations that believe there is a God and an avenger. But, nevertheless, it seems a pity that we cannot associate peace and security with the reign of Anglicanism and its primary principles. We might,

then, have the "animal" king in this world, and the "spiritual" lord of the next. Thus speaks the *Church and State Gazette* for our edification:—

"We are obliged to own that this increased earnestness in providing for the spiritual necessities of the people is not met by an improvement in the moral and religious condition of the community. Instances, neither few nor scattered, are not wanting to show that the Gospel has scarcely wrought much change among the masses. If we look to the records of crime we find there an appalling array of vice and wickedness; with such special instances of infamy as the Strahan case, the Burdon and Rugeley poisoning cases, the Davidson and Gordon case, and numerous other examples of lax morality among the higher classes, and of besetting ignorance and evil passions among the lower grades of society. If we look to social manifestations we are met with a painful reminiscence of the Hyde Park riots, and the repeated violations of the laws of God and man with which they are associated."

It is hard to understand how this unhappy condition of affairs can spring from so pure a moral system as Anglicanism. Probably, if the Austrian Concordat were examined, it would be found intimately connected with it, or, more probably still, the malignant designs of his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman may be found at the bottom of all. There is murder without end and poisoning, with and without successful homicide; and it must be recollected that his Eminence lectured on education and many other things during this year '55. Now, who knows what the results might have been on the minds of the English nation? The crowds at his lectures, and the great numbers of crimes which followed, have had awful analogies; and the "scenes in Hyde Park," so reflective of the form of revolution! If Professor Taylor made an analysis of the whole affair, the Hierarchy might be found to have poisoned the public mind. At all events, these things are as worthy of being observed, we imagine, as Dr. Comming's logic or Dr. McNeill's piety.

There are people who say, however, that England wants a creed. Not a form of belief, of course, for she has so many of them that she stands puzzled at their number and claims; but it is said that she wants something in which she really will believe. The consoling principle of private judgment, so worthy of "Britons," has been extended from doctrine to practice, and independent minds, having been made judges of the meaning of the Bible, have been sufficiently independent to discard the Bible altogether, or to make it speak according to their morals. M. Villain, we believe, it is who says that Rome's latest profligacy and decay were owing to her infidelity. Paganism multiplied rites only to precipitate incredulity, and multiplied opinions only to bring Jupiter and Mars into contempt. Even when the Stoics engrafted some Christian maxims upon the sensualities of the Pantheon, a little truth only tended to reveal by contrast the hideousness of error. The whole commonwealth began to go headlong to ruin, because there was no interior conviction of religious truth. Rome wanted a creed to sway the action of the passions; and because she had not a creed her passions overwhelmed and crushed her. England wants a creed; and all the mimicry of Catholic ceremony and of Catholic authority will not be sufficient without one.

We have seen very honest Protestants—men who were called sensible too—admiring the self-sacrifice of the children of the Church. They saw men who wore out their days in the thankless labor of stemming immorality, and who lived in joy and suffering among the hovels of the poor. The Italian Priest came to England and buried himself in the smoke of the factories, or breathed the fevered and filthy atmosphere of the London courts. The Frenchman, Belgian, Swiss, and even Russian, were found in the same track, pursuing the same employments. Many of them brought their own fortunes, and expended them with their health and strength. They were followed by Nuns—ladies tenderly brought up, and perfected in all the accomplishments of those times. These latter came, not from ranks of labor, as may well be supposed, nor even from the homes of trade. They came from the halls of the gentry and the castles of the nobles, and they were found in the midst of the children of the poorest poverty and the homes of the worst species of distress and disease. Nothing was too frightful for their courage or too trying for their endurance. Pestilence, famine, filth, cellar, garret—everything was the same to them. They lived and died with the love of God and the Cross of Christ as their only solace and hope; and, as we have observed, they were happy all the while. Now, Mr. Macaulay at once explained all this, by saying it was a "wonderful system." Mr. Chambers and Lord John Russell, who could not understand the meaning of "creed," unravelled the mystery by saying it was "slavery;" some who believed in nothing but money and the passions, found out it was "enthusiasm;" but when heresy endeavored to make a "system" and establish the "slavery," and inspire the "enthusiasm," the ladies of England looked at the effort, and thought the innovators were mad. Heresy is good to make a living, and good to show oneself off gracefully at church, and good to make true churchmen, and good to gather the gold, and good to make people know their distance, and good to advance a man in the world and in his profession, and good to make him spurn authority, and to make him believe all mankind under his feet, and to be proud of ships, and mines, and factories, and railways; but let heresy dare to tell him he must "deny himself and take up his cross," and he will laugh in heresy's face, and tell heresy's minister to go to a very bad place. The reason is, that heresy has a form of belief, but no creed.

And this, as we have said, is at the foundation of the awful structure of Anglican crime. Heresy comes in contact with the assassin—and has no power; with the robber—and has no power; with the debauchee—and has no power; with the politician, tradesman, Parson, laborer—and has no power. The question is easily solved, as long as heresy gives any thing to be eaten, or drunk, or put in one's pocket; or, as long as a man gets name, or position, or employment by "his Bible"—but dare heresy pretend, through the mouth of any man, or any book, to demand of him to give up his own judgment of his own interest? Ah, then heresy must mind itself. "The thing is all fair until a man is dictated to;" but, because he has no church, no creed, "dictated" to he will not be, even by God. England wants a creed.

The Evangelical paper which we have quoted our authority for this part of our history of Anglicanism during '55. We find every man in the Establishment eating the flesh of every other man, and the "very best" men calling the other "very best men" heretics. One "Bishop" will not ordain a man because of his "opinions on Baptism," and another "Bishop" will ordain him precisely because he holds those opinions.