

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE ORLEANS CONFISCATIONS.—The case of the confiscation of the possessions of the family of Orleans was brought again before the Civil Tribunal of the Seine on Friday, the 23rd ult. An immense number of the friends of the Orleans family were present, and among others MM. de Montalivet, Rochet, Dupin, and Odilon Barrot.

MM. Paillet and Berryer appeared as counsel for the Orleans princes.

After the speech of the Procureur-General against the competence of the Civil Tribunal, in reference to the decree confiscating the property of the house of Orleans, M. Paillet, on the part of the Orleans princes, contended, on the contrary, that the Civil Tribunal was competent to judge in such a case. His speech occupied three hours. M. Berryer followed on the same side in a speech of great eloquence, in which he told the court that they would be no longer worthy of being judges if in this case they had not the courage to declare themselves competent.

The judges then retired, and after an hour's deliberation they returned, and declared the tribunal competent.

This decision was received with shouts of applause, which the huissiers could not suppress. It is an immense triumph to the Orleans family. On leaving the court, MM. Montalivet, Bocher, Berryer, &c., were cheered, and the scene was one of extraordinary rejoicing.

The judgment of the court is very short. The competence of the court is based on the fact that all civil affairs ought to come within the jurisdiction of the courts of civil judicature.

THE PROSPECT OF AN EMPIRE.—The following official note appeared in the ministerial papers of last week:—

"A great number of persons imagine and report that the empire is to be proclaimed on the occasion of a *fete*. To attribute to the government the desire of a pretext for changing the established order of things, is to form a very false idea of the manner in which it understands its duties. If necessity should ever lead to such a resolution it would only be accomplished on the initiative of the constituted powers, and with the consent of the whole people. As to the acclamations of the army, they are, it is true, for the head of the state a precious testimony of the sentiments with which it is animated, but they cannot produce any political result. Thus, at the ceremony on the 10th May next, the 60,000 men assembled in the Champ de Mars would in vain salute the President by the name of Emperor; that act would not advance the re-establishment of the empire one hour."

This declaration is manifestly nothing more than a preparation of the public mind for the proclamation of the empire, while it affects to disavow the machinery by which the new revolution is to be effected.

The *Moniteur* of Monday, the 26th ult., contains a shower of largesses to the army. This is a decree ordaining that the year 1851 shall count as a year of campaign to those troops who were called upon in any part of the French territory to suppress the resistance offered to the usurpation of December. An enormous list of companies and battalions follows, and another decree decides that, in the month of May, the officers of all arms, and the functionaries of the war department, are to take the oath of fidelity to the President.

On Tuesday a decree was published, ordaining that henceforth appeals for pardon from the decisions of the mixed commissions shall follow the ordinary legal forms.

On Tuesday, at Vincennes, a terrible explosion destroyed all the fireworks destined for May 10th. This is talked of as being a bad omen for Louis Napoleon. However, no one was burnt, the men being at dinner.

According to the military almanac just published, the French army comprises 18,304 officers. It is commanded by the President of the Republic, having under his orders five marshals, seventy-eight generals of division, and 152 generals of brigade.

Several incendiary fires have lately taken place in the departments.

SWITZERLAND.

Accounts received from Berne, of the 18th ult., state that, in the elections which took place on that day, the Conservatives obtained a great triumph over the Radicals. Nearly 80,000 electors recorded their votes; and the majority in favor of the Council of the Government was about 7,000.

ITALY.

Colonel Colombo di Cucorro, who is believed to be the last descendant of the navigator, has just died at Asi.

PIEDMONT.—A correspondent of the *Constitutionnel* writes from Rome, April 20th, to announce the recent arrival of the Marquis Spinola, charged by the Piedmontese government with new propositions, having for their object the restoration of a good understanding between the Sardinian states and the Holy See. According to this writer the bases of the arrangement are:—1. The immediate recall of the Archbishop of Turin. 2. The abandonment of every project of law having for its object to make marriage a civil act. 3. The presentation of a project of law strongly repressive of the abuses of the periodical press in matters of religion and public morals." We (*Univers*) strongly doubt the exactness of this report.

PRUSSIA.

The Congress of the states of the Zollverein was opened on the 19th ultimo, at Berlin, in the hotel of the Ministry of Finance; the members of the cabinet present were, M. von Manteuffel, President of the Council; M. von der Heydt, Minister of Commerce;

M. von Bodelschwingh, Minister of Finance; and the Prussian Commissioners, M. von Pommer-Esche, M. Delbruck, and M. Phillipsborn. The Plenipotentiary of Oldenburg was prevented from attending by illness; the envoys of Wurtemberg, Baden, Nassau, and Frankfurt had not yet arrived. The Plenipotentiaries who attended the sitting were, for Bavaria, M. Meixner; for Saxony, M. von Konneritz; for Hanover, Dr. Klenze; for the Electorate of Hesse, M. du Pais; for the Grand Duchy of Hesse, M. Ewald; for the Thuringian States, M. Thon; for Brunswick, M. von Thielau.

The Zollverein includes at present ten separate customs territories—Prussia, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Saxony, Baden, the Electorate and Grand Duchy of Hesse, Nassau, Brunswick, and the Thuringian states. The basis of its commercial system is the Prussian tariff of 1818, though it has been considerably modified. The Zollverein has commercial treaties with England, Turkey, Greece, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sardinia, Hamburg, and Bremen. The administration of the Zollverein consists of a central and statistic bureau in Berlin, a control of the customs in the ten states, and the general conference that meets yearly in one of the capitals of the union, and has the general management of its affairs. The present Congress is a special one, and its discussions will be more important than those of the annual conferences.

"It is probable (says the *Chronicle* in a leading article) that the whole constitution of the Zollverein will be brought under the consideration of the deputies. The proposals lately made by Austria—which were far from being unfavorably received by the South German States—must exercise some influence upon the pending deliberations. Prussia, on the one hand, has not been idle. The treaty which she concluded with Hanover in September last, and the advantages of which are now offered to the Zollverein, is a signal service to the cause of commercial unity in Central Europe; and if we suppose the two great powers to have been bidding against each other for influence in Germany, it is clear that the court of Berlin proposes an immediate and indisputable gain, whilst the benefits promised by the Austrian government are remote and uncertain.

"Nor is the question merely one of national rivalry. If Hanover should be admitted into the Zollverein on the terms suggested, the existing balance of interests must be greatly affected. The agricultural and Maritime classes form the strength of the Free Trade party in Germany—whilst the cotton lords, the coal owners, and the iron masters are staunch Protectionists. A country gentleman in Pomerania or Posen is a born Free Trader, and the shipowners of North Germany are as much in advance of Mr. G. F. Young as the Teutonic squires are ahead of Sir John Tyrrell. Consequently, if Hanover be received into the Zollverein, a great addition of force will be gained for the cause of commercial liberty. It is, of course, undisputed that the accession of that power to the union would be highly beneficial as regards the internal trade of Germany; but its possible consequences have occasioned great apprehension in the southern states, where the preponderance of the agricultural and maritime interests is regarded with jealousy and alarm."

A singular monster trial is announced to come on, after four years' delay, at Weimar assizes. In 1848 a band of some two hundred individuals crossed the Prussian frontier, surrounded the house of a country landholder, and, after maltreating him and his family, plundered him of all his family papers, leases, and deeds, and compelled him to swear to renounce all manorial rights. Fifty-three of the principal actors in this outrage have been discovered, and will appear before a jury.

DEATH OF THE GRAND DUKE OF BADEN.—The Grand Duke of Baden died on Saturday night, April 24th. The deceased prince was born in 1790; he was, therefore, 62 years of age at his death.

It appears that the question of succession, or rather of government in the Grand Duchy of Baden, has been settled. The Hereditary Prince will assume the title due to his rank, but will take his brother, Prince Frederick William, as co-regent.

THE BRITISH AND AUSTRIAN CABINETS.—The Paris correspondent of the *Independence Belge* contains the following statement:—"Some days ago the English ministry was informed that Kossuth was on the point of quitting the United States to return to England. Comprehending how much alarm the presence of the great Hungarian agitator would occasion to the Austrian government, the British cabinet hastened to give, *proprio muto*, to M. de Buol Schauenstein fresh pacific assurances, and communicated to him the energetic measures it intended to take, remaining, however, within the limits of strict legality, in case Kossuth sought to renew his revolutionary plots upon the Continent."

BAVARIA.

We begin to fear that the Catholics of Bavaria will be deceived in their expectations as to the royal resolutions. If we are to believe *Gazette du Palatinat*, which professes to be well-informed, the concessions made to the Bishops are altogether insignificant. Nothing, it would appear, is to be changed in what regards education and the administration of Church property; and as to the permission to give missions, it will be left provisionally to the Jesuits until the month of October.—*Journal de Bruxelles*.

LUXEMBURGH.

In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, subject to the dominion of the King of Holland, the Catholics have always to submit to the yoke of the most unjust oppression. Recently the Catholic journal of the country, the *Luxembourg Wart*, was prosecuted by the ministry for having "wickedly and publicly attacked the royal dignity and authority of the King Grand Duke, and outraged and calumniated the person

of his Majesty. In the first instance the journal was acquitted, the judges having admitted that the accused article showed no intention of calumny. But this judgment was quashed by the court of appeal, which has condemned the responsible editor to two years' imprisonment and costs. It may be observed that the constitution of Luxembourg expressly provides that the press shall be free; in the second place that the *Luxembourg Wart* has always defended the royal authority against the democracy, and finally, the article in question contained no attack on the king, and that its only object was to reply to another journal of the country which had accused it of calumniating the king because of his Protestantism. The *Luxembourg Wart* courageously and victoriously defends the Catholic Faith; it pleads energetically the cause of the Vicar-Apostolic, Mgr. Laurent, who is still kept away from Luxembourg in spite of the protests of the Holy See. Such are the true grounds of the condemnation of this journal.—*Univers*.

SWEDEN.

The Swedish Bible Society has held its annual meeting, in the presence of the royal family. During the year it has distributed or sold 50,962 copies of the Bible or New Testament, of which 41,136 were at the expense of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which has spent not less than 280,694 Rds. Bko., or about £24,000, in Sweden. The result of this immense outlay of capital, as regards morality and religious liberty, must be sought (says the Copenhagen correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*) under a highly magnifying microscope. The whole country is a striking example of effete Protestantism.

ESCAPE OF THOMAS MEAGHER.

(From the Nation.)

Thomas Meagher has escaped. The noblest and most gifted of our Confessors has broken his chains, and is now a freeman of the World. Thank God. Thank God for his deliverance. A new hope is given to liberty—a glorious advocate is restored to Ireland.

We have but meagre details to disclose in order to satisfy the impatience of the country to hear of this fortunate story. Here is the whole narrative.

One of the most estimable and independent of our citizens, (whose name we have permission to make known to Meagher's friends,) has communicated to us the joyful intelligence. He has received a letter from his brother-in-law, an assistant surgeon in the British navy, written from Hobart Town, and bearing date the 18th of last January, which states that Meagher had escaped, and that the government officials had searched his house in vain. He had fled beyond capture and pursuit. The bloodhounds were after him, but had missed their prey. Here are the exact words:—

H. M. Ship—, Hobart Town, }
18th January, 1852. }

"Meagher has made his escape from this. Some say he has broken his parole, others say not. He wrote to the police magistrate of his district, to say that he did not wish his leave extended. Some say he left before the letter was delivered, others say he did not, but that he remained until a person who was sent to watch him came to his house. He came out and asked the man whether he wanted him. He said "no." He then went into the house and escaped through the back way. In two hours after some more police came to arrest him. But the bird had flown, and so the case stands."

There is not a heart in the country but will thrill at this news. There is not a generous man throughout the world who will not rejoice to hear that so gallant a spirit is rescued from punishment and ignominy. For his noble genius and nobler nature have been his passports to universal fame and admiration.

The glorious young convict! What was his crime? Why was he banished from society to lend with the monster criminals of his kind? Because he devoted wonderful gifts with which nature had endowed him to the holy service of his country. Because his soul of truth and tongue of fire made him a dangerous enemy to the oppressors of Ireland.

And why is he now free? Because God has destined him for great things. Because the genius of Ireland watched over his cradle, and ordained him to be a historical man. Because, consecrated by premature sufferings, chastened by severe discipline, he has grown wiser and stronger for the fulfilment of his mission. The thread of fate which bound him to Ireland is reunited again. Wherever he be in the world, his intellect, his passions, and his affections will labor in her cause. In any region of the earth where man dare raise a free voice, he will find a platform from which to instruct and inspire his country.

Oh! let us exult for this deliverance. Let us be thankful, too, for this mercy of God.

Condemned by false judges to a death of shame, for loving his country, Thomas Meagher wore in his early manhood the crown of martyrdom. His were the martyr's virtues as well as the martyr's fate. Nor was there one of the stern officials who had him in custody, did not learn to love him, so captivated were they by the fresh, frank, and aspiring character of the brilliant young traitor. His gifts and conduct were a splendid testimony to the cause he had espoused, and flung dignity on Irish treason, even in the dungeons and hulks of English law. The reverence paid to him by his jailers, and their confidence in his integrity, were a true hero-worship.

It was singular virtue in one so young to meet penalty and exile with such mature resolution. Torn from the country of which he was the idol, robbed of the princely patrimony to which he was born, he met every deprivation with proud and unselfish enthusiasm, glorying only in the thought that he trod in the path which our greatest patriots had journeyed before him for the same ends and the same acts. For he knew the freedom of a people grows as often from the blood of the martyr as from the ashes of the soldier.

In his condemnation there was no shame, and, believe it, friends, in his escape from custody there has been no forfeiture of his plighted honor. There is no slave of faction, there is no hireling of the ruffian Whigs, who will dare to whisper that Thos. Meagher violated his parole. Whatever may have been the cause, the country will believe that he religiously kept his obligation; and that it was only when all guarantees were broken with him by some brutal caprice of English tyranny, that he arose and fled from his captivity. And we may rely on it that it was either some new and intolerable outrage of despotism, like that

which justified M. Manus in flying from his jailers, or the expiration of the limited term for which he had pledged himself (six months,) that released Thomas Meagher from his conditional promise not to quit the penal colony. The country, and all just men in England, will believe this with implicit confidence. We will not argue the point now or any more. It is indisputable as truth. Let the lie choke him who shall dare to utter it.

We can well imagine the exultation with which Smith O'Brien, John Mitchell, and the other Exiles, have celebrated this event. For the sake of Ireland, of their noble associate, and the fair young wife whose affection sustained him in his sorrows, they have rejoiced that he, they all so dearly prized, has broken his chains. May God deliver them, too. May their captivity weigh lighter upon them till they, too, shall walk untrammelled and uncontrolled.

We long for the hour when the voice of Meagher shall again reach the thirsting ears of Ireland. We long to hear his pent up inspirations, the treasures of many a weary meditation beneath the strange Antipodean sky, uttered in these glorious lyric words, which will rekindle life and hope and courage in the transeal soul of the country. We long to hear the echoes of the clamorous rejoicings which await the greatest living orator of our race amongst the free men of America.

In him the Irish in America will find a chief to unite and guide them. In him America will find a hero to honor, without reserve or jealousy. In him human liberty will recover an illustrious servant, and Ireland will possess a Councillor and Apostle to teach her the old virtues, and the old hopes, in whose practice and accomplishment, lie her greatness and her glory.

THE PAPACY OF PARLIAMENT.

(From the Dublin Weekly Telegraph.)

The Commons House of Parliament has been busily engaged this week in exercising its high faculty of Headship over the Church. In that House, we need not say, resides, really and virtually, the Headship over the Established Church, which is nominally in the Sovereign. Distasteful as it was to the High Church section of the House of Commons no man ever ventured to dispute the truth of what Mr. Roebuck said last year, in the debate upon the Catholic Hierarchy, when having shown that to condemn the Catholics of the Empire for their hearty loyalty to the Hierarchy appointed by the Pope, was, in fact, to condemn them for being Catholics, because it was essential to the Catholic religion "to bow," as he expressed it, "in all matters spiritual, to the authority of the Pope." He went on to say, "I am far from sympathizing with them. To me it is mysterious how any man can bow to the authority of the Pope. I am a member of the Establishment; and as such I bow"—here he hesitated, looked around him, and enquired—"to what shall I say? To the majority of this House." Some Puseyite Members murmuring at the expression, he said, "Yes. The supreme authority of the Established Church, in all matters spiritual, is, in truth, the majority of this House. It is the doctrine of the Established Church that the Queen is supreme in all matters of doctrine and discipline—the supremacy of the Queen means the supremacy of the Prime Minister—the supremacy of the Prime Minister means the supremacy of the majority of this House;" and then, making a low and deep reverence, like one of the heroes of the Arabian Nights before the divan of the Sultan or Caliph, he said (in a tone of profound reverence, in which sarcasm could hardly have been detected by one who knew nothing of the speaker's wont), "I am a member of the Established Church—I bow in all matters spiritual to the majority of this House for the time being." Mr. Roebuck is not a man to miss so tender a point as this. But, in truth, what he said no man ventures to deny; and, therefore, we do not see how any one can reasonably complain that the House of Commons exercises Archiepiscopal, Patriarchal, or Papal jurisdiction, as may happen to be required, in the case of Mr. Bennett's institution to the Vicarage of Frome. The argument of Sir Robert Inglis and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (an argument which they urged, not, of course, to show that the House had not rightful jurisdiction in the case, but only to dissuade it from using the right), namely, that the House was not well qualified for the exercise of such jurisdiction, is, no doubt, transparently true; but it is nothing to the point. The Royal Supremacy is the fundamental principle of the Establishment—its life (as logicians say, its "form"). Take away that, and it no longer is anything at all. But by the political constitution of these countries, the powers which are directly and nominally in the Crown have passed virtually and indirectly to the representatives of the people. To argue, then, that these representatives cannot, without absurdity, exercise Patriarchal or Papal authority, because they know nothing of theology—because they represent not the laity of the Established Church, but all the multifarious religions and no-religions of the country, is only to argue that the Church of England ought not to exist.

It is most easy to show that the arrangement is absurd, inconvenient, impracticable, irreligious, profane: all this is so evident as not to need proof; but when all this has been said, that arrangement is just as much as before a fundamental, essential principle of the Protestant Establishment. Take away this absurdity, and the great body of which it is the life vanishes like a bubble, or lies, like a lifeless carcass, the helpless prey of those over whom it has so long tyrannized. This was so much felt, that in truth all parties in the House, even those most devoted to the religious side of the Establishment, and who constitute its only religious strength, we mean such men as Mr. Gladstone, agreed with the mere Establishmentarians, like the author of "Coningsby," that the House ought to exercise a Papal and super-episcopal jurisdiction, although there were differences of opinion as to the mode in which it should be exercised. Mr. Gladstone and others thought that that supreme authority should be exerted in a legislative rather than a judicial manner. This, of course, was a question of detail, which in their judgment was probably correct, but the principle involved was one and the same. If the House of Commons, as Mr. Gladstone proposed, give appellate jurisdiction to the Archbishop in cases like Mr. Bennett's, if it can (as he proposed) enact machinery for compelling a reluctant or negligent Bishop to exercise the powers with which Parliament (or the Crown, to which Parliament has now come in as heir-general) has already invested him, or can confer upon him new powers to meet new emergencies, then assuredly, it can, if it see fit, invest itself directly with the same powers. This is merely a question of discretion, to be settled by prudent men