

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

FRANCE

The Moniteur has the following:—The Patrie publishes in its number of yesterday an article headed, 'The Constitutional Empire.' That article, though written in the best spirit, contains views upon the Constitution of a nature to challenge a controversy, which is one more proof of the inconvenience of opening a discussion upon the ground of the fundamental pact. We think it advisable on this occasion to reprint the notification which was inserted in the Moniteur of the 28th of November last:—

The Emperor, by the memorable acts of the 24th of November, 1860, and of the 14th of the present month, making use of his sovereign prerogative, has spontaneously rendered the most striking homage to the principle of perfectibility of the Constitution. But for some days past various organs of publicity seem to have made a point of criticizing the Constitution itself, and especially of dwelling upon certain modifications the urgency of which they proclaim. It therefore becomes necessary to remind them that, as the initiative of modifications in the fundamental pact appertains exclusively to the Emperor and Senate, that pact must remain above all discussion, and that the chief object of the law on the press was to shield the Constitution from any attacks of which it might be the object.

The Moniteur will soon publish an Imperial decree fixing the meeting of the Legislative Corps for an early day, probably the 17th or 18th of January. After hearing at length the Advocate-General who proposed the rejection of the appeal, the Court of Cassation annulled on Saturday the judgment of the Court Imperial against M. Mires and Count Sineon, on the ground of violation of the 408th Article of the Code of Criminal Instruction by omitting to decide on the demand of Mires relative to the nullity of the second inspection of the books of the company of which he was the director. The Court of Cassation ordered the case to be tried again before Cour Imperial of Douai.

It is stated by well-informed persons, not inclined to exaggerate, that the situation in which the manufacturers and tradesmen of Paris are at present placed is one of the most difficult that has been remembered for many years. Many houses which, on balancing their books to the close of the year, have hitherto found that they made large profits, find at the present moment that the debtor side of the balance-sheet is much heavier than the credit side. The reduced price of many articles offered for sale in the Paris shops shows further what sacrifices are being made to meet engagements for the end of the year. This embarrassed situation cannot be attributed to overtrading or to extravagant speculation. It has been caused in a great measure by political events, which, by diminishing the foreign orders, have forced manufacturers to limit their production. The stocks in the merchants' stores have, on the other hand, accumulated for want of buyers. The same situation was observed in 1857, when a commercial crisis prevailed in America and Germany. On that occasion the Bank of France rendered important service by renewing the commercial bills falling due, and which otherwise must have been protested. It is expected that the Bank will render a similar service on the present occasion, and that many respectable houses now in difficulty, not only in Paris, but at Lyons, St. Etienne, Lille, and other parts of France, will be saved from ruin.

M. Eugene Forcade, in his weekly summary of commercial news, says:—

Whatever may be the result of the American quarrel, and even should the anticipated catastrophe be prevented, it must be confessed that in a financial point of view the year 1862 opens with melancholy prospects. The United States have added two milliards to their debt, which were absorbed in one year by the civil war. Austria has admitted a situation bordering on bankruptcy. Italy is laboriously endeavoring to establish a balance between her revenue and her expenditure. France comprehends that it is time to put an end to her ill-considered expenditure. She must prepare for new taxes, which will not save her from an approaching loan. We speak neither of Russia nor of Turkey. This financial crisis among Governments is a cause of uneasiness in all the money-markets. Governments are the greatest consumers of Capital, and it is they who devour it in the most unproductive manner. Until this financial malady among Governments is cured, it will be rash to expect that the spirit of enterprise can be exercised with advantage.

The population of Paris has, within the last ten years received an increase of 427,000 persons. From 1852 to 1861 the number of new houses completed in the department of the Seine amounted to 50,417, whilst the demolitions were only 10,143. During the last year, and in Paris alone, 2,932 houses, containing 17,845 apartments, have either been built or enlarged, and during the same period 444 houses, containing 8,952 apartments, have been either wholly or partially demolished. These statistics have been published, because a part of the Parisian population, injured in their interests, attributed their sufferings to the very works which were intended to preserve them, the real cause of the rise in rents thus complained of being the increase in the population as detailed above.

A Row.—A few days ago Marshal Pelissier entered the Marshals' Council Chamber puffing a cigar. The Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers remarked, in perfect good humor, "that the Marshal was not in Africa—that he was out a Pasha in Paris." The Duc de Malakoff is reported to have retorted in language such as no man of honor could brook, and, but for the interference of Marshal Randon, the melancholy spectacle would have been witnessed of two French Marshals, gallant veterans, actually coming to blows.—Court Journal.

The Paris correspondent of the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette says the fact is, that the French people and government are feeling so keenly, or believe that they are feeling so keenly, the effect

of the internal discussions of America, that they are prepared to seize eagerly upon any prospect however desperate, which promises to put an end to the existing state of things. Here in Paris the pressure of the times is severely felt by the retail trade, at this season of the year usually so brilliant and profitable. And in the weaving and manufacturing districts, this state of things is still worse. I am given to understand, on good authority, that M. Persigny has been informed by the reports of the Prefects of the Haut Rhin and the Nord, that in another month 600,000 hands, now employed in the cotton trade in those busy districts, will be out of work in the depth of winter, and these are prospects from which a French Minister and Government are anxious to escape at almost any other risk. It is generally admitted that the French Government has all along endeavored to induce England to assist them in breaking the blockade.

The Emperor of the French has been very painstaking in his efforts to get such Bishops nominated to French sees as would be acceptable to him, because objectionable in other respects. On all occasions he has most signally failed. In no instance has he shown more persistence than in the vacant see of the island of Guadeloupe; for this he has been most anxious to secure the nomination of a certain Priest, whose name I forbear to mention, but who is a highly improper person for the Episcopacy. Over and over again did the Duke de Grammont urge the Pope to accept him—and after his departure, the French Auditor of the Rota (by order) again tried to induce His Holiness to change his mind, but in vain. Lastly, the present ambassador, M. de Lavalette, tried his hand in the same direction, and at length the Pope's patience gave way;—rising from his chair, he replied, "Non, jamais!"—and this, I suppose, will be the last attempt on the part of the "Elders Son of the Church" to foist upon the Holy Father a man whose only claim would seem to be his perfect devotion to the Imperial behests.

M. de Lavalette is equally unsuccessful, tho' most untiring, in his endeavors to get Francis II. to quit Rome. I am assured that his pertinacity is quite extraordinary, but the only change the King intends to make is from the Papal Palace of the Quirinal to his own Palace, the Farnese, which will be ready for his reception in a few months; the widowed Queen and her numerous family will still continue to occupy the Quirinal. The only object the French Emperor can have in wishing to remove the King of Naples from Rome is, as I said in my last, to concentrate all anti-Piedmontese sympathies and hopes, in that most wretched country, in a French pretender to the throne. It remains to be seen whether, when the Imperial hand draws the curtain up, Murat will be the performer or Pion-Plon. There is much to be said on both sides, for if Murat's father were the Neapolitan crown half a century ago, Pion-Plon is married to the daughter of the Galantuomo, and "Liberal" Europe has said that the good King foresaid has gained the kingdom of Naples honestly, fairly, and by "universal suffrage" too. Now, a man being at perfect liberty to "do what he likes with his own," what is to hinder Victor Emmanuel, like the kind father the world knows him to be, from abdicating his legally and righteously acquired crown of Naples, in favor of his beloved child Clothilde, and her admirable husband, Prince Napoleon? And the Prince is cousin to the Murat claimant, who may easily be got, by Napoleonic process, to waive his infeasible and legitimate rights in his favor! Pion-Plon, moreover, is possessed of considerably more brains than his cousin Lucien, so that the chances are in his favor, the moment the opportunity occurs, and the Naples pear is considered to be ripe enough for the Napoleonic taste; for he would be provided with the double right, ceded by his father-in-law, and by his cousin, and then his ability is so much better than the other's, without being at all dangerously brilliant. The Muratist party would be a Jerome-Napoleon party really enough, it all being "in the family."

There is another reason why I am induced to believe Murat will be set aside. Placing him upon the throne, even by another "vote of the people," similar to the last, which Lord John Russell deemed so very satisfactory an indication of popular feeling, would arouse the antipathies of nearly all the European powers against the further extension of French power in the Mediterranean; it would be such an unmistakable carrying out of the "traditions of our house."—Whereas Prince Napoleon would come to the throne by accident, as it were, and simply as the husband of the Princess whose father's claim to Naples has been recognised by some, at all events, of the European Powers—and all those Powers would be compelled to acquiesce in the transfer to Clothilde of the country which they admit her father lawfully acquired, and which he may therefore resign to his daughter, just as he might to-morrow resign Piedmont itself to one of his sons, if he were so minded.

For these reasons, therefore, I believe the husband of Clothilde, of Savoy, will be the man for Naples, unless indeed his cousin Lucien's obstinate desire for "a meanly royal name," proves too much for the persuasive powers of the Emperor—but even in that case, there is a means of safety, in an exit in more senses than one.—"Kings have died ere now" and why not impracticable princes?—Cor London Tablet.

ITALY

THE ITALIAN UNITY.—There are, no doubt, numbers of honest Englishmen who desire the unity of the Italian States, and believe it to be not only useful, but practicable and probable. We are not of the number. We do not believe in the feasibility of Italian Unity, and we feel quite sure that the infamous means, and the base hands by which it is sought to be accomplished will carry with them a curse that would blast the fairest purpose that man ever contemplated. Circumstances did, we admit, lend for a while to keep up the illusion in this country, but truth is always the winner in the long run; and now we have the warmest partisan, and most efficient agent of Cavour, and the Robber King, the Times correspondent, confessing that Italian Unity is a chimera, and that there is no possibility of forming even an Italian Government out of the horde of infidels, knaves, and enthusiasts by whom Victor Emmanuel is surrounded. The following extracts will amply repay the trouble of an attentive perusal. The letter is headed:—

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN ITALY.—Turin, Dec. 26.—The Italian Cabinet continues still in the same predicament. It is not only no longer a Government, but it seems to have no men willing to govern her. A Ministerial portfolio, with the 25,000 salary attached thereto, is a very splendid appointment in this country;—must go a begging from many men, for such a thing without any chance of tempting the ambition of anybody, even of the most aspiring and grasping. This is a unique phenomenon, not to be accounted for on the mere score of modesty and indolence. Every candidate for office must be aware that there is "no harm in trying," and that, after all, Ministerial responsibility is a mere unmeaning word.

It was the ill-luck of Count Cavour, during the whole of his official life-time, always to be at a loss for able and efficient colleagues wherewith he might strengthen his Cabinet. He, however, made up for such deficiency by his hundred-handed activity, and had accustomed the country to accept the word "Minister," as synonymous with "Ministry." But the Count died, and Baron Ricasoli, as he stepped into his place, became aware of the absolute impossibility of filling the gap left by the great man.

A stranger in the country, as every Italian is everywhere in Italy out of the limited sphere of the petty State to which he belonged, a stranger almost in Tuscany itself, where he had for the last ten years, lived the life of the Grand Seigneur and the agriculturist in his lovely country-seat, Baron Ricasoli, at the head of a Cabinet consisting of three Tuscans, an Emilian, a Neapolitan, and a Sicilian, had to preside over offices entirely and almost exclusively filled with Piedmontese bureaucrats of the old school, people who did not well understand, and were by no means disposed to like their chiefs. From the first annexations in 1859 to the last in 1861 there was at least one man in the Cabinet who could talk Piedmontese (by which I mean a man conversant not merely with the dialect, but the routine of the country—the genius loci), and that man was Cavour; but after Cavour's death every Ministerial office became a kind of babel, without any means of communication between its head and tail. Baron Ricasoli, as it was too natural, felt uneasy at this state of isolation, and summoned about him in the Home office several of his own Tuscans, such as Celestino Bianchi, Forcetti, Taborini, and others—men who had never been in business before 1859, but who, at any rate, had done good service under him during his Dictatorship at Florence, and whose devotion to himself, no less than general native cleverness, he might trust. So far, however, as the knowledge of persons went, the Prime Minister chose the blind to lead the blind. His Tuscan friends were as helpless strangers in Turin as he was himself, and the hostility of the bureaucrats, which might have spared him, would give no quarter to his minions.

Ricasoli felt the necessity of coming to terms with the Piedmontese party, and he most anxiously made the handsomest overtures to their acknowledged leaders. He looked for business men to conduct the public business, and was anxious to lay the management, especially of the Home-office, in Piedmontese hands. His application was therefore made successively to Rattazzi, Lanza, and San Martino. Rattazzi had been too barefacedly, and indeed, too arrogantly puffed by the French press, and the Italians could not, without great humiliation, seem to accept a Minister at the Emperor Napoleon's hands; Lanza was a good, strong-minded man, but not of first rate abilities; moreover, both of them, for a variety of reasons, hung back, and without a plain refusal, wasted the Baron's precious time in bootless negotiation. Rattazzi, perhaps, felt too sure that the fall of Ricasoli must needs pave the way for him to attain the Premiership; Lanza thought the disorder in the Home-office had gone too far for him to find a remedy without too sweeping a condemnation of all that Ricasoli had been doing during his three months' administration. He did not, perhaps, feel strong enough, or he was, perhaps, too honest to join a colleague whom he might have to twit and thwart at the outset, and the removal of whose favorite subalterns must be a sine qua non to his setting foot in his office.

San Martino would have shown less scruple; but his objections arose on political grounds, and the knowledge of his motives is important, inasmuch as they are based on that political faith which most of the patriots of the old Piedmontese school share with him. The Piedmontese, a cold, practical, somewhat prosaic, and by no means sanguine set of thinkers, do not suffer hope to run away with their reason; they do not flatter themselves that fate will always shape her course in conformity with their wishes; they do not deal in chimeras, do not strive after the unattainable. In the estimation of very many of them, such as Alfiero di Sostegno, Gallina, Des Ambrois, Massimo d'Azeglio, and other equally well-known and a desperate, though a fortunate gambler.—Ever since 1854, and the Crimean expedition, these worthy men have rather been dragged along by events than have either mastered or properly understood them. Success hushed, but did not convince them. Italian unity was a great, sudden, dazzling phenomenon which bewildered them, but in the ultimate achievement of which they have no full faith. They see mountains of difficulties looming in the distance in the way of a final settlement of the Roman and Venetian questions; they see still greater evils in store consequent on the great financial and administrative disorder of the State. Full of these misgivings, they, however, take good care to hold their peace. Their real way of thinking only oozes out now and then in some untoward document, like Massimo d'Azeglio's letter to Matteucci, which was never intended to appear in print, but in which that excellent patriot expressed his deep conviction that Naples would never be thoroughly united to the North and Centre of Italy, a conviction which he is far indeed from renouncing, though he regrets having given it utterance. D'Azeglio and his friends carry on no opposition; they express no disapprobation of the Government, but they accepted no share in it under Cavour, who neither lacked nor cared for their assistance, and they shrink from any participation in it under Cavour's successors, who indeed want and sue for their help. San Martino is the only man who listened, or affected to listen, to Ricasoli's proposal; and his conditions were a relinquishment of the great national questions, at least for a time, and a retrenchment in all branches of the administration, not excepting even the military and naval departments. These conditions of San Martino took every body by surprise; they were looked upon as the mere vagaries of an odd and whimsical mind; but there is, perhaps, more meaning in them than meets the eye; they perhaps sum up the political faith of most of those leaders of the Piedmontese party whom Cavour had set aside, but whose help in the present needs begins to be sorely felt, and with whose cooperation it is not quite certain whether the present rulers will be able to dispense.

No one can say of what use may be the vote of a majority whose support had not yielded the practical aid of one practical man, out of whose ranks not one candidate has stepped forward for that Home-office for which all the present Ministers had most avowedly declared themselves incompetent.

The Times' cor. says:—A letter from Pisa in Tuscany says the Convent question must soon come on. The Ministry shrink from it, for many of them are Tuscans; and in spite of the thoughtlessness which they display on many important matters, they fear the proclamation of a measure which strikes such a deep wound at the life and habits of the population. They fear it all the more, because they by no means conceal from themselves the deep-rooted aversion of the country people, and because the opposition of the Clergy will be intensified by a step which puts Tuscany in the same position as the other provinces. The present proceedings in the Neapolitan provinces must, however, bring on similar measures in Tuscany as

their necessary consequence. In Umbria, in the Marche, in the Romagna, &c. all Religious Orders of both sexes, all Collegiate foundations, all Chaplains, and simple Benefices are suppressed, with the exception of those orders which devote themselves to education and tending the sick, and a few institutions for special objects.

The Monks and Nuns of the suppressed houses may remain in their Convents if they like, and live in community; in them, or in others appointed by the Government; but Heaven knows what is to become of them, while the soldiery fills their courts and corridors, and takes call after call from them. The whole Order of St. Francis, with all its great claims on the Church and on civilisation; and especially on the poor, is thus devoted to destruction, with the single exception of that one Convent of Minims—a new proof of the gratitude of the Italian Revolution, and of the tender care of Cavour and Ricasoli, for the rights and liberties of the Church. Not even the parent house of Assisi has been excepted from the law of extinction, a symptom of what may be expected in Tuscany. The convents are already forbidden to receive any novices. There may be and are too many Orders and Convents in the country; (their means are very moderate); but this measure which is about to be put into execution will have a very disastrous effect.—London Tablet.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Cardinal Antonelli has replied in strong terms to the note of the Marquis de Lavalette urging the departure of Francis II. from Rome.

M. de Lavalette, it is said, attaches all due weight to the arguments of Cardinal Antonelli.

The Pope, in replying to the congratulations of the Papal officers, spoke with much warmth against the enemies of the Papacy, and declared the ruin of those enemies and the triumph of the Holy See to be inevitable.

The correspondent of the Morning Post writes from Rome under date Dec. 24:—

"Yesterday morning his Holiness held a Secret Consistory at the Vatican, on which occasion, in his opening harangue, he manifested his wish to add to the catalogue of Saints the names of the twenty-three blessed Japanese Monks, of the Order of Minor Conventuals of St. Francis, who encountered martyrdom for the Catholic Faith in Japan, on the 5th of February, 1597. The Cardinals, interrogated as to the advisability of this canonisation, and that of the Blessed Michael de Sanctis, of the barefooted Trinitarian monks, gave their approbation, one after the other, by pronouncing the word 'placet.' The Pope then signified his intention of proceeding with the solemn canonisation, previous to which other consistories will be held for the purpose of obtaining the explicit votes, not only of the Cardinals but also of a number of Bishops, who will be explicitly invited to give maturity of sentiment to an act so important for the Catholic Church. His Holiness wound up the business of the meeting by the promotion of various Prelates to foreign sees—one in the Philippine Islands, two in South America, six in Spain, and four in partibus infidelium."

There are many reports current just now in this city, not very favorable to the good intentions of the French Government. It is stated with great confidence, that the French troops will be withdrawn very soon, and the Pope abandoned to the mercy of his reckless and unprincipled enemies. What a sad thing it was that Bonaparte ever undertook to interfere in Roman affairs. The official documents now well known show that he never acted with good faith. He began his career by connecting himself with the wicked Mazzinian societies, and taking up arms in 1831 against the Pontifical Government, which had given a safe asylum and full protection to him and his family, when they were refused admittance into almost every other country in Europe.—But the sentiments imbibed in youth are scarcely ever forgotten, and they manifest themselves from time to time for good or evil in after life. Napoleon's early antipathy to the Holy See displayed itself on several occasions, and especially at the Congress of 1856, when an opportunity was given to the Sardinian ambassador to vomit out innumerable calumnies against the Roman Government—calumnies, however, which were fully refuted by the despatch of Count de Rayneri, representative of the French Government in Rome. At present the various decrees issued against religious congregations, the suppression of the Council General at St. Vincent of Paul, and the attempts made to intimidate the Bishops, show the actual tendency of the Emperor's counsels. Indeed, he appears either to be afraid of the Red Republicans, or to have passed into their camp. What the world has to expect from those "Reds," can be easily understood from their bloody deeds in Naples, and their bloodthirsty declarations in the Parliament of Turin.

Notwithstanding the sinister reports referred to, Rome is perfectly quiet, and there cannot be fewer than 20,000 strangers here at present. No one dares to stay in Florence, Pisa, Naples, or Salerno, on account of the vile system of government prevailing under the Sardinians, whilst multitudes flock to Rome, to visit its antiquities and its noble Christian monuments, and find themselves perfectly safe under the Pope's paternal sway.

The letters of so many Irish Catholic gentlemen, in answer to Sir Robert Peel's project, have been read here with great pleasure. These letters, and especially that of Mr. More O'Ferrall and Mr. Maunsell's speech, manifest a high Catholic feeling very creditable to Ireland. It is scarcely possible that in the face of such opposition, Sir Robert Peel should persevere in his educational projects, which appear to have no other object but to introduce infidelity or indifference to all religion in Ireland.

The Correspondence Bullier—a Paris lithographed sheet—speaks of a rumor that an attempt had been made to assassinate General de Goyon at Rome, and that one of his aids-de-camp had received two pin-wounds.

NAPLES, Dec. 24.—The Times' correspondent says:—"Since Sunday morning Vesuvius has been in a state of more violent eruption than ever. It was about noon, or a short time before, that we saw the cloud of smoke and ashes rise higher and higher; and though at Naples we perceived no other indication of its increased activity, at Torre dell' Annunziata there was a violent shock of earthquake, which spread consternation among the people. Those who were in church rushed out, many losing their prayer-books, and one lady, as I am informed, being crushed to death. Towards evening the eruption had attained gigantic proportions, and yesterday morning when we arose, the mountain, sky, and bay, were completely enveloped in a cloud of smoke. A north-east wind, accompanied with a slight drizzle at intervals, brought over the city a shower of sand, which splashed against our windows and covered our streets, and when the drizzle ceased, and the ashes fell on our coats, and penetrated into our houses, sensibly affecting the eyes. You may judge of the quantity of ashes that was thrown out when I tell you that the Exmouth, which lies a quarter of a mile out, was covered with a coat of red ashes, and that the officer on guard during the night was compelled to take shelter under the poop.

The Diritto asserts that Signor Bettinengo, Lieutenant of Sicily, has tendered his resignation. Letters received here from Rome state that the Marquis II. to take up his residence in France. According to the same sources some disagreement existed between the Pontifical and Russian Governments. The departure from Rome of Monsignor Obigi, Papal Nuncio, to the Court of the Tuilleries, had been indefinitely postponed.

The Times' correspondent complains that:—From Sicily we have rumors of uneasiness and of conspiracies discovered, but they are not sufficiently decided to allow me to say much on the subject. Of this, however, be assured, that both here and there the Bourbonists are working, and that we shall hear more of them shortly.

PORTUGAL

Quick upon the untimely decease of the young King of Portugal follows the death of another Royal victim of the same disease, dying in the same Palace and of the same malady. To-day's telegram informs us that Prince Joao, who was the third son of Dona Maria II. da Gloria, and whose death had been for some days expected, has expired. The cause of death, like that of his eldest brother, is officially ascertained to have been typhoid fever.

Dona Maria had seven children, and of these three are suddenly and rapidly swept away by this dire visitation. Ferdinand, the fourth son, accompanied the King, his brother, in the expedition in which they both contracted their fatal illness, and he died a few days before the King.

The King's fate we have already recorded. Now occurs that of Prince Joao. Prince Augusto, the fifth son, has been stricken down by the same malady, and is the only one of the brothers who has recovered. The reigning King, Prince Augusto, and two sisters are the survivors who yet stand between the Throne and the male branch of the Royal House as represented by Don Miguel. So great a fatality family seems to have been united in its affection, and to have offered none of those spectacles of intrigue and contention which are so habitually looked for in the history of the rulers of the earth. Under the government of the mother and of her son the Portuguese had enjoyed a prosperity and tranquillity which were the better appreciated by them as a relief from the vicissitudes of a sanguinary civil war.

These facts will explain what have to many appeared the inexplicable tumults which followed these successive deaths. The population of Lisbon are still a medieval population. They are to the present citizens of London or Paris what the citizens of London or Paris were five centuries ago. Living themselves in a capital where all sanitary precautions are unknown, and which seems to a stranger to have been specially designed as an asylum for fever and pestilence, it never could strike that ignorant populace that a little more malaria in a neighboring hunting ground, or an extra shade of offensiveness in the Palace of the Necessidades, could have produced the fatal diseases which have recurred in such rapid succession. The multitude has rushed to the conclusion that these deaths are the result of poison.—Hence the riots, the demands for the exhumation of the body of the King, the attacks upon the druggists' shops, and the contradictory addresses, first that the new King shall, and then that he shall not, quit Lisbon. The people of Lisbon have been impressed by the idea that the family of Dona Maria are all dying away under the influence of some fell conspiracy, and that the country will again fall under the power of Don Miguel and his offspring.—There is no reason to believe that these popular notions have the slightest foundation, or that this Royal family has been scourged by any other visitation than that which punishes the infraction of the natural laws which enjoin cleanliness and pure air as the conditions of a healthy human existence.—That the people are so excited by these calamities is proof how popular the ruling family in Portugal has become, and it bodes well for the security of the Throne of the new Monarch. To him, with that quiet capital around him, there is a moral in these pestilences brooding over Palaces, and claiming victims from their Throne-rooms. It is not enough to mourn over what has happened; wise men will also work against that which may recur.—Times.

RUSSIA

The St. Petersburg Gazette publishes the following circular from the Minister of the Interior to the Governors of the Provinces:—

"It results from information received at the Ministry of the Interior, on the subject of the actual state of the question of the serfs, that the favorable progress of that question, and especially the completion of the charter of regulations, finds an obstacle in the erroneous interpretations which circulate among the serfs, as also in the false hopes which they entertain. They expect what they call 'a new freedom,' the promulgation of which, at the expiration of two years, would confer upon them new privileges not mentioned in the regulations of the 19th February. They add that those serfs who should have contracted arrangements with the proprietors and signed charters would be excluded from the enjoyment of these privileges. To put an end to this illusion, His Majesty the Emperor, during his visit to the Crimea, deigned repeatedly to explain to the chief men of the rural districts, when they had the honor of being presented to His Majesty, the exact state of the question, at the same time reminding them of the obligations they were bound to fulfil. Thus, His Majesty said to the serfs, 'That there would not be any other freedom beyond that which had been conceded to them, and that consequently the serfs ought conscientiously to execute what was exacted from them by the general laws, as well as by the regulations of the 19th of Feb.'"

BERLIN, Jan. 1.—Letters received here from Warsaw state, that owing to the milder regime which has already been inaugurated by the Government, it was hoped that the state of siege might be raised before the close of the old year.—The Emperor had given 500,000 roubles to be distributed amongst the poor of Warsaw, without distinction as to religion. The rumor was current in Warsaw that the Emperor would pay a visit to that place.

UNITED STATES

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.—The "rebels," it would seem are not disheartened by the late defeat in Kentucky. Of their operations since, the Washington correspondent of the Tribune says:—"According to late returns from Bowling Green, the rebels there, who, several weeks ago, were panic stricken and unprepared to resist an attack, breathe more easily. Within that time they have erected seven strong fortifications near the town. They have organized their best troops into divisions, to protect their communication, and will put their new levies behind their entrenchments and rifle pits. Johnston is believed to have 70,000 men of all sorts under his command. Forts Donelson and McNairy, which constitute Johnston's centre, hitherto weak, have been greatly strengthened, as indeed has the whole line from Columbus to Bowling Green. There is reason to fear that their delay to advance may cost the National Generals dear."

PATRIOTISM IN THE UNITED STATES.—If we judge of the Patriotism of the United States by the multitude of volunteers for the army, we cannot help applauding it as equal if not superior to that of any other civilized nation; but if we judge of it by the hosts of office-seekers and the army contractors, we must conclude that love of country is unknown in the United States. It appears now that the population of the United States consists of two distinct classes, with a civilization and spirit as different as that between Boston and New Orleans. The one is willing to risk life for the Union, the other is willing and ready to sell the Union. The one respects the star-flag as the symbol of country and home, the other regards it as a sign; like the pawn-broker's three balls that money is to be made under its shadow. Does any history of the world exhibit such corruption—such speculation, such open swindling, such downright roguery as the revelations lately published by the Investigation Committee of Congress and the public Press? Our national reputation has been damaged of old; but now who can defend it! The poor soldiers are in the camp suffering every hardship they may be exposed, with good-will, because they love their country, and yet there is no mercy shown them; for the money in which they are paid, blood-money as it may be called, is depreciated, in the market by bankers, who thus hope to make a little gain at the expense of their poor but patriotic fellow-citizens. Boston has done more than any other city or state to bring on this