

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PRESIDENT MACMAHON'S MINISTRY.—PARIS, May 23, via London, midnight.—The Ministry is finally constituted as follows:—General Cissey, Minister of War and Vice-President of the Council; Duke DeCazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Fourton, Minister of the Interior; Magne, Minister of Finance; Eugene Cailoux, Minister of Public Works; Louis Grivart, Commissaire; Viscount DeCumont, Minister of Public Instruction; Adrian Tailhand, Minister of Justice.

ADDITION TO THE CABINET.—PARIS, May 22nd.—The Marquis de Montagnac is appointed Minister of Marine.

THE NEW MINISTRY.—A Times Correspondent at Paris thinks the New Ministry will fall if it attempts to go beyond mere administration, and states President MacMahon yesterday morning threatened to resign. The News reports that all hopes of passing constitutional laws have been abandoned. The appointment of Gen. Cissey to the Premiership causes a sensation.

THE CROPS IN FRANCE.—PARIS, May 5.—According to the general tenor of the reports from the vine-growing districts of France the recent cold weather although causing some partial damage to the vines, has in no way endangered the crop. There was no frost last night in France. The cereal crops promise to be excellent.

SPAIN.

A despatch from Bayonne says engagements take place daily between the Carlists and Republicans for the possession of the heights commanding Bilbao. It is claimed the Carlists have gained some successes.

ADVANCE OF THE CARLISTS.—LONDON, May 22.—Despatches from Santander represent the Carlist raid in that vicinity as a formidable movement. Some two thousand five hundred Insurgents are within five leagues of the town; they give no quarter.

SANTANNA, May 22.—The Carlists have surprised and surrounded a detachment of volunteers near the city. The Republicans at last accounts held out and relief had been sent for. Great excitement prevails, as the men in danger all belong to this place.

According to Carlist accounts of the operations which resulted in the relief of Bilbao, the heights of Las Muncas, the first key of the Carlist line of defence, were insufficiently defended by a few companies of troops. The Carlist leader Velasco was ordered to reinforce this position with four battalions, but did not appear. When, therefore, General Echague attacked it with 12,000 men and 16 guns, its defenders could not hold out against him.—General Echague's night attack upon Galdames on the 30th ult. succeeded for a similar reason. The Carlist line being too extended was thus out in two, and the right wing, at San Pedro de Abanto being threatened in its rear, retreated on the morning of the 1st inst. without loss upon the bridge of Castrejuna, where Elio also arrived with the left wing. The plan of forming a fresh line of defence as in 1836 was abandoned, on account of the long range of the Krupp guns used by the Republican artillery, and the Carlist leaders, after two Councils of War, decided upon immediately abandoning the siege of Bilbao.—Times Cor.

ITALY.

PARIS, May 2.—Some rather curious information has reached me from a very confidential source with respect to a conversation between the King of Italy and Prince Bismarck, on occasion of Victor Emmanuel's visit to Berlin last year.

The German statesman appears to have admitted that he made two great mistakes, the first being that he had over-estimated the military forces of France, and the second that he had under-estimated her financial resources. He was perfectly informed of her military strength under arms, and of its inferiority to that of Prussia and her allies, but he had reckoned that there would be a great and formidable uprising of the nation after its first reverses—something resembling, perhaps, the self-sacrifice and enthusiasm to which the King of Prussia's appeal stimulated his people in 1813. There was nothing approaching it.—Under all the circumstances it was a mistake not to have overrun the whole of France, to have gone to Toulon and Marseilles, to Bordeaux and Bayonne, and so have let the whole country see and feel the power of Germany. As it was, more than half the country never felt the war. Some Departments even got rich upon it. Large profits were made in various districts owing to the demand for certain things for the new levies; in other places the prices of the necessities of life fell in consequence of the cessation of all demand for them from besieged Paris. In Prince Bismarck's opinion the consequence of the lightness with which the conflict pressed upon two-thirds of France will be a readiness to plunge again into war whenever she discovers, or fancies she discovers, a favorable opportunity.—Times Cor.

It is not unnatural, especially if we consider his determined and trenchant character, that Prince Bismarck, knowing and foreseeing these things, should desire to forestall his country's future and certain assailant, and to repeat the blows which he deemed to have been in the first instance too lightly dealt. But how was the fresh strife to be brought about? Germany, too, had greatly suffered, and was weary of war. The campaign had been prolonged far beyond anything that had been anticipated. It had entailed immense misery on the victors as well as on the vanquished. It would not be easy to urge the former into a contest of which they would not recognize the necessity. Neither the German Parliament, the Press, nor the people would be likely to approve the project. In this case a former ally might be of service to remove the difficulty. Prince Bismarck was at no loss to expose to the King of Italy, the way this might be done. He knew, by his agents in Nice and Savoy, that it would be difficult to get up an Anti-French cry in those countries—a cry for a return to Italy. This done, and made the most of by the usual machinery, Victor Emmanuel might say that he could not disregard the patriotic wishes of his former

subjects—of the cradle of his race and lineage; he might repeat the memorable words he spoke to the assembled Chambers in the Palazzo Madama, at Turin, on that well-remembered day in the Spring of 1859, when he declared that he could no longer remain insensible "at grido di dolore che da tanti paesi d'Italia si leva verso di noi." The cry once raised, the rest would quickly follow. The excitable Italians would be fired with a passionate enthusiasm for the redemption of their alienated countrymen; there would be a rush to arms, and once more the old battle cry of "Savoia!" would be heard in the van of battle. How could Prussia, for very shame, allow her old ally to engage in an unequal strife?

It would be easy to foster and encourage that feeling till it overcame more selfish considerations. She would strike in and drag Germany with her. France would again be humbled and weakened, this time more thoroughly and durably than the last, and Italy would regain what never ought to have been taken from her. The plan was plausible enough, and not unattractive to an ambitious Sovereign, who thereby would at once have increased both his dominions and his popularity. But Victor Emmanuel is a wary Prince, and mindful of his people's true interests. He showed no disposition for fresh military ventures. The consequences might be too serious. The financial position of Italy had to be considered. Her embarrassments were great, her funds depressed, there was a heavy annual deficit, and the exchange was nearly 20 per cent. against her. This was not a favourable combination of circumstances under which to go to war.

And so he turned a deaf ear to the voice of the Berlin chamber. If upon the contrary, he had taken the bait and been tempted to acquiesce, there would probably have been war again in Europe within a few weeks of the date of the interview. Since then we know how often reports have been current of a renewal of the conflict between France and Germany—a wolf and a lamb quarrel, to be picked by the latter. That the will exists on the part of at least one man is highly probable. But it is necessary to put forward a pretext sufficiently valid to justify the aggressor in the eyes of Europe, and to render popular with the Germans a war for which they certainly have no wish.

The Liberta, an Italian Liberal organ, thus describes the condition of Palermo: "Imagine a vast and well-organized army of thieves, cut throats and murderers invading the whole country, to whom are associated bands of dissatisfied workmen deputed to spy and watch the police in order to notify them to their friends the brigands. It is impossible in Sicily now to know who is and who is not a brigand. They belong to every class of society; you meet them at the theatre, in the cafes, in short, everywhere, even in church. In some places they steal cattle, and unless it is ransomed, immediately put it to death, and send the tails to the owners. Sometimes they menace a wholesale massacre of the live stock on a farm, and unless it is immediately ransomed, ten to one, the farmers will find the threat speedily realized. The state of the country is such that people dare not go abroad in daylight beyond the city walls, unless armed and in bodies of six or seven together. Agriculture is stopped, and misery is so great that people dread a famine or a revolution. If your readers do not believe me, I assure you I have under-rated the terrible state of our Sicilian provinces, and invite them to come and see for themselves."

GERMANY.

The Kurier Poznanski publishes an article upon the imprisonment and pretended deposition from office of Mgr. Count Ledochowski, Archbishop of Gnesen and Posen, from which the following extracts are taken:

"What will now become of all our ecclesiastical affairs? Perhaps the Government, confident of its superior power and the forbearance of the Legislature will take some precautionary measures without waiting for the result of the decision of the Landtag on the bills to supplement the ecclesiastical laws of last May now before it, and introduce certain restrictions, which it will subsequently try to justify by pointing out their urgent necessity. But, no matter what happens, our course is clear and straight, and there is no doubt about what is our duty. We will continue to give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but we will also faithfully and firmly give to God what is God's. At this moment our first thought turns again to our imprisoned Archbishop, who, in spite of his confinement behind the bars of the jail, is greater than his adversaries, who are surrounded by the glitter of worldly power. They wish to tear from him the character of the Divine mission which Holy Writ has impressed upon him. Vain efforts! They may crush him, but to his last breath he will remain what he is; and the faithful will never cease to recognize and venerate in him the successor of the Apostles—the pastor to whom the Vicar of Christ has entrusted a great part of his flock."

The "WOMEN'S WHISKY WAR" IN MANCHESTER.—Several women, who have commenced in Manchester a parody of the "whisky war" which is just concluding in the United States, made their second appearance on Sunday at the "big lamp" in Chester-road. There was (says the Manchester Guardian) very little of an exciting character in the proceedings. The women—most of them elderly, respectable, and quiet-looking—went through their task in a business-like, if might almost have been said, in a humdrum style. The speakers have plenty of instances drawn from their own experience of the domestic and social evils of indulgence in intoxicating liquors. There was a curious uniformity in their stories. Their husbands had beaten them, had spent their earnings in drink, had neglected to buy them proper dresses (one of the speaker dwelt with great emphasis on that fact), and had misbehaved themselves generally until out of very desperation, they signed the pledge, and had lived happy ever afterwards. The chairwoman stated that she had been a strict teetotaler for twenty-six years. Another speaker dated her pledge to a period even more remote. A third gave a curious proof of the strength of her principles when she declared that she had "done without" strong drink at christenings, at funerals, and even (this by way of climax) at weddings. A fourth, who was badly over-dressed, informed the meeting that she had been the wife of a navy, who, of course, was a drunkard and a brute until he took the pledge. The audience which numbered about 200 persons, listened quietly to the speeches, and there were no manifestations of feeling except on one or two occasions when domestic revelations were made of an unusually startling character. Several pledges were taken.

MR. NEWDEGATE'S BILL.—The Commission which he proposes to create—and if the new majority turns out to be strong in the No-Popery element, he will very likely succeed in creating it—is to be a body such as happily has not yet been seen in England for many a day. It is to possess an inquisitorial and quasi-judicial character, being armed with powers to enter and inspect any Conventual or Monastic institution, to compel the production of every kind of evidence, and to command the aid of all the officers of the law; and also to report on the nature and tenure of all the property or means of subsistence of such institutions, and whether such means of subsistence are or are not consistent with the provisions of the Acts against Superstitious Uses, the Mortmain, or Charity Acts. As to its composition, Mr. Newdegate proposes that there shall be seven Commissioners; one appointed by the Lord Chancellor, one by the Speaker, one by the Lord Chief Justice of England, two by the Catholic Poor Schools Committee, and two by the Commissioners of Lunacy. We scarcely suppose that Mr. Newdegate is really under the delusion that the Poor School Committee would ever consent to appoint to such an office, or that any Catholic would ever consent to exercise it, and his proviso as validating the con-

notes of a majority of the Commission, and empowering existing Commissioners to act during vacancies in their body, are probably intended to cover the gaps which would be produced in his scheme by the refusal of Catholics to have anything to do with it.—Tablet.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.—A correspondent of the New York World, dating from Hong Kong, and giving some account of the recent failure of the French in their attempts to acquire Tonquin, closes his letter with some allusions to the work of the American and English missionaries in China. What he says is curiously borne out by the letters of President Grant's friend, ex-chaplain Newman, in his correspondence with the Christian Advocate. Like the World letter-writer, that gentleman complains of the inferiority of the men sent out by the Protestant boards, and attributes to their limited success. There is a sort of fatality about these complaints, whoever makes them—whether a Livingstone, who pointed his criticism to Bishop Tozer with a complimentary allusion to Archbishop Spalding and the Catholic missionaries to the Southern blacks, or a Newman, whose pen could not help recording that the Catholic priests in China teach their people and civilize them, even though the admission was unpleasant. The World correspondent is bound by the same law. He says:

"I have been amused lately by reading some of the reports which have been sent to America and England by the missionaries who have chosen this field in which to gather in the benighted. For pure impudence commend me to a foreign missionary. I am a fair observer of the life around me, and I fail to see any remarkable conversions which justify the high-sounding letters which are sent to your missionary societies. When it comes to an argument, the astute Chinaman, as a general thing, floors your missionary. I would not be understood as writing anything to the prejudice of Christianity. The trouble is not with the religion, but with the men who represent it. An exception must be made in the case of the Catholics, who generally send us men of education as well as faith. But the Protestant missionaries, as a general thing, are far inferior in intellect to the men whom they assume to teach, and the result is, as I have noted above, that conversions are few and far between. If your missionary societies really want to convert China, let them send us men who have something besides faith and prayers to back them up. For your Chinaman is like everybody else, he wants to know whereof he hears and sees. He will not be satisfied with the mere dictum of a missionary. I simply throw this out as a hint to the Bible societies."—Catholic Review.

EXTRAORDINARY TELEGRAPHIC FEAT.—The following tale is from the Whitehall Times. Whitehall is a town in Washington county, State of New York:—"Our readers will remember, when General Kilpatrick returned from Chili three years since, his having a remarkable operation performed upon him by a physician in New York, who removed a fleshy formation from the General's neck by filling it full of needles and then attaching a galvanic battery to it. Ten minutes after the current of electricity was let on, the bunch had entirely disappeared. A remarkable operation was performed by a Whitehall physician a few days ago. A gentleman who had been suffering from a superabundance of adipose tissue consulted the physician, asking for relief from its burden. The doctor told him he could relieve him if he would consent to a painful operation. The gentleman consented, and with the medical practitioner entered the telegraph office at this place. The fat man was requested to remove his coat and vest, after which the physician surrounded him with wires, attaching the ends to a powerful battery. At a signal from the doctor, Manager Eddy let on the current. The patient writhed and twisted when he felt the current passing around him; still, he stood like a martyr. Presently he began to shrink; he grew smaller and smaller; his clothing hung in bags about his fast diminishing form; the doctor felt much pleased at the result of his experiment, while the formerly fat man's joy was very great, although he seemed to be suffering acute pain. All of a sudden there was heard a loud clicking at the instrument, as if Pandemonium's great hall had been let loose. The operator sprang quickly to answer the call. He ascertained it was from the New York office. He quickly asked 'What's up?' An answer came back as if some infuriated demon was at the other end of the wire. 'What in thunder are you about? Cut off your wires quick—you are filling the New York office with soap grease!'"

COLDEN'S MEET THE TEMPS.—A number of ladies of a Western temperance society, in their desire to obtain signers to the pledge, called upon one of the women saloon keepers of their city, when the following conversation took place:—"Have you no better occupation to engage your time than going about interfering with the business of other people?" The ladies, nothing daunted, agreed the more earnestly and even promised to secure the woman enough washing to keep her alive. "And would you do washing for a living?" That was a silencer on that tack, and there seemed to be no hope for terms, when the woman magnanimously made the following generous offer:—"If you will buy all my liquors you may do with it as you please; and if you will put in a stock of groceries for me I'll sign your pledge not to deal in liquor." The terms were a little too exacting, and the ladies of the temperance union walked away without this woman's name and moral support.

A new way of proposing marriage is reported, and we give the facts for the benefit of those interested. A gentleman attended a fair held in New York recently, and fell in love (as gentlemen sometimes do) with a demoiselle in the floral temple. He bought a ten-dollar basket of flowers, and handing her a fifty-dollar bill, said, "If you don't give me the exact change I'll marry you." The blushing maiden handed him back thirty dollars (she was probably confused), and he remarked, "I thought so." Cards will be out early next week.

Baxter, of Arkansas, has hit upon a new plan to keep the Supreme Court from rendering a decision against him. He arrested the judges, and has them concealed somewhere. What act of carpet-bag statesmanship Brooks will do in return remains to be seen. It will no doubt be something brilliant.

A Western editor is getting particular about what he eats. Hear him: "The woman who made the butter which we bought last week is respectfully requested to exercise more judgment in proportioning the ingredients. The last batch had too much hair in for butter, and not quite enough for a water-fall. There is no sense in making yourself bald-headed, even if butter is sixty-five cents a pound."

A Chicago editor who is in favor of Mr. Bigelow's plan of celebrating the Centennial thought he had wound up his article, "Give us fire crackers, or give us death," but he discovered his mistake in the morning when he read, "Give us four crackers, or give us death." The compositor thought the poor man was hungry.

An extensive deposit of blue marble has been discovered upon the farm of Colonel N. M. Babbitt, near Newton, Sussex county, N. J. The marble cuts easily and is susceptible of a very high polish. Professor Cook, the State Geologist, says it is the only deposit of the kind in the State.

An old lady, hearing some one reading about a congressman-at-large, rushed to the kitchen door shouting, "Sarah Jane, Sarah Jane! don't you leave the clothes out all night; mind I tell you; for there's a congressman at large."

At Yazoo City, Miss., on April 29, the river was falling slowly, and reports from all points above show that the Yazoo, Tallahatchie, and the Yal-labusha rivers are falling. Greenwood, on the Tal-

hatchie, is entirely submerged, the water there being higher than in 1867. No serious damage resulted from the Hushpuckama crevasse, and fears of a general overflow are subsiding. A few more days of clear weather, with the tremendous current now in the river, will suffice to carry off nearly all the water covering the tillable lands. Only a little over one-third of the lands are now under water. Merchants and planters are quite hopeful, and the indications are that the crops in the Yazoo valley will not be so alarmingly short as feared.

THE WORLD A TRIBUNAL.—A man passes for what he is worth. Very idle is all curiosity concerning other people's estimate of us, and all fear of remaining unknown is less so. If a man knows that he can do anything—that he can do it better than anyone else—he has a plodge of the acknowledgment of that fact by all persons. The world is full of judgment days, and into every assembly that a man enters, in every action he attempts, he is gauged and stamped. In every troop of boys that whoop and run, in each yard and square, a new comer is as well and accurately weighed in the course of a few days, and stamped with his right number, as if he had undergone a former trial of his strength, speed and temper. A stranger comes from a distant school, with better dress, with trinkets in his pockets, with airs and pretensions; an older boy says to himself, "It's no use; we shall find him out to-morrow."—Emerson.

LAUGH AND BE HEALTHY.—The physiological benefit of laughter is explained by Dr. E. Hecker in the Archiv fur Psychiatrie: "The comic-like tickling causes a reflex action of the sympathetic nerve by which the calibre of the vascular portions of the system is diminished, and their nervous power increased. The average pressure of the cerebral vessels on the brain substance is thus decreased, and this compensated for by the forced expiration of laughter, and the larger amount of blood thus called to the lungs. We always feel good when we laugh, but until now we never knew the reason why."

JOHN SMITH.—In Latin he is Johannes Smithus; Italians smooth him off with Giovanni Smith; the Spaniards render him Juan Smith; the Dutchman adopts him as Hans Schmidt; the French flatten him out into Jean Smeet; the Russian sneezes and barks Jontoff Smietowski. When John gets into the tea trade in Canton, he becomes Jovan Shimmitt; but if he clambers about Mount Hecla, the Icelanders say he is Jovan Smithson; if he trades among the Tuscaroras he becomes Ton Qua Smittia; in Poland he is known as Ivan Schmittitwiowski; should he wander among the Welsh mountains, they talk of Jibon Schmid; when he gets to Mexico, he is booked as Juli F. Smetti if of classic turns he mingles among Greek ruins, he turns Ion Smikton; and in Turkey he is utterly disguised as voe Seif.

LIMA BEANS.—A correspondent of the Lancaster Inquirer gives the following directions for cultivating the above-named delicious and nutritious vegetable: "For the past ten years we have raised them in great abundance—in fact have cooked none other for dry. The first year or so we found difficulty in ripening them, as we picked for the table as fast as they were ready. There are only two points, if observed, will insure success. The first is to pinch off the top of each vine when they have reached the top of each stake, say six feet, and the second is carefully to save the earliest pods for seed. Many writers say that they must be planted eye down, etc. We never practice it; we put the ground in nice order, when it is warm enough and plant as any other beans, four to a hill, and they generally all come. By sowing the earliest for seed, we have them nice for the table three weeks earlier than at first."

DWARF PEAR TREES.—You will find on examining your dwarf pear trees that they are not probably making as strong a growth as may be necessary for their best success and for the finest fruit. Now is a very suitable time to enrich the soil over the roots by applying a good top-dressing of stable or yard manure. Do not heap it in a pile at the foot of the stem, but spread it broadcast in a wide circle, so that the long roots may get the benefit to their very tips. The rains and melting snow will dissolve much of the manure and carry it down into the soil among the roots, and give the trees a new start. In the spring the part which remains on the surface may be lightly spaded in, or if in an orchard it may be worked in with light plough, cultivator or harrow.



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INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869.

CANADA, Pro. of QUEBEC, Dist. of Montreal. In the SUPERIOR COURT. In the matter of ARTHUR M. COHEN, An Insolvent.

On the twenty-first day of May next the said Insolvent will apply to the said Court for his discharge under the said Act. Montreal, 14th April, 1874.

ARTHUR M. COHEN, By his Attorneys ad litem, ABBOTT, TAIT & WOTHERSPOON. 37-52