

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Napoleon III. is still at Biarritz, where he has received the veteran King of the Belgians. Their meeting has doubtless a political significance in reference to the dissatisfaction so unreasonably expressed in France at the fortifications of Antwerp. The veteran jurist Dupin has been convulsing an audience in Corbiigny with laughter by his satire on the English invasion-panic, while during the whole week the French journals have been raging against us with more than usual virulence, and even the Siecle, hitherto friendly, has joined in the chorus. A prominent grievance is the occupation of Perim by Great Britain; another is the refusal of consent to the Suez canal. To Perim a commission is said to have been just despatched by France to watch our proceedings on that desert rock. Another French commissioner (we will not call him spy) has just returned from India, and has presented to the Emperor a report, taking (it is said) a gloomy view of England's prospects there.

The Times Paris correspondent says the object the French Government can have in seeking information, by means of a special and secret agent, concerning our Indian possessions, is not very clear, and must remain matter of conjecture. From another source it is confirmed to me that a M. de Sercey has been pursuing investigations in India. To many persons it will doubtless appear rather extraordinary that a French agent should have been sent upon such a mission. An article has appeared in the Siecle which has hitherto exhibited a friendly feeling towards our country, and has shown an earnest anxiety for the maintenance of the English alliance. The article is written in the same spirit with that which dictated the threatening letter in the Independance Belge. According to this article nothing short of our humiliation will satisfy France, and then we shall understand the meaning of the phrase, "When France is satisfied Europe is tranquil." The appearance of an anti-English effusion in the Siecle is a symptom too significant to be overlooked, of the increased hostility to England.

The Montour of Wednesday, in an article containing the details of the late treachery of the Chinese, concludes thus:—"The Government of the Emperor and that of Great Britain are about to take measures together (se concertent) to inflict chastisement and obtain every satisfaction which so flagrant an act of treachery requires."

A striking fact connected with this disaster in China is the eagerness with which the news has been received, we had almost said welcomed, in England and France, and especially in France, as calling for united energetic action on the part of both countries, and thus dispelling the clouds that hung over the alliance. In France the intelligence produced a rise in the funds, which is accounted for by this consideration. Happy indeed will it be if this ill-wind blow us so much good, that out of the nettle of Chinese danger and defeat, we are enabled to pluck the flower of European safety and confidence.

There seems a growing belief that the French Emperor desires and expects to place his cousin on a central Italian throne. Following, some say, his usual astute and tenebrous policy, he works to place the people of the Duchies in such a position that they shall be content to take Prince Napoleon as a pis aller—as a middle term between the Archdukes whom they reject, and the King of Piedmont, who is to be induced to reject them. The idea has been started—but seems to me, I confess, far-fetched and improbable, for various reasons—that there has been from the first a covert understanding on this head between the French and Piedmontese Governments, to the effect that while Sardinia was to be aggrandized by Lombardy and Venice, Central Italy should fall to the husband of Victor Emmanuel's daughter. Venice being retained by Austria, the Piedmontese King, it is suggested, may have thought himself entitled to compensation in another quarter for the shortcomings of his great ally in the conquest of Northern Italy as far as the Adriatic, and may have been unwilling to abandon the idea of forming a strong Italian State, such as might in time hope to contend not unsuccessfully with Austria for her last Italian province. On the other hand, although Victor Emmanuel's reply to the Tuscan deputation has been twisted by those whom it must concern into acceptance of their proffered allegiance, it contains nothing, as I read it, incompatible with an understanding between the French and Piedmontese Governments for securing Central Italy to Napoleon Jerome, whose friends, as I yesterday told you, are working strenuously on his behalf among those whom they would convert into his subjects. Whatever the secret understanding that may exist, there are persons disposed to interpret the present attitude of Piedmont as one of security with regard to the Emperor's intentions towards Italy. In truth, that attitude is so extremely reserved and cautious that it is not easy to understand (at least from what we can discern of it at this distance) what it really does indicate. As regards the wishes of the great moderate Liberal-monarchical party in Italy, we know well enough what those are, and that they would certainly not be met by the installation of a Bonaparte as sovereign of the disputed territories. Nothing seemed to annoy that party more at any period of the rather long time before the war during which they made sure that France was coming to their aid than the expression of the strong doubt which most impassioned and disinterested observers entertained that the Emperor was not going into Italy entirely pour leur beaux yeux, and of the belief that, if they get rid of the Austrians, they might probably find themselves in some way or other saddled with the French.—Such is their detestation of the Austrians that it is not impossible that if they had been told from the commencement that the price of their ridance of them would be the sovereignty of a French Prince over one of the fairest portions of Italy, they still might have accepted the terms. But the condition was not laid down to them.—They sanguinely believed that, after expelling the Austrians, the French would depart and leave

Italy to the Italians. They now find themselves doubly disappointed. The Austrians still hold that portion of Italy which they can best defend, and which they assuredly will not easily relinquish; they occupy Venetia with 200,000 men, and their four formidable fortresses from over Victor Emmanuel's newly-acquired Lombard plains. If, in addition to this disappointment, the Italians behold a French Prince and French influence strongly established in Central Italy, they will, perhaps, begin to think that they have paid rather dearly for their whistle, and have gained little by their efforts and sacrifices beyond the temporary humiliation of a still powerful foe.—Times Corr.

We find the following gossip in the Independance Belge:—

"A letter which we have received from Paris speaks of a project for establishing a kingdom of Etruria, with Prince Napoleon at the head of it. The writer pretends that Austria and France have come to an understanding to regulate the affairs of Central Italy by a direct and personal understanding between the two Emperors. The combination proposed, which in the eyes of its promoters takes equally into account both monarchial and popular rights, is to this effect:—The Archdukes are to cede to the head of the house of Hapsburg, as chief of their family, the rights which they respectively possess in Tuscany and Modena, and the Emperor Francis Joseph, in his turn, is to cede the same to Prince Napoleon. The Prince is then to add to these possessions Parma and the Legations, and the whole are to form a kingdom of Etruria, of which he is to be King. Nevertheless, as regards the Legations, the Prince is only to govern them as vassal of the Church, and is to pay homage and tribute to the Pope. On his part, the Emperor of the French is to use his influence with the Legations to induce them to give their suffrages to Prince Napoleon. It is said that it was in order to submit this plan to the Emperor Napoleon that Prince Richard de Metternich went to St. Saurer. The persons who put these rumours in circulation add that the Archdukes have given their consent to the plan. The Duke of Modena, they say, will not even ask for a compensation, as he has no children, and as on his death his States revert to the Crown of Austria. Of the Duke of Parma nothing is said; but as to the son of Leopold II. of Tuscany, Ferdinand IV., it is said that an equivalent has been promised to him in the remodelling of the East, which would be the object of the new Austro-French alliance. It is even said that the compensation made to this Prince may be the throne of the Danubian Principalities. These Principalities desire to be governed by a foreign Prince, and would try to induce Colonel Couza to retire, provided Europe consents to place them under the sceptre of a foreign and Christian Prince."

Great activity prevails in the French military ports and arsenals. One hears on all sides of preparations of a formidable nature, of the application of the invention of steel plates to a large number of vessels, of the construction (in progress or ordered) of new ships,—and Frenchmen, like Englishmen, naturally ask for what purpose, except one, can all this warlike armament be intended? It is impossible to get at official information on the subject of such preparations, and the Montour de la Flotte is very much on the reserve of late, but you may rely upon it that there is no belief here that France is reducing her naval force in any way which it would take her more than a very short time to make up again, while it is positively known that if no very recent orders have been given for the building of new ships, measures are actively taking to increase the strength (in the manner above-mentioned) of those already constructed. The friends of peace and supporters of the English alliance, who comprise a great majority of the most educated and intelligent classes in France, and who comprise, notably, the Liberal party, would fain reassure themselves as to the probabilities of the future, and they gladly catch at any occasion of so doing. Thus the news that reached us yesterday of the disastrous engagement in the yellow River is the foundation of a hope for a more cordial understanding between this country and England. It is hoped and expected that a powerful Anglo-French force will be sent to give a lesson to the Chinese, and people wait with strong interest to hear what instructions on the subject will reach Paris from Biarritz.—Times Corr.

ITALY.

The Conferences of Zurich continue; though the interest which they create is diminished now that France has signified her assent to a Congress. In the Romagna there have been public rejoicings at the insane proceedings of the revolutionary Government in voting the deposition of the Pope and the annexation of the country to Sardinia. The reply of the King to the deputies from Parma and Modena is similar in effect to that which he gave to Tuscany. Deference to France is the only definite sentiment expressed in a cloud of verbiage. Signor D'Azeglio has started for Italy immediately after a visit to Lord Palmerston, whose relative, Lord Shaftesbury, is actively engaged in a movement to supply arms by subscription to the insurgent Italians. What would have been said in England if, in 1848, the Count de Montalembert had headed a subscription list amongst the Catholics of France in aid of Messrs. Smith O'Brien, Mitchell, and Meagher?—Weekly Register.

The event of the week that most concerns Italy has occurred in France. The important State paper from the Montour is found by our contemporaries to be obscure; to them it is so, probably because it does not speak that which they wish to hear. Read in another light, it presents a remarkably clear and explicit resume of the views and policy of France with regard to the Italian question. It precisely confirms the anticipations we had ventured to express. The substance of the article is, first, that the Emperor of the French terminated the war at Villafranca because he could not continue it without greater hazard than he may be had yet encountered, and because he saw "with deep sympathy" on the part of his brother Emperor a disposition to make great sacrifices "in the interest of the peace of Europe, and a desire to establish good relations with France;" secondly, that in the treaty there was a stipulation on the part of France for "large concessions, a free existence, an Italian government and army;" but that to Venetia, this concession was made on the side of Austria, to be dependent on the return of the Italian Archdukes to power; thirdly; that the Duchies, by resisting all the overtures made to them for the restoration of their rulers, had frustrated the policy and disappointed the hopes of their benefactor;

had ruined the prospects of Venetia, and thus proved themselves less bent on the welfare of their common country than on small, partial, successes; fourthly; that France does not object to an European Congress, but that a Congress would be unlikely to obtain better conditions for Italy than she has done.—To obtain concessions from Austria, concessions must be made to her; there is no other way but war; and that France will not again undertake it; she is the only Power that ever would have undertaken it. "France alone wages war for an idea. The great question for Italy is left untouched—will France again make war on Austria to prevent her intervention in the Duchies? That the Emperor is deeply disgusted at their conduct his language does not leave us in any doubt. There is no allusion to the affairs of the Legations, and no hint of any recession from the repeated assurances of Napoleon III. that the Holy Father shall be preserved intact in the possession of his temporal dominions.—Weekly Register.

We are happy in being able to contradict, on good authority, the unfavorable reports published this week as to the health of the Pope. His Holiness's illness has not been serious, and he is now convalescent. The air of Castel Gandolfo has contributed much to his restoration. The revolutionary papers not having it in their power to contradict the atrocities reported last week, as committed by the Romagna insurgents at Verucchio, have contented themselves with abusing the Catholic journals which have published it. It is confirmed by the correspondent of Union, who adds, that the authorities had made a show of imprisoning, and even talked of shooting, some of the ringleaders, to appease the indignation of the public. A host of new outrages are reported.—Weekly Register.

The Giornal di Roma publishes the following:—"To show what is the true spirit of the population in the Legations, it suffices to examine the number of those who, inscribed as electors on the lists, have taken part in the vote for the nomination of members of the self-styled National Assembly. It can be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that more than two-thirds of those inscribed have abstained from taking a part in the vote, in spite of the intimidation which weighs on them. It must be stated that care had been taken to make many exclusions and omissions in those lists, especially among the class of country inhabitants." The Cardinal Archbishop of Bologna has recently published a pastoral letter, in which he loudly deprecates that "insult and outrage is openly accumulated against the sacred person of him, who vested with supreme authority in the Church, ought to be the object of our veneration and love."

A letter from Rome in the Ami de la Religion, says:—"The Secretary of Latin letters is commissioned to draw up a memorandum relative to the intended government of Bologna and the Legations. This memorandum will be addressed to all Catholic powers, and will precede the sentence of excommunication which the Holy See is to pronounce on the promoters of the insurrection, by a formal judgment of its Apostolic authority. It is said that the Bull will even include the interdict of the different localities."

A letter from Rome in the Univers, dated the 6th inst., says:—"The differences which are known to exist between the Holy See, and the French Government with regard to the Legations, give great hope, and, consequently, much isolation to the revolutionists. Our Ambassador, M. de Gramont, does not conceal that Pius IX. has, with the greatest firmness, given him the clearest answers. This makes him appear very dissatisfied, and, puzzled at his position. It is believed that he will soon return to France.—Meanwhile he is gone to Frascati. The conduct of General de Goyon is excellent."

The Archbishop of Bologna was forbidden, by the intruded government, the other day, to preside at the distribution of prizes in the Pious Schools; and the reason stated was "that it did not belong to the Archbishop to interfere in matters of public instruction." The intendant, Banuzzi, is more enraged than ever against priests, and continues to call them before him every day and to address to them his brutal reprimands. Public grief manifested itself so violently at the death of Cardinal Falconieri, Archbishop of Ravenna, that the revolutionary governors thought it best to take a part in it!

On the 26th of August a treaty was signed between the Papal Government and that of the Queen of Spain, by the terms of which the latter engages to occupy the Roman States with her forces when the French troops are withdrawn. It is a secret convention, known to few persons in Rome.

GERMANY.

The son of a former Minister, the young Count de Schulerbourg, of Berlin, who has lately made his abjuration of Protestantism, has entered at Werne, in Westphalia, the convent of the Capucins as a novice.—Ami de la Religion.

A letter from Dresden, in the Courier du Commerce says:—"Several German Ministers, accredited to the Court of Vienna, have endeavoured to ascertain exactly what has taken place between the Cabinet of London and the Austrian Government relative to the Italian Duchies. It was known that Lord John Russell recently sent a long despatch to Vienna on the subject, and that in it were expressed more or less clearly the views of the Cabinet of St. James's on the events which have occurred at Florence, Parma, Modena and the Legations. The despatch of Lord John Russell is not, strictly speaking, an exposition of the manner in which England regards the affairs of the duchies, but is what may be called a profession of faith. Lord John after having given an historical account of the events which have produced the existing situation of the Duchies, enters at great length into a formidable argumentation, and invokes a number of historical incidents, in order to persuade the Cabinet of Vienna of the excellence of the principle of non-intervention. He declares that this principle has been long religiously observed and practised by England. He cites a number of cases in which Great Britain has acted on it, and says that both she and Europe have reason to congratulate themselves on having done so. He does not dissimulate that it is of urgent importance that the principle of non-intervention should be applied to the Duchies; and he says that in his opinion there is no doubt that Austria would be the first to derive advantage from it. Passing to another order of ideas Lord John makes a new profession of faith still more striking and more significant. He uses arguments to prove that nations have the right to change the dynasties and governments which they have founded either in accordance with hereditary right or international conventions. His lordship applies these maxims to the Duchies, and claims for their populations the consequences of them. This despatch has irritated the Cabinet of Vienna, and has not found favor with the majority of the German Cabinets, which are but little disposed, in presence of the movement for union in Germany, and of the general dispositions of the populations of Europe, to recognize in nations the right of giving themselves the dynasties and the forms of Government which suit them. Count de Rechberg has not read his reply to any formal diplomatic agent, but he has assured some German ministers that he has directed Count Appony, Austrian Minister at London, to declare to Lord John Russell that Austria has never regarded with so much favor as England the Principle of non-intervention; that that principle, whatever advantage it may offer in certain cases, cannot be applied in certain others; that on that account Austria has not always practised it; that in any case the Government of the Emperor Francis Joseph will never recognize the right of insurrection or that of pronouncing the disposition of legitimate dynasties and regular governments; that what is taking place in the Duchies is a violation of all the admitted and recognized principles which form the basis of the political code of Europe; and that in any case the right of the people, maintained by Lord John, has, as far as is known, been neither accorded nor recog-

nized in the English possession of India, Canada, the Ionian Isles, Malta, and Ireland."

TURKEY.

The alarming state of the Ottoman Empire, which country seems going through a succession of financial summersaults; from which, however, somehow or other, it manages to alight with only an additional contusion, renders the accounts from the provinces truly deplorable, extra taxes being levied on the unfortunate populations, to be redeemed by the imposts of future years, while hordes of Albanian irregulars render the provinces bordering on Greece insecure, and expose the poor inhabitants to every species of extortion and injustice. It is not to be wondered that the old feeling of hatred to the Turkish yoke, which dates from the day that Mahomet II. took possession of Byzantium; should be as much alive as ever. The Christians are replacing everywhere in the East, by a constant and unperceived effort, the Mahomedans, who are disappearing; and, under these circumstances, those of the Christian elements which offer some guarantee for the future must naturally attract the attention of Europe. Owing to their religion, the Christian populations of the East consider themselves specially placed under the protection of Russia, and the influence of that Power with the Greeks has been generally considered all-powerful. This feeling was confirmed in 1854, when at the commencement of the Crimean war, the Greeks crossed the Turkish frontiers and invaded Bosphorus, espousing the cause of Russia, and attacking Turkey, the ally of England and France—a movement which led to the occupation of Greece by the Western Powers. The late demonstrations at Athens in favor of France, consequent upon her successes in the cause of Italian nationality, however, go far to show that the sympathies of the Greek people are, in reality, even stronger with the Power from which they at the time hope for most aid towards the emancipation of their countrymen from the Turkish yoke.

CHINA.

The following letter from the Ceylon Observer contains a graphic description of the engagement at Taku, and of the heroic valour displayed by our officers and men:—

"OFF THE PEARL, JUNE 28.—I feel scarcely equal to the painful task of attempting to describe occurrences which I am altogether incompetent to depict in sufficiently striking and vivid colours, and yet on the vivid as well as correct representation of which, I feel, depends the honour of all the brave men with whom I am serving,—nay, more, of Old England's stainless flag itself.

As I did not keep a journal of the previous day's proceedings, I shall confine myself to those of the 28th.

"At daylight on the morning of that day the gunboats weighed anchor and proceeded to make a last attempt to remove the barriers that the Chinese had placed across the entrance of the river, and were evidently determined not to remove of their own accord.

"These, however, being composed of strong iron bars and chains, successfully resisted all the efforts made for their removal up to 12 o'clock, when the order was given that the men should have their dinners, after which it was generally understood we should open fire on the forts. Strange to say, during the six or eight hours in which these preliminary measures were being effected neither was a single gun fired from the forts, nor was there a symptom evident that their occupants were prepared to defend them. Every embrasure was screened with matting, and not a head was visible over the ramparts; and this, although the gunboats were all only from 500 to 700 yards distant, and were all at sixes and sevens from some getting aground, while others had to haul them off, and the space in which they had to move being too confined to allow of their manœuvring.

"Dinner having been finished, about half past 1 o'clock the signal was run up to prepare for action, and the Opossum (Lieutenant-Commander Balfour), with Captain Willes, R.N., and the Plover, with our brave old Admiral, pushed in close up to the first barrier. No sooner did they arrive there than suddenly, and as if by magic, the mats that screened the guns in all the curtain batteries were triced up, and the whole of the guns opened fire. Our vessels being all well prepared, however, the fire was immediately returned, and the action became general.

"It was at once evident, that though, we had no ordinary Chinese artillery to contend against. Their fire, both in weight and precision, was such as few men, and I feel certain that no Chinese campaigner, ever before experienced. In a very few minutes the Opossum had several of her crew killed or wounded. In the Plover the Admiral was severely hit; her gallant commander, Rason, and Captain McKenna of the 1st Royals (doing duty on the Admiral's staff), were killed, and almost every man of the crew disabled; while the Haughty (Lieutenant-Commander Broad), Lee; (Lieutenant-Commander Jones), Kestrel (Lieutenant-Commander Bevan), and Cormorant (Commander Wodehouse), were so severely crippled that they were in a sinking state. The Lee, indeed would have gone down at once but for Lieutenant Broad, in the Haughty, dashing in to her rescue, and towing her out under a heavy fire. Nevertheless, the bombardment was kept up with unabated vigor, and in about two hours the enemy's fire began sensibly to slacken; and (although they had got our range so exactly that almost every shot told, while ours, though admirably directed, did comparatively little damage to their mud walls) shortly after 4 o'clock it became almost silenced.

"At about 5 o'clock the anxiously expected signal was accordingly made for the troops to land and assault, which was briskly answered by them, every boat containing them striving to be the first to reach the shore. Not a soul in the squadron at that moment, I believe, doubted our obtaining a speedy victory.—Just as the first boat touched the shore, however, bang went a gun again from the forts, immediately followed by a perfect hurricane of shot, shell, gingle balls, and rockets, from all the southern batteries, which mowed down our men by tens as they landed. Nevertheless, out of the boats they all leaped with undiminished ardor (many into water so deep that they had to swim to the shore), and dashed forward through the mud, while the ships threw in as heavy a covering fire as they possibly could.

"The enemy's fire, however, continued to be so deadly, and the mud proved so deep (in most places reaching up to the men's knees, at least—often up to their waists) that out of the 1,000 men who landed barely 100 reached the first of the three deep and wide ditches, which, after some 500 yards of wading through the mud, presented themselves before the gallant few who got so far, and out of that small number scarcely 20 had been able to keep their rifles or their ammunition dry. Nevertheless, they boldly faced these new difficulties, and some 50 of them, with a crowd of officers (among whom were conspicuous the commanding officer of the French contingent, Commanders Commemorell and Heath, R.N., Major Parks, and Lieutenant Hawkey, of the Marines, Major Fisher and Lieutenant Maitland, of the Engineers), succeeded in getting as far as the furthest bank of the third ditch, from which they would certainly have made a good attempt to scale the walls had ladders been forthcoming; but, out of the number that were landed, all but one had either been broken by shot or had stuck in the mud. With the remaining one, however, 10 devoted men sprang forward, three of whom were immediately shot dead, and five wounded severely.

"A vertical fire of arrows, as well as a constant fusillade, was kept up on the select band, who now crouched in the ditch, waiting, but in vain, for reinforcements; and that any of them afterwards escaped alive is miraculous. Seeing what insurmountable difficulties presented themselves, the order was at last given to retire; the lion-hearted commander of the troops, Colonel Lemon, of the Royal Marines (who was one of the first into the furthest ditch), Captain Vansittart, of the Magicienne, and Captain

Shadwell, of the Highflyer, all having been severely wounded. The latter was badly shot through the foot shortly after landing; but nevertheless managed to struggle manfully forward, even to the advanced trench. Poor Captain Vansittart had his leg shot off. Lieutenant Brown, of the Assistance; Lieutenant Olliverback, of the Cormorant; young Herbert, of the Chesapeake; and Lieutenants Inglis and Woolridge, of the Royal Marines, were all killed, while gallantly cheering on their men; and at least three-fourths of the officers who landed were more or less severely hit. In effecting the retreat even more lives were lost; perhaps, than in advancing, as the Chinese, by lighting blue lights were enabled to discover the exact position of our men reeling and thoroughly exhausted men, and so to shoot them down like birds. Even on arriving at the water's edge matters were not improved, as so many of the boats had been smashed to pieces by round shot that there were not enough remaining to take off the surviving men. Several were drowned in attempting to get off, while many had to remain for more than an hour up their necks in water before they could get a place in a boat; and even then their dangers were not passed, as the fire from the forts continued so heavy that several boats full of wounded were struck and swamped while pulling off to the ships. The Cormorant was made the temporary hospital-ship, and the scene on her upper deck was truly horrible. It was nearly 1 o'clock before the last load of wounded was brought off to her, and long ere that hour she was crowded with the mutilated and the dying.—Every exertion, however, was made by the medical staff (to whom, and especially to Dr. Little, of the Marines, great credit is due,) and long ere daybreak every sufferer had his wounds tended. Every operation (and their number was sickening) I was gratified to hear was performed under the influence of chloroform.

THE ULSTER "REVIVALS."

(Communicated to the London Weekly Register.)

A farmer in Antrim—in that portion of the county where the descendants of King James's settlers are most thickly planted—has a dissolute and drunken son. The young scapegrace has gone through the usual career of coarse dissipation—of that sullen, brutish kind, for which the lowland Scotch and their Ulster offspring seem to have a peculiar passion. In the natural order, delirium tremens follows, and the rustic profligate is a howling lunatic. With nerves diseased and brain unwholesomely excited, he falls in with the old family Bible, with which, honest Presbyterian, he has hitherto had little acquaintance. Forthwith his insanity takes a "religious" form. He raves, and shrieks, and prays; howls the boldest names with hideously profane familiarity; proclaims himself "a sinner," with spasms and groans, to the assembled family; and graphically describes the hell which his miserable brain, saddled with alcohol, calls to his fancy. The whole house is immediately smitten; father, mother, sisters—all sink upon their knees and pray, and shriek and rave together; and the struggle is whose voice shall be the loudest, whose confession of sin the most outrageous, amid that wild and insane uproar.

Thus begins the "revival" which has made Ulster scandalously notorious, and reflected some of its shame upon poor Ireland.

Now note what follows. We write from actual knowledge and observation, with the help of facts communicated by conscientious and honorable men, who have recorded what they saw around them.

The story of this wonderful conversion in the Presbyterian farmer's house gets wild immediately, and straightway—as, at the scent of fallen game, certain carnivorous birds suddenly crowd upon the point where the carrion is lying—a flock of preachers, always on the look-out to "improve the occasion," fill the rustic kitchen. They gaze upon the delirious patient with delight; the piteous ravings and spasmodic convulsions of mother or sister fill them with intensest satisfaction; they raise their voices (and the whites of their eyes to), and a "prayer-meeting" is organized on the spot. In a few moments more, three or four women, from the crowd whom this new excitement has gathered together, are carried away to their homes in strong convulsions, screaming out sad blasphemies at intervals, to spread the miserable infection round them. Before forty-eight hours the disease has spread throughout a whole country-side. The preachers—in great part unlettered fanatics, sprung from the lowliest of the Presbyterian population, with no learning beyond a threadbare second-hand acquaintance with Calvin's and Knox's theology, and a faculty of reciting of stereotyped Bible-texts at will—creatures to whom this sort of thing is as the breath of their nostrils—these preachers catch the scent, rush to the scenes of fanatic excitement, and stir up the commotion to a general frenzy. The madness is everywhere. In the meeting-house and barn—in the field and on the road-side—the astonished stranger beholds these crowds assembled. At their head, on some extemporized platform, are some three or four or more insane-looking men, in black broad-cloth, with limp white cravats and close-cropped hair. These leaders shout and gesticulate frantically; the crowd sings, and howls, and groans; some ragged fellow is at one end, calling on sacred names with a familiarity which only "the elect" are capable of, and proclaiming that he is a sinner of astounding magnitude (which is doubtless only too true), but that he has just received (how, he does not explain) complete pardon from above, and is sure henceforth of Heaven (in the happy confidence of which fact he will probably get drunk next week, and thrash his unregenerate spouse). At the other end some two or three girls (it is always excitable, nervous women) are in strong convulsions, with face hideously distorted and mouth white with foam—a horrible spectacle, which only thickens the "religion" frenzy, and enables the leather-lunged preachers to "improve the occasion" with wilder speech and more frantic gestures.

And so the madness spreads; wherever in Ulster the Protestant population (by which word we mean all the sects) is numerous, the same monstrous scenes are enacted, with a fierceness and energy proportioned to the ignorance of the people and the fanaticism of the preachers.

But, in the midst of all this excitement, which English readers erroneously believe has overspread universal Ulster, there is one phenomenon very remarkable and instructive. We commonly talk of "Protestant Ulster;" and we utter a blunder. In that province, rather less than one-third (these are the descendants of the Scottish and English settlers) belong to the Protestant sects; the other two-thirds being Catholics and of the old race. To the more purely Catholic districts of Ulster, this singular madness has not spread; doubtless because the Protestant excitement is too thin there, either to work up the phenomenon to which we would call attention is this. Wherever these "revivals" have broken out, Catholics of the humbler class have been numerous enough to make a very goodly audience; they have thronged to the open-air gatherings—they have watched the religious fury—they have been amused or shocked, according to their turn of mind, at the evidences there beheld of folly, self-deception, mental disease, and roguery; but in no instance whatever have they been seized with the monstrous infection.

Putting the religious aspect of the question out of view altogether, there is, even from the Physician's point of view, something very remarkable in this. It shows, at all events, that there is a line of separation at which the chain of influences (working in this "religious" fury) is suddenly snapped, and that beyond that line those influences have no power of operation: the Irish Catholic will say (and truly) that this is no proof, at the very least, that the pure and holy teachings of their divine faith in which the humble, trustful, Catholic Irish peasantry are brought