

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, March 31.—M. Lavelette has had his audience of the Emperor. He explained, at some length, to His Majesty his peculiar and somewhat difficult position at Rome, and, it is said, expressed a wish to be relieved from it. There are but two ways of doing so—to allow M. Lavelette to retire, or to remove General de Goyon, with whom that Minister cannot well get on. I doubt whether the Emperor has any desire to do either, unless M. Lavelette peremptorily insists upon having his resignation accepted. Though the diplomatist and the General differ greatly on the "Roman question," means may yet be found to make them act together in appearance, if not in reality. One important assurance the Emperor is reported to have given to his Minister—namely, that even in case of the death of the Holy Father, the French army should not be withdrawn from Rome, as French influence must prevail over every other in the Conclave. It is still uncertain whether M. Lavelette returns to his post.

The accounts from the manufacturing districts state that the mill-owners are making great sacrifices by disposing of their produce at and under first cost, in order to give employment to their operatives.

Persons who have made a tour in the agricultural departments say that the appearance of the growing crops, particularly of the wheat, is very fine.

A strike has taken place among some of the working printers of Paris, and if it goes on as it has begun we may see the whole of the newspapers and presses of the capital stop all at once without *avertissements* or any other kind of repression by the Government. Disappointed and ill-natured people have said that when anything goes wrong in the world a woman is somehow or other at the bottom of it. This, of course, is calumny; but in the present instance it is certain that the sex have, without meaning it, contributed to the revolt of the printers. These men have long complained that they find it difficult to keep body and soul together with a tariff of wages established now more than 20 years ago. Every one knows that since 1840 the price of every necessary of life has enormously increased, not to speak of house-rent, which has already driven thousands away, while the wages of the printers are still the same. I am assured that the most skilful workman earns with difficulty 4*f.* a-day, and 4*f.* a-day go a very little way when there is a family to bring up. The men have repeatedly expostulated against a tariff framed at a time when matters were far different. Several of the masters admitted the justice of the demand, and signified their readiness to adhere to it, when one of their body thought that he could turn the difficulty by introducing female labor into the printing-offices. Of course, a master has a right to employ women in work which does not require much physical strength; but the ingenious person in question employed women, and paid them, not according to the tariff, as he should have done, inasmuch as the result was the same, but on a reduced and, I fear, an arbitrary scale—nearly one-half what it was when men were employed. The men protested against this innovation. They demanded, that as women were employed, they should be paid the same wages for the same work as the men. On the refusal of the master 120 men struck work and quitted the establishment of the innovator, while at the same time the committee of master printers rejected the revision of the old tariff proposed by the workmen's committee. The conference between the committees was broken off, and the workmen were told that such of them as presented themselves at the office should be taken into custody. A commissary of police and his agents were installed in the workshops, and admission refused except on condition of at once setting to work. About 20 of the men were arrested, among whom was the President of the Society of Working Printers, who, I believe, had been named by the Government. These persons are charged with coalition, but they declare that there was no coalition other than an agreement to abstain from work, and that there was no understanding among them to force their fellow-workmen to do the same. The strike has not yet spread to the other printing-offices, but it is apprehended that unless the masters agree to a new scale of wages it will not be confined to the single establishment in question. It is said that the men taken into custody are sending in a petition to M. Persigny, praying for his intervention between themselves and the masters. —*Times' Cor.*

No one, I think, can hold Napoleon to be sincerely in favor of the Confederation. Had he wished for it, he would not always have acted in a manner that could only tend to destroy it; and certainly he could not have lost the chance of its triumph which he had, when he might so easily have stayed Garibaldi and refused to sanction the slaughter of Castelfidardo. What he wished for in Italy and everywhere else is a crisis, in which he may gather the spoils for himself. But the game he is playing is more dangerous than a decisive battle would be. The *status quo* equally stimulates progressists and reactionists; but it may soon be ended by the interference of Austria, who cannot long suffer an armed peace. —*Cor. Weekly Register.*

The arrival of the Marquis de Lavelette at Paris should not be considered, the *Patrie* declares, as a symptom of any coolness between the Vatican and the Court of the Tuilleries. On the contrary, a better understanding and a more conciliatory disposition, the Paris journal affirms have arisen of late between the representative of France and the Prime Minister of His Holiness. The discussions which have taken place in the Senate and Legislative Body and the important votes which responded to the language of M. Billault, solemnly consecrating, so to speak, the policy of the French Government, have produced a decided impression at Rome, and, according to the *Patrie*, more prudent tendencies are beginning to display themselves.

It is admitted that the Emperor of the French, by his assurance that he had no desire to part with a legislature which so perfectly supported his policy, meant to induce the belief that no dissolution would take place till the expiration of the full term of the legal existence of the Corps Legislatif. But it is shrewdly suspected by some, that his only motive for this manoeuvre was to lull the Opposition into security, and to prevent them from making timely preparation for an electoral struggle. The immense power of the Administration is capable of completely controlling the elections over all the provinces, un-

less the Opposition can previously concert their operations, a work which requires much time. In Paris and the largest cities combination is comparatively easy, but in the provinces a general election, if it takes place in short notice, gives the Government an advantage that nothing can resist.

The Emperor and his Ministers are fully aware of the dangerous condition of France, and must be presumed to be prepared for all consequences. Between Lille and Rouen a million of operatives are in want of bread. The distress is extreme. But the thermometer and barometer are now the statesman's chief study. The next harvest is a question of life and death, if not for France and society, at least for the Dynasty. In another fortnight we shall know what the prospects are. A bad or scanty harvest, involving an expenditure of some 20,000,000*f.* would bring to a fearful climax the present difficulties of the trading and manufacturing interests.

A social upheaving might ensue, that would subvert everything. In such a case resistance being impossible a diversion would be the only chance. But the only possible diversion would be a foreign war, pretexts for which are abundant if they were necessary. But if in a fortnight or a month, the prospects of the harvest are reassuring, and the necessity for war as a remedy for internal evils be avoided, it may safely be assumed that the Government will not leave the Opposition eighteen months of quiet preparation for an electoral conflict in the autumn of 1863. If the harvest be a good one, a decree will suddenly dissolve the Chambers in August; and within the strict legal term of twenty days the new elections will take place. The Opposition will be taken by surprise, and a new Chamber of Imperial nominees will be taken as a new manifestation of the sovereign people's will. Peace or war—Dissolution and new elections, or continuance and a Revolution—Success or ruin—are the ideas present to the Emperor's mind as he watches the rise and fall of the barometer. —*London Tablet.*

PARIS, April 1.—Instructions having been simultaneously forwarded to M. de Goyon and to M. de Lavelette, ordering the former to arrest the progress of the revolution, and desiring the latter to promote it; and M. de Merode, of whose devotion to Pius IX. there cannot be the smallest doubt, having seen through the stratagem, a conflict has arisen which forms the chief news of the day, and has brought Lavelette home. The names of several persons have been put forward as likely to replace him. The Duc de Montebello, and the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne were spoken of. Yesterday public attention was chiefly fixed upon the Duc de Vauvray, who for the past eight days has been at the Tuilleries; his wife having once played the part of an ambassador would gladly resume the same position, but as yet no decision has been come to, and the matter will, I think, resolve itself as follows:—The Emperor will give no notice, for or against either Goyon, at whom he laughs, or Lavelette, whom he dislikes; he will displace both, and send his favorite Marshal Niel to Rome, charged with the duties both of diplomat and military authority. This ambitious man, who is notoriously hostile to his mission, should have one, will probably be the last to Rome. Such a selection would also seem to prove that the Emperor counts upon an approaching change in Italy, in which expectation he is joined by the public generally. Riccaoli, who has found a retreat at Geneva in the honored family of de la Rive, has judiciously observed "that if he may be compared to a staff of steel, that it knows not how to bend, Rattazzi may be likened to a frail branch, that bows before all who breathe upon it, and that he will speedily be worn out by the force of this truly Italian exercise." Here also, no one is satisfied. Benedetti, sharing the ill-humour of his friend Lavelette, is trying to work the young Chevalier Nigra into his place. The Emperor is anxious to be freed from the latter, in order that he may have his friend Azezi near him, or M. Vimercati. M. Nigra is not capable of mastering the difficult position in which he would be placed; he has not yet reached the level needed. The beauty of his wife rather than his own intelligence was, report says the cause of his intimacy with Cavour. What will result from all these quarrels? No doubt a great disturbance must ensue, to which no good end can be hoped for, should England stand aloof, I am not much inclined to believe in the movement of "the Right" attributed to the Emperor. It is true that he has been surprised at finding no trace of former parties in the more recently discovered democratic plots; but this surprise shows that his understanding is darkened by his prejudices; he stands in absolute fear of the Society of St. Vincent of Paul, and of the Jesuits, who appear to be marked out for expulsion this summer. —*Cor. Weekly Register.*

PARIS, April 2.—There is a great probability that M. Lavelette will, after all, go back to Rome. He himself appears to have no doubt whatever of it; and, as he declared in the beginning that he would not return so long as the officer commanding the military force set himself up as, in some sort, his rival, and constantly interposed between him and the Government to which he was accredited, it may be inferred that he has gained all he wanted. M. Lavelette does not require that General Goyon, or any other General, shall be his subordinate, and come to take his orders from him, but he does require that there shall not be two Ambassadors at Rome, the one civil, the other military, with entirely opposite views on public affairs, and interpreting in quite an opposite manner the instructions of their Government. There is nothing exaggerated or unfair in this, and the Emperor has probably admitted it. What his Majesty, who, all about him know, never takes a final resolution till the moment when hesitation itself is exhausted, may do when that moment comes, neither I nor any one else can venture to state; but of the state of affairs up to Tuesday night I think I can inform you correctly. It was decided then that M. Lavelette should return to Rome; that General Goyon should be recalled, and that another officer should be sent in his place. Two or three persons have been spoken of, as, for instance, Marshal Niel, General Trochu, and General Ladmirault. It is, however, so unusual for a Marshal of France to accept the command of a Division that when Niel's name was mentioned it was thought that the functions of Ambassador and General were to have been in his hands. I do not know whether this arrangement was long or seriously contemplated, but at all events it was dismissed. General Trochu was next suggested, and the chances were for divers reasons in his favor. He is admitted to be one of the best officers in the army. He is anti-Garibaldian; he is anti-revolutionary; and we may infer from his standing high in the good graces of the Catholics at Court that he is no exterminator of the Papacy. I may add that he was at one time an Aide-de-Camp to General Lamoriciere. Besides his military qualities, he is said to possess talent, and in this respect he has the advantage of Goyon, who, his friends whisper, now that he is in difficulties, is not a man of commanding intelligence.

The candidate who, up to the date I have mentioned, was the favorite is General Ladmirault. He is, they say, a good officer, but of his qualities otherwise I say nothing, for I know nothing. As M. Lavelette consents to return to Rome with Ladmirault, I presume he is under no apprehension of any encroachments on his diplomatic rights and privileges. The arrangement was good up to Tuesday night, but as I have observed, it does not seem well that M. Lavelette will start for Rome in eight or ten days, or less.

You will see by the following paragraph from the *Moniteur* that the Emperor is not satisfied with the way matters have gone on in Mexico, and that Admiral Jurien de la Graviere has not done all that was expected of him as a diplomatist. The *Moniteur* says:—

"The Spanish journals pretend that the Emperor's Government has demanded the recall of General

Prim from the Madrid Cabinet. This news is a pure invention. The Emperor's Government has confined itself to disapproving the convention concluded by General Prim with the Mexican Gen. Doblado, and subsequently accepted by the Plenipotentiaries of the allied Powers, because that convention appeared to it to be contrary to the dignity of France. M. de Salgny has in consequence been alone charged with the full political powers with which Admiral Jurien de la Graviere was invested, and this general officer has received orders simply to resume the command of the naval division."

ITALY.

The Turin correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"In the Chamber of Deputies, the Neapolitan Lovitto begged that a day should be appointed for him to call the attention of Government to the state of public security in the Southern Provinces, and to the means which he could point out towards its re-establishment. Some objections were raised by the friends of the Government, but the Chamber decided that Lovitto's interpellations should take place, leaving it to the Deputy and to the Prime Minister to agree as to the day to be named for the discussion. The state of those Southern Provinces causes at the present moment the utmost disquietude. Brigandage is re-appearing everywhere, and mustering stronger than ever in several quarters. New expeditions have been organized at Rome, and set off by various routes across the Neapolitan frontier. Other bands from Civita Vecchia, from Marseilles, from Malta, threaten the long line of the Southern coasts. Already blood flows freely, and a party of 18 soldiers of the 8th Infantry, led by a brave Savoyard officer, Capt. Ribaud, have fallen into an ambush in a wood near Bivio, and were cut to pieces by the band of Crocco. Bands of 80 and 100 mounted brigands are already scouring the provinces. The population is terrorised, and although the troops everywhere give proofs of their heroic endurance, still there is no doubt but they will be put to a long and severe trial in the spring. Such is Napoleon's pleasure."

The Paris correspondent of the *Standard* writes:—"An Italian paper called the *L'Alleanza*—just started professedly to support the clap-net motion known under the burlesque appellation of the 'solidity of peoples,' advocating 'the right of demagogues to stir up insurrection and foment disturbances in every clime and country—gives the substance of the programme agreed on at the recent interviews between Messrs. Klapka, Turr, Kossuth, and that curious compound of childlike simplicity, nonsense, and heroism, Garibaldi. These gentlemen propose 'Constitutional Kingdom of Hungary,' the exclusion of the House of Hapsburg, universal equality, and an 'offensive and defensive alliance between Hungary, Croatia, and Roumania.' The *Temps* sagaciously remarks on this scheme that 'the document in question surely cannot have the pretension to do more than express the opinions of those that framed it.' The fact is that the reaction which has taken, and which is daily taking place, in Hungary in favor of the Vienna Government places M. Kossuth and Co. in a very ridiculous position, and the agitator-in-chief feels the want of doing something. He will not gain anything by his programme, which is more like the production of a moon-struck lunatic than a sensible politician. It remains to be seen, however, how long Austria will tolerate these continual conspiracies on her very frontier."

From Bologna the news are daily becoming more alarming,—that is to say, more alarming for the Piedmontese Government, owing to the rapid spread of Mazzinian doctrines, and the consequent Republican feeling in that city, as well as in many others in the Romagna. For myself I look with hope on this movement, convinced as I am that no settlement of affairs can possibly occur until Mazzinianism shall have played out its hand, and been fairly smashed and floored.

At the 'Parliament of Genoa,' as the Garibaldian gathering is called, it is said that Depretis, one of the new Turin Ministers, would have been present but for his office requiring him to remain at his post, and some journals build upon this a notion that Mazzini's time must be close at hand. A correspondent from Bologna says that the Marquess Zambeccari, a Colonel of Garibaldi's filibustering force, has just arrived there and has spoken out publicly and frankly as to the intention of the 'Italian Emancipation Society' to push ahead and settle the Italian question with, or without, the consent of the Government; that all the delegates have been sent home to their respective provinces charged with the mission of organising the people everywhere to act in concert with them, and to have petitions universally signed for the recall of Mazzini from exile; and, said Zambeccari, 'within two months Mazzini will sit as a deputy in the Italian Parliament.' I think this is highly probable, and I shall be glad to hear of the exile's return and his occupation of a senatorial chair, for the end will be so much the nearer. —*Cor. of Tablet.*

TURIN, April 2.—The Turin papers of to-day assert that there are nearly 5,000 brigands in Rome and in the Pontifical States, who await a favorable moment to cross the frontier. The same journals add that the brigand chiefs will not make any serious efforts, because their numbers will not permit them to do so, but that they intend to continually harass the Neapolitan provinces by sending out small bands.

PARIS, April 1.—The *Moniteur* of to-day announces that the Italian Ministry has been definitively constituted as follows:—

Signor Rattazzi—President of the Council and Minister of the Interior.
Signor Durando—Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Signor Matteucci—Minister for Public Instruction.
Signor Conforti—Minister for Justice.

No change is made in the other Ministries.
Rome.—The *Gazette de France* informs us, in its telegraphic intelligence, that General Goyon has given the Holy Father the most positive assurances of the maintenance of the integrity of the pontifical territory. His Holiness had long interviews with the French General and the ambassador.

The health of the Holy Father continues to be a subject of uneasiness. His physicians prescribe absolute rest, but he has positively forbidden any alteration to be made in his receptions. His Holiness was not able to say Mass on Sunday week last.

Sanguine "patriots" here have hazarded a guess that the Pope has at last shown symptoms of yielding and making an arrangement with Piedmont, but this is too absurd to deserve the least notice.

The Bishop of Fossombrone, who had incurred the displeasure of the Piedmontese Government by his able and dignified reply to the circular of Miglietti, was tried ten days ago at Pesaro, on the charge of insult (*ingiuria*) to the Government; the trial occupied part of two days, and the verdict of the jury was "guilty." The punishment for so dire an offence might by law (Piedmontese) be from two months to two years of imprisonment or banishment, and from 200 to 5,000 francs of fine. The case against the Bishop was so utterly disgraceful, that after all the efforts of the Crown Prosecutor (whose speech occupied great part of a day), the judges only felt themselves justified in banishing the Bishop from his diocese for three months, and imposing upon him a fine of five hundred francs; but here we have a splendid case illustrating of the celebrated maxim of Count Cavour "a free Church in a free State." The Bishop of Fossombrone replied singly to the Miglietti circular which attacked in the most reckless and unscrupulous manner the Italian Hierarchy. His letter was a calm and dignified refutation of the calumnies launched at the Catholic Hierarchy by Miglietti. He has been convicted and punished for offence or insult against the secular usurping Government in the defence which he felt himself bound to make against an unjust series of accusations. —*Cor. of Tablet.*

The accounts received here (Rome) from the Kingdom of Naples prove that things are there in a most deplorable state. The great mass of the people are opposed to the Piedmontese government; the country people are in arms in many places, but the troops of Victor Emmanuel are committing the most frightful

atrocities, and shedding torrents of blood to compel the people to submit. What scandalous lies were circulated in the English press to induce the world to believe that the Neapolitans were anxious for the unity of Italy. Is it not strange that Mr. Gladstone and other English philanthropists, who wept over the sufferings of a Puerio and some few prisoners convicted of conspiring against their lawful sovereign, cannot find a word of condemnation for the bloody deeds of Pinelli and Fumel, and never show a feeling of sympathy for the thousands of poor innocent people who are inhumanly butchered every day in Naples. —*Cor. of Nation.*

THE ALLOCATION OF THE POPE.

The official *Journal* of Rome publishes the following Allocation delivered at the canonization on Tuesday last, in the Church of the Minerva, of three martyrs of Japan:—

"Nothing, certainly, could be more agreeable to my heart than the ceremony of which we are all witnesses, and which increases the number of the servants of God and the saints, who, while increasing in numbers, do not cease to intercede for us, and obtain for us *desideratum propitiationis abundantius*, abundantly mercy to defend the rights of justice, to obtain the conversion of the wanderers and the apostates, to sustain with firmness and resignation war and sufferings, and to assist, finally, in the triumph of peace. Yes, it is consoling for us to think that in the solemnity which we shall have shortly to celebrate, we shall be surrounded by the choicest souls, by the College of Cardinals, and by our brethren, the bishops. It will be a fine spectacle to see the supreme pastor, surrounded by other pastors who have supported unanimously the rights of this Holy See, and have allayed by their consoling words our profound grief. It is fitting to mention here a letter which we received only 24 hours ago, from a large town of Italy, or rather from the capital of Lombardy. This letter has been forwarded by an ecclesiastic who calls himself a canon, and it is there said:—'Take good care that in the approaching assembly of the Bishops at Rome the temporal power is not declared to be a dogma of faith.' If this poor priest, whom we should like better to call good priest, were present here, we should say to him as we say to you who are present:—'Rest assured that the Holy See does not maintain the temporal power as a dogma of faith, but it declares that the temporal power is necessary and indispensable so long as the order established by Providence shall endure, to sustain the independence of the spiritual power.' We should say to him, 'Think of the very holy martyrs who did not fear to give, and who did give, their blood and their life in defence of the church.' We would say to him, 'Since you are in such haste to manifest your fears that you have brought them under the eyes of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, hear his voice, which enjoins you, and the chapter to which you belong, to listen to your own pastor, to practice not only his orders, but also his advice; if you, with your colleagues, obey not, they will be miserably lost.' We would say to him:—'Recommend yourselves to the holy martyrs who have lost all that they might not lose God.' From a neighboring kingdom we have received writing, signed by some ecclesiastic, in which they address to us the hypocritical insinuation that we should renounce the temporal power, which is for them, or rather for those who advise them, very inconvenient, and impedes the consummation of their anti-Christian and anti-social designs. But we at the same time receive letters, also signed by ecclesiastics, which are filled with respectful attachment to the Holy See. It appears, from these letters, that the Government of that kingdom, or its representatives or emissaries, sent printed forms, which we have seen and read, persuading some priests and miserable clerks to sign them, with a double view of causing it to be believed that the clergy sustain the absurd principle of the incompatibility of the spiritual with the temporal power, and of separating the inferior clergy from their bishops, whose admirable concord in these times has astonished the whole world. The good ecclesiastics who write to us beg us to give no heed to the observations of this handful of deluded individuals, of whom some have been ensnared, and others led by fear, into giving their signature. Let the Holy See be persuaded, say these good priests, that their convictions are such that they do not any doubt as to the necessity of the temporal power. They invite us, consequently, to pardon those blind men who know not what they do, and we, on our part, add that these blind men, led themselves by other blind, will fall into an abyss from which it is almost impossible they should ever escape. Let us, on our side, take care that the intrigues tending to separate the pastors from the flocks do not attain their object; let the holy martyrs obtain this for us from the Lord, and that there may be given to us through their intercession the necessary power to sustain with courage the combats to come. May the very Holy Virgin, under whose all-powerful auspices we have been kept safe and sound up to this hour, design to continue to us her protection; and may she inspire us with a perfect resignation to the Divine will, so that even as she pronounced the fiat expected by human generations, '*Eccce ancilla domini, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*,' we may, in like manner, animated by her, say to the Lord, '*Eccce servi tui, fiat vobis secundum voluntatem tuam*.' It now only remains for us to pray to the Lord that He will cause His blessing to descend upon all of us; and that it may descend upon the company which has produced so many heroes for heaven, and so many defenders of the Church; and that it may give strength to maintain regular observances and exemplary precepts of life, in spite of so many contests. May this blessing give intelligence to our poor mind, and may it communicate strength to this poor arm! May this blessing solace and protect all those who endeavor to sustain the vessel of the Church, tossed about by the waves, that their voices may not be drowned in the noise of the tempest which has been let loose! May this blessing serve, in the last place, to encourage all the good, and to convert the souls of the wicked!"

NAPLES.—The nature of the news from Naples remains unaltered. "Brigandage" remains in the ascendant, despite the forces brought to bear on it. It is intended to name Commissioners Extraordinary for those provinces where "brigandage" has broken out, who are to be armed with special powers. If more "special" powers are to be exerted than have been used by Fantoni and Fumel, the state of the poor peasants will indeed be wretched.

In the disturbances at Naples on the 15th ultimo, 14 persons were wounded, nine students and five of the Lazzaroni. The populace used sticks and stones and the students, revolvers, so recklessly, that the number is less than could have been expected. The 12th Battalion of the National Guard, which first made its appearance, drove away the Lazzaroni by a volley fired above their heads as they were in the act of storming the College buildings, and with the aid of the 3rd and 11th battalions, made numerous arrests. Father Corezza, who preached on the 15th in place of the usual preacher at S. Severino, the Abbe Musto, and who said that the time was nigh when an Archangel with a sword of flame would issue from Rome for the destruction of all the enemies of religion, was arrested in his rooms the same night. The Liberals have not yet recovered from the fright of the skirmish.

"The Pope for ever!" "Death to the enemies of religion!" were the cries of the infuriated populace. The possibility of a reactionary insurrection, which has always been denied, has been so clearly proved by the Liberals by ocular demonstration that they have suddenly lost all taste for those noisy processions in which they used to delight. "Even to-morrow, the feast of St. Joseph, which they call Garibaldi's feast-day," says a letter of the 18th, "they do not intend to have their favorite spectacles of tri-color flags and purchased oratories. In order to give the formidable Bourbonists less provocation they will confine themselves to illuminations and other noiseless exhibitions. The students in addition to

the drubbing which they got, have had the sad experience that their ungrateful Government will not even thank them for their services. A deputation sent to General La Marmora to complain of the Lazzaroni, was not even admitted, and the Rector of the University put forth an unsympathizing exhortation to be calm."

SPIRIT RAPPING.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—You expressed a wish to examine witnesses who have had "experiences" in modern magic. Allow me to offer you some of mine.

Some years ago a medical friend gave me Reichenbach's book, which I read carefully, enticed by the author's scientific treatment of mysterious subjects. About the same time a near relation took up mesmerism, and we tried to form an opinion. Mesmerism, clairvoyance, electro-biology, and table-turning had their turn, and now I have survived to meet a medium. I set out with the conviction that truth is discovered by investigation and experiment; that untrue witnesses are found out by taking them off their guard; and that a detected cheat is a bad witness. If a man says that he does not see, or hear, or feel, and shows that he does, no hard swearing and no authority can convince me that his senses are absent; and nothing short of demonstration can prove that the senses are independent of their proper organs.

Men see with eyes; they must prove that they see with their elbows.

My first supernatural acquaintance was Alexis, and I confess that the roots of my hair moved uncomfortably when I saw him playing ecarte with a bandage over his eyes; but when the gymnastics began I recovered. The patient being in the rigid state, was set in a chair, and a man stood on his outstretched legs. They did not bend, but the weight overbalanced Alexis, and he, forgetting himself in a small matter, bent his "rigid" knees, got up, resettled himself, and stuck out his legs once more. I did the same in the next room. Thus the experiment was a feat of strength. Alexis, when he pretended to be mesmerically rigid, tried to deceive, and all his proceedings then assumed the value of conjuring tricks. For example, the card-playing melted into a code of signals, for the assistant looked into both hands, and spoke continually during the game.

I next spent some hours in a dark room with a large magnet, striving earnestly to see the electric fluid. I knew by sounds that my companion was mesmerising me all the time, but there was no result. Our experiments failed, so we held a keen argument. My friend at last poured out some water, and, holding the glass in a particular manner, said, "If I give that mesmeric fluid to anyone he will sleep." This could be tested; there was no drug, so I drank the water, and did not sleep. My friend became a mesmerist, but this experiment convinced me that he habitually deceived himself, and many subsequent experiments confirmed the conviction. But I have seen my friend exercise an influence over another friend which amounted to an exaggeration of the power which Napoleon exercised over the nation which he commanded, but to nothing more. The most famous clairvoyant of her day described the symptoms of a sick person, and I wrote them down in silence till the list covered most maladies; but when a companion, who had been directed to keep silence, spoke and asked a leading question, the sitting became a mixture of guessing, and of the game of Yes and No. All symptoms were neglected but those indicated by the questioner, and there was no subsequent cure.

At a public electro-biological meeting I, with some 20 others, stared hard at bits of tin without any result, but a man of very suspicious exterior was affected, and he went through all sorts of contortions at the word of command; but these might be acted. Finally, the patient was told that he could not see, and declared that he did not see the candles. The operator, who was the most famous of his day, summoned the audience to examine the patient, and a medical spectator did so with a candle. The rigid, unwinking eyes, and the grim, stony face of the biolized were something to remember, but the doctor said quietly, "The pupils expand and contract freely under the influence of light."

There was still a chance—the muscles might contract, though the man was unconscious of the luminous cause; but the audience were sceptical, and the angry patient removed all doubt by shouting, "I should like to see you bear the candle as near your eyes as I did without winking." He had seen the candle, then. The cheat betrayed itself in a small matter, and soon after this lecturer disappeared.

On mentioning this incident to another famous American biologist, who called himself "Doctor," he said that the retina expanded and contracted involuntarily under the influence of light. The medical sceptic said it was the pupil.

Again, a mesmerised patient of a then well-known operator declared that she was unable to hear, but a hard-headed medical sceptic walked quietly about muttering, "How wonderful!" "How extraordinary!" "Cannot hear?" Then, suddenly addressing the patient in the same tone, he said, "You can't hear at all, can you?" "No Sir," said the girl, "not a word." Another patient who could not feel, was slyly pinched in a tender place by another doctor, and, being taken unawares, sprang up, exclaiming, "You brute!" The doctor was "perfectly satisfied," and so, within my experience, whenever the senses were tested, the wonders of mesmerism, clairvoyance, and electro-biology disappeared. A mechanical model explained table-turning. Hands laid on a scale weigh considerably, so they do when laid on the edge of a table, on a hat, or on the spokes of a wheelbarrow. In like manner pens press upon the edge of a compass card when the points rest on it, and the pens lean outwards against the sides of the case. It is very difficult thus to arrange a dozen of pens so evenly as not to turn the card one way or the other; and if it moves at all the whole system presses in one direction. All the pens come to slope one way, and push one way, and the card whirls round. And so table-turning is but a mechanical force exercised unconsciously. When Faraday's index proved that fact table-turning went out of fashion, but it still survives in mental corners.

Now we have a new phase of magic in spirit-rapping, and I hold it to be a wicked imposture, trading upon the best affections and feelings of human nature. The medium's charge confines his general audience to those whose family history is recorded in the *Peterburg* and similar books. His professed dealing with deceased friends draws those who suffer and are least fitted to detect imposture. Grief, with its fearful eyes, trembling awe, veneration, and blank wonder, are ill fitted to cope with an imposture. Argument is useless where men wish to be deceived, but yet the cheat is transparent. The whole system is based on the assertion that dead men's ghosts follow a medium; the most famous of the tribe assured me in an unguarded moment that if he were haunted by a spirit it would drive him mad.

The system of communication is by raps. I saw the same man rapping while he asserted that the spirit of my aunt was communicating with him by raps. I saw the muscular motion in one knuckle of his right hand which he masked with his left arm, and each muscular contraction answers to each sound as a pendulum answers to the tick of a clock. I tried the experiment, and produced the same sound by moving the same muscle, so as to jerk the back of the nail of the fore finger against an edge cut in the side of the pencil, the point of which was pressed hard against the table. When the medium said that my dead aunt rapped for him, and had no sympathy with me, and when he made an audible noise with a pencil, visibly before my eyes, it was a humbugged, wicked attempt to deceive through human affections; but when he did that which I had done that evening at dinner, and kicked up the whole table with his knee, it was simply ludicrous, and there was a general shout of laughter.

When he wrote with one hand under the table, and