

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

The disquietude caused by Napoleon's menace to the Austrian Minister, continued.

On the 7th inst. *Moniteur* publishes the following paragraph:—"For several days the public spirit has been agitated by alarming reports, which it is the duty of the government to put a stop to by declaring that nothing in our diplomatic relations authorizes the fears which those reports tend to provoke." This caused a slight improvement in the funds in Paris and London, but was only temporary, and all the improvement was subsequently lost.

It is reported that France sent a very threatening note to Austria, warning her in consequence of Austrian troops crossing the Servian frontier.

CONSUMPTION OF MEAT IN FRANCE.—It appears from an account recently published that the consumption of meat in France, which in 1812 only averaged 17 kilograms for each individual per annum, is now 54 kilograms. In comparison to the number of inhabitants the consumption is greater in the towns than in the country parts. Paris consumes 10 kilograms each person more than any other place. Next in quantity come the north of France, where the average is 64 kilograms; each; the two provinces of Poitou and the Limousin are those which consume the least, the quantity being only 41 kilograms. It is singular that in the departments where the most meat is produced the consumption is the least.

PARIS, JAN. 5, 1859.—Notwithstanding the tear and wear which always recurs in the French capital at this season, the last trial of M. de Montalembert is still the subject of general conversation among the cultivated classes of the nation. The impression it has made on the public opinion does not seem to die away so soon as might have been expected; in fact, it appears to have acted as a spark which set fire to a latent train of gunpowder. Ten years have now elapsed since the revolution of 1848, and that sort of horror for free institutions which naturally ensued upon that period of anarchy, is now wearing itself out. People begin to think, and even to say, that after all, the Government itself suffers from the actual state of silence and absence of discussion which is one of the leading features of the present system. The "official gag," as it was termed by the noble Count, acts in direct opposition to the intentions of the Imperial will, by making it responsible for every petty misdemeanor of its agents, or by giving more importance to certain events than they ought in reality to assume. Besides, people will both think and speak notwithstanding any proscription to the contrary; and most certainly the *salons* of Paris are at present the centre of an opposition more dangerous than any free discussion of its acts. Idle rumors, exaggerated reports are assumed, circulated, and exaggerated as positive facts, and the result is a spreading ill-will against the system.

The best proof I can give of this disposition is what took place at the Tuilleries, when the different Ambassadors were received by the Emperor on New Year's Day. The growing coolness between the Courts of Paris and Vienna, both on account of the state of Italy and of the Danubian Principalities, is a circumstance known to all. All of a sudden, a rumor spread throughout the city, that the Emperor had spoken to the Baron de Zuybourn in most harsh terms, publicly upbraiding the Austrians with troubling the tranquillity of Europe. That Napoleon III. should have thus trodden unexpectedly in the footsteps of his famous uncle, who was wont to browbeat foreign Ambassadors on public occasions, seemed somewhat startling indeed, and yet the rumor assumed such a definite shape, that it immediately caused a fall in the funds amounting to almost one franc. Such was the sensation created, that the Government has thought proper to show facts, as they were, by publishing in the *Constitutionnel* the few words uttered by his Majesty, and which run as follows:—

"I regret that our relations with your Government are not so amicable (*ne soient pas aussi bonnes*) as formerly, but beg of you to tell the Emperor that my own personal feelings towards him have undergone no alteration."

From the above language, significant though it be, it is evident that Napoleon is rather desirous of closing than widening the breach between France and Austria; and yet such is the present excitable state of public opinion, that very different words were ascribed to the Imperial speaker. Is it not manifest that, with a free press or something like it, the above fact would have assumed *hic et nunc* its true and definite form?

The state of Lombardy, which, according to appearances, recalls to our minds the facts which preceded the outbreak of 1848, naturally engenders a large portion of public opinion. People begin to look grave, as if something portentous was about to take place, and, since the utterance of the words I have quoted above, they declare that France must have her war with Austria next spring, should the Italians rise against their German oppressors. This must be particularly grounded upon the language held by the would-be republican squad of Parisian journalism. The half demagogue, half imperialist writers of the *Presse*, blow hot and cold upon poor Italy, from one day to another, but oftener hot than cold. It is really worth while for a naturalist to study that hybrid, mongrel species of penny-a-liners, which has lately sprung up in Paris. One is disposed to liken them also to a sort of mushroom growing out of the very trunk of Imperialism, though from certain generic and fundamental features of the ill-looking cryptogam, it would seem to belong, as I said, to another variety called *demagoguery*. At any rate men begin to stare, and to ask how it is that this paper, as some others, should be allowed to pour out constantly its effusions against Austria, and excite the Italians to insurrection? Had the Government no ulterior views as to the country, it would certainly put an end to this dangerous clap-net, tending to raise passions abroad, but too excitable. Such are the surmises of men at present, and if but surmises, the Government still is responsible for them, as they are another result of its system in regard to the press.

Another fact no less singular is the language held by the *Revue Contemporaine*, a Government periodical, in regard to England. It was but very lately that a long and elaborate article in that periodical tended to demonstrate that England was universally collapsing into socialism. The Reform movement, the outpourings of some obscure meetings, the publications issued by certain third-rate editors, were brought forth as representing the whole body and mass of public opinion, in our country. The *Presse*, of course, caught up the idea, and echoed the paper, rying with it in point of virulence; but surpassing it far in ignorance and downright nonsense.

I insist upon these details, because they show at one and the same time the singular policy of the French Government, and the drift of public opinion. Certainly one of the most striking features of the present time, in France, is the systematic abstention with which the most enlightened and most religious classes of this country keep aloof from the reigning system. The want of their services and influence is sadly felt in the higher regions, and by no one, I believe, more than by the Emperor himself, if I am to judge from the repeated efforts made both in public and private to draw them into the sphere of imperial interests. This is certainly a remarkable phenomenon, especially if one remembers the tendency of all French people to seek for wealth and political capital through Government places. On endeavoring to trace the cause of this universal abstention both in Paris and out of Paris, I can discover no other than the discreditable system of jobbing which now prevails, on one hand, and on the other, an honorable and upright adherence to principles of a moderate and well-regulated liberty. Perhaps in this alone you may ascribe the general sympathy which now surrounds the name of Montalembert.

As to the jobbing speculators, both high and low,

I shall speak of them more fully in my next letter, wishing at present to draw some conclusions from the above lines in reference to the attitude of our English Catholics when speaking of the French Government.

In the opinion of many eminent and pious men of this country, it would be, to say the least, very injudicious for the English Catholic to entertain such a strong leaning to the actual system in France, precisely at a juncture when a change is gradually effecting itself even among the most influential of the continental clergy. The latter are more and more becoming aware of the danger attendant upon too close a subservience to the will and views of an absolute government. They likewise are by no means indifferent to the bitter feeling of hostility to religion which has lately grown up among even well-meaning men, in consequence of the vindictive and intemperate tone of the *Univers*, and its adherents. This feeling has reached an alarming height, and among the most distinguished French prelates is viewed with great anxiety, as well as with a strong desire to turn over a new leaf. At any rate, they seem disposed to drop gradually the link which has hitherto bonded them so closely to the Imperial Government, in order to follow henceforward a more neutral policy.

Thus where hardly seems any ground for British Catholics to proclaim Napoleon III. their "protector," when, in fact, he can protect them in nothing at all in their own country. A time may shortly come when France and Great Britain will tread upon very different ground, and oppose each other's influence in every political field. It is asked here by many a sympathiser with our Catholic countrymen whether the latter would then find themselves in a very enviable situation, after displaying so much devotedness and enthusiasm for a system so directly clashing with the institutions and feelings of England? Let due justice be given to the Imperial acts when they deserve it, but what is the use of proclaiming ourselves the staunch supporters of a man who has not yet rallied one independent statesman in his own country?—*Cor. of Weekly Register.*

## GERMANY.

The official Oesterreichische correspondent of Vienna announces that reinforcements will go from that city to the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. It is expressly said that the troops are sent for the protection of the peaceful inhabitants of the kingdom against the revolutionary party.

A despatch from Vienna, dated Friday, the 7th inst., says that the 3rd corps d'armee of the Imperial army, amounting to 30,000 men, had left for Italy. It is estimated that the Austrians can now muster 100,000 men, in two or three days, within the limits of their Italian dominions.

The *Journal de Frankfurt*, an Austrian semi-official paper, says that Austria is at present strong enough in Italy to meet any event there, and boasts that all Germany, with Prussia at its head, is backing her.

## CONVERSION OF THE PROFESSOR UGO SAMMER.

The conversion of Professor Ugo Sammer, holding the chair of Protestant Theology in the Royal College at Berlin, has occasioned much excitement and surprise through Germany. This learned theologian was led to holy truth by a course of deep research into the times preceding the Reformation. He published a few months since a valuable work, the result of profound study and patient labor, entitled "Catholic Theology at the time of the Reformation previous to the Council of Trent."—Berlin, Stawitz, 1858.—This volume of 353 pages was but an amplification of a dissertation crowned in 1836 by the University of Berlin, and which treated of theology at the epoch of the transition amongst the learned, and which is called the Catholicity of Trent, a theology unknown to his co-religionists. In this he expounds the dogma of the Catholic Church as propounded by her theologians before the Council, that is, from the year 1517 to 1545. This work is written most conscientiously. M. Sammer not satisfied with studying the theological works of his own country, has examined closely the theological treatises of France and England. He examined on the various doctrines of the Church in order to write on them—"Original Sin and its Consequences," "Free Will and Grace," "The Commandments and Evangelical Councils," "The Constitution of the Church," "The Sacrament," "Indulgences," "Ecclesiastical Orders and Celibacy," "Marriage," "The Saints." M. Sammer prepared also an edition of the treatise of St. Anselm *Cur Deus Homo*. After the publication of this, furnished with funds by the Government, he left Berlin in the month of July, and visited Dresden, Vienna, Padua, Milan, and Morisco in Bavaria, to examine for the purpose of confuting the manuscripts of Eusebius which are in the library of that town. This voyage, however, ended by demonstrating to him how different was Catholicity, not only in doctrine, but also in practice, from what he had believed it to be hitherto from the portrait he had received of it. From that moment his return to the bosom of the Church became for him an urgent necessity. Grace was poured on him. He spent many weeks in prayer and tears before God, who gave him strength to overcome every obstacle. On the 15th of last October his victory was complete, and he resolved to enter immediately into the true fold of Christ. Peace and joy from the Holy Spirit flooded his heart; and renouncing with heroic courage every temporal advantage and the brilliant and honorable future which this world offered, clasped with eager joy the precious jewel of faith and love revealed to him. The ensuing day he forwarded his resignation to the Ministry and the heads of the College, with grateful thanks for their many proofs of consideration and friendship, and avowed his sole motive for leaving them was his entrance into the Catholic Church, the true and sole spouse of the man-God and only depositary of revelation. On the 18th October he repaired to his Lordship the Bishop of Ermeland, in whose diocese he was born, imploring him to receive him into the Church. In a few days he was admitted into the seminary, where he is preparing himself, apart from the world, with heart and soul, for the great act which will give us another brother and the Church a valiant and devoted son. Protestants, who are generally silent on these conversion from their ranks, cannot restrain their annoyance at this defection. The *Times* of Berlin insists that Professor Sammer should restore the various sums paid during his professorship, since his studies have but tended to make him a Catholic.

## ITALY.

The correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows:—The University of Pavia has been closed by order of the Austrian authorities. This is of course in consequence of the disaffected spirit and manifestations prevailing there, and chiefly, it is probable, by reason of the recent assassination of the veterinary professor, Emilio Briccio. This unfortunate man was a native of the Austrian Tyrol. It seems generally believed that the crime was committed by a student, although no proof of this has been obtained, nor is it positively known whether a private or political motive led to the murder. Considering all the circumstances and the existing violent irritation against the Austrians, there can hardly be a reasonable doubt that it was the latter. It is said that the murdered man was an intimate of a certain police official, named Rossi, greatly disliked, and who is thought to be in danger of a like fate. It is also reported that he provoked the students by a contemptuous remark on a demonstration they had just made against the use of tobacco. In short many tales and conjectures are current, not worth repeating. The event is an ugly sign of the times. The Piedmontese papers contain numerous correspondences from different parts of Austrian Italy, relating crimes, outrages, arrests, and collisions of all kinds, but many of these are highly-coloured reports, and undue prominence is given to trivial incidents; such, for instance, as processions of lads with empty tobacco pipes, which, at a given signal, they throw down and trample upon, to signify that smoking is to be abstained from. These journals are in contradiction

with themselves, for they tell us that the police are everywhere and allow no assemblages of persons (which I believe to be perfectly true), and then they talk of processions of two hundred students, lasting an hour, in broad daylight, for a purpose obviously hostile to the Government. There is no need to cite and exaggerate puerilities to persuade people that the utmost discontent reigns in Lombardy. At Pavia the delegate, an Italian, has been replaced by an Austrian police agent. The irritation caused by the monetary change and the new law of conscription seems to be in no way diminished. If the financial tightness has been a little eased by the issues of old zwanzigers at 34, the remedy is too late and imperfect to dissipate the general indignation on that score. According to the *Venice Official Gazette*, there is to be a diminution of 1,400 in the number of conscripts levied in that province for 1859, comparatively with the numbers taken for 1858, and the *Milan Gazette* says that in Lombardy 1,500 less will be taken, but such assurances from such sources inspire no confidence and afford no contentment in presence of the September law, which is generally denounced as much worse than the previously existing one. It seems that concessions with respect to the conscription are actually being made, at least for the time being; but so great is the distrust and hatred of the Lombardo-Venetians towards their rulers that they are slow to be persuaded that any good thing can proceed from them. A newspaper says that cards are handed about in Milan urging the inhabitants to abstain from all amusements in the approaching carnival season, and to save their money for important purposes. The belief in approaching great events, by which war is of course meant, is still general and strong in the Austro-Italian provinces.

Outbreaks are anticipated at Milan. It was rumored, but not confirmed, that the city was in a state of siege.

Great agitation likewise at Cremona, Modena and elsewhere.

CHRISTIAN SERVANTS AND THE JEWS.—A letter from Rome, to the *Journal des Debats*, states that the Cardinal Vicar has caused an enquiry to be instituted in the Ghetto, in order to discover if any Christian women were in service with the Jews. Fifteen were found, and were instantly obliged to leave the house of the Hebrews in which they served. This surely gives fair evidence that ecclesiastical authority is sincerely bent on maintaining the laws instituted for the well-being of the people of Israel, and for the purpose of avoiding such contingencies as arose in the Mortara family.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—According to private letters from Naples of the 23d ult., reports were current that government had ordered an additional levy of 18,000 men. It was also said that great activity prevailed in all the arsenals in the manufacture of arms.

## BELGIUM.

A MURDER REVEALED BY A DREAM.—A miraculous discovery of a horrid murder, is related by a Belgian *Journal* of a recent date of which we make a summary:—

Two brothers set out from Gyrek with a view of placing their two daughters at a boarding school in the town of Grosswarden. During the night of their absence, the youngest daughter, aged ten who was left at home, woke up her mother suddenly during the night, and crying bitterly declared that she saw her father and all being murdered. The mother for some time took no notice of the child's declaration, but as she persisted, and would not be pacified she became to be alarmed herself and the next morning took the child before the Mayor of the town, to whom she declared her dream, stating at the same time that the murderers were two men living in the neighborhood whom she deliberately pointed out, and added that the murder was committed at the entrance of the forest, on the road to Grosswarden.

The Mayor on this revelation, thought it prudent to make some inquiry after the two neighbors indicated by the child, when, singularly enough, they were discovered to be absent from home. This suspicious circumstance induced the Mayor to despatch some officers to the forest alluded to by the child, who discovered the horrible spectacle of five bodies extended on the ground, which were those of the brothers, the two daughters, and the driver of the vehicle in which they all had taken their departure. The corpses appeared to have been set on fire to destroy their identity, and the vehicle was nowhere discovered. The horrible affair led the officers to examine the whole neighborhood, where they fortunately pounced upon the two neighbors at a fair not far distant, as they were in the very act of changing some notes on which some spots of blood were visible. On being seized they immediately confessed their crime, and on the child's dream being revealed to them, acknowledged the finger of Providence in their capture. The wonderful dream on the part of the child, and its fulfillment excited an immense sensation in the neighborhood.

## SPAIN.

The Madrid journals of the 24th have reached us. The Senate had suspended its sittings for the Christmas holidays.

The *Peninsular Correspondence* says:—"The news which the electric telegraph has brought us concerning the message of the President of the United States has produced a great sensation in this city, and has already been commented on by daily journals in the tone of offended national pride which might naturally be expected. The *Diarios* that the declaration of Mr. Buchanan provokes laughter rather than anger, and says that if he endeavours to make himself the apostle of the infamous American Filibusterism, it will probably cost him as dear as it has done all those who have tried to realize their ridiculous fanfaronnades. As to buying the Spanish Antilles, it says that only a man who knows nothing of Spain and Spaniards could consider such an absurdity. The *Monarquia* considers Mr. Buchanan's message as a mere election clapnet, and a continuation of that which he made use of at Ostend to obtain himself partisans for the Presidency, but it thinks some other democrat may outbid him, and that that may lead to serious complications. It believes that more Filibuster expeditions will be conceived at, but it argues that if the little republic of Costa Rica was able to defeat Walker, who took over to Nicaragua a much larger force than any likely to go to Cuba, little fear need be entertained about Cuba, which is garrisoned by the flower of the Spanish army, and provided with a flotilla large enough to cut off all supplies. The *Monarquia* concludes with the following piece of fine writing, which expresses, however, the national opinion:—"Are there still in Spain men who believe that the United States are able to snatch Cuba from us? No, our national pride rebels against such an idea! The nation which planted the cross on the American continent, which overthrew empires, and then gave them her civilization and her laws, and which still waves her glorious standard over the splendid beauty of the Antilles, can never believe that the day will come when the Apalachian culture will pounce on Cuba. Spain would conquer or die before she permitted such a catastrophe, and would even upon burning heaps of ruins wait till the last standard of Old Spain, a standard which may be torn perhaps by the artillery of these merchants without God and without law, but which till the last will be resplendent with majesty and glory!"

## RUSSIA.

A communication from St. Petersburg states that, after a protracted struggle, that section of the general commission on the abolition of serfdom which advocated the most out-and-out measures, has obtained the victory over the other, and that therefore the report of the commission will be such as the Emperor desires.

## INDIA.

COST OF THE INDIAN WAR.—The year of mutiny 1857-58 cost the empire in round numbers nine and a-half millions sterling. That at least is the official

statement, but so extraordinary are some of the items of the account that we are tempted to disbelieve even a blue-book. It will be perceived that the decrease in the land revenue is just £2,000,000, being £200,000 more than the actual loss on the land revenue of the North-West, which amounted to £1,800,000. This and the loss on the salt in the same presidency formed the only serious revenue losses of the year, and 50 per cent. even of these are made up from the increased profit on opium. A fact more indicative of the strength of our revenue system we have rarely seen. In a convulsion such as has seldom been recorded in history, with the North-West Provinces "actually lost" the revenue declined by a sum less than 7 per cent. upon the gross income of the State, less by hundreds of thousands than the revenue loss produced in England by the recent monetary panic! The fact is a pleasant one for the holders of Indian funds. The revenue which passed almost unscathed through 1857 will scarcely be affected by anything short of our expulsion. It is fortunate that it is so, for the expenditure shows four great items of increase. The civil expenditure has increased by a million and a-half, principally from carrying to that account the £1,174,649, the cash actually taken by the mutineers from the treasuries. The military expenditure, notwithstanding the disappearance of the old army and the old pension list, has been enlarged by four millions and a quarter, the cost of military buildings by half a million, and the home expenditure by two millions and a-half. The total of excess over last year, after stopping public works, is seven millions. Nor can this represent the whole truth. No outlay had in this year been made for property destroyed, for compensation, or for the new police corps three most serious items. The expenditure for police, indeed, had scarcely increased a pound. Nor apparently had the transport bill been paid. The whole charge is put down at £776,000, or about £19 a head—an impossibility. Even if part of the cost of transport were paid out of the next item, "Payments on account of Her Majesty's troops serving in India, £1,175,000," the total will not be in excess of the truth. Taking the whole account, however, as it stands as a fair representation of the fact, it justifies the foreboding of our correspondent "C." We lost last year nine millions and a-half. This year we have as much to lose, minus the cash stolen, but plus the pay of about 70,000 new levies and police, plus some 600 new staff appointments, plus the rehabilitation of nearly exhausted arsenals. There are ten more millions added to the former. Add at least five millions for property to be renewed, for compensation, and for accounts left unadjusted, and the mutiny, even if it ends this cold weather, has added 25 millions to the debt. That is, at five per cent., £1,250,000 added to the permanent burden. Add the cost of 45 extra battalions of Europeans, or say, with our new masses of English cavalry, not less than £3,500,000 a-year. Add the £900,000 of the old deficit in 1857, and we have increased interest of debt, £1,250,000; increased military cost, £3,500,000; old deficit, £900,000; total, £5,650,000. In other words, a permanent deficit of five millions and a-half, to be met by the surplus of Oude, when it comes, and the profits of the half-dozen jaghires and pensions forfeited before Lord Stanley restored Dhar.—*Friend of India.*

## SOUTHERN AFRICA.

The President of the South African Republic, a district between the Cape colony and the Caffres, from which the Colonial Government has withdrawn and which is occupied chiefly by Dutch Boers, has called attention to the proceedings of the agents of the London Missionary Society. The President accuses them upon "direct proofs" of being the promoters of political movements, having for their object war and the shedding of blood. We have only to be guided by the general history of South Africa to see that wherever these missionaries have been admitted, sedition has been followed by hostilities, cruelty and barbarism have been led on against civilization, and tribes have been incited against tribe to the mutual loss and injury of both."

## AUSTRALIA.

Last year the Provincial Parliament framed an act for the incorporation and endowment of a Catholic college, to be called "St. John's College, within the archdiocese of Sydney." This act Lord Stanley, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, intimated he could not recommend her Majesty to assent to the law, knowing nothing of "an archdiocese" in the colony, and the legal recognition of any such division of the colony by the Pope being "unconstitutional." Upon this Mr. Denchey, a Catholic member of the Assembly, has given notice of his intention to move the following resolutions.

1. That there being no special form of religion or Church established by law in this territory, and therefore no dominant or State Church, the Bishops of the Church of England have only, like the Bishops of the Church of Rome, and all other heads of Christian denominations whatsoever, jurisdiction in spiritual matters within their own Churches and denominations, and no further.
2. That any titles or designations derived from the names of localities, and by such Bishops or heads of denominations assumed, do no more than point out the territorial limits within which their respective spiritual jurisdiction are exercised.
3. That it is therefore strictly in conformity with the entire equality of all denominations of Christians in the territory of New South Wales, that there should exist Bishops of the Church of England and Bishops of the Church of Rome in said territory, with precisely the same designations and exercising jurisdiction within exactly the same limits.
4. That the foregoing resolutions be embodied in an address and presented to his Excellency the Governor-General.

TORTURE AND EXECUTION OF A FRENCH BISHOP IN TONGKIN.—Although I have for some time been suffering from fever I take up my pen to communicate to your reverence some details of the horrible death which the mandarins have inflicted on our very dear brother the Venerable Don F. Melchior. I must be short, for time presses, so I will begin by informing you that the venerable prelate was taken prisoner in the very village in which Father Delgado was arrested twenty years ago. His name is Kheng-lao. Mgr. Melchior was taken on the 8th of July, and immediately led to the capital. As the calamity had been industriously circulated that he was the chief of the insurgents, his eminence was closely confined. Two of his servants had been taken prisoners with him. During the night of the 26th July the chief mandarin ordered the bishop to be brought up to his yamun, but nothing is known of what took place on this occasion. On the morning of the 27th the venerable prisoner told those who brought him his meals that he required no change of clothing, and only asked for his trousers—the chief mandarin having probably announced to him the kind of death he was to die. On the 28th of the same month, at seven o'clock in the morning, the troops, elephants, horses, &c., left the city for the place of execution, by the north gate. They led with them the two young servants of the venerable martyr: both of them wore heavy cages on their necks, and went on foot to receive joyfully the martyr's palm. On arriving at the place a great circle was formed, and the executioner led the two young men to two posts placed near each other. After this scene occurred a more still more cruel and terrible, to which I would direct your reverence's attention. After the attendants had led the two young men to the place of punishment, they brought forth the venerable Bishop with which they conducted the venerable victim to his death was truly terrible. His eminence was led through all the streets of the city with a chain round his neck; in his hand he carried his breviary. Twenty guards, sword in hand, surrounded him.—The escort of the three prisoners consisted of about

500 soldiers, two elephants, four horsemen, two men bearing instruments called *chiengs*, a drummer, and four trumpeters. When the Bishop reached the scene of his glorious martyrdom he was covered with sweat and mud. On seeing his two servants, who were awaiting the blow which should let their spirits soar to heaven, his eminence exhorted them to courage, and gave them his blessing. A few moments later the mandarin who was seated on one of the elephants raised his voice, and ordered the heads of the two servants to be first cut off, and afterwards that of the *kou* (the term applied to Catholic priests). At a given signal the head of one of the servants named Tjep was struck off; but three blows were requisite to effect this. The executioner then took the head and flung it into the air, that it might be seen by everybody. The executioner then struck off the head of the second, named Hieu, but on this occasion struck with a more fortunate hand (does not your reverence think so?) for he only needed a single blow. Happy souls! which had ascended to heaven to receive the reward of their courage, and to prepare, so to speak, that seat of glory for their master which was destined for him by our Lord in so few moments. These faithful attendants had served the Bishop in this life, and in their deaths they shared his glory and his triumphs.

Let us now pass on to the horrible torture suffered by the venerable bishop. The two servants having been executed, the executioner stretched a mat on the ground, placed a small carpet upon it, broke the chain which was round the neck of His Eminence, and made him lie down upon his back upon the matting. The bishop wore, at this time, nothing but a pair of trousers turned up to the thighs. The victim being thus placed, the executioner took two stakes, which he fixed in the ground on each side of him, and to which his hands were tightly bound by cords, causing great pain. Two others were then placed under his armpits and crossed over the chest of the bishop, so as to press it tightly. Two other posts were then set up at a short distance from his feet.—The cords with which the feet were bound were passed round these posts and stretched violently, the feet being then pegged down; the loins were similarly secured. It would be difficult to conceive the tortures of the venerable prelate, thus bound and racked. An order was then issued first to cut off the feet, then the hands, afterwards the head of the martyr, and lastly to eviscerate him. At this order five executioners commenced their frightful duty. They were armed with a kind of billhook or hatchet, purposely blunted in order to inflict greater suffering. They commenced by cutting off the legs above the knees, each limb receiving about twelve blows before it was severed. The same process was repeated with the arms. But the power of speech now failed the happy martyr, who, so long as strength remained, had not ceased to call on the name of Jesus. His head was then struck off after repeated blows, and lastly his body was opened, and his entrails drawn out with a hook.

Such is the exact account of the death and torture of our dear M. Melchior, near the very spot which had been consecrated two years earlier by the martyrdom of his predecessors. Immediately after the execution the different parts of the body were wrapped up in the mat and thrown into a pit dug for this purpose. The Tongquines wished to make the elephants pass over the spot so as to trample under foot the grave of the venerable Confessor of our Faith, but these animals, less savage, and, we may almost say, more humane than their masters, obstinately refused to do so, as if they would not profane the relics of the noble martyr.

Bishop Melchior's head was exposed for some days on the southern gate of Nan-dinh, and then broken to pieces and thrown into the sea.—*Hong Kong Register.*

## UNITED STATES.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IN SIXTY HOURS.—Prof. Steiner, the young American Aeronaut that made an aerial flight from Cincinnati to this city last Fall, alighting in a neighboring cornfield, has been engaged for some time in attempts to solve the problem of aerial navigation, and, it is thought, has been successful. The *Xenia News* announces that he is about to make a practical application of the results of his experimenting. The editor of that paper has been shown the plans and specifications of a monster airship designed to cross the Atlantic in sixty hours, for the construction of which Prof. Steiner desires to secure the aid of Congress. The general idea of the plan for its construction is thus given. The bottom is to be of thin sheet copper, weighing not more than half a pound to the square foot. It is to be cigar-shaped, very much like the Winans steamer. 300 feet long and 80 feet in diameter at the centre, tapering towards each extremity. Beneath this balloon is to be suspended by wire cables a platform of the same conical shape with the balloon itself. On the central part of this platform is to be placed the machinery of the air ship and the cabin for passengers. The surface measure of the balloon will be 151,425 square feet, and its total weight will be 37½ tons. It will contain 2,894 cubic feet of gas, which will support in the air a weight of 86½ tons. The platform, cabin, machinery, &c., are estimated at 28 tons, leaving still power enough to elevate 21 tons of passengers, freight and ballast. It is proposed to propel this vessel by means of large paddles or fans, to work in the air as the paddles of a steamboat work on the water. There is to be one wheel on each side of the vessel, and at the stern is to be a screw propeller, all of these to be worked by steam engines placed at the center of the platform. The side wheels have the paddles so arranged as to fold up like a lady's fan as they enter the wheel-house above, and to unfold again as they strike the air in the desired direction. There are to be three small oscillating engines, of five horse power, one for each wheel. To confine the balloon to a given height above the water, it must be evenly ballasted, and attached to a copper float in the water, connected to the platform underneath the airship by a coil wire rope. An ingenious contrivance, which cannot be satisfactorily explained on paper, is attached to the platform whereby the balloon is as certainly steered as a vessel in the water. Prof. S. thinks he has effectually overcome the two great difficulties encountered by all experimenters in aerial navigation, viz: the expansion and contraction of gas, and the difficulty in exhausting the common air from a balloon with rigid sides, without having it crushed. The means used to obviate these difficulties we have not the space to explain; but, suffice it to say, the process seems wholly practicable and effective. It is calculated that, with head winds, a speed of 40 miles an hour can be obtained with this airship, and with favorable gales the speed would be increased to 100. Prof. S. estimates the cost of building such a balloon at \$40,000. On the same subject the *Troy Times* of the 14th inst., says:—"Mr. John La Mountain, the aeronaut, is again in this city where he will remain a few days. He has made arrangements for the construction in Boston of a balloon with which he designs to make an attempt to cross the Atlantic next summer. The money is to be furnished by a wealthy gentleman of the modern Athens, who has sufficient confidence in the practicability of the scheme to make a venture in it. The balloon is to be of silk, with an ascensive power which will make it capable of carrying a life boat stocked with provisions and four passengers. The power it is designed to employ is the gun cotton engine—one of which, owned by a gentleman of Springfield, Mass., has been tested, and found to operate satisfactorily. Before the venture at sailing over the ocean, it is designed to make three long voyages, starting from Western cities, for the purpose of testing the capacity of the balloon, and the effect of the employment of machinery." Mr. Wise, the "father of ballooning in America," who has been in consultation with Mr. La Mountain, approves of his plan in all its details, and will give him the benefit of his remarkable experience in suggestions as to the manner of carrying it out."