

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

PARIS, April 28.—On receiving the news of the assassination of President Lincoln and the attempt upon the life of Mr. Seward, the Emperor deputed an aide-de-camp to call upon the Minister of the United States to request him to convey to President Johnson the expression of the profound affliction and horror with which these odious crimes have inspired the Emperor.

PARIS, April 29.—The Emperor left Paris at half-past eight this morning on his journey to Algeria.

ALGERS, May 3.—The Emperor Napoleon has disembarked here. His Majesty received the homage of the public officials, and met with an enthusiastic reception. His health continues excellent.

It was at first stated that the person who attempted the life of the Acting Secretary (for the Secretary himself was absent) of the Russian Embassy, M. Balche, was a Polish refugee. This is not the case. It is now ascertained that he is a retired officer of the Russian army, named Nikitchenkoff, 28 years of age. He left Russia furnished with money, but as he visited several countries and had spent six weeks in Paris his funds were quite exhausted. He applied at the Russian Consulate, and lastly at the Embassy, for means to enable him to go back to Russia, but without effect. He returned to the Embassy on Monday afternoon, and again asked M. Balche for assistance, who refused it. He then, without saying any more, drew a poniard, and stabbed him in the back and throat. He defended himself for some time against the servants of the hotel who tried to seize him, and was at length disarmed and arrested by a sergeant de ville who was called in. M. Balche's wounds are very serious, but there is a hope of saving him. It appears that there had been no personal enmity between the assassin and his victim. The question will probably arise whether the assassin is amenable to French tribunals. He is a foreigner the crime was committed on a foreigner and in the residence of the Russian Ambassador. The French law, which provides that crimes committed in France by foreigners shall be judged in conformity with the laws of the country, is not thought to be applicable to the present case; and the Russian Government may and probably will demand the surrender of the criminal. In an international point of view the crime was committed by a foreigner on foreign territory, as the Ambassador represents the country the flag of which he displays.—*Times* Cor.

PARIS, May 4.—The Committee of the Legislative Chamber, to whom the Bill was referred for the levy of 100,000 men of the class liable to be raised in the land and sea service, have presented their Report. From this Report it would seem that, with an annual contingent of such an amount the army really disposable for active service is 320,850 men, and the effective strength at home 197,236. The Report presents the situation of the army up to the first of March, 1865, indicating—the number of men (officers included) forming the effective strength in the service—viz., in Algeria, 79,826 (officers included); in Italy, 13,041; in Mexico, 39,747; and in the interior (France), 276,513, making a total of 400,127, to which the reserve is to be added—viz., 214,002, which gives a total of 614,129 men. The reporter remarks, however, that from these 400,127 men, composing the effective force, a considerable deduction is to be made of those who are not serving in the ranks. These are, first, what he calls the organic non-effective, such as local staffs, gendarmery, Imperial Cavalry school, companies of remount, veterans' chaplains, doctors, hospital apothecaries, administrative officers, bakers, butchers, hospital attendants, veterinary surgeons of the remount depots, master-tailors, bootmakers, saddlers, &c., in all 48,729; second, the permanent deficit, such as men in hospitals, men undergoing punishment, detached from their regiments, in the recruiting service, in arms manufactures, forges, penitentiaries, &c., in all 19,538; and thirdly, those on leave of absence, the average yearly number of whom is set down at 11,000. On the total of these different categories being 79,277 men, the army really disposable as combatants is not 400,127 men, but 320,850. Again, it is considered that these non-effective belong to the army in France, it is clear that the effective strength, instead of being 276,513, as appears in the appended statement, is in reality only 197,236, or 180,000 sub-officers and soldiers, and 17,236 officers. "You may judge by this," the reporter adds, "the difficulty of reducing the effective."

According to our latest intelligence from the South, France is not content with merely promising that her latest convention with Italy will be carried out to the letter. In recent utterances of her diplomatic representatives at Turin, Vienna, and Rome, a disposition has been evinced to protect the Pope even more effectively against what evils might befall him after the evacuation of the Eternal City. Owing to this change of temper in higher spheres at Paris, confidential communications, it is said, have also taken place between the hostile statesmen of Turin and Rome. What will be the result of all these overtures and private interviews we shall see soon enough. As for the reasons that have contributed to bring them about, they are probably multifarious, and most hidden for ever in the portfolios of I don't know what number of foreign offices. I may, however, say that the German Catholic potentates and bishops seem to be convinced that in case of the Pope being left to live with his people alone the most terrible punishments of the Church would have been mercilessly inflicted upon all persons and personages guilty of restoring this happy family to itself. As a beginning in more secular style, it was intended to publish the letters successively addressed to the Pope by Napoleon III.—*Times* Cor.

A Montevideo correspondence in the *Nord-Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* speaks of an intention of the Emperor Napoleon to establish a Kingdom on the River Plate, with the Duke de Joinville as Sovereign.

M. Maurice Joly, a member of the Paris bar, has just been sentenced by the Correctional Police Court to 15 months' imprisonment, 2000 francs fine, and costs, for a pamphlet printed anonymously at Brussels, entitled *Dialogues entre Enfers et Paradis*, or *Montesquieu*, and of which he was the author. Several copies of the work had been introduced at his instance into France, and circulated in Paris, Dijon, and Lyons.

The charge against him was that of having in the said pamphlet excited hatred and contempt against the Government.

Official reports recently published show that the mortality is decreasing in Paris, according as large sewers are constructed, and wide streets run through the narrow overcrowded quarters of the old city. On making a minute search into the records of Paris, it has been discovered, that at the commencement of the 18th century, from the year 1709 to 1719, under Louis XIV., the mortality was 1 in 23; and under

Louis XV., from 1752 to 1762, it was still 1 in 30 inhabitants. From 1836 to 1841 it was 1 in 36; in 1846, 1 in 37; in 1851, 1 in 38; in 1856, 1 in 39; and at the present time it is 1 in 40 inhabitants. The result is that at present there are 4,702 less deaths in Paris than there were in the year 1841. A writer who has devoted his time to statistics observes that the well-being of the population will serve for the measure of the mortality, and that mortality diminishes sensibly in every country where the condition of the population is improved. It is to be remarked with respect to the late improvements in Paris that of 8,260 houses taken down to make way for new streets, 6,000 were situated in parishes where, in consequence of the overcrowding of the inhabitants, contagious diseases committed great ravages. These 8,260 houses, moreover, have been replaced by 24,947 new buildings more spacious and well calculated to diminish mortality among the occupiers. Another improvement to which the decrease of mortality in Paris may be attributed is the number of public gardens opened within a few years. On the 31st of December, 1853, there were only 540 acres of boulevards and public gardens, planted with 69,125 trees. In 1863 there were 770 acres open to the public, planted with 163,460 trees. The large sewers have likewise tended to decrease the mortality. In 1840 there were only 85,230 yards of sewerage; at present there are 350,000 yards.

There is another cause to which the improvement in the sanitary condition of this city may be attributed, and that is the reforms in the management of the hospitals. In 1813, under Philippe le Bel, the deaths in the Hotel Dieu amounted to 80 a day, and not very long since four, and even six patients were placed in one bed in that hospital. All that is now changed, and the deaths in this Hotel Dieu are in proportion to the mortality in other parts of Paris.

## SPAIN.

Madrid, May 3.—To-day the Senate voted unanimously a resolution expressive of their sentiments of horror at the assassination of President Lincoln and their sympathy with the people of the United States.

## ITALY.

A General Election is about to take place in Italy, and according to the Convention of September, the new Parliament will meet in Florence. The probable composition of the new Chamber of Deputies is already a matter of anxious consideration, and the *Correspondance de Rome* tells us that Catholics from the various States of the Peninsula have consulted Rome whether they ought to abstain from taking any part in the coming elections, or to take part in them for the sake of trying to return politicians favorable to the cause of the Church. The *Correspondance* says—'Rome has kept silence. Just at present she will give no decision, and leaves to each man the care of finding a rule of conduct in his own conscience, and in the diversity of circumstances which the Revolution has produced.' And the *Correspondance* says: 'The world will admire Rome's prudence, moderation, and tact, for that a uniform rule could not be laid down for men so variously situated. A Neapolitan who has seen thousands of his countrymen shot, thousands driven into exile, and thousands languishing in prison, has much more to complain of than a Parmesan or a Modenese. The Lombards, the Tuscans, and the Romagnoli have their respective grievances, but these are very different in degree and quality, and the families which look forward to having thrown once more upon their charge their relatives, who being already provided for in convents and monasteries are marked out for plunder and confiscation, are not in the same position as a family which is suffering from the general inconvenience of increased taxation.'

Turin, April 28.—In to-day's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the Bill for the suppression of religious corporations was withdrawn by the Ministry. Signor Mellana complained of the withdrawal of the Bill.

Turin, May 4.—The *Opinione* of to-day publishes a correspondence from Rome, asserting that there is little probability of the negotiations now pending between the Pope and the King of Italy leading to a successful result, on account of the opposition raised by the Ultramontane party. The organ of the infidel party at Turin only expresses what it desires to take place. It would have been more credible had the reason of the alleged failure been left out. No reason exists why the Ultramontane party, that is, the Pope himself and his friends, should desire the ill-success of the negotiations which Signor Vegezzi is at Rome to conduct. The initiative proceeded from the Holy Father himself, and the object is the restoration of Religion to her normal status in Italy. Catholic aspirations and prayers are everywhere ascending that a happy issue may crown the work, that it may be the commencement of new life for an unhappy land.

The actual facts of the negotiations, all that is known or is likely to be found in our news columns to-day. The facts are but few, but so far as facts are stated the statements of the *Times* correspondent seem to be borne out by what has appeared in the Continental Catholic press.—*Weekly Register*.

Turin, May 5.—The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the Prefects, explaining the motives which induced the Government to withdraw the Religious Corporations Bill. The Minister says the opposition on the part of the Chamber, and other difficulties which presented themselves, led the Ministry to believe that the Bill would not be passed. Nevertheless, the Government has decided upon bringing it forward again in the next Session. Referring to the mission of Signor Vegezzi, the circular states that it is not the intention of the Government to abandon the fundamental political principles of the Kingdom. The Government could not decline the invitation of the Pope, but, on the other hand, it could not forget its duty to protect the rights of the people, the laws of State, and the prerogatives of the Crown, and has therefore refrained from mixing up political with religious questions.—*Reuter*.

Turin, May 4.—The *Gazzetta di Torino* of to-day says—'We believe that Signor Vegezzi will shortly return to Turin, without having concluded any negotiations with the Papal Court.' Letters have been received from Rome in confirmation of this rumour.—*Reuter*.

Much has been said about the gratitude which is felt by Italians towards the Emperor, to whom they feel they owe the liberty and independence which they are enjoying at the present moment. This sentiment finds expression in the language of Ministers and Deputies in pamphlets, and above all in the revolutionary journals. The *Arca di Noe* furnishes an instance in a caricature of the 'Life of Caesar' which it publishes. Napoleon III. is hoisted upon a chair. His head is planted on the body of a child, and with a pen of monstrous length he is writing the words 'Life of Caesar' in a book which is placed far from him on the ground. As a fellow to the 'Life of Caesar' the *Arca di Noe* puts side by side with it the 'Death of Caesar' represented by the assassin Orsini, who is showing the fatal shaft to the Emperor. In France the 'Propos de Lubienus' justly incurred the vengeance of the law. At Genoa scurrilous pamphlet met with a certain success as being a curiosity. But what are these outbreaks of ill-humour in comparison with the dismal threat of the *Arca di Noe*? Of this Italian Power which is so bitter against the Catholic press, and which tolerates such incentives to rancour, we can only say that it has morally made itself an accomplice with the instigators of that dastardly crime.—*Correspondance de Rome*.

Rome.—By letters from Rome of a recent date, we learn that the Pope's health was excellent. He had been enabled to go through all the ceremonies of Holy Week without fatigue or indisposition. He was giving audiences daily; during the Easter Festivals five thousand persons had been admitted to receptions at the Vatican. Eighty thousand foreigners according to the Correspondent of the *Monde*, had arrived in Rome shortly before and during the Pas-

chal season. These persons came to spend money, not to take it away. What Rome would be under Piedmontese régime we know not. That it would not be crowded with wealthy strangers we are tolerably certain. Naples is deserted; grass grows in its streets since Garibaldi set foot there. In Palermo, once a place of much resort, there is daily murder and robbery, starvation, bankruptcy, ruin, and desolation.

Nothing more is known of the appointment of our new Metropolitan. The Holy Father, while reserving the appointment wholly to himself, recommended to the Cardinals of the Congregation held on that subject to pray earnestly that the decision might be in conformity with the will of God. The Holy Father has ordered that a funeral service should take place at his expense in the Church of Santa Andrea della Valle, for the repose of the soul of our late Cardinal Archbishop. The funeral oration is to be preached by the Abate Fabiani, one of the learned celebrities of Rome.—*Cor.*

Rome, May 4.—Signor Vegezzi has left for Turin. It is asserted that he will return here within a fortnight.—*Reuter*.

The Pontifical authorities are justly astounded at the hardness of His Excellency M. Roubier, Minister of the Interior, who on Holy Saturday last read in the French Chambers a letter which he stated had been written by Cardinal Antonelli in which His Eminence was made to say that the Holy Father would not leave Rome under any circumstances. I know from most competent authority that Cardinal Antonelli never wrote any letter of the kind.—*Weekly Register*.

One of the Turin editors has seen had the audacity to assert that Pius IX. is in treaty with Victor Emmanuel about delivering over the custody of the Eternal City to the Piedmontese troops. We need hardly say that this is a canard of too coarse a manufacture to obtain a moment's credit.—*Weekly Register*.

We hear thro' a private telegram from Rome that the Holy Father, deeply impressed by the frank though dutiful language of Mgr. Ramirez, Bishop of Tamaulipas, has condescended to receive the commission that the Emperor Maximilian had sent from Mexico to discuss the question relating to the property of the Clergy. The worthy Prelate is said to have informed the Sovereign Pontiff that, as Bishop, he submitted beforehand to whatever His Holiness might in his wisdom decide; but he felt it at the same time to be his duty to represent to him the numberless dangers which would threaten the internal repose and tranquillity of Mexico unless the Holy See, while it upheld the immutable principles of the Church, were to make for the pacification of a country which had been subjected to such lengthened trials, the same paternal concessions which it had granted in favour of Spain.—*Memorial Diplomatique*.

The Roman National Committee, in its last circular, has put forward propositions for a loan, to meet the expenses of certain emergencies which it considers imminent. It appears that these emergencies are to have come to the climax of their execution about the period when the Franco-Italian Convention will take effect, as the shares, which are made for 50 scudi each, are reimbursable at the end of September, 1866.—*Correspondent of Morning Post*.

The backward behaviour of Protestant visitors to Catholic churches affords a constant subject of criticism to the Continental press. The females are worse than the males, and seem lost to all sense of modesty. The subject is from the Roman Correspondent of the *Tablet*.

A friend in the English tribune assured me that the Society's agents were most zealous in their endeavours to hinder their neighbours' devotions, and that the remarks and sneers of Mrs. and Miss Viator Britannicus and their Yankee sisters were even more irreverent and foolish than ever, while their acts were even more unpleasant to those in their neighbourhood. Dried fruits, cakes, and sugar plums were handed from one bench to the other with a *sang froid* and impertinence sufficient to disgust any pious and reverent mind, turning the house of prayer, if not into a den of thieves, into a succursale of Spillmann's luncheon rooms. When will Protestants learn to observe decency in the Roman churches? If they object to our worship on religious grounds, why, in the name of consistency, do not they go to their own chapel outside the walls? We should not miss them, and Catholics would be able to assist at Mass in some sort of recollection and quiet, and pray for their conversion, at least to a sense of good breeding.—*Correspondent Tablet*.

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.—The accounts of the kingdom of Naples are principally varied by a report of General Raccagnano on the condition of the Island of Sicily which speak of it as untenable much longer, in consequence of the increase of crime, disorder, resistance to conscription and discontent in all classes. The result is a strong tendency to a restoration on the part of even the liberals, so the roughly is the national sentiment gaining daily ground.

A most absurd canard was in circulation last week of a disembarkation of Garibaldi's army at Porto D'Anzio. It was even said that they were armed and dressed in red shirts, and preceded by a band of music, and the Pontifical gendarmery and St. Nae's dragoons were sent to scour the Campagna, and are still encamped there on detachment duty. The truth seems to be that some Neapolitan reactionaries, too hard pressed by the Bersagliers near Terracina, took a boat and landed on the coast, returning immediately to their own mountains across the Pontine Marshes, as they have never been seen or heard of since the first alarm. The Papal Government, however, being jealous of preserving a strict neutrality within its confines, as it has ever been, stationed the troops on the spot with strict orders to prevent any sort of infraction of territory either by the Royalists or the Piedmontese.

I may mention a perfectly false statement here on the part of the Turin Roman correspondent a few days since, to the effect that certain bands near Terracina are commanded by the Comte de Christen. M. de Christen's health was so completely undermined by the treatment he underwent in prison, that since his departure from Rome, on the requisition of the Italian government in 1864, he has been utterly incapable of taking any active part in military or political life, and has most certainly never set foot on Neapolitan soil since his transfer to Northern Italy.

Anyone wishing to know how political prisoners are treated by the King of Italy, is requested to read the following extract from the *Movimento* Garibaldian journal for the prison regime observed towards the unhappy men taken on board the Annis in 1863, and condemned for reaction:—Cipriani la Galea, the brigand chief, has been transferred a few days since to the Bagno della Foca of Genoa. He is confined in a cell constructed expressly for him two yards long, one yard and a half wide, and two yards high. He is chained with iron weighing twenty kilograms fixed at one end to the wall and only allowing him a yard to move about in. Light and air only reach him through a small grate of iron bars in the door, and which moreover his iron prevent him from reaching. His bed is a stone bench on which is thrown a straw pallet and a blanket, and at the foot a hole which serves as a necessary.

Opposite the door is placed a sentinel watched by two others, and who is shut into a corridor with barred windows and strong doors. Every three hours the gaolers visit their prisoner to inspect the dungeon and to bring his daily ration of soup, bread, and water. They are forbidden for six months to communicate with him or address a word to him. His brother Gianna is treated in the same manner at Porto Ferrato.

It is stated that Cipriani la Galea has complained that he is treated like a wild beast, and that he has said that death would be preferable a thousand times to such an existence.

Whatever may have been said to the charge of this unhappy man (and the principal evidence against him being a miserable apostate Priest), your Catholic readers will give due weight to the accusations, no one can deny that he refused, the most brilliant offers on the part of the Italian government to desert the cause of Francis the Second, and treatment such as is here described is what man has no right even for the greatest crimes to inflict on his fellow, much less for the satisfaction of a political vengeance. Let the advocates of humanity and progress compare such a punishment with the worst tortures of the Pagan era, and they will find how slight improvement has been made by the *solidiam* apostles of philanthropy. I will not insult the memory of Ferdinand the Second by making any comparison on the matter. I was in Nisida and saw the political Bagnes in 1850 at the epoch of Poorio's transfer to Monte Sarcidolo, but the dungeons held no such horrors as this.—*Cor. of Tablet*.

## AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, April 29.—On the proposal of Dr. Berger the Lower House of the Reichsrath to-day unanimously voted an Address to the American people, expressing their sympathy on account of the assassination of President Lincoln.

## POLAND.

The correspondent of the *Post* writes from Cracow April 17:—

It appears from the letters which are received here from Lithuania that the Russians there are beginning to find the 'Russification' of the country no easy task. As often happens where the governing race is less civilised than the governed, the cases are becoming frequent where, after a short stay in the country, the Russian officials, both civil and military have taken such a liking to the Poles, and have so entered into their feelings and modes of thought, that it has been found necessary to remove them into the interior of Russia in order to bring them to a more proper sense of their duties as Russians. This is the case not only with the more educated classes, but even with the common soldiers.

As to the peasantry, whom the Government thought would easily be moulded into Russians when the bait of their masters' land was held out to them, they have shown small gratitude to their pretended benefactors. The obedience and loyalty which they showed at first, before the lands were distributed, has vanished now that they are in possession. In several villages the peasants have risen against the Russian authorities, and although these partial outbreaks have been carefully concealed by the Government the executions and deportations of peasants, which have lately been unusually numerous, are a substantial proof of discontent among the agricultural classes. The more this discontent spreads in the villages, the greater is the favour with which those who profess a wish to adopt the Russian language and religion are treated by the Government.

A new commentary on the laws of the country has just been published, which gives so large a scope to the interpretations of every kind that is now possible legally to concede any demand made by a peasant, however unjust it may be, and the authorities avail themselves largely of this privilege.

It is found, however, that the peasants are only friendly to the government so long as they want to get something out of it; but that their antipathy to the officials is such that they take the first opportunity to assert their independence and stand on their rights as proprietors.

The committees which have been formed for the purpose of carrying out the new laws are the most grotesque combinations possible of men of different professions. In the Rosien district the committee consists of the light comedian of a company of strolling players, a player on the *violinello*, who has lost his pupils, and a sort of jack-of-all-trades, who has tried his hand at a nearly every profession, and has failed in all. These men have the whole of the property in the district entirely at their mercy, and it may easily be imagined that their decisions are of the most arbitrary and capricious character. To their other duties they often add that of a missionary, openly going among the peasants for the purpose of converting them to the orthodox religion. The Roman Catholic Church is, of course, the chief object of persecution. At every sermon preached by the village curate a Russian soldier is present, who interrupts the priest at every sentence which is not consistent with his notions of orthodoxy.

## RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, April 29. The new Press law has been promulgated. The *Journal de St. Petersburg* publishes a semi-official article expressing sympathy with the American people on account of the assassination of Mr. Lincoln and hoping that Mr. Johnson will prove himself to be a worthy successor of the deceased President.—*Reuter*.

St. Petersburg, May 2.—An Imperial manifesto has been published to-day proclaiming the Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovitch heir to the Crown. An Imperial decree, also published to-day extends to the Prussian frontier the right of the Customs authorities to seize, within a distance of 50 versts from the frontier, all merchandise liable to duty and the owners of which have no official certificate to show that such duty has been paid.—*Reuter*.

## UNITED STATES.

CONDITION OF THE SOUTH.—Agricultural prospects in the interior of Eastern Virginia are, as we learn, far from being good. Persons who have just arrived from Richmond and have had opportunities of knowing the condition of the agricultural region for some hundreds of miles around that place, report that the danger of a general famine in a large portion of the State is imminent. There will be no crops of wheat or corn; none of roots; and none which can be relied upon to sustain life. Next autumn and winter will, therefore, bring famine upon the population both white and black, and famines is often attended by pestilence. There is absolutely no seed corn to be obtained in some counties where worn-out crops have been successfully attempted. On the James and other rivers, where agriculture has been the sole and always remunerating pursuit of the inhabitants for two centuries, no sign of cultivation is visible, and but very few cattle remain, and those few in a starving condition. Slave labor is disorganized, and free black labor cannot be obtained. White labor, not common or easily procurable before the war, cannot now be procured at all. The returned soldiers have neither means nor disposition for the cultivation of the soil. Fences have disappeared—even the wattleing as well as rails—and horses, cattle, or fowls no longer abound, as they did before the war on the 'old plantation.' In fine, the prospect is, that great suffering will be experienced in portions of Virginia, and other of the insurrectionary States, next winter, unless the inhabitants be supplied with provision by the liberality of the National Government and people.

Something might be done for their benefit, as has been stated, by supplying them now with seed corn, seed potatoes, &c. The vicinity of Norfolk, which has, during the war, been made the military protection of the United States, has been very productive in fruits and vegetables, though not to so great an extent as before the war. The abundance of scale and shell fish and of wild fowls has also been to that region a great resource. Our own markets in this city are now supplied with peas and strawberries, and other early products of the fields around Norfolk. From the same region all the Northern cities are at this season supplied with the earliest fruits and vegetables. The Valley of Virginia is so completely desolated by the war, that it can hardly be expected to afford supplies of food this season, for its population. Transportation in nearly all portions of the rebel South, is almost impossible, in consequence of the destruction of railroads and the want of material and capital for their repair and

relay. General Grant has determined, as we learn to rebuild no railroads which the rebels have themselves destroyed; and it will be a year before these roads will be in a condition for use again. This applies to all the rebel States. Their system of internal communication by railroads, which was brought to such perfection that it served the purpose of an immense trade before the war, and a vast amount of transportation during the war, is almost annihilated. The means of transportation and of production have together disappeared. Production, was at one time, in the South, in excess of the means of transportation, and had always kept pace with it, but now production is so far diminished that it could not employ even the present limited transportation.—*National Intelligencer*.

SECRET MILITARY TRIALS.—There is a curious old document in existence, known as the Constitution of the United States, which formerly had the force and effect of law in that large portion of our country not specially denominated by the Slave Power. Under the rule of our present Cabinet, it seems to have gone out of fashion; and since Mr. Stanton's accession to the control of the War Department, it has become practically obsolete. Loyal citizens did not much mind this while Civil War convulsed the country, threatening the permanent overthrow of our Liberty and Nationality; but now that the War is practically ended, it seems high time that the old parchment were exhumed and treated with some show of respect. There being, apparently, no copy extant in the Federal City, we quote from one in our possession, for the instruction and admonition of our magistrates, certain amendments proposed by the States when ratifying the instrument, which, being duly approved and adopted, became an integral part of our fundamental law—as follows:—

Art. V.—No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall he be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Art. VI.—In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and a public trial, by an impartial Jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed which district shall have been previously ascertained by law; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Art. VII.—In suits at common law, wherein the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by Jury shall be preserved; and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.

Art. VIII.—Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

We have made our citations full, not merely in deference to the apparent inaccessibility of the document at Washington, but because we wished every reader to see that the passages are not garbled or picked, but that they are of the essence and vitality of the Constitution itself. Being so, how can we justify, or excuse, or even keep silence with regard to the Military Trials just initiated at Washington? A miscreant, acting in concert with other assassins, has attempted the life of the Secretary of State, and though his purpose was defeated, he nevertheless severely wounded Gov. Seward, his oldest son, and two or three others who nobly resisted him. Of course, this villain and his confederates should be sternly dealt with; but why not according to law? Why reason, what excuse, can be urged, to justify the sending of this case before a Court-Martial and having it tried in secret? How can such a trial be reconciled with the plain provisions of the Constitution above quoted?

As to the Military trial of those who conspired with Booth to assassinate the President, and aided to achieve that fell purpose, the outrage is not quite so flagrant; but such trial is at best a blunder, while enshrouding it in secrecy is utterly indefensible. To try a doctor for his life, because he set a stranger's broken bone and gave, or sold, or lent him a pair of crutches, may just do; but to try him in secret allowing no report of the testimony but such as the prosecution sees fit to make is nothing less than abominable. Two months ago, it would have been endured for the country's sake; now there is no reason that it should be. We warn all who take any voluntary part in these strange proceedings that the Rebellion is suppressed, the War at an end, and the right to suspend the privilege of habeas corpus and make the will of a Secretary of War the supreme law of the land, has expired. If our present Secretary cannot be made to realize these great truths, it is high time he had a successor; and if our Attorney-General believes the assailant of Secretary Seward now legally triable before a Military Commission, he badly needs his own time for the completion of his legal studies, while Government needs a different law officer. There may be politer ways of setting forth these convictions, but none of these would do them justice.

Gentlemen of the Cabinet! The War eastward of the Mississippi is ended; the Rebellion is suppressed, the Union is re-established, and Peace virtually restored; wherefore the People demand of you a speedy and thorough return to the safe and orderly ways of Law and Liberty. Do not compel them to speak in tones that you cannot refuse to hear.—*New York Tribune*.

A Down Easter advertises for a wife after the following fashion:—'Any gal what's got a cow, a good feather bed with comfortable firs, \$500 in hard tender—one that's had the measles, and understands tending children—can find a customer for life by writing in a small billy-dox, addressed to Q Z, and stickin it in a crack in Uncle Ebenezer's barn, back side, jinia the hog pen.'

A friend of ours passing a laborer the other day, who was engaged in setting stone posts, was curious to know their object, and therefore inquired: 'What are you setting those posts for?' 'Fifty cents apiece,' replied Pat.

'Live-Yankee' being awakened by the captain of a steamboat with the announcement that he must occupy his berth with his boots on, replied, 'Oh! the bugs won't hurt 'em much, I guess; they are an old pair—let them rip!'

Fletcher, Bishop of Nismes, was the son of a tall-chandler. A proud duke once endeavored to mortify the prelate by saying, at the levee, that he smelt the tallow; to which the bishop replied, 'My lord, I am the son of a tallow-chandler, it is true, and if your lordship had been the same, you would have remained a tallow chandler all your life.'

The following is the verdict of a negro jury:—'Who de undersigned, bein a korn'er's jury to sit on de body ob de nigger Sambo, now dead and gone afore us, hab bin sittin' on the said nigger afore said, did on de night ob de fust teenths ob November come to de fallin' ob de bridge ober de river in de said river, war we find be was subsequently drown, a'terwards wasted on the ribber side, whar we a'pose he war froze to deef.'

The following is the new mode of parsing down East. 'I Court.—Court is very active, indicative mood, present tense and agrees with all the girls in the neighborhood.'