

a like nature, were truly assiduous. The order was given by the viewer of the colliery, Mr. Johnson, for some men to descend the pit to render what succour they could to those still remaining in it. On this order being given, it was readily responded to by the men, who rushed forward, resolved to brave all danger, and only anxious to be permitted to go down. At twenty-seven minutes past eleven o'clock a boy and a man were brought to bank, the latter saying, "I am all right." About this time slight showers of rain fell, and the wind was piercing cold, yet the people did not move, so great was the excitement that prevailed. At two o'clock a great quantity of water had to be thrown upon some smouldering brattices lying at the bottom of the pit, fears being entertained that the flames would burst out again, and so cut off all chance of saving the men and boys—about thirty in number—who were all still in a perilous position in the pit. At three o'clock in the afternoon a man was brought up, who stated that the men and boys, who had endured thirty-six long hours of suspense in the pit, were beginning to be "very bad," and requested some water and stimulants to be sent down to them, and more men to search the workings. Of course this request was immediately responded to. At half-past four the last two of the men who came up alive were brought to bank, making a total, men and boys, of seventy six persons saved.

One man states that on Thursday night seventeen or eighteen of the imprisoned men and boys gathered round the furnace fire, and remained for a considerable time, until they were afraid that the gas would be drawn to the fire, and so cause an explosion. To prevent this calamity, they put out the fire, and remained in darkness until they were rescued, with the exception of the glimmering light from a lamp or two for a short period. Other men and boys were in other parts of the workings. One man, on being asked how they spent the time, said he had laid down to sleep at nine o'clock, and slept soundly. Many engaged in prayer, and others joked in order to keep up their spirits, especially the boys.

INDIA.

THE AFFAIR BETWEEN THE POLICE AND REBELS AT RAHIMABAD.—A spirited and decisive affair between the police and a large body of rebels is thus described by *The Daily News* Bombay correspondent:—"On the 10th, Captain Dawson, with Mr. Kavanagh, the civil officer who distinguished himself by guiding Sir Colin Campbell into Lucknow, with 550 military police, proceeded to witness an assemblage of the zemindars who had agreed to meet at Rahimabad. One of the chief men was anxious to assist us in restoring a friend of ours to his position. The police had hardly got half way when this man wrote, warning them that the malcontent portion of the meeting had been reinforced, and now mustered 3,000 infantry and 1,200 cavalry. Nothing daunted, our little party determined to push on. When within a mile of the town they observed the enemy's cavalry hovering in their front. Dawson charged them at once, and drove them into the town, driving them from street to street. At a corner a gun, placed in good position, suddenly opened upon them. As they approached it was withdrawn, when our men dashed after it, under a heavy fire from the loop-holed walls. It was overtaken as it entered a large wooden gate, and captured instantly. The draft cattle had, however, strayed, and our men were exposed to such a frightful fire while securing it that they were withdrawn into a better position for commanding the enemy. The gun being at length secured, was very effectively turned against its late owners. The buildings were all in our possession save the gate, and this was now knocked down, when its defenders surrendered themselves on promise of their lives. In this very brilliant little action we had 12 killed and 16 wounded; the enemy had 70 killed, 26 wounded, and 25 made prisoners. The soldiers of a friendly chief, who had accompanied us as allies, played the part of the Belgians at Waterloo—fled the moment the fire began, and reappeared when the victory was over. Burud Sing, who had professed to be our friend and gave us the information, never joined us at all until after we were in possession of the place, when he applied for an escort to protect him. Not only has this victory proved important in itself, but it shows the enemy what raw levies under English discipline and command can effect without either guns or cavalry. 550 newly raised policemen drove 4,000 of the rebels, provided with cavalry and artillery, out of a highly defensible town where the buildings were loop-holed and every house a fortress. We have not less than some 20,000 men in Oude or around its borders in arms against us, but some of the large chiefs are beginning to drop in. As the fair weather opens operations will be resumed with greater activity, and as the utter hopelessness of their cause must be beginning now to become apparent even to the blindest, it is to be hoped that by New Year's Day tranquillity will be to a greater extent restored between the Gomtee and the Junna."

MURDERS OF THE DYING.—A missionary writes to the *Times* as follows:—"There are thousands of my countrymen who hear of great murders, and other horrors of India, but few realize them. Let me just give them an idea of the reality. At present I am residing near the Hooghly, not far from Calcutta, and see like the following constantly occur under our windows. For example, about midnight we hear the noise of a number of natives going down to the river, there is a pause, then a slight muttering, and sometimes you may catch the sound of some one as if choking; it is truly a human being, a man who

is having his mouth crammed with mud and dirty water by 'his friends.' 'Hurree bol! hurree bol!' they urge him to repeat, and when he appears dead they push his body into the stream, then, singing some horrid song, they depart. Soon the tide washes the body ashore, and then we hear the dogs and jackals quarrelling over their horrid meal, as they tear the corpse limb from limb. In the morning a few vultures are sitting around the spot, and nothing remains but a few bones to attest one murder out of hundreds, perhaps thousands, committed every night on the course of this dreadful river! Within one-eighth of a mile, I have counted the remains of six human bodies, and it is said that when property is in question, it is not always a sick man who is thus treated. Surely these are crimes which ought to be put down by any government, and which should be suppressed purely as being hostile to the fundamental principles of authority in any state."

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* announces the arrival of the Emperor at the Camp at Chalons on Saturday evening. He was received with vociferous demonstrations of loyalty by the troops.

An interesting discussion has arisen in Paris from an article by M. Paradol on the liberty of worship in France. He contends that the practice by no means coincides with the principle enunciated in the French constitution. The *Univers* sets up a contrary hypothesis, and even ventures to assert that England is not so liberal as France in this particular. The fact quoted in support of this curious statement is in itself true enough. We are reminded by the *Ultra-montane* print that English reformers laboured for many years before they could obtain admission in the Legislature for a single Jew.

ITALY.

THE VINTAGE.—Another month has gone, and nothing of a remarkable or exciting nature to record. Throughout the goodness of God, the poor peasantry of Northern and Central Italy, have the prospect of a tolerably abundant vintage, after seven years of disappointment, and in many cases, of absolute ruin. A failure in the vintage or the olive crop, immediately throws the small farmer into arrears with his landlord; and when this happens for a number of years in succession, you can imagine the misery produced. This year the vine disease—though still making its appearance in some places—is not so general as in past years, and as the *raccolta* has already begun in Central Italy, it is to be hoped that the vintage will be secured without further extension of its ravages. It is impossible, however, to make sure of this, as the disease (just like the potato disease at home) often manifests itself in a single night. Last night, I passed along a road where, a fortnight ago, there was not a trace of the disease, but now the beautiful festoons between the trees showed half their clusters black and shrivelled, as if they had been scorched by fire; and the peasants were busy gathering the clusters yet untouched, though many of them only half ripe, and conveying them to the wine-press.

Another remarkable sign of the times, is the announcement that the railway from Civita Vecchia to Rome is to be opened in November. What would Gregory XVI. say, if he could rise from his grave—I beg pardon—come down from the niche above one of the doors of St. Peter's, where they have plastered him up, until Pio Nono is ready to take his place? But ten years ago, when the old man died, there was a withering anathema in force against any one who should attempt to make, or even name, the making of a railway within the States of the Church! But Rome cannot set the world at defiance, however much disposed; public opinion, though tardily, makes itself felt even there, and gas-light and steam are waging war against its outer darkness.

In connexion with this intellectual and moral darkness, it would be a curious, and most instructive document, could a full and reliable census, not only of Rome, but of the whole of the States of the Church, be got, including full returns of the number of the population, able to read and write, and the number absolutely unlettered—I mean, who do not know A from B. Such a census has been taken in Piedmont, on the last night of the year 1857; on the accuracy of which we may rely, and from some of the items of which, an approximative guess might be made of the state of education in the Roman States. I daresay your readers are scarcely prepared for the startling announcement, that in the large, prosperous, commercial city of Genoa, the number of persons resident within its walls on the night of 31st December, 1857, who did not know the alphabet, amounted to 45 per cent. of the whole population! The journals have taken up the question, and while admitting fully the woful deficiency in education, still proclaim aloud, that little more than ten years ago, when the priestly party had it all their own way, the number of the population of Genoa absolutely ignorant of the very elements of education, amounted to 75 per cent. of the whole!

How such be the condition of Genoa as regards education, the second city in the kingdom, what must the condition of the country districts be?

TURKEY.

Never since the beginning of the late war have the political elements here seemed so much disturbed as at the present moment, the immediate occasion being the discussion going on in regard to the finances of the empire, and certain changes in the ministry, and in the use of public funds growing out of these discussions. The city is so full of rumours that I am quite at a loss to know what to believe. There is even much talk about a rising up of the Mohammed-

dans against the Christians and Franks, and a general massacre, which has gained so much credence, as to lend some English ladies here to prepare for themselves native dresses in which to disguise themselves, if need be. I, for one, cannot suppose that the Turks of Constantinople are so perfectly demented, as to undertake such a thing, for it would seal their doom at once and for ever. The Sultan was going on at a fearful rate of extravagance in demolishing old palaces and building new ones for himself and his children; and thus squandering millions and millions of the public money, in a perfectly useless way. No less than seven large palaces are in the course of construction, besides as many more smaller ones, all of them of the most solid and costly materials. Within a few days past the work on these buildings has been mostly suspended, for the public treasury is exhausted, and, moreover, it was ascertained that those officers of the government, who had the particular charge of construction, were themselves pocketing a large part of the money appropriated.

Furthermore, the ladies of the Sultan's harem have lately been going into the greatest extravagance in the purchase of jewels and costly dresses, in which operations they were egregiously imposed upon by dealers in the articles with whom they transacted the business. Now, Riza Pasha has been appointed by special firman to have charge over all the expenses of the Sultan's women, and great is the consternation produced in the harem, and also in the bazaars. It is said that he is even ferreting out past abuses in this department, and causing many most respectable swindlers to disgorge their unlawful gains; some of whom have been also sent into exile. Some such steps as these became necessary in order to inspire sufficient confidence in foreign banks, to procure a loan, so as to save the government from complete bankruptcy.

The Sultan has also put out of office his three sons-in-law, Ghalib Ali Pasha, Ethen Pasha, and Ilassui Pasha; thus showing his great impartiality. Whereunto all this will grow, who can tell? The Lord, who sees the end from the beginning, and who overrules all events to his glory, will take care of his own cause, and his own people, so that we may safely leave all in his hands.—*Cor of News of Churches.*

THE RECENT VISIT OF HER MAJESTY TO LEEDS.—Lady Fairbairn, the Mayoress of Leeds, has just had the honour of receiving from her Majesty a beautiful bracelet set with diamonds and turquoises, accompanied by a letter from Sir Charles Phipps, expressive of her Majesty's gratification for the attention the Royal Family received during their visit to Woolsley House, the residence of Sir Peter Fairbairn, the Mayor of Leeds, and also for the admirable arrangements so successfully carried out in the town of Leeds during her Majesty's visit.

The geological museum of the late Mr. Hugh Miller has been purchased by the Government for 500l. In addition to this sum, another, of about 600l. subscribed all over the country, with a view to the purchase of the collection, will be handed to Mr. Miller's widow. The collection will remain in the Edinburgh Museum.

On Saturday evening, at a quarter before eleven o'clock, the royal mail steamer *Prince Frederick William*, having on board his Royal Highness Prince Alfred and suite, arrived in the Dover harbour from Ostend, after a rapid passage of about four hours. Prince Alfred, attended by Lieutenant Cowell, left Buckingham Palace on Monday morning for Balmoral.

Mr. Walter Savage Lander has taken up his residence at Genoa, where his family, which is numerous, possess a fine estate; and one of the curious effects of the trial is, that it has had to a reconciliation between the aged poet and his wife, after a separation of forty years.—*Cheltenham Examiner.*

The bards of Wales have held their "great bardic meeting" at Llangollen. Prizes, in the shape of money and medals, were awarded to the successful writers of poems and essays. These meetings do much to preserve the Welsh national spirit.

Her Majesty is about presenting to the Emperor of China a steam-yacht, of the same equipment as that presented to the Emperor of Japan.—*Court Journal.*

The barbarous system of flogging in the army is just now flourishing in Chatham almost to the same extent that it did in Woolwich some time ago. Within the last few days no fewer than three soldiers have been tied up to the halberds and flogged for various offences. Some of these days, when another soldier happens to die under the lash, public indignation against the system will perhaps be revived.

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