

FRANCE.

THE MONITEUR OF Wednesday, the 17th, contains the following Imperial Decree.—"A full and entire amnesty is granted to all persons sentenced for political crimes and offences, or those who have been the objects of any measures taken for public security. (Une amnistie pleine et entière est accordée à tous les individus qui ont été condamnés pour crimes et délits politiques, ou qui ont été objet de mesures de sûreté générale.)"

The amnesty in France has been received with general approval. Its terms are very comprehensive, and it is hoped to forestall a gradual extension of liberty. The correspondent of The Herald says it is computed that 10,000 persons, transported within the last ten years, will take advantage of the imperial clemency and return to France.

The young Grand Duke of Tuscany arrived last week at Paris. He has been received by the Emperor, who invited him to remain for some time at Paris, in order to await what events may transpire.

The Emperor and Empress of France have left Paris for St. Sauveur, where they will remain for a little time before proceeding to Biarritz.

The Emperor's remarks upon the amnesty!—Another Napoleonic wonder! An amnesty, free, full, complete. Every fugitive, every exile, at liberty to return and fulfil all the duties of a French citizen under the Empire. No conditions required; no disabilities to remain Guiana's swamps, as well as Algeria's burning plains, to yield up their victims; and all under surveillance to walk by the guidance of their own eyes alone!

Not is this all. The press is also forgiven. All the warnings which any journal has received are to be considered as non-existing, and all are to start as under a new regime. Louis Blanc, and perhaps a few others, demand to forgiveness where there has been no offence, and think that they find their country only where they find freedom. Generally, our Press, as well as that of Paris, applauds, and the magnanimity of the Emperor is the word of the day. Evidently the Emperor feels himself stronger than before the Italian war. He is now sure of his army. He has not only petted it, but led it, sharing its dangers, and led it to victory too. He can afford to forgive his political enemies, when his success has made them powerless before his strength.

We may, possibly, then, hope that he will soon feel himself able to govern through free representation and free discussion. He has made a partial trial of adding to the triumph of foreign conquest the praises of domestic justice. He finds it enthusiastically responded to. He may, therefore, see fit to establish his popularity by concessions, one after another, to liberty; and his dynasty by linking it with institutions, which the French would as unwillingly surrender as they would the Code Napoleon. Of this, however, we can yet know nothing.

ITALY.

The CONFERENCE at Zurich appears to be making but little progress.

THE DUCHIES.

Meantime, the Duchies appear to be settling matters for themselves.

At Florence, the Assembly declared on the 16th inst., by an unanimous vote, that the dynasty of Lorraine could be neither recalled or accepted to reign in Tuscany. On Saturday they voted amidst cries of "Viva il Re!"—"That the Assembly declares it to be the firm will of Tuscany to form a strong part of the kingdom of Italy under the constitutional sceptre of King Victor Emmanuel."

In Modena, a similar course has been adopted. On Friday, the 19th inst., a member of the National Assembly, the Marquis Fontaneili, presented to the Chambers a proposal, declaring the forfeiture (dechéance) of the Austrian dynasty of Este to the Ducy, and the banishment from the State for ever of every Prince of the House of Hapsburg-Lorraine. On the following day, the Assembly, by an unanimous vote, declared the forfeiture of Francis V., and any other Prince of the House of Hapsburg-Lorraine, to the ducal throne. All the members of the Assembly were present. The Assembly then unanimously resolved, both by open voting as well as by ballot, "to confirm and maintain, even at the price of sacrifices, the union of the Modenese Provinces to the monarchial and constitutional kingdom of the glorious House of Savoy, under the sceptre of the magnanimous King Victor Emmanuel II."

CENTRAL ITALY.

A defensive league has been concluded between the States of Central Italy. Garibaldi has quitted the command of the army of the Alps, and has issued an "order of the day" to his former comrades. As has already been stated, he succeeds to the command of the army of the league of Central Italy: a force which, it is understood, will consist of about 40,000 men. He arrived on the 17th at Modena. On that day the Chevalier Farini left that place for Parma and Piacenza to assume the dictatorship offered to him. Popular enthusiasm was said to be very great in the two cities last named. The Gazette of Parma announces that the Government of the Duchy has given an order for 4,000 muskets, and has moreover supplied the

disbanded officers and men of the Riflemen of the Alps to take service under Parma. This preparation does not augur submissive intentions, but perhaps it is called for by the rumours which prevail of the impatience manifested by the Emperor of Austria at the delay in the restoration of the governors of the Duchies.

The Monitore di Bologna publishes a decree declaring all the citizens of the Romagna, without distinction of religion, equal in the eyes of the law, and in the exercise of their political rights. This appears to be a very common-place announcement in England, but in the Papal States it is all-important. Another very significant fact is that Father Gavazzi has been preaching at Bologna, an act which a few months ago, would have been highly dangerous to the eloquent reformer. A rumour prevails that the official journal of Rome will shortly announce important changes,—reforms which the Pope promised to the Emperor Napoleon. The retirement of Cardinal Antonelli gives a sort of authority to the report, though the correspondent of The Herald states that Antonelli still holds the office of Secretary of State. The Giornale di Roma announces his retirement from the office of President of the Council.

Our hopes for Central Italy certainly show us that the talons of the Austrian eagle are, after all, cut by the campaign which terminated in the armistice of Villafranca. But for this, the duchies would have had no opportunity to elect delegates, and to pronounce the perpetual exclusion of the half-Austrian dukes.

The Central Italian States appear to be taking steps to commence the Confederation of which the Emperors talked at Villafranca, though in a very different sense. They have arranged for mutual co-operation and common defence, and placed at the head of the union a leader whose antecedents fully justify their choice.

AUSTRIA.

The non-official portion of the Wiener Zeitung contains an article stating that there is a general feeling of anxiety in the public mind concerning the subjects which have been till now under serious deliberation by the Superior Council, and which are—

- 1. Regulations of the control of the Finances.
2. Free exercise of the Protestant religion.
3. The regulation of Jewish affairs.
4. The regulation of the municipalities.

The representation of the provinces will later come under consideration.

The article concludes thus:—"Too great caution in advancing is, as much to be avoided as too much haste."

Austria is evidently in no little fright. The Emperor has dismissed his old Minister of the Interior, Count Bach, and civilly sent him as Ambassador to Rome. Several other changes have been made, and the Superior Council is discussing such subjects as the finances, the free exercise of the Protestant religion, Jewish affairs, the municipalities; and is to discuss "the representation of the provinces." The article in the Government paper concludes with a sentence, the interpretation of which we commend to such of our readers as are fond of discussing political riddles:—"Too great caution in advancing is, as much to be avoided as too much haste." At Zurich little progress appears to be made.—Freeman.

INDIA.

The Governor General had appointed a day of thanksgiving for the suppression of the mutiny. Nevertheless, all the remainder of the intelligence is actually made up of accounts of battles with the rebels. This sounds odd; but the fact is, that the rebellion is not yet extinguished. In Gwalior, Major Meade had succeeded in destroying a body of the rebels—every man of them. There were troubles, too, and slight successes of the rebels in Rajpootana. In Allahabad the Sikh cavalry have followed the example of the Europeans and demanded bounty. It was feared that ten thousand of the European troops would demand their discharge.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S NERVOUS SHOCKS.—The Paris correspondent of The Court Journal states that the celebrated Cartesian nun, Collette, has arrived in Paris to accomplish the cure of an exalted and illustrious personage, who ever since the battle of Solferino, is said to have suffered so immensely from nervous shocks that sleep has entirely abandoned him; and that consequently, he has been compelled to turn night into day, and by transacting business after midnight, obtains a slight degree of repose at dawn. The form of torture which this distressing disease has taken is that of hallucination of the most impressive kind, nothing less than the most horrible and sickening scenes of the battle being enacted ver again each night visibly to the eye—no effect of the imagination, no image of the fevered brain, but all in their brute horror and ghastly carnage. The people here declare that the distress was so great on the first arrival of the illustrious personage that one most deeply interested in his welfare took upon himself to write the story of the case to the Pope, having more faith in the spiritual aid to be afforded by his Holiness than in the physical succour of the whole universe of doctors already called in. (The answer sent by his Holiness was borne by Scur Calcutta in person, and the result of her visit is already visible in the calmed nerves and soothed brain of the illustrious personage, who, although still far from sufficiently recovered to be able to take his hours of repose like the rest of the world, is so much improved as to remain silent during the attacks of the hallucination, instead of telling aloud, and with unconsciously hurried speech, the story of the bloody visions passing before his eyes.

THE RICHMOND POISONING CASE.—Another of these distressing trials for murder, which must rank with the Palmer and Madeleine Smith cases, has terminated this week by a verdict of Guilty against the prisoner. Dr. Smethurst seduced a lady of property to marry him, whether in ignorance or not of his being a married man, no mortal now will ever know; treated her as his wife, and kindly, too, for a time; but when she appeared to be in circumstances which would soon have compelled a disclosure of the second marriage, and have laid him open to prosecution for bigamy, with the certainty also of losing all her property, he conceived the diabolical scheme of murdering her by small doses of poison, so skillfully administered as even to deceive eminent medical men; while he wrote a will and induced her to sign it in her maiden name leaving all her property to him. He would thus avoid indictment for a felony, and secure her money at the same time.

As the law now stands, manslaughter, acquittal or murder are the only verdicts permitted. Dr. Smethurst was not guilty of manslaughter. If he was the cause of Miss Bankes's death, he was her murderer.

In his summing up the Chief Baron leaned unfavourably to the prisoner. Smethurst was found guilty on Friday afternoon, and sentenced to death by the Lord Chief Baron. Both upon and after the sentence he strongly asserted his innocence of the awful crime of which he had been convicted. Some doubts appear, however, to be entertained, notwithstanding the conviction and sentence of the prisoner, whether the capital sentence will be carried out.

A PRIZE ESSAY IN A SENTENCE.—The Charivari begs to inform the eccentric clergyman who has offered 50l. reward for the best essay on the best means of keeping up a good understanding between England and France, that it considers itself entitled to the prize for solving the question in one sentence, which is alone worth dozens of essays:—"Le meilleur moyen pour que l'Angleterre et la France s'entendent est de se parler moins haut." [France and England will understand each other much better if they don't talk so loud.]

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES TO CANADA.—The Prince of Wales, it appears, likely to proceed to Canada, to pay a visit to that vigorous and flourishing dependency of the British crown. Some of the entourage of his Royal Highness has, it is said, arrived at Liverpool, and will be shipped in a day or two.

THE MILITARY MOUSTACHE.—An order has been made at Parkhurst barracks, Isle of Wight, to the effect that private John Selzman, having shaved his upper lip, contrary to orders, shall be confined to barracks until his moustache grows again.—Hampshire Advertiser.

The first complete translation of Dr. Livingstone's Travels has just appeared in Paris.



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We hope none of our friends will be offended with us for this. They have the remedy in their own hands. Send on the amount of their subscription and we will assure them their names shall not appear amongst the delinquents.

A few words now about the subscription price.

One fact is worth a hundred arguments. We have been informed that one of our contemporaries has recently made it known that by the accumulations of debts and in consequence of the subscription price being too low to meet the outlay and delinquencies, the proprietor had in a few years become involved to the extent of £1500, and had debts due to that amount.

How mortified must honest men who subscribe to that periodical be to learn that such a state of things exists. We wish to avoid such a consummation, and therefore shall be prepared to use some means such as are above indicated as early as possible.