

ROMANISM IN FRANCE.—The conflict is thickening, and Rome is wielding all her influence against her "first-born." The suppression of the *Univers* is significant, and again the favourite phrase, "Julian the Apostate," is heard applied to the Emperor, whilst other Romanists a little more daring, say, "Remember the Apostate's death." Through the Association of St. Vincent de Paul, professedly a charitable institution, the Jesuits are exercising great power. Its central committee in Paris corresponds direct with the Vatican. Millions of poor and ignorant people received aid from these societies, and from them the priests obtain signatures to anything, and under their influence an outbreak might take place at any moment. Nothing but their suppression will ensure the safety of the Government; and this is daily expected. As a specimen of the addresses to the Pope which these people get up, our readers may take the following:—"Your independence is the salvation of human liberty. If the Pope were no longer king, the cross would be torn from every crown, and nothing could save the world, which would soon return to the worship of idols. O Father! O King! O most holy and immortal victim! on our knees, full of faith, full of love, we beseech your benediction on us."

A GENERAL COUNCIL.—The *Patrie* says it is rumoured that the Pope has finally resolved to call a General Council, to save the Holy See from its difficulties. The last took place in 1545 at Trent.

GIFTS TO THE POPE.—It is said, that the Emperor of Austria has sent to the Holy Father a New Year's gift, consisting of an order for 6,000*l.* The Pope immediately forwarded it to the public treasury. Queen Christina of Spain has also distinguished herself for her pious munificence. The King of Bavaria proposed to the Holy Father to send him several thousand volunteers, ready armed and equipped. The Archbishop of Dublin issued a pastoral, authorising a collection to be made on behalf of the Holy Father, on the first Sunday in Lent.

THE EVANGELIZATION OF ITALY.—Last Wednesday evening a meeting of the committee and friends of the Evangelical Continental Society was held at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge street, for the purpose of considering the subject of the evangelization of Italy. Sir C. E. Eardley occupied the chair. The Chairman having opened the proceedings, the Rev. B. H. Cowper, the secretary, gave a history of the Society's progress and objects. In referring to Italy, he remarked that the Scriptures, through the instrumentality of the Society, had been distributed in Parma, Modena, the Romagna, and other places. Upwards of 300*l.* had already been contributed for the cause of Italy. Several letters, among which was one from the Earl of Shaftesbury, apologising for absence, were then read. The Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel moved the first resolution, urging the continuance of active measures to promote the Lord's work in all those places which, in the providence of God, are now accessible. Other resolutions were also passed.—*London Paper.*

European & Foreign News.

FRANCE.

In the south of France the weather has been so severe that a sentinel was found dead of cold in his sentry-box at Lyons. Several persons have perished in the snow in the mountains of Dauphine, where they imprudently ventured in pursuit of game. Two boys, of eight and ten years of age, died from cold while returning from school.

The *Opinione*, of Turin, on Saturday, takes the Italian view of the cession of Nice and Savoy, and says that the last elections, in these places were certainly not favourable to their annexation to France. The Sardinian Government has placed implicit confidence in these provinces, and left them without soldiers, in order that their wish should be freely expressed; but the expressions of the *Opinione* further clearly intimate that terms might be proposed on which the cession would be entertained. It Austria were to evacuate Venetia, and that provinces were to be united to Piedmont, the cession of Savoy to France might be asked for and might be granted, but these questions the *Opinione* thinks had better not be discussed at present.

In opposition to the wishes of the Emperor, as implied in the suppression of the *Univers* for the publication of the encyclical letter of the Pope, the Papal document was read in all the churches of Paris on Sunday. This act was done in obedience to the orders of the Archbishop of Paris, who moreover ordered that public prayers should be offered till Easter, in order that his Holiness may overcome the tribulations and persecutions to which the Church is now exposed. "The tribulations and persecutions" of the primitive church must blush, if they are capable of so lively an action, to find themselves in competition with the trials of modern days.

The Treaty of Commerce between France and England is discussed with great interest by the German journals. A Hamburg letter states that the diplomatic agents of Prussia accredited to the German Governments composing the Zollverein have received instructions to encourage the tendency to a more liberal commercial system among the states of the Zollverein. Saxony, Hanover, and the states of Thuringia have already declared in favour of a reduction of customs' duties in all raw materials, and of a gradual approach to free trade.

The *Independence Belge* says that the proposals to be submitted by Mr. Gladstone to the House

of Commons as a consequence of the commercial treaty which was ratified on Saturday at Paris, are as follows:—

"Abolition of duties on all the productions of French manufacture.

"Assimilation of the duties of French spirits with those on English colonial spirits. The duty on those first named is at present 15*s.* a gallon, on the others only 7*s.*; the duty on French brandy would thus be lowered by 8*s.* a gallon.

"Immediate reduction of the duty on French wine to the extent of 2*s.* 9*d.* a gallon. The duty at present being 5*s.* 9*d.*, the new duty will only be 3*s.* a gallon.

"A second reduction of this duty from the 1st of April, 1861. The duty will be a minimum of 1*s.* and a maximum of 2*s.*, according to the quantity of alcohol which the wines may contain.

"A merely nominal duty on corn flour, and all articles made of flour.

"Reduction more or less important of the duties on all other articles imported from France.

"England reserves the right of allowing other nations to participate in these reductions, as well as of modifying hereafter the duties on wines and spirits, if the changes in our Excise shall render such modifications desirable.

"France on her part undertakes to make the following concessions, but none of them will take immediate effect:—

"Reduction of the duties on English coal and coke to a level with those imposed on the same commodities of Belgian produce.

"Abolition of the duties on wood and cotton.

"Reduction of the duty on iron and machinery.

"Abolition of prohibitions, for which *ad valorem* duties not exceeding 30 per cent, shall be substituted."

ITALY.

On the 22nd of January a great popular demonstration took place at Rome. "Down with Antonelli," "Down with the government of the priests," were favourite cries, and these shouts were mingled with applause for the French Emperor. The French commander in Rome tried to restore tranquillity by an order of the day, declaring that it was his mission to keep the city quiet, but the demonstration still continued. The Pope and his friends are said to feel quite confident in their own strength, and to have given the French leave to retire whenever they please. They rely, doubtless, on their own troops and the help of Austria.

News from Milan, however, informs us that the Pope's troops are not altogether at one among themselves. The Chasseurs and the Swiss at Ancona have come to blows, and 300 of the former, forty of whom were wounded in the fray, are now under arrest.

The Austrians appear to indulge in apprehensions of Italian discontent by the measures they are taking. The telegraphic accounts inform us that a large hospital has been established in Peschiera, and four new forts have been built there.

It is rumoured that the Pope is going to excommunicate Victor Emmanuel. The report is certainly not well authenticated, but the Pope is in one of those heroic moods in which people, often do very silly things, and it is possible, therefore, he may try the experiment. He must grievously have mistaken his victim and his victim's trusted minister, if he thinks they will quail before the mock thunders of the Vatican. Such a step would only lose the whole north of Italy to the Roman See.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Miss NIGHTINGALE is residing at Oakhill, but her health, though much improved, is far from being re-established.—*Court Journal.*

Seventy members of Parliament claim this session to be wholly excused from serving on election committees, on account of being more than sixty-years old.

IRISH EDUCATION.—Mr. Caldwell's reply to the Romish Bishops has been published. It is to the effect that the present Government are determined to maintain the present system of national education.

The new-born child of the Queen of Spain rejoices in the possession of sixty one names. The Queen gave \$15,000 to the poor the day of her delivery—which is more than Spanish bondholders have received this twelve months past.

PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE.—A very respectable mercantile firm, doing an extensive business in this city, have intimated to their constituents that "convinced of the numberless evils attendant upon the sale and consumption of spirituous liquors," they have "given up trading in them."—*Glasgow Free Press.*

The Supreme Court of Indiana has lately reversed a decree of divorce granted to Edmund McTigg on the ground that it had been obtained by fraud, and that Mr. McTigg was a resident of New York and not of Indiana, at the time when it was issued. The gentleman is left in an unpleasant predicament as he had married another lady soon after having been freed from his first wife.

A NUMEROUS DEPUTATION waited by appointment, on Lord John Russell, at Chesham place, to this in his hands a petition to the House of Commons, signed by upwards of 10,000 inhabitants of the City of London, in favour of Parliamentary Reform. In reply his lordship said he could not enter into any explanations, as he was going to introduce a bill on the subject in three weeks.

Honour is being paid to the memory of John Brown, the hero of Harper's Ferry, in the North of England. A great meeting was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Wednesday night, at which Mr. George Thompson delivered an eloquent address on the life and character of the brave old anti-slavery chief.

SYMPATHY WITH THE PROTESTANTS OF HUNGARY.—A great meeting was recently held in Glasgow, to express sympathy with the protestants of Hungary, in their present struggle for civil and religious freedom. It was decided that the resolution should be forwarded to M. Kossuth, for transmission to Hungary.

THE QUEEN AND THE VOLUNTEERS.—The morning papers are authorised to state that the Queen, having accepted the service offered by the very numerous corps of volunteers formed throughout the kingdom, has been graciously pleased to notify her intention of appointing a day for the special and exclusive reception of the officers of those corps, it having been represented to her Majesty that they generally are desirous of presenting themselves as volunteer officers before her Majesty. According to the *Gazette*, the reception will take place on Wednesday, the 7th of March.

A SERMON INTERRUPTED.—An odd circumstance happened in one of the Gloucester churches on Sunday se'night. The incumbent has a magnificent Newfoundland dog, which is much attached to its master, and while the rev. gentleman was preaching on the morning in question the dog entered the church, ran up into the pulpit, and laid its head on the cushion by the side of the MS. of the sermon. The preacher immediately seized the canine favourite, led him quietly down the pulpit stairs, and out of the church, and then returned to the pulpit and resumed the discourse which had been interrupted in so strange a manner.—*Cheltenham Examiner.*

THE SABBATH DESECRATION PARTY IN PARLIAMENT.—On the 9th of this month Sir John Trelawny was moved for a Select Committee to inquire "whether any hindrance exist to the enjoyment of Sunday as a day of rest; and whether, due regard being had to existing regulations for religious observances and conscientious opinions of the public it is in the power of Parliament to provide, or of this House to recommend further facilities for promoting the healthful recreation and improvement of the people, by placing institutions supported by general taxation within reach of the largest section of the taxpayers, at times and seasons when, by the ordinary customs of trade, such persons are free from toil." We hope the Christian public will be on the alert to meet this movement. We are glad to learn that the Committee of the Lord's-day Society are fully alive to the importance of the occasion, and that the Metropolitan Committee, which combines all denominations, will probably be convened forthwith.—*Record.*



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