

European and Foreign News.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

POLITICAL POSITION OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE—THE DIS-UNITED STATES AND THEIR QUARREL, PROBABLE EFFECTS ON EMANCIPATION—TROUBLES IN ENGLAND, LABOR VERSUS CAPITAL—STRIKES AND PROCESSIONS—EDUCATION—ANTICIPATION OF WAR IN EUROPE—GARIBALDI'S MOVEMENTS—KOSSUTH'S TRIAL IN ENGLAND.

MR. EDITOR,—

The advent of Spring has not this year brought with it the usual cheering influences in our social and commercial life. And the anticipations of a revival of political strife have scarcely yet been realized. The hero of Caprera has not yet found himself at the head of a million of brave Italian warriors, though March has come and gone. At home we have been chilled by the gloomy forebodings of coming evil, and abroad the well balanced plottings of diplomatists have caused the nations to rest in mutual distrust. A universal state of suspicious watchfulness has put every nation on its best footing to prepare for the worst. Our own government is not behind the most energetic to equip itself for possible events, and probably never was so completely armed, nor so thoroughly defended from hostile attack and I trust I may add, that there never was a period when England was more sincere in its hopes to maintain peace. The admirable doctrine of non-intervention exactly meets the sympathies of the people and come what may of the present ominous position of the great nations of Europe, we shall only be drawn into an entanglement with belligerents by unavoidable necessity. Could we but see some way into the future, how happy should we feel.

The serio-comic position of the Dis-united States puzzles us. Each party fearing the other—each daring the other,—both hastening to have its position acknowledged by the public opinion of Europe—and both legislating to the others detriment. The North grasping at Protection, taking most effective measures to reduce its own revenue, injure its own commerce, and beggar its own people. The South inviting the commerce of the world. The new government, if it can yet be so styled seems to understand the art of legislation better than its northern rival. We are somewhat astonished at the apparent timidity of those in office at Washington. The peculiar Constitution of the United States requiring a new set of officers so often as every four years must unavoidably impede the working of her institutions. It may be that time only is required to get the new men to work well in harness and we look for early evidence of some sort of administrative ability. Of course we hope President Lincoln will be magnanimous enough to propose some bold scheme of peaceful settlement. So that the honor of the United States be saved, we would not regret the secession of those troublesome members of the Union. The Slave States may very well form a Confederacy of themselves, and will work more harmoniously with the world, when thus they tell all the world they are a Union of States combined for the special purpose of securing to themselves the liberty of raising and keeping Slaves, than when in union with the Northern States they cast a gloom over, and fettered the hands of the whole union. It is our firm belief that the oppressed slaves will be greatly advanced by secession, by complete separation. Abolition of Slavery may be distant. Hostilities between New York and Charleston; between Washington and Montgomery, between President Lincoln and President Davis, might soon make an end of Slavery, but to achieve that end far far greater evils might be incurred! Happily it is the destiny to all wrongs to work their own destruction. And the gradual destruction of Slavery must be the result of a free scope to the system. The effects to us are not yet to be calculated. When strong feelings are suppressed and some ground of common agreement be found, then trade will resume its normal activity and it is the common feeling here that we shall not be any losers by the secession. The evident policy for the Confederate States must be towards Free Trade, and our exports will simply go to Southern ports rather than to the Northern. Our imports from North America will scarcely be affected. Then it will be no little gain to us to have two small governments weakening each other by mutual jealousies and divided interests in place of one large agglomeration of touchy tempers ever ready to take offence, and parade their bouncing pretensions before all the world. This little domestic quarrel will tend to sweeten their tempers and make Americans more amiable than ever.

We at home are passing through a time of social trial. Past prosperity and growing intelligence amongst the masses of working classes have created certain feelings of dissatisfaction with their position. Operatives hold a higher position than ever before. In exchange for their labour they enjoy more of the necessaries and luxuries of civilized life than ever, and have enjoyments and leisure such as their sires never knew. So far, good, a knowledge of the principles of social economics is beginning to be diffused. The power of combination is understood. But at this point they fail. Truly some one says "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." The working classes do not know enough to enable them to use their knowledge aright; and are now very extensively suffering from their ill-judged, impetuous opposition to Capital. The combination of the wages' class to get more money for their labor or to give less labor for their money is wide spread. The latter phase of the question is the one more generally approved just now. This as an abstract idea, is an excellent thing. With all the wondrous inventions to lessen labour, and increase production by mechanical improvements it cannot be necessary for man to slave himself inordinately to obtain a subsistence. Time was when twelve hours work in the day was a reasonable demand, for in many occupations 16 hours was a day's work; but gradually a day's work has been shortened to 10 hours or even less in some employments. The builders of London have been on strike, demanding to be allowed to work only 9 hours, but this week the dire calamity of a protracted strike has been asserted by an agreement to work 10 hours a day for 5 days, and 6 1/2 hours on Saturday, and to be paid 7d. per hour, so that the weekly wages will be equal to what it was and the men will be the gainers of the Saturday half-holiday. This plan of ceasing the week's work at one o'clock on Saturday is becoming very general now in large towns and must command our approbation. So also must every reduction in the hours of manual labor. Supposing always that it is effected by peaceful means, by mutual concession and good understanding. The present time however is a most unfortunate one for a struggle with capital. Political and commercial affairs are not so favorable as to give much chance of success to labor, when it is fairly engaged in a struggle for supreme power. In the manufacturing district the state and prospects of trade are exceedingly dull, and unfortunately the operatives have availed themselves of this time to set themselves in opposition to their employers. Large advances were made to wages a while ago, and notice being given of a proportionate reduction now, the workers refuse to accept the terms offered. Consequently the mills and factories are standing idle in some districts. In Lancashire there are probably fully 50,000 persons now voluntarily idle. Of course these are suffering from want. In some districts they receive a small amount from a fund raised by their own class who remain at work, and some get a little relief from the public. Hundreds of families are broken up. Migrations to more settled districts are common. These reckless proceedings greatly retard the permanent elevation of the class and detract much from their means of self-improvement. The principle of co-operation is much employed but if more generally used by the operatives we should have an evident improvement in their habits. There are thousands of striving, saving, intelligent men and women, who quietly endure the tyranny of the vociferous multitude, who according to the custom of mob law rule these strikes, and who would gladly work at the market rate of wages, if permitted to do so, and wait patiently for the return of better trade to recover again the reduction.

All riots and mobs it is said are chiefly made up of youths. Well, in the manufacturing districts the public opinion of the class is expressed by young men and young women, just those who have few responsibilities, who have not lived long enough in all the world to have suffered from any very hard times, who do not remember the sufferings of previous strikes. Leaving out of the number both males and females under 18 years of age, I question if amongst the remainder so many as two per cent could be found to give an unfettered vote in favor of a strike; yet all are held in a grievous bondage by some hidden power which none seem to realize. Happy would it be for them if some one would arise to show them the true way to organize themselves to secure individual liberty, and put an end to the processions of three or six thousands for the purpose of intimidating and overawing the weak. With co-operative factories more common, the people will feel themselves interested to secure a steadiness in trade; and it would

be felt that strikes never can do good. Having this opinion many wealthy capitalists are the warm supporters of the operatives in their efforts to establish such works. It is not only the factory operatives, but colliers, hatters, painters and various other trades that seem now to have organized to make a united effort to promote the same end, a reduction of hours of labour.

The Royal Commission appointed some two or three years ago to enquire into the state of Education have at last published their report. It is said to be a most elaborate digest of the whole question of popular education, and to suggest various changes on our present system of partial aid to schools, the chief of which are, dividing the cost between the County Rate and the Parliamentary grant, and leaving the supervision of and payment to teachers to School managers. It is recommended that a class of School Examiners should be appointed to see that every scholar paid for is well instructed in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. This individual examination will work well to secure for these important subjects of instruction, more careful attention.

The latest rumours from the French Capital indicate a fear of War, and recent intelligence from Italy gives some weight to the opinions that thoughtful men entertain that we shall not pass the Summer over without hostile encounters between Italy and Austria. Openly all profess to be determined not to begin a quarrel; but events seem fast ripening, and it would take very little to begin the games.

Garibaldi has left his island home, has had an interview with the King of Italy at Turin, but we are left to conjecture the subject of Conference. He has invited his old officers to meet him, and it is said, that a very strong organization exists for embodying a large army at short notice. The timidity of Austria shows itself in her action. She may well fear an invasion of Garibaldians for in all her provinces there is a strong feeling against the recent policy of the Emperor. The very liberal constitution recently given and even now almost in operation is repudiated by Hungary and Servia and Transylvania. The Hungarians have continued to exercise great discretion. They steadily demand their rights and refuse to concede a point by accepting less than all the claims.

Our liberals are lending what countenance they can to Louis Kossuth in his defence of the action against him by the Emperor of Austria concerning the notes he was preparing, in anticipation of again being called to hold his office of Governor of Hungary. Should the action go on I suppose the Emperor will have to prove his title to the Kingdom of Hungary. This will be interesting.

One element in Italy's greatness may be noticed here. Victor Emmanuel has been officially recognized as King of Italy by four powers, England, Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark.

HASTINGS.

Manchester, April 5th, 1861.

FRANCE.

The Bishop of Poitiers, who lately likened the Emperor Napoleon to Pontius Pilate for his conduct towards the Pope, was summoned to answer for his outrageous language before the French Council of State. The Prelate, however, denied the jurisdiction of that body over an ecclesiastic conscientiously discharging his duty by warning his clergy against pernicious doctrines, adding rather pitifully, that there was no proof of his offensive comparison being really intended for the Emperor. The Council of State has condemned and formally reprimanded the Bishop for his bad language.

The chief editor of the Paris Patrie complains of the presence of the Orleans Princes by invitation at the funeral of the Duchess of Kent as encouraging divisions in France; but the answer is satisfactory enough, namely, that those Princes were related to the lamented Duchess.

ITALY.

The debate in the Chamber at Turin on the propriety of claiming Rome as the capital of Italy was brought to a close on Wednesday, when M. Buoncompagni's motion for leaving the matter in the hands of the Government and passing to the order of the day was unanimously adopted. Before this result, Count Cavour had once more spoken confidently of the national resolution being carried out, had again declared the readiness of the Government to give the Papacy all proper guarantees, and had expressed his hope that while public opinion would claim the concession, France would early acquiesce in it.

According to the Italian journals, several deputies, following the example of the Government, have presented a proposition for granting to General Garibaldi, by way of national recompense, a pension of 150,000fr. a-year, reversible to his son. The retirement of Garibaldi to Caprera has not lessened his popularity, and the Milan journals state that deputations of the workmen's societies from all parts of Italy are assembling

at Genoa to proceed to the island to pay their respects to the General.

A telegram from Berne asserts that Garibaldi has addressed an order to his officers residing in Switzerland, calling on them to be ready to assemble at his summons within a fortnight.

GENOA, April 2.—Garibaldi left Caprera on Sunday evening last, and has arrived here. It is believed that he will proceed to Turin.

TURIN, Tuesday, April 2.—Garibaldi left for this city immediately after his arrival at Genoa to-day. He had a conference with the King at noon, the result of which is not yet known.

In to-day's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies Signor Massari made an interpellation in reference to the affairs of Naples. He maintained that there would be no safety for Italy unless she were united.

Signor Paternostro expressed his regret that a factious minority has caused anarchy in Sicily.

MM. Amari and Crispi are expected to reply to this accusation.

The Minister will answer the interpellation to-morrow.

ROME, March 30.—Last night forty waggons of the Sardinian army were observed near Rome, coming from Gaeta. General Goyon ordered their immediate departure for Terni, under an escort of gendarmes.

The Municipality of Rome sent yesterday to General Lamoriciere a magnificent gold medal which had been struck in his honour.

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, Tuesday, April 2.—The Ministerial crisis is over. The present Ministry remain provisionally in office.

On Sunday evening last riotous assemblages took place in Agram.

The windows of the police office were smashed by the people, and the Imperial Eagle was torn down from the Government buildings.

RUSSIA.

ST. PETERSBURG, Tuesday.—It is said that Prince Gortchakoff has addressed a circular, dated the 20th ult., to the Russian representatives abroad, stating that "Russia and Europe have witnessed the proof that the Emperor, far from deferring, takes the initiative, by granting reforms, and carrying them out with perseverance."

"The Emperor," continues the circular, "desires that what he has granted should become a reality, and open to Poland a path of regular progress."

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The Poles are not satisfied with the reforms granted them by the Emperor Alexander, though they are so far beyond what the nation has hitherto enjoyed. The whole country now wears mourning or the national costume, whilst the concentration of the military continues. Count Zamoycki, in an interview he had with Prince Gortchakoff, told him that the country accepted the reforms with gratitude, but the reforms, he said, were merely nominal at present, and if they were not carried into effect, they would be worse than useless. Prince Gortchakoff in a very imperial style, told Zamoycki that it was "not incumbent" on the Emperor to concede "anything," but what he had conceded he would carry out "freely and loyally." These imperial masters of souls appear to believe they are also masters of souls.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PETER'S PENANCE.—On the occasion of the collection of Peter's Pence, made a few days ago in the church of St. Polycarp, at Lyons, the following note was found in one of the poor-boxes:—"It is a shame to take from the poor a tribute used in paying for the luxury of the Court of Rome, and in carrying on war in Italy. It is not necessary to have so much money to fulfil all the spiritual duties of the Papacy. I undertake to perform the functions of the Pope for 5,000fr. a year."

A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE.—In the year 1803, Mr. Jay preached a sermon before the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and islands of Scotland; and was requested to permit the same to be printed. Such permission was given. The text was, "Skin for skin; yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life." When the proof sheets of the sermon were sent to Mr. Jay for correction, he found the printer had printed the text thus:—"Skin for skin; yea, all that a man has will he give for his wife." Instead of correcting the error in the usual way, he wrote in the margin, underlining the word wife, "That depends on circumstances."

THE WESTMINSTER CLOCK AND BELLS.—On Monday the 1st inst., the bells of the New Palace at Westminster played some strange vagaries. At one o'clock—that is, in the dead of the night—instead of contenting themselves with giving forth the single one, which would have been quite enough for the purpose, they struck thirty-seven. At two and three o'clock the bells gave the right numbers, but at four o'clock they were again erratic, and struck thirty-nine. On both occasions when these extravagant numbers were given the striking of the hours commenced before the quarter chimes, these coming in towards the close. The day being the 1st of April; probably the bells were having a bit of fun with the public. The same curious circumstance with regard to the bells happened on the day on which her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent died, and thereupon some curious suggestions were offered in reference to similar strange proceedings on the part of the bells of St. Paul's, and which, it was said, had been generally found to precede the death of Royalty.