

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th December, received by the Acadia, Steamer.

Paris, Nov. 19.—In the two last days we have had little rain, and the alarm that was felt from the rising of the river has in a great degree subsided; but more black and cheerless weather with the exception of a single day last week, which was as fine as to merit fully the name of a day of *ete de Saint Martin*—we never had in November. It is not surprising, therefore, that we have every day a murder or a suicide. The accounts from the South of calamities from inundations are very distressing, and I am sorry to hear by a letter from Florence, that the inhabitants were at that time, in hourly dread of another overflowing of the river, for during the night it was so high that a person standing on the land side of the parapets could put over his arm and plunge it deep in the water. The rain was falling incessantly, and many of the streets were from that cause—the river having returned to its bed—quite impassable. Everybody in Florence has suffered more or less from the inundation. In two-thirds of the shops the goods have been either spoiled at once, or so wetted that there is no hope of drying them (there being no stoves) unless the wind should shift round soon accompanied with a little sunshine. But another and greater calamity is dreaded. Some of the burial grounds are five feet under water, and it is thought that when the water, should have subsided, and have been followed by a warm sun, there will be a decomposition of the exposed remains fatal to the health of the inhabitants, many of the burial places being within the precincts of the churches of the city. The poor of Florence are in a sad state of destitution, and the most distinguished singers are getting up a concert to relieve them. The tradesmen of Paris are complaining bitterly of the long absence of the families who usually return from the country early in November. Many of them have even got into their heads an idea that the Carlists of the Faubourg St. Germain are circulating in the capital, and thus create distress and consequent excitement against the government. God knows what truth there may be in this, and to what extent the Carlists can annoy the government by such a course, if it has really been adopted; but the idea is gaining ground, and when once a Parisian takes a thing into his head, however absurd it may be, it is difficult to get it out of it.

ITALY.

Via Della Scala, Nov. 13.—The Inundations at Florence.—The circumstance under which I am writing are by no means calculated to dissipate gloomy thoughts, as we have been lately visited by a most dreadful calamity, a most extraordinary inundation of the Arno, the direful effects of which I am afraid will be felt by many, many years after. The loss of human life in the country is said to be very great; as far as the town is concerned, the numbers vary, some say six, others more, but most agree that Government keep it secret, in order not to alarm the people. This is the tenth day after the disaster, and still people are not done pumping the water out of their cellars and lower stories, and carrying the mud in pails and buckets into the streets. The Corsini Palace and the Uffizi it is stated, cannot be freed from water in the cellars for a month to come. It is curious to know that the water made its first appearance by the Gate of St. Croce, where the Custom-house officers, on first opening the gate in the morning, were greeted by a dead body washed thither. A cradle with a living child in it, came floating down the river, and was saved from a watery grave. As it was not known whence it came, the parents being perhaps drowned, it was taken care of, and adopted some say by the Grand Duke, others by Prince Corsini. A fine bridge just finished, at Fonta Sieve, and which cost 84,000 dollars, was swept away, and nine smaller bridges in the country shared the same fate. You would not have known Florence the day after the dreadful catastrophe. The details of the damage done are really heart-rending. The conduct of the Grand Duke in this emergency was quite exemplary. If it had not been for his prompt, energetic, and humane exertions, nothing would have been done, as all the people had lost their heads, and were perfectly helpless, doing nothing but staring aghast at the increasing height of the flood, uttering all sorts of exclamations, and now and then

invoking a saint. A functionary of a district in town heard a rap at the door of his house, which aroused him from his sleep, and a minute after saw, to his utter dismay, the Grand Duke at his bedside, upbraiding him in no gentle terms, for not being at his post, when he, the Sovereign had been for several hours already up and busy. Passing some soldiers in the streets, who were occupied in putting the accumulated mud in heaps, and seeing how very lazily and slovenly the work was performed, the Grand Duke snatched the spade from the hands of one of them and shovelling the mud most lustily to the amazement of the by-standers, he after a few seconds returned it, saying this was the way to do business. He and the Grand Duchess were seen walking in the most distressed quarters, giving comfort, consolation, and advice, and assistance to the poor sufferers, and accompanied by the young Arch-Duke, to make him familiar with scenes of distress. It was quite a sight to watch them as they proceeded, sometimes twice a day, through the streets on foot. You have no conception how this pleases the people, who quite adore the Royal family. I will say nothing of the devastations in the country, which I hear would make one's hair stand on end if related. Vast multitudes in the town are deprived of lodgings food, and clothing.

TURKEY.

The principal event has been the removal from office of Rifaat Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the appointment in his place of Shekib Effendi, formerly Ambassador at the Court of St. James's. On the 31st of October Sir Stratford Canning was admitted to an audience with the Sultan, when he presented a letter announcing the birth of Prince Alfred. His Highness has himself had an accession to his family in the birth of another son, being his third male child. Illuminations and rejoicings to continue for a week. Dr. Wolff is still at Meshed, from which place he was unwilling to proceed till he had received an escort from Colonel Shiel at Teheran. It is singular that, after crossing the desert of Mero and escaping from the Turcoman hordes, he should shrink from encountering dangers and difficulties comparatively trifling.

Letters from Trebizonde describe a very curious occurrence which took place there last month. A Mussulman Cadi having been murdered while on a journey the assassins were seized by the Pasha, and, instead of being punished according to the usual forms of justice, were delivered to the kindred of the murdered man, by one of whom their throats were deliberately cut in the market place. According to existing regulations, the power of life and death has been reserved to the Sultan; but Abdallah Pasha having represented to the Porte that the unsettled state of his pashalic rendered a reference to Constantinople inexpedient for the ends of order and justice, he received a summary power of inflicting capital punishment.

A correspondent says that the quarter's revenue, as far as it has gone, presents an improved aspect; this is the case, we learn, both in the Customs department and the Post-office. The Tariff is also said to be working well with France and the Netherlands. If, continues our informant, the revenue comes up, as it is expected, to the end of the quarter, Sir Robert Peel will reduce the Income Tax to 3½d. in the pound. This will not do. The whole of this unjust tax ought to be taken off. There is not the shadow of an excuse for its continuance.

Express from Paris.—The Paris papers of Thursday, contain no domestic news of importance, if we except the proceedings in the Court d'Assizes against 15 street robbers, who had been for the last three years the terror of the French capital. The trial of this band of miscreants was expected to last throughout the entire week. The Court of Cassation decided on Tuesday, that Catholic Clergymen could not legally adopt a child. We learn from Havre that six Dominican friars had taken their passage in the packet for the United States, and two others for Martinique. Eight other German missionaries, and 17 German nuns, had also arrived at Havre, who were proceeding to the same destination. The latter intended to found a hospital in the United States, and were accompanied by three lay brothers.

The Cowgate Edinburgh.—For some months past excavations have been making near the Cowgate for the foundation of a suite of court-rooms to accommodate the Lords Ordinary. The buildings are to run south from the present buildings constituting our courts of law, and the south wall will verge upon the spot where many of our readers will remember the Beck-stairs ascending of yore. In the

space cleared by the workmen, a fragment of the first wall of the city (built about 1460) has been laid bare. About the end of September, some much more *recherches* discoveries were made by the workmen. South from the fragment of wall, and directly so from the present buildings for the first and second divisions of the Court of Session—14 feet below the surface of the earth—was found a range of strong wooden coffins, lying close beside each other, and containing human remains. In one, the skull contained the brain, still so fresh as to show the vermicular form of surface. These coffins were straight in the sides, but had lids rising into a ridge into the centre. About the same time, 10 or 12 yards west from that spot, and also beyond the line of the city wall, the workmen found, embedded in the ground, 18 feet below the level of the present Cowgate, a common shaped barrel of large size (six feet high), resting on one end, and 18 inches deep into a stratum of blue clay, with a massive stone beside it: leading to the presumption that it had been a barrel kept for the purpose of gathering rain, having a stone step to enable any one to get to its top, and take out a supply of its contents. The staves of this barrel are still, for the most part, fresh and sound. Still further to the west, near the barrel, and at about the same depth, was found a copper dish or basin, about 18 inches diameter, and six deep, having the rim slightly everted. There can be no doubt that all these things have lain for several centuries undisturbed. The bodies would be a portion of those interred in St. Giles's Churchyard, which was abandoned in the 16th century. The barrel and dish must have been part of the *curta supellex* of a citizen of still earlier age. The Cowgate existed in 1470, however much earlier, and it was for some ages the residence of the great. So large a copper dish could only belong to a person of some distinction. But the most curious inference from these discoveries is as to the gradual rise of the level of the street in the course of time. Some years ago, a street was found 12 feet below the present causeway of the Cowgate, near its eastern extremity; here we find household articles seated still lower. This, however is common in all ancient cities, in consequence of the want of police regulations in the middle ages. Rubbish and refuse were laid upon the street, and, not being removed, soon became trodden down, and thus raised the soil. Even pavements were thus lost sight of. Fresh accumulations continually taking place, the ground rose of course and in time the bases of buildings were accommodated to the new level.—*Scotsman*.

A Genuine London Fog.—On Thursday morning, at about nine o'clock, the metropolis was enveloped in a thick fog, which was particularly dense in the northern portions. It somewhat cleared off towards noon, but about four o'clock it again came on, and as the evening advanced became of such intense density as to equal the fogs of 1814. All the craft in the river were compelled to remain stationary throughout the afternoon; and the Chelsea, Woolwich, Greenwich, as well as Gravesend steamers, discontinued running. At five o'clock it was quite impossible that omnibus, cab, or other vehicle could move faster than at a walking pace, although preceded by links as well as bearing lamps. Most of the drivers of cabs and carriages were compelled to lead their horses. It was difficult and dangerous also to pass over any of the metropolitan bridges. Foot passengers found the greatest difficulty in proceeding through the streets and continually lost their way, while innumerable were the link boys offering their services. Shortly before nine the fog had somewhat abated, but still continued very thick.

The following account of the appearances which the fog presented has been furnished to us from the neighbourhood of Kensington and that part of the suburbs:—In the suburbs of town a light fog began to be perceptible about eight o'clock, which continued to increase in density during the day, and in the afternoon and evening extending itself over every part of town, assuming in the metropolis that opaque colour for which a London November fog is so noted. In the leading thoroughfares, the drivers of vehicles were completely brought to a stand-still, unless they had previously supplied themselves with a link. In the outskirts of town the fog was extremely dense, and particularly on the great western road, on which the lighting is still most imperfect, and travelling along it is at all times a most serious and dangerous matter, but more especially so on so foggy a night. Very few of the omnibuses were sent out by the proprietors, and several of those which

were, got on the heads of gravel on the park side of the road, and were nearly upset, to the great alarm of the passengers. Numerous collisions took place during the evening in all parts of the town, but we have not heard of any accident of a serious nature happening. It was stated that the light-fingered gentry had busily and successfully employed themselves in their avocations during the confusion which the fog created.

With respect to the state of the river we have the following account:—Early on Thursday morning the atmosphere was clear and fine, with a light air from nearly S. S. W., but about 7 o'clock fog set in, which increased in density the morning advanced; and during the day the use of artificial lights in most of the wholesale warehouses and retail shops were resorted to. On the navigation was almost suspended, and steam vessels, with more recklessness than prudence, being the only vessels to be seen pursuing their usual vocations. A considerable number of vessels in docks laden and ready for sea were prevented leaving in consequence of the thickness of the fog. Among the first were the brig Devonshire, Captain Godfrey, for Batavia, and the Indian, Captain English, for the Cape of Good Hope, both of which would sail immediately on the disappearance of the fog. Several homeward bound vessels were in the river, but, owing to the density of the fog, had anchored.

Colonial News.

New Brunswick.

St. John Chronicle, Jan.

The death of Mr John Allingham Monday last, which we record in our day's impression, is the result of those base and murderous attacks on the young lad, the son of Allingham, who was called upon to give testimony against some of the "infernal" boys Magistrate, and having given that testimony, these rascals swore vengeance for the consequence was, some of the Christmas night watched the father tacked him on leaving the house, and a blow on the head felled him to the ground, and such was the violence of that he died on Monday night. A peaceful and inoffensive individual, been deprived of his life, and a wife and four children of their natural protection by the wanton and hellish acts of a graceless set of villains as ever existed any country, and to such a pitch they carried their fiendish and purposeful, that on Wednesday evening Mayor was obliged to call out the party, which had the effect of dispersing these vagabonds at once.—We do not trust that prompt and effective measures will at once be adopted to order and tranquility, and bring to these hardened and daring outlaws call upon the citizens to awake, and assist upon the authorities acting, and with a determined spirit, and every citizen be prepared to aid and the authorities, and the result will be the annihilation of that ungodly crew. True that His Worship the Mayor sent out the troops, and has shown that will no longer be played with, need not expect that he will be able to catch the demons by simply marching the troops past their dens, into they pop at the sound of a whistle out at the same call. The villains be "bearded" in their dens, with sight of the red coat and bayonet, and from their dens they were dragged, and then punishment inflicted. 'Tis truly shameful that so many respectable and virtuous men are allowed to be insulted and property destroyed by these monstrous man shape. Several gentlemen Wednesday dragged out of their dens, and some of them obliged to leave their property, and a sleigh was taken with a lady in it and she thrown to these marauders.—We say it to wake citizens, awake, and be determined to rid the community of this crew.

We understand that a Verdict of the Coroner's Jury, held on view of the body of Mr Allingham, was Wilful Murder to that effect; and here it is to be hoped that any reward has been offered in apprehension of the murderer.

St. John Observer, Dec.

On Friday night and Saturday morning were visited with the most severe storm of the present season, with a gale of wind from the North East, and we had a Southerly gale