

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Times.

SWISS AFFAIRS.

The cry of *Vive le Roi!* has been raised in the country of William Tell. An attempt, which can scarcely be called a serious one, has actually been made to dissolve the Swiss Union, and to incorporate a portion at least of its territory with the Prussian monarchy!—The story is absurd enough, and appears to have ended pretty much in the true Ballingarry fashion. A Prussian nobleman, by name and surname Count Frederick Pourtales, followed by 200 or 300 Royalists, seized on the castle of Neufchatel, arrested several members of the Council, hoisted the Prussian flag, and issued a proclamation appealing to the loyal sympathies of the most determined republicans in Europe. A second column marched on a place less known to fame—La Chau-de Fonds. Two or three Federal battalions, commanded by a certain Col. Bourgeois, were soon able to give a satisfactory account of the Neufchatel insurgents. The mountaineers, who at the time the last advices were dispatched were hurrying down to the scene of action, have doubtless ere this disposed in a similar manner of the auxiliary column. Nothing remains to be done but to put the insurgents on their trial, and to fix their fate. It would not be surprising if the decision were characterised by considerable sternness, for blood has been shed. There can scarcely be a more heinous crime than to disturb a peaceful country, and to lead a handful of misguided men to destruction in a political cause which never possessed the remotest probabilities of success. The insurgent leaders do not appear to have looked beyond the moment, or to have calculated any chance save that of momentary victory. It might in the same manner be possible for an insurrectionary troop, had their measures been well contrived and well concealed, to take and hold possession of a London barrack for an hour or two, but defeat and punishment at the end of the brief space would as inevitably follow upon the transitory success. This is just the story of the Neufchatel insurrection of the other day, but in another form. It was very easy, no doubt, to arrest a few members of the Council of State, but the victors forgot that these peaceful functionaries had the whole of Switzerland, and from one cause or another, the whole of Europe, with the exception of Prussia at their back. The arrest, or even the slaughter of a few unimportant individuals does not imply the destruction of a system, nor the obliteration of a sentiment from the minds and hearts of a people who, whatever their faults may be, are proud of their freedom, and are determined to maintain it.

It is a curious question how far Prussian agents have been engaged in promoting this movement. Their action, of course, would not be direct; but it seems almost incredible that the wildest fanatic should have made such an attempt as this had he not, as a previous step, assured himself of the sympathy and secured the secret aid of the power in behalf of which he professed to act. It will be difficult—nay, next to impossible to procure proof of such complicity although the truth of it may be generally admitted. The difficulty on the other hand is to conceive that any person professing to be a statesman could be brought to countenance such an absurdity. Precipitancy and rapid decision have not been the usual faults of Prussian statesmen in times now historical, and certainly during the Russian war the advisers of the hesitating King seems to have adhered very religiously to the cautious traditions of their predecessors. The argument, however, does not go for much; for Governments, like individuals, are but bundles of inconsistencies. How often in private life do we see a lady reject one unexceptionable offer of marriage after another, and finally elope with an Irish captain, with her brother's tutor, or the butler!—If the Prussian monarch or his advisers have been privy to the wild affair at Neufchatel, their one step from complete quiescence should discourage them from ever again relinquishing their masterly inaction. It has terminated in disappointment and disgrace. His flag has been torn down and trampled on, his adherents are exposed to the well-deserved severity of the outraged laws, and the name of Prussia is mentioned throughout the cantons but to call forth expressions of derision and contempt.—Was it worth while to cross a Prussian Purth for such a result?

We have said that nothing now remains but to try the prisoners, and we trust that the Swiss authorities, when they come to determine upon their fate, will remember that, as a question of sound policy as well as of good feeling, it would be well that the judges should largely temper justice with mercy. It would be impolitic to add importance to a movement which should be quenched in ridicule by any great severity after all further danger of disturbance is at an end. Extreme punishments not only beget extreme irritation in the minds of the survivors of the vanquished party, but they may also have a tendency to arouse feel-

ings of commiseration, and possibly of sympathy, in the breasts of many persons who would acquiesce cheerfully in the infliction of more moderate penalties. As a point of feeling, too, it would be pleasant to see that the triumph of the Swiss Republicans are not stained with blood. Let them show themselves in favourable contrast with the Monarchs of Europe when these had recovered the power which had slipped or been torn from their grasp.

We do not attach any political importance to this event. There has existed for a long time past great irritation on the part of Austria towards the Swiss Cantons, and in Paris the same feeling has existed to a certain degree. However cautious the policy of the Swiss rulers may have been, they could not altogether avoid giving offence to their powerful neighbours because their mountains have so frequently proved a sanctuary or place of refuge to the political refugee. No doubt, had any event occurred which really threatened the dissolution of the Union, a military wave would have surged into Switzerland from the Austrian and another from the French frontier; but the disturbance is too ridiculous to afford a pretext for intervention. Finally we entreat all enthusiastic young gentlemen and romantic ladies not to disquiet their spirits about William Tell and Swiss patriotism. The Swiss are just the most prosaic and money-making nation in Europe, the Dutch not excepted. Four Swiss regiments at the present moment maintain the throne and the tyranny of King Bomba, and but for their help he could scarcely reckon upon an hour's duration of his reign. We are glad that the Swiss have been able to defend their independence, but we need not regard them therefore as the champions of European liberty.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.—It appears to be the common opinion in Paris that the French and English Cabinets are at issue on several points, though no one supposes these differences can essentially affect the alliance. The investment of O'Donnell with the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour, and the marked attention paid to Count Morny by the Emperor of Russia, are not likely to please the English Government. The French Cabinet is said to have abandoned the project of an expedition against the ruff pirates, on account of Prussia displaying too strong a desire for the co-operation of England in an Anglo-Prussian expedition. The English Cabinet takes the same side as Turkey and Austria on the question of uniting the Danubian Principalities. The French Government is still undecided on this point.

The Loss of the Ocean Home.—The missing boat's crew of the ill-fated emigrant ship, Ocean Home, bound to New York, which came in collision with the American ship Cherubim, and foundered, on Friday se'night, off the Lizard, have at length been heard of. It will be remembered that a few moments before the unfortunate vessel went down, two of the boats succeeded in getting clear away from the wreck. One of the boats, containing ten passengers and three seamen, was picked up by the Cherubim, but nothing was seen of the other, and it was feared they had perished. It appears that some twelve or fourteen hours after the wreck, the boat was sighted by the schooner Martha, of Shoreham, bound to Chester. On bearing down to her it was found to contain four of the survivors of the Ocean Home, the second mate, Mr Edward Harvey, two seamen, named Frederick Snow, and James Monahan, and a passenger. They were without food of any description, the boat had been stove and was leaking, and they had nothing but a broken oar to shape the boat's course for land. Indeed, the condition of the boat was such that it could not have been kept afloat much longer. The poor fellows were taken on board the schooner, and the master, Captain Jones, and his crew treated them with every attention. On arriving off Mallion, near Penzance, on Saturday, they were sent ashore, and given into the care of Mr William Nicholls, Lloyd's agent at Penzance, who provided them with necessary relief.

IRELAND.—*Census of Ireland.*—The sixth and concluding part of the Census of Ireland for 1851 has just been issued from the Registrar-General's office. We find a careful abstract of the tables in the Irish correspondence of the morning Herald. The report gives a picture of the present condition of the people notwithstanding that it purports to relate to the census of 1851; and we learn that instead of a recovery of the population from some of the loss by the dire famine of 1848 the number of people in this year 1856 is lower by nearly half a million than it was in 1851. There is no speculation in this. On the 30th March, 1851, the population amounted to 6,552,385.—On the 1st of January last it numbered but 6,077,283. The falling off is attributed, to a certain extent, to emigration, but there are other causes in operation as well. The estimated number of births far exceed the estimated number of deaths, and more than this difference is accounted for emigration. In reference to the increase of English and Scotch residents in Ireland, between the years 1841 and 1851, the Census commissioners say:—Of those born in England and Wales, there were resident in Ireland, in 1841, 21,552 persons, whilst in

1851 the numbers were 12,309. The greatest number of English were found in the city of Dublin, which contained 7582 persons, in 1841 there were only 4264; in the town of Belfast the number of English increased from 888 in 1841 to 2216 in 1851; in the town of Drogheda it increased from 95 in 1841, to 269 in 1851; in the city of Cork from 923 in 1841 to 1566 in 1851; and in the County of Cork from 1468 to 3653 in the same period; an increase having taken place 1851 in the number of English resident in Ireland in every county, city, and large town. The greatest number of Scotch was found in Belfast in 1851; the city of Dublin contained the largest amount in 1841. The following places show a decrease in the number of Scotch in 1851 compared with 1841: Carrickfergus town, Drogheda town, and the counties of Carlow, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny, King's, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, and Wicklow. The number of persons born in foreign countries resident in Ireland in 1841 was 4471; in 1851, 9583. In four of the counties the number of persons living in them, who were natives of foreign countries, decreased between 1841 and 1851; these were Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Sligo.

The report embraces some interesting statistical facts relating to the number of the military serving in Ireland at the time of taking the census, the occupations of the men before they joined the army, and the degree of education of each individual; it also contains tables relating to the farm stock, houses of the people, education, &c.; and in the concluding observations, addressed to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, it is dwelt upon as a gratifying fact, that although the population had been diminished in so remarkable a manner by famine, disease, and emigration between 1841 and 1851, and had been since decreasing, the results of the Irish census of 1851 are, on the whole, satisfactory, demonstrating as they do the general advancement of the country—that the extent of arable land and the value of farm stock have increased since 1841—that the worst class of houses is being replaced by a better—that a smaller proportion of families is dependent on their own manual labor for support—and that the education of the people have favorably progressed.

SCOTLAND.—*Crimean Demonstration in Edinburgh.*—A subscription is being made in Edinburgh to give a grand entertainment to the regiments quartered there that have returned from the Crimea, namely, the 5th dragoon guards, which formed part of the heavy brigade at Balaklava; the 34th regiment, which arrived in the Crimea after the battle of Inkermann, formed part of the light division during the greater part of the siege of Sebastopol, and which furnished the first storming column on the 18th of June; and Colonel Ward's company of artillery. The 34th only arrived in Edinburgh a few days ago, and as the town is at present so empty, it has been resolved to postpone the demonstration till the end of next month, when the holidays will be over.

Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and six of the royal children are enjoying the fine breezes of Balmoral, in Aberdeenshire. The Prince Consort goes out almost daily deerstalking.—The Queen has taken several rides and also pedestrian exercise to some of the principal spots in the neighbourhood of the royal residence. The annual gathering and games at Braemar took place on Thursday. Her Majesty and the Prince honoured the meeting with their presence.

FRANCE.—The Times Paris correspondent writes that, although the *Moniteur* has not announced it, there is no doubt that the Emperor Napoleon has sent the Grand Cordon to Marshal O'Donnell. The same writer says that the difficulty about Bolgrad is not settled.—The Russians are thought not to have acted with good faith in the matter, and it is deemed probable that the non-settlement of this boundary question may lead to prolongation of the Austrian occupation of the Principalities.

The monthly returns of the Bank of France show a decline in the stock of bullion. The amount advanced on public security and railway shares is less for this than for the previous month, and the amount of bank notes in circulation has decreased. During the month £60,000, was paid as premium on purchases of gold and silver.

RUSSIA AND SWEDEN.—A letter from St. Petersburg of the 2nd says:—It is generally reported that the relations of Russia and Sweden have been of late anything but friendly, and that the Swedish ambassador sent by the court of Stockholm to the coronation could not fail to have noticed the coolness which exists between the two states.

RUSSIA.—*The Russians in the Gulf of Tartary.*—By the arrival of the steamers *Hellespont* and *Erin* from Shadghai, we (the friend of China) are placed in possession of some interesting information regarding the recent cruise of ex-Commodore Elliot's squadron in the Gulf of Tartary. This squadron, consisting of the *Sibylle*, *Pique*, and *Barracouta* left Hakodadi, Japan, on the 4th May, and on the 10th reached Cape Lemanon, in about 48 deg. north latitude. There the *Sibylle* and *Pique* remained, the *Barracouta* steaming onwards along the coast to the northward. On the evening of the 11th, in latitude 49 1 50. N., longitude 140. 19 E., a fine and capacious bay was discovered, with many sheltered creeks capable of affording secure anchorage for ships of the largest tonnage.

Soon after anchoring, a few natives (Ghili-

acks) came off to sell fish, which they were glad to barter for buttons. Some of these natives had buttons with Russian insignia on them leading to the inference that Russians had been there not long before. Consequently, early next morning, Mr Freeman, master of the *Barracouta*, proceeded on shore, and crossing over a field of ice, came all at once on a number of Russian Loghouses strongly built, and esconced in the shade of some forest trees. In the rear, and a little to the left of the houses, was a strong platform battery for eight guns. At some distance to the right a similar platform for ten guns; whilst in the anchorage between the two, with her broadside to the entrance, lay the remains of a large frigate, 200 feet long, anchored in ten fathoms, burnt down to the ice in which she was imbedded. The frame work of this vessel was stouter than that of either the *Pique* or *Sibylle*, and conjecture assigns her to have been the *Pallas*.

ITALY.—Letters from Tuscany state that subscriptions for the hundred guns of Alexandria had been opened at Leghorn, Florence, Pisa, Pistoja, and other towns, and that the Government had taken no measures to prevent them. The reigning Grand Duke was said to have declared in a private conversation with an influential personage of the liberal party, that he would abdicate, should the least disturbance occur in Tuscany.

The Independence reports the tenor of the second Anglo-French note presented to the King of Naples. The note, it is said, insists on an amnesty, and specially mentions the case of Poerio. If the King should persist in his policy, an Anglo-French squadron will appear in the Bay of Naples to protect English and French property in the event of a revolution. The King of Naples, it is said, is disposed to yield to these representations. Other reports represent him as preparing defences on his coasts, and refusing to yield.

Discontent is spreading in the legations; and alarm exists in the government at Naples in consequence of the now ascertained movement of the Muratist party. This party has been circulating a programme or proclamation at Naples, with surprising secrecy and activity. There appears to be some truth in the assertion that the efforts on the part of France and England to induce his Sicilian majesty to reconsider his reply to the joint notes of her Majesty's government and that of the emperor, have utterly failed. The report of an intention of sending a few men-of-war to the bay of Naples, however, appears to be unfounded, or at least wholly premature; but it is thought less improbable that England and France may soon come to a resolution of withdrawing their diplomatic representatives.—From one quarter we learn that Rome is shortly to be evacuated by the French, whose duties will then be limited to garrisoning Civita Vecchia. Their place at Rome is to be supplied by Swiss troops which are being constantly enrolled. The Independence of Brussels says on the other hand, we have heard from what we consider good authority, that the French garrison is about to be increased by the addition of another brigade. For our part, we believe neither statement.—Turning to Piedmont we find that the ministerial party there is employing all the means at its disposal to animate the national subscription for the 100 cannons. But the Mazzini party has commenced an imposing rivalry; the Italian Popolo of Genoa, an organ of Mazzini, opens another national subscription for the purchase of ten thousand muskets, destined to reward and to support the efforts of the first Italian province which rises against the common enemy.

Roman Brigandage.—One of the most audacious attempts that I have lately heard of (says the Roman correspondent of the Daily News) took place here on the festival of the Madonna, early in the morning when about twenty men went with six carts, and loaded them with Indian corn, which was ready cut on the farm of Coazzo, about six miles from Rome. The guardian of the farm, seeing this wholesale robbery, dare not interfere, but followed the plunderers at a distance on horseback, until they reached the wall of Rome, round which they proceeded to enter by the Porto del Popolo. The guardian then spurred his horse, and went on to the gate to inform the custom-house officers of the robbers' arrival. These officials attempted to arrest the offenders whilst entering the gate; but the latter no sooner saw what was in the wind, than turning the carts round, they got outside as to prevent their following. In fact, the thieves got clear off with their cartloads of plunder, although, besides the custom-house officers, there was a French corps de garde at the gate, and the barracks of the horse gendarmes close by.

SPAIN.—Advices from Madrid, dated the 6th inst., state that O'Donnell is now completely aware of the intrigues which are on foot at the Palace against him. On this subject he has had an altercation with Marshal Coucha, and their hostility is now openly manifested. The Infanta, Don Francisco, father of the King, is one of O'Donnell's most active enemies, and it has been a question whether the government should not order him to leave Madrid. The King himself is narrowly watched. It is declared for a certainty that O'Donnell will never suppress the law for the sale of church property, nor allow Queen Christina to return to Spain.

The Morning Post's Paris correspondent states that according to intelligence from Madrid, a constitution is to be promulgated before the 15th of this month. The Ministry of Public Works was occupied with the project