Our Cologne Correspondence.

COLOGNE, 14th January, 1852.

Secret Preparations for War by the European Nations—Louis Napoleon's Army Must be Employed—Probable Attack on the Italian States and Sardinia—Austria with Russia Trying to Rule all Europe—Sycophancy and Imbecility of the Prussian King and Cabinet—The Predictions of the Herald Fulfilled—Its Influence in Germany—Dishonesty of the German Editors in Citeing the Herald—The German Despots and their Tyrannies—Distrust of Louis Napoleon—American Passports—Great Rage of the Autocrats at our Reception of Kossuth.

I gave to you on the 22d ult., a faint description of the effect which *coups d'etat* has had in Germany, whose princes and aristocracy then extolled Louis Napoleon as the saviour of civilization and mankind. They have, however, since considerably diminished their praises, and are beginning to fear that in the end he will become dangerous to them, and they feel chagrined that an adventurer, as they call him, might become an emperor and their equal. All the continental governments are preparing for events which may come from France, and are arming, under the pretext of suppressing entirely the revolutionary movements in their countries; but as none any longer exist—the Germans being as tame and submissive as a dog after he has received a severe whipping—their secret arming cannot be mistaken. Louis Napoleon has made too great promises to the French army, and owes the same too much. Sooner or later he will be obliged to begin some war or other. Germany is too well prepared, and he may therefore turn his views towards Italy, where Sardinia alone offers to him any chance. Austria is so unscrupulous, and so bitter in its feeling against that state, that it might even be willing to be a party with him; and it ought not to surprise us if, before the close of this year, Sardinia shares the fate of Poland, and be divided between France and Austria.

There is every sign that the construction of continental Europe will be considerably changed: the Emperor of Austria, a mere youth, is continually told by his ministers and surrounding persons, that he is destined to share with Russia the European power. All his aim is directed to imitate the Czar; and whilst he is willing to leave the Orient to him, he is trying by every means—or rather Schwarzenberg is doing it for him, to fix himself in Germany, where he has unfortunately no one to oppose him seriously—as the only one who might do so, the King of Prussia, lacks every quality of a man, and, acting under the influence of his queen, yields everything, even honor, to the Austrian pretensions. Prussia could never have been brought down so low nor have been humbled so much had it even lost a hundred battles, as it is now, merely by the sycophancy of its King, and the want of character and the imbecility of the Prussian Cabinet; even her last sheet anchor, the Zollverein, she will, to every appearance, also lose—Austria having made proposals for a general custom union, to embrace all Germany and Italy, wherewith it will undoubtedly succeed, and obtain therewith the preponderance not only in all Germany, but also in Italy. Your views, expressed in the HERALD of the 23d ult, have surprised every body here. You then, at such a distance, foretold what has since been realized; and your description of the Parisian *bourgeoise* was strikingly faithful, and which applied also fully to the German *burghers*, who, if they can eat, drink and smoke in quietness, care for nothing else, and prefer absolutism if it grants this to them, than democracy, which may require a little more personal services from them.

The German newspapers generally take their news from the HERALD, but unfortunately, in such a garbled way, and make in them such alterations as render your articles quite the reverse of what they were intended for, so that most of the Germans who have no opportunity of seeing the HERALD, or are unacquainted with the English language, believe you to be in the pay of their princes; and you may well give to the German editors the advice to use your articles, and their reference to the HERALD, at least honestly. Whenever you speak of the institutions of our country, your articles are generally translated in such a manner as to make them appear ridiculous. For example, in your money article of Monday, Dec. 21—6 P. M., you say:—"Every irruption in Europe," &c, is translated—"Every irruption in Europe, every sudden change in the policy of those governments, show by their final results that, in reality, no change has taken place, and that the European governments are, in the end, the only safe, solid, permanent governments in existence, owing to their monarchical foundation, whilst the American ones are exposed to every wave of popular feeling." Very frequently when I had read the HERALD, and afterwards saw its extracts in the German papers, I could not trust my eyes, and had to peruse the HERALD to see if I had mis-read those articles, when I invariably found that they had been mutilated, garbled, and forged.

The German governments, although they begin to distrust Napoleon on account of his imperial schemes, have lost all fears for revolutions, and know now no more bounds to their absolutism; the most arbitrary acts are taking place daily, and quiet and innocent people are expelled from cities or having expressed themselves perhaps favorably to one or the other of the exiles, or to one or the other of the free governments and countries. The least irregularity in a passport is sufficient to shut a traveiler out; you ought therefore to recommend well to every American who intends to come over to Europe the necessity of providing himself with a governmental passport, and to have the same well authenticated; and, notwithstanding that our government fills all consulates on the Continent with such gentlemen as are willing and able to attend to the interest of our fellow citizens, I can merely confirm to you, in that respect, my last, of 22d December, that at no time before was it more important that we should have efficient consuls in Germany than at the present one.

The reception of Kossuth in the United States has been wormwood to the German aristocracy. Their bitterness goes even so far, that when the last steamer brought the news of the capitol being burnt, the official newspapers declared it to be a punishment sent by God for the sin of the Americans in receiving Kossuth in such a way. In fact, could they destroy with sword and fire your country, and every one therein, not one of the present Princes of the continent of Europe would hesitate a moment in doing so. America is a horror to them.

PETER GRIMES.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, Jan. 15, 1852.

Despotism still the Order of the Day—The Proscription of Distinguished Statesmen—The New French Constitution—Disbanding the National Guard—The New Five Franc Pieces—Re-establishment of Titles. Erasure of all Republican Inscriptions—General Cavaignac Desires to Withdraw from the Army—Placing Departments under Martial Law—The Transportation to Cayenne—Stoppage of the "Public Opinion" Paper by the Government—Dismissal of the Vice President of the Republic—Earnest Remonstrances with King Leopold for Receiving the French Exiles—Probable War with England—Fall in the French Funds—Grand Ceremony in Honor of Marshal Soult—Funeral Ceremony in Honor of Admiral Dupotet—Narrow Escape of Louis Napoleon from Assassination—England's Desire to Take Possession of Sicily—Reinforcement of the United States Mediterranean Squadron—Suicide of Colonel Bicy, the Hungarian Chief—Protestation of the Sultan Against Kossuth's Return to England—Egotism of Kossuth's Speeches—Curious Calculation—Rumored Abdication of the Grand Duke of Tuscany—Settlement of the Denmark Dutchies Affair—Desire of the Russian Czar to have Electric Telegraphical Communication with America—Ledru Rollin Going to Canada—Rumored Recall of Lord Normanby—Lamartine—Arrival of Mr. Squier in Paris.

The political aspect of France is still assuming an appearance of despotism, which has no parallel in the annals of past governments—and which creates much excitement among the people of all classes and all parties. Among the most exciting facts which have taken place, within the last week, I have to mention, in the first place, the list of proscriptions published in the *Moniteur*, Saturday morning last, and containing the names of the most distinguished statesmen of France; and also of our generals of the best military renown, as Messrs. Lamoricière, Bedeau, Changarnier, Léflô, and others. I think it useless to say that this new *coup d'état* has been considered as one of the most unpopular deeds of the Prince President, and this was so much the case, that he has postponed to some other time, a second list of exiles which was to be rendered public on Monday last. I have nothing to add to the above remarks; they are, I think, sufficient to prove that Louis Napoleon has resolved to use despotism, and to maintain himself in his actual position by all means, per fas et nefas.

The disbanding of the National Guard of France, by the Prince President, is also one of the greatest topics of the present week. Though the reason given by Louis Napoleon to show that he has acted, on this occasion, with the intention to separate the "rotten grain from the good," and to renovate the militia upon a plan which will prevent for the future, the mutineers ruling the men of order, it is considered by many persons who know well how to judge actions, that his only ambition is to select for soldiers and officers of the National Guard, men who will be entirely devoted to his service. A difficult task indeed for him, and it is doubtful whether he will succeed or not. I am told that the new uniform of the French militia will be copied upon that worn by that body during the time of the Empire, which was, as it will be remembered, of dark blue cloth, with white revers or boson, and silver bands on the chapeau. Such an uniform will not only expensive for those who will be incorporated in the body of soldiers, but also, it will not be so imposing as that which was every worn by our citizens. It may be an excellent affair for the tailors of Paris, but it will be too expensive for many of the small "purses" of those who will be obliged to pay the bill.

The new five franc pieces of the Prince President made their appearance, a few days ago, and have been much in demand by some speculators, who have either sent them out of the country or into the departments. Many of these newly struck pieces have been sold for seven francs. I was offered one of them for five francs and ten cents, but I thought it was not worth the amount of that premium. The "beheaded head" of Louis Napoleon is not at all good for that stamp, and, on the whole, it does not show much. I rather prefer the goddess of liberty, which was on the former five franc pieces, though she was not as pretty as she ought to have been represented. Louis Napoleon is represented with a bare head, without the wreath of laurels which used to be on his uncle's forehead. No doubt, the Prince President has not yet dared to a same such a glory; but we shall see the change, ere long, if *Dieu lui prête vie*. The lettering around the face is "Louis Napoleon Bonaparte," and this is the more extraordinary or anomalous, as that now upon all the decrees signed by the Prince President, the only Christian names of "Louis Napoleon" are written down; as Charles X. and Louis Philippe used to do, who never signed their family names—Bourbon and D'Orleans.

The stamp of letters will be, for the future, like the piece of five francs, made with the head of Louis Napoleon. I cannot pass over in silence, on this occasion, the mistake made by *La Patrie* and *Le Constitutionnel*, which, either by ignorance or with full knowledge of their mistake, have published, that in the United States it was customary to see the heads of the Presidents on the stamps. I have in vain written an explanatory letter to the above named journals, explaining how instead of seeing the portrait of Mr. Fillmore on the stamps, we had the likeness of Benjamin Franklin, one of the illustrious men of America. The *Patrie* and the *Constitutionnel* have paid no attention to my letter. This is the way to know the truth about facts of such a notoriety.

In a few days a decree will be rendered public, by which the titles of Princes, Dukes, Counts, Viscounts, Marquisees, and Chevaliers, which had been abolished by a decree of the provisional government, will be re-established, as before. It is said that Louis Napoleon, having desire to see around him a crowd of men with titles, and not daring to be the only one called Prince, has decided that he would annihilate the decree of 1848. The uniform formerly worn by the Ministers, Deputies, Peers, and public officers, during the Empire, the Restoration, and even under the reign of Louis Philippe, will be also resumed within a short time. It is said that the uniform of the Ministers will cost about $400 each, for they will be covered with gold lace and embroideries. Well! all this will be aping the Empire, and without any glory.

All the liberty trees, and the sacramental words—*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*—have been erased from the public squares and buildings of the government throughout France. This I cannot blame, for the most of them were spoiling the walls and *frontons* of many monuments.

General Cavaignac, who left the prison on the 19th ult., and was married to Madame Odier, has requested the government to allow him to obtain his retreat from the French service. We do not know yet if his demand has been granted.

The department of Hautes Alpes has been placed under a state of siege, and the cause of that movement is, that then it will be directed under martial law, as are the other departments of the neighborhood—though no riot has taken place in that province.

The first embarkation of *deportés* for Cayenne, took place on Saturday last and was only composed of galley slaves; but in a few days, many among the political men who have been sentenced to deportation will be shipped for the same country. Among those, I will name Mr. Xavier Durrieu, formerly editor of the newspaper called *La Révolution*, and Lachambaudie, the renowned author of the "People's Fables." These two men have been only sentenced for their opinions.

The *Public Opinion*, a legitimist paper, which had quite a large circulation in Paris, has been stopped by the government for having published one of its numbers in which the place of all the articles which had been suppressed by the *Censure* had been left in *blank*. This sort of protestation against the present arbitrary laws to repress the journalism, has caused the ruin of Mr. Nettement, the editor and proprietor of *l'Opinion Publique*, and many of his associates and workmen.

M. Boulay de la Meurthe, the Vice President of the republic, ceased to hold his office after the end of the month of December. His salary was paid up to that time.

Before concluding the review of the political acts of Louis Napoleon, I must say that several diplomatic visits have been made to King Leopold by the French Ambassador at the Court of Brussels, relative to the kind reception given by that king to the exiles of France, at the head of whom I will place MM. Thiers, Creton, Lamoricière, and Changarnier (the three last gentlemen arrived there on Saturday last). It appears that M. de Persigny went immediately to Laken, the actual residence of King Leopold, and requested him, in the most earnest manner, not to receive any more with honors these exiles, who were the enemies of Louis Napoleon. The King replied that he had nothing to do with the private affairs of the Prince-President, but M. de Persigny observed to him that to continue to do so would be considered as an offence, and that he had better consider upon it. There is a sort of *casus belli* in that affair.

The fall of the French stocks during the last three days, has a cause, which, though not rendered public, is whispered in many quarters. It is said that the rumor of an imminent war between France and England is so general, that nothing would be less astonishing than to see it begin ere long. The hostilities would be made first in Belgium, and then, after, on England, either by land, or by naval battles. Time will show the value of these rumors.

The grand ceremony in honor of Marshal Soult took place on Tuesday morning last, at the Invalids. The President was not present, but an immense number of generals and officers of all ranks attended the mass sung in memory of the valiant soldier. The church was filled with many regiments of all arms, and the cannon resounded during all the time of the ceremony.

Another funeral at which were present all the leading officers of the navy, also took place, on Monday last, in the Church of La Madeleine, in honor of Admiral Dupotet. Many speeches were delivered over his grave, and a salute of musketry fired before leaving the cemetery.

I am told, by a gentleman, upon the veracity of whom I have full confidence, that an attempt was made, on Sunday afternoon last, against the life of Louis Napoleon, whilst he was promenading in the garden of the Elysee. It appears that a sentry, who had been unjustly punished by his captain, and had written to Louis Napoleon to have his punishment redressed, having not received any answer, was so much excited on the subject, that he took the first opportunity of revenge, and fired at him whilst he was walking with MM. Conneau and de Persigny. Louis Napoleon had his hat pierced by a bullet. As for the soldier, he was instantly murdered on the spot. This fact has been kept secret, but it is certain.

A rumor, which has some foundation, is, that the present project of England is to take possession of Sicily, under the first pretext which will be found opportune. I think it would be advisable, under the present state of things, that the government at Washington should take some resolutions to reinforce the American squadron, which is now in the Mediterranean sea. The dignity of the United States must be kept unshaken in Europe; and no doubt General Cass, who has been so long a time in this country, would be the ablest man to throw some light on this subject.

The celebrated Captain, or Colonel May, formerly commander of the Hungarian artillery at Comorn, committed suicide at Constantinople, whilst in prison, under the accusation of having excited his companions in exile to plot against the Austrian government. May committed suicide in the most horrible manner, having rolled himself into his sheets and set fire to his bed.

It is said that the government of Constantinople has sent a note to the British government, which was a protestation against the project of Kossuth to return there, as he had been liberated under the special promise that he would reside in America. The Porte Ottoman insist upon the execution of that treaty, for the Sultan desires to live on good terms with the Austrian government.

A Frenchman, who is passionate for statistics of all kind, has calculated that Kossuth, in all the speeches he has pronounced in the United States, has employed 3,753 times the pronoun *I*; 937 times the word *myself*; 1,291 times the words *me* and *to me*; and 6,279 times the possessive pronoun *my*.

Letters received from Tuscany announce, as a positive fact, that the Grand Duke has decidedly resolved to abdicate and retire to private life.

The affair of the Duchies is said to be entirely settled. The German troops would retire from Holstein, leaving only a body of Austrians at Hamburg. The diplomat who has been lucky enough to have this treaty signed by the parties, is the Baron de Bolle, of Denmark.

The British Captain Pim, who had come to St. Petersburg to request the Czar to allow him to search for Sir John Franklin in his northern possessions of Siberia, and the Behring Straits, has been requested by the Russian Emperor to study the possibility of establishing a magnetic telegraph, which would go from St. Petersburg to America, and put both countries into communication.

Ledru Rollin, it is said, goes to Canada, where he will practice his profession, as an attorney.

Lord Normanby is gone to England with his lady, and it is rumored that he is to be recalled.

Lamartine has recovered his health, and has arrived here, where his intention is to publish a literary newspaper, in which no politics will be introduced.

Mr. Squier, late *Charge d'Affaires* of the United States to Nicaragua, arrived here on Monday last, with the intention to remain some time in Paris.

B. H. R.

Our Irish Correspondence.

DUBLIN, Jan. 15, 1852.

The Russell Cabinet on its Last Legs—Affairs at the Cape of Good Hope—Irish and American Steamship Line—Shipwrecks—The Parliamentary Campaign, &c.

It is a fact, which will no longer brook concealment, that Lord John Russell's cabinet is on its last legs. Every day's mail, and every private letter repeat the story. His little lordship is at this moment in a melancholy plight. He has separated himself from the most popular and ablest member of his cabinet, while he is surrounded by men, who are, for the most part, either incompetent, inexperienced, or unfitted by ill health or other causes, for the efficient discharge of their official duties. Lord Palmerston, his old ally, who, for many years, has stood him in good stead, he has rendered a formidable opponent, if not a dangerous rival. His attempts to secure new accessions to the ministry to make up for this loss, and to enable him, with some prospects of continuance in office, to meet Parliament a few weeks hence, have only by their failure left the cabinet in a state of increasing weakness.

It is generally understood, that to Sir James Graham, to the Duke of Newcastle, to Mr. Gladstone, and to Sydney Herbert, offers were made last week, in order to the formation of a whig conservative government. The attempt has led to no result, whatever may have been the cause of failure. These wary politicians would not enlist under the Russell banner. He, is, therefore, left with an awkward squad of imbeciles to meet Parliament—to carry on the affairs of Downing street—and to prepare his explanations for the dismissal of the late Foreign Secretary.

Lord John may meet Parliament, but it can only be to resign. Who will succeed him in office? A purely conservative or protectionist ministry have no chance; while the Manchester party have not sufficient aristocratic influence, to enable them to carry on the government of the country. The most likely government, and the one most suitable to the times would be a cabinet comprising the chief members of the Peel party, to follow out their late leader's views upon commercial liberty, with the addition of such members of the Manchester school as would guarantee to the British empire a full measure of parliamentary reform. Let us hope that this is in store for us. A few weeks will settle the question, for Parliament is to assemble by the second or third of February. Ireland has no reason to regret that the Russell cabinet is in the last agony, for the Premier, by his maddening Durham letter, and his hypocritical Ecclesiastical Titles bill, showed himself utterly incapable of viewing with the eyes of a statesman the peculiar position of this portion of the United Kingdom.

By the last mail from the Cape of Good Hope, it still appears that our affairs there are anything but prosperous; and it is to be feared that the full extent of our disasters there is not fully known. The following extract from a private letter, tells some truths which should have been known in this country before now:—

"The aspect of affairs is more lowering here than ever. In our late affairs there were but twenty-one dead bodies of Caffres found. We are nearly worn out by the fatigue of this never ceasing bush work, with such results to our labor. The fact is, our movements are made without combination, and to the youngest drum boy it is perceptible that a master mind is sadly wanting to direct them. The Caffres fight with most gallant determination, and with an enthusiasm that really seems to grow with the duration of the war. Certainly there is not the least symptom of their giving in. The strength of the positions they now take up, and the way they defend them is astonishing. Then, from their perfect knowledge of the country, with no impediments of any kind to obstruct their movements in the bush, they bring numbers to bear upon our isolated parties, that nothing but our pluck and discipline have been able to withstand, and that at times with the greatest difficulty; and should they, by chance, on any occasion, be successful, it will give an impulse to their operations, the result of which it is fearful to contemplate. One thing is certain: if it is intended we should exterminate the Caffres, three times the force we have won't effect the purpose. If the object is only to defend and preserve our own frontiers—and that it will, *per jas aut nefas*, come to, and from which principle we have paid dearly for departing—the present war, with its expenditure of treasure and blood, has been most needless."

The writer here points out the very essence of the question. We have erred, and erred egregiously, in extending indefinitely the boundaries of the colony, and we are suffering as we deserve for it now. The only way in which we can hope for a speedy termination of the war is to retire within our former territories. Is it not madness for Britain to be sacrificing the lives of her soldiers at the Cape of Good Hope, and spending uselessly a hundred thousand pounds a month, when the state of Europe is such that she may speedily be called upon, and that at a very short warning, to stand on her own defence?

The colonists of the Cape of Good Hope long ago demanded a local government, and to be left to their own management. Had this been done in time, we should not now be a spectacle to the world. The colonists would have looked better to their own interests and their own defence than the denizens of Downing street. A step towards this arrangement has just been taken, but we question if it be not too late. A constitution has been sent out. The charter directs that the business of the colony shall be managed by a Governor, a Legislative Council, and a House of Assembly. The Legislative Council is to consist of a chief justice, as president, and fifteen members, who must possess landed property of the value of £1,000, or moveable property to the value of £2,000. The Council is elected for ten years. The House of Assembly is to consist of forty-six members, who are to be elected for five years. The franchise is limited to occupants of tenements of £25 value.

The colonists, it seems, will accept this constitution willingly. Before, however, it has received the assent of the British Parliament and Crown, a considerable delay must occur, and, during the whole of that period the expense of the war must be borne by this country. It has been a mismanaged concern, from first to last. It will, probably, cost the British nation, as yet, many lives, and, perhaps, two or three millions of money, and, after all, we shall have gained only a loss.

To turn now from subjects connected with the three kingdoms to what has a more particular reference to our own country, it is matter for congratulation that there is every prospect of not one but several lines of steamers being engaged in the Irish and American traffic during the course of this summer. It is said that the member of Parliament for Dundalk, Torrens McCullagh, has succeeded in obtaining from government a charter, enabling Messrs. Hartley, McCalmont, and others, to form themselves into a company, with the intention of plying steamers regularly between Galway and Halifax.

The loss of the Amazon, and the fearful destruction of human life which it involved; the loss, the other day, of the "City of Wexford" steamer, on her voyage from Wexford to Liverpool, with all her cargo, though passengers and crew were saved; the wreck of the Columbus, Captain McCerrin, from New Orleans, with cotton and Indian corn, which went on shore at the entrance to Waterford harbor on Wednesday last, when two ladies, two steerage passengers, and eight of the crew were drowned;—these, and many other late disasters by sea, have drawn public attention, unfortunately too much, to the great loss recently sustained upon or near these islands of life and property. This winter has been by far the most disastrous to shipping for many years. It is to be feared that three vessels which sailed from Dublin for New York in October last, with emigrants, have also been lost. There is no word, though now three months have elapsed, of their arrival on your shores. The only hope is that they have been driven far south, and obtained a landing somewhere in South America.

Poor Irish emigrants! how much have you to suffer! Driven forth from your native soil by some heartless landlord or brutal agent, you instinctively look to America, as the land where you may expect to find a permanent home, as the land of promise to the expatriated Irishman. But before reaching the American shores you are fleeced and plundered in every way. The poor emigrant is exposed to the most cruel frauds, and far too frequently becomes the prey of those unprincipled scoundrels, who, in seaport towns, but especially in Liverpool, lie in wait for their unsuspecting victims. Under the guise of friendship, under the pretence of furnishing information, they plunder unmercifully the helpless stranger, who trusts to their guidance and direction. The vessel at length gained, the dangers of the sea over, there is reason to fear he may again be pounced upon in New York, and the little he has left filched away from him by a new class of sharpers. To this important subject, the *Liverpool Albion* is calling attention, and pointing out the positive necessity for some extensive provision, of a public kind, for the protection of emigrants from this heartless species of villany. The *New York Herald* will not be behind hand in this philanthropic and praiseworthy object. Let it lend its powerful assistance to this, the cause of society and of charity, and emigrants' homes will soon be provided on both sides of the Atlantic.

The New York Exhibition has been pretty generally talked of here among our artists and manufacturers lately. Mr. Carr, who held an official appointment under the Executive Committee of the Great Exhibition of 1851, came to Dublin some little time ago, and had several interviews with the committee of manufacturers of the Royal Dublin Society, in reference to the contemplated American exhibition. The inducements which he held forth to contributors, that they should be relieved from all preliminary expenses, such as freight or insurance; that they would be at liberty to attach prices to their goods, and every facility be afforded for effecting sales; and that all such contributions as should not be sold, were to be reconveyed to the owners, free of all charge. All these advantages have done much to sway the minds of most parties in favor of the American World's Fair, and we are of opinion that Ireland and its products and manufactures will there be fully represented.

The country is at present tranquil. Ribbonism has not again written its name in the blood of any one since I wrote last. These cursed secret societies will, as yet, be put down it is to be hoped.

Parties are preparing for the approaching Parliamentary campaign. The committee of the Catholic Defence Association had a meeting yesterday. The opponents of the government grant to Maynooth are to have a public meeting in this city on the 28th, immediately before the assembling of Parliament, to decide what measures are to be adopted for the suppression of Maynooth and its upholders. Mr. Shee, serjeant at law of the English bar, and a Roman Catholic, has just issued an address to the electors of Wexford, requesting their suffrages, as he has learned that their present representative is about to retire. Mr. Shee is a gentleman with whom I have been long acquainted, and I am well aware that his distinguished legal abilities, and extensive erudition will soon make him a man of mark in the British Parliament, if he be returned as an Irish representative. He is married to a sister of Sir William Gordon, of Letterfearn, Premier Baronet of Nova Scotia, and commander of the detachment of the 66th regiment, at present quartered in Quebec, North America.

Our Scotch Correspondence.

EDINBURG, January 12, 1852.

The Loss of the Amazon—The Launch of the Arabia—The Sandwich Islands and Great Britain—Roman Catholicism in Scotland.

The loss of the Amazon steamer has created a great sensation in this country. Upwards of a hundred souls called at once to their account by that most fearful of all catastrophes—fire—and fire too on board ship, with no prospect of safety but by having recourse to the boats, and the sea raging around with such stormy violence as to afford to the greater number who flew to them only a change in the mode of death! It is fearful to consider the dreadful position of the unfortunate passengers and crew, and melancholy indeed to have to chronicle such a deplorable loss of life in so gallant a vessel.

Only a few days before, the daily papers had announced the departure of the Amazon steamer, belonging to the Royal West India Mail Steamship Company, under the charge of Captain Symons, and having on board the West India and Mexican mails. It was mentioned that she was the first of the gigantic fleet of West India mail packets which had been got ready for sea; and that she was the largest mail packet afloat. The Amazon had on board 1,100 tons of coal, 100 tons of cargo, amongst which was specie to the value of £20,100, and fifty passengers, and it was remarked that she was rather deep in the water. Thirty hours sufficed to breed destruction to the Amazon and the immense majority of those on board. On Friday, at three o'clock in the afternoon, she left Southampton; by one o'clock on Sunday morning the fire appeared; by five o'clock she was at the bottom of the ocean.

There seems to be some fatality attached to these West India steamers. Not to speak of the Solway, and others, it is only some six weeks since, by the mismanagement of one of the British pilots, another splendid vessel, the Demerara, was stranded an hour or two after she was launched. To supply her place, every exertion was made to get the Amazon ready; and, alas! she has only been characterized by a greater amount of misfortune.

I need not give the names of the passengers and members of the crew, saved or lost, as your files of the London papers will furnish you with them; but I cannot help alluding to the unhappy loss of one who had earned to himself an honorable name in the ranks of literature—Mr. Eliot Warburton. His "Crescent and the Cross" was universally read, and had become, by general acclaim, one of the standard works of the English language. Eastern scenery stood forth in bold relief under the touches of his pencil; and the knowledge he had acquired by his extensive travels of the Morningland, its manners, and its customs, he clearly and beautifully transferred to his readers. He had just published a new novel entitled "Darien, or the Merchant Prince," founded upon the unfortunate Scottish expedition to the Isthmus of Darien, in the reign of William the Third. Students of history know how much Scottish blood and treasure were at that period recklessly and ruthlessly sacrificed by the British sovereign, and with what bitter feelings William was ever afterwards viewed by the Scottish nation. The Darien expedition, and the massacre of Glencoe, lived in their memories, and gave strength and stability to the Jacobite party.

Of this subject, as one affording materials of the most interesting description, Mr. Warburton, with singular felicity had taken possession. And it is but little to say that he had invested the incidents of history with a halo of pathos and romance. It is strange and melancholy to reflect that, with newly earned laurels, he had just set forth to view again those scenes he had so beautifully and vividly depicted, when this sudden and appalling catastrophe hurried him away, with, alas! many, many others, to an untimely death. Mr. Warburton had been deputed by the Atlantic and Pacific Junction Company, to come to a friendly understanding with the Indians of the Isthmus. It was also his intention to study more particularly all connected with its natural history, climate, topography, available resources, &c., when thus cut off by a dreadful death. One of the deputies to the Congress of New Granada is also reported among the lost passengers.

The cause of this melancholy and appalling occurrence will, in all probability, never be ascertained completely. The bearings of the engines are spoken of; but it is more generally believed that a quantity of tallow, stowed on board in casks, and placed above the coals, which were contained in bags which had many of them formerly held pitch, was the cause of the destruction of the Amazon. The tallow, it is said, was so much heated by the engine fire, that it melted through the casks, on the bags and coals, and thus rendered the whole mass ready for one immense conflagration.

We are sorry to be obliged to add to this already sufficiently distressing intelligence, that the whole of Scotland, more especially the north coast and the shores of the Moray Firth, was visited, last week, by a storm of almost unexampled severity. During Thursday, the 8th of January, and Friday, the 9th, a hurricane swept over the land. Many vessels have been wrecked, and harbors demolished, though, fortunately, as far as has yet been ascertained, not many lives have been lost. But communication in many parts has been completely interrupted by the heavy fall of snow, which has blocked up the roads; and we fear that every day will bring more melancholy intelligence of immense destruction of property, both by sea and land, and the loss of many lives on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland.

On Wednesday week, an addition was made to the Cunard line of royal American mail steamers, by the launch of the Arabia, from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. Steel & Co., Greenock. The engines are to be furnished by Napier, of Glasgow. The Arabia promises to be one of the most magnificent steamers afloat, and it is confidently expected that she will fully equal, if not surpass, anything that has yet been done by the Cunard liners. The two engines will be upwards of 1,000 horse power, working upon low pressure, and the tonnage is calculated at upwards of 2,400 tons. The Persia, now on the stocks, and in an advanced state, is a similar vessel to the Arabia, and will be ready for launching in April next. The Arabia is to have two funnels, and only two masts. Her dependence will be mainly on her enormous steam power. She is expected to be ready for her trial trip in about three months.

The treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, between Great Britain and the Sandwich Islands, signed at Honolulu, on the tenth of July last, has just been made public. It is one of entire reciprocal freedom, with the exception as regards navigation of the coasting trade of the respective countries. British whalers are to enjoy the privileges lately conceded to those of the United States, of entering certain ports, in addition to Honolulu and Lahaina, and are to be allowed to trade to the amount of $200 without the payment of duties of any kind. They may also, upon paying the extraordinary import or export duties, trade to the further extent of $1,000 before becoming liable to port charges. A provision is inserted for the surrender of naval or military deserters, which, in consequence of the proximity of California, is not without importance; and there is also a clause for the residence of a British packet agent, in case there should, at any time, be established British mail packets touching at a port of the island. The ratification of the treaty is to take place by the tenth of May next.

From the "Roman Catholic Directory for 1852," it appears that there are in Scotland, in connection with the Roman Catholic body, 5 bishops and 130 priests, 100 churches and chapels, with, besides, above 40 stations, which are either regularly or occasionally occupied. There is one Roman Catholic College in Scotland—St. Mary's, Blairs, Aberdeenshire. There are also several foreign colleges connected with the Scottish Roman Catholic Mission. These are, the Scotch College at Rome, the Scotch College at Paris, St. Ambrose's Scotch College at Valladolid, in Spain, and St. James's Scotch College and Monastery at Ratisbon, in Bavaria. Besides the above, there are students for the Scottish Mission in the seminary of the Propaganda, Rome; also, at Cambrai, Arras, and Douay, in France. In Scotland, there are four convents. These are, St. Margaret's Convent, Edinburg; the Convent of the Good Shepherd, at Dalbeth, near Glasgow; the Convent of the Immaculate Conception, Glasgow; and the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Glasgow.

Regarding the Convent of the Immaculate Conception, the "Directory" says that, "during the course of last year, nine young ladies received the habit of the order; and on the 16th of July, 1851, eight novices made their religious profession. The convent school is attended by upwards of seventy scholars, besides a number of pupil boarders. The sisters also take charge of three female day and evening schools, with an average of from 200 to 300 scholars each. They also superintend Sunday female schools, which are attended by about 2,000 girls."

Regarding the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, the same authority says that, "during last year, five young ladies received the white veil in this order." The religious of this convent also superintend girls' day schools, numbering about 400 children, and Sunday schools, numbering about 600.

There are supposed to be upwards of 150,000 Catholics in Scotland; but the majority are Irish, or of Irish descent.

In England, the number of Catholics is variously estimated from a million to a million and a half. Of churches and chapels in England, there are 604; three in South Wales, and three in North Wales—making a total of churches and chapels in Great Britain of 710. There are 11 colleges in England, 17 religious houses of men, 62 convents; and in England and Wales, 800 priests; making a grand total of priests, including bishops, in Great Britain, of 1,039—showing an increase of priests over last year of 67.

The *London Morning Advertiser* has the following article on the progress of Catholicism in 1851:—"The year which has just terminated has been one of great prosperity to Catholicism, both with regard to its accessions from the Church of England and the increase of its churches and convents. No fewer than nineteen new places of worship have been opened during the year in the United Kingdom, including the Church of our Lady of Victories, Clapham, a convent and schools in Blandford square, the Church of St. John the Evangelist, and the Church of our Lady, Star of the Sea, Greenwich. One convent and four other churches are also in course of erection.

"Thirty-eight clergymen have left the Church of England—that 'bulwark of Protestantism,' as it is called—and become 'reconciled' to the Church of Rome, during 1851. Four of these were in London, viz: Rev. Henry Bedford, curate of Christ Church, Hoxton; the Rev. Mr. Dodsworth—the Bishop of London's 'dear Dodsworth,' who was not 'incumbent of St. Pancras,' as the Catholic prints style him, but of Christ Church, Regent's park. Then there were the Rev. Mr. Harper, of St. Peter's, Pimlico; and the Rev. Mr. Vale, of Buckingham Palace Chapel.

"Turning to the provinces, we have a similar state of things. Among these are the Rev. Danvers Clarke, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, rural dean and rector of Ipping, Sussex. Then comes Rev. E. Coffin, curate to the Rev. Mr. Wilberforce, when rector of East Farleigh, Kent.

"Let us see what Mr. Hook, the vicar of Leeds, has done for Protestantism. During the past year, Popery has taken six of Dr. Hook's colleagues at Leeds, viz:—Rev. Messrs. Rooke, Coombs, and Crawley, three curates of St. Saviour's, together with the two vicars of the same church, the Rev. J. Minster and the Rev. R. Ward. Then there is the Rev. F. Hathaway, fellow of Worcester college, Oxford, and incumbent of Snadwell, near Leeds.

"We may notice, too, the venerable Archdeacon Manning, of Chichester, with the Rev. Mr. Saprimandaye, his curate. There was the Hon. and Rev. J. Towry Law, who was brother of Lord Ellenborough, Chancellor of Bath and Wells, and vicar of Harborne, and also the Revds. James Orr and J. H. Woodward, of St. James's, Bristol.

"Amongst the lay converts are several distinguished men, including J. R. Hope, Esq., Queen's Counsel, said to be the D. C. L. of the Morning Chronicle, and who has succeeded Sir Walter Scott in the possession of Abbotsford; Lord Nigel Kennedy, who is brother to the Marquis of Ailsa, in Scotland; the Marchioness of Lothian; Lady Newry; Lady Catherine Howard, who is daughter of the Earl of Wicklow; Lady Peat and family; Hon. Miss Brand, daughter of Lord Dacre; the late Sir J. Talbot, Admiral of the Fleet, and Grand Commander of the Bath; Sir Vere de Vere, baronet, and Lady Vere, and Aubrey de Vere, the author of "English Misrule and Irish Misdeeds;" Mrs. Turner, wife of Rev. C. Turner, of Hanwell Park, Middlesex; Mrs. Gerrard, who followed her husband, Rev. J. H. Gerrard, D.C.L., of the University of London, and Fellow and tutor of Cain's College, Cambridge, and a host of others."

All this goes far to show that the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has been apparently more advantageous than prejudicial to Catholicity in the United Kingdom.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF FRANCE.

Opinion of the English Press.

[From the London News, Jan. 16.]

The Autocrat of France has promulgated the constitution that might have been expected of him. It is precisely that constitution which the favorite clown or charlatan of the day might have announced with enthusiastic applause to the audience that throngs before any theatre of the Boulevard du Temple. It is the very burlesque of representative government, the parody of every system that has been seriously essayed in really free countries. Power without responsibility, debates without publicity, a commons house without the faculty of originating a law or modifying a budget, an upper house without hereditary dignity or elective right, a government which is nothing but a police, and an army whose duty is merely that of gendarmes—such is the political system solemnly proposed for and to France in the middle of the nineteenth century.

The consular constitution of the year VIII, from which the mock system is borrowed, was, it is well known, an undisguised and complete dictatorship. The council of state were the advocates whom the future emperor paid and consulted. The senators were his valets. The tribunate, or lower house, was composed of his paid talkers, who, when they talked in any way that government did not like, were precluded from talking at all. Soon after this constitution was originally granted, the tribunate as the House of Representatives was then called, chose to discuss and criticise Napoleon's two measures of the code and the concordat. The first consul was indignant at their audacity, and withdrew these laws, giving the tribunate nothing whatever to discuss. They had no power by the constitution of originating a law or a motion, consequently their functions were suspended, their place became a sinecure, and they themselves became the laughing-stock of the Parisians. The same fate awaits the mock House of Commons of Louis Napoleon, if, indeed, he can get any Frenchmen above the rank of village schoolmasters who would so far demean themselves as to wear the livery, and receive the pay, of popular representatives without the faculty of doing anything save what they were bidden. Why not issue a decree, that the servants who wait behind the chairs of the guests at the Elysee, shall take the seats in the morning, and vote the laws of the President, including his own civil list and their expenses. It would be just as respectable and genuine a House of Commons as the *valetaille* which the mock constitution summons from the provinces.

Odious as is a dictatorship, the least humiliating form of it is that which avows what it is, and which assigns reasons for its necessity. Bonaparte, in 1800, was not without these reasons. The country had just recovered from civil war and from foreign war, from both of which he who claim