EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

The Great O'Sullivan Fizzle—The Movement to Get Rid of Bright.

LONDON, May 15, 1869.

The British government has found great relief this week from the unexpected resignation of the Mayor of Cork, on the day the bill to abolish him by solemn act of Parliament was brought up in the House of Commons. The case of the refractory Mayor was, indeed, full of annoyances of a far more serious character than a superficial observer would suppose. His seditious language, so boldly uttered and backed by the prominence of his official position, could not be suffered to pass unnoticed without establishing a dangerous precedent. But how was the offender to be reached? Holding an elective office, he could not be removed by the government, and his offence was not such as would have rendered a criminal prosecution likely to succeed. It was, therefore, for the administration to choose between inaction and a proceeding unusual, extreme and of questionable constitutionality—a bill of pains and penalties directed against an individual, and calling to mind the worst days of British tyranny and oppression. The advisers of her Majesty decided upon the latter course, but it was one surrounded by difficulties. Their action against the Mayor must have been taken from unsworn and, consequently, unreliable testimony; for the House of Commons has not the power to administer an oath, and despite the hatred of Irishmen that animates the majority of English aristocrats, it was by no means certain that the exceptional legislation proposed by Mr. Gladstone would have been successful. Had it prevailed without any material opposition there still remained the awkward fact that the British government felt the necessity of putting forth its whole strength in the extreme measure of a bill of pains and penalties against a single blatant demagogue, who in an after dinner speech had cast defiance in the teeth of the British authorities. This exhibition of weakness and temerity was the more to be deplored since it occurred at the moment the whole British nation was declaring its readiness to plunge into war with a powerful people rather than make acknowledgment and reparation for the cruel injuries inflicted upon the United States during the Southern rebellion.

The resignation of the offending Mayor was therefore a most welcome relief to the British government, but was at the same time a most lamentable squelcher for O'Sullivan. When the crown of martyrdom was within his reach he withdrew his hand and declined to grasp it. The frothy Irishman had it in his power to descend in history as one of the remarkable characters of the age. He had succeeded in terrifying the British government. The hated union which Fenianism has in vain struggled to destroy seemed ready to break in pieces before him. He stood single-handed against the Queen, the Cabinet and the imperial Parliament, and with a fair prospect of coming out best in the conflict. He was a modern Daniel in the British lion's den, and all the roaring beasts were muzzled. Even if they had prevailed against him, his fame and fortune were secure, and he might have made his choice between the first presidency of the Irish republic and emigration to New York, where, after a hurried process through the Courts of Naturalization, he would have easily eclipsed the stars of the O'Briens and O'Gormans of the American Dublin. All this promising and brilliant future O'Sullivan has destroyed by his flunky resignation, and it is not to be wondered at that the citizens of Cork, who were beginning to view him in the light of a hero, are now so incensed against him as to render it prudent for him to retire for a time to Weisbaden to wash himself clean of his political treachery.

There are, however, some curious stories afloat as to the means by which this resignation of the Mayor was brought about. Some say that the genial Maguire and a number of "fine young Irish gentlemen" who are on the best of terms with the Gladstone administration took O'Sullivan under their special charge on his arrival at the Euston Square Hotel, and after a liberal dinner, conducted on the truly Hibernian principle of whiskey before meals, whiskey with all the courses and whiskey after meals, contrived first to steal the brief which O'Sullivan had prepared for use on his appearance at the bar of the House as his own counsel, and afterwards to obtain his signature to the formal resignation of his office. The story goes that O'Sullivan retired to bed in his boots, hat and overcoat, which he had put on preparatory to starting for Westminster, and that when he awoke in the morning, after his case had been disposed of and Parliament had adjourned for the Whitsuntide recess, he was ignorant whether he was mayor or martyr and unable to tell whether he was in the City Hall of Cork or the Tower of London.

Another version is that the British administration, in its profound reverence for "vested rights," had resolved to remunerate the Mayor for his pecuniary losses on a scale as magnificent as that which prevails in the Irish Church bill, and that O'Sullivan, overcome by the liberality of the ministers, in an outburst of genuine Irish generosity, tendered his resignation and helped them out of a most awkward dilemma. But whatever may be the correct explanation of the inglorious termination of this affair, O'Sullivan is finally disposed of. His sun has gone down, not in a blaze of glory, and the moral of the story is that a government can scarcely be considered powerful abroad when it is so weak at home as to tremble before an O'Sullivan, and to find it necessary to employ extraordinary measures and to invoke all the powers of its Parliament to crush out a single blatant demagogue.

An intense excitement was created in political circles on Thursday by the unexpected raid of Lord John Russell upon the Gladstone administration, and yet such a movement on the part of such a man was by no means surprising to those who have watched his political career and understand his personal character. Lord Russell is irritable, overbearing, envious and tricky, and in his seventy-seventh year he has lost none of the qualities that distinguished him during his more active life. He cannot make up his mind to stand aloof from power and to devote his remaining days to the good of his country without an ambitious thought. He has long been jealous of the large majorities enjoyed by Gladstone in the House of Commons, and feels as if his own reputation as a liberal and reformer were now under an eclipse. It is therefore quite understandable that he should gladly seize upon an opportunity to endeavor to detract something from the fame of the present Premier, and his questions as to the intended ministerial policy in regard to the Irish land question need not have excited surprise, had they been dictated only by personal feeling. But they are susceptible of another interpretation. Nothing is more certain than that the liberal whigs are determined to get rid of John Bright, and his recent indiscreet speech in the House, when he suffered himself to be badgered into the statement that he had a land policy for Ireland and that it was in conformity with his previous avowals on the stump, has seriously embarrassed his associates in the ministry and disposed them to hasten his departure from their midst. He is to be driven, if possible, into retirement, and it is believed that Lord John Russell's attack upon the administration will have the effect to irritate him into withdrawal, in order that he may have his hands and tongue free to do and talk as he pleases. The truth is that Bright has a plan for land reform in Ireland, and he is at the present moment busily employed in working it up into a bill to be presented to Parliament either as a ministerial or independent measure. It is based upon the principle of the Russian law and contemplates making the sale of land held in large quantities by non-resident owners compulsory at prices to be fixed by the government. The purchase is to be made by government, the money being borrowed on bonds bearing four or five per cent interest, and the peasant buys of the government. He pays at the rate of five or six per cent interest on the price of his purchase, and in forty-five years the land becomes absolutely his own, the one per cent difference between the interest paid and received by the government forming the sinking fund for the purchase. The proposition is not likely to meet with favor from Mr. Gladstone's associates, and hence a change in the administration as at present composed may be anticipated before long. It will then be seen that the combination between Gladstone and Stanley, already foreshadowed in the HERALD, is more than mere newspaper gossip.

The British Army—Appointments and Promotions—Rank and File—Where the Recruits Come from and What They Are—In Relation to the Officers—Its Present Condition.

LONDON, May 15, 1869.

In my last letter I gave your readers an exact account of the way in which army appointments and army promotions are made in England. The picture may be considered by some as too highly colored; nevertheless I can assure you that it is a simple copy of the original, and that not a single dash of paint more than was required to convey a representation of existing rules, customs and regulations was employed in the picture I sent you. To what I wrote on the 12th of this month must be added one simple fact—that appointments and promotions by purchase do not exist in the following corps, viz.: the engineers, artillery, marines and Indian army, including the three cavalry and nine infantry corps of British troops that were formerly in the service of the East India Company, but are now attached to the royal army. In all these regiments interest alone can obtain a commission for a young man, and it is by seniority only that he is promoted; he cannot, as in the great bulk of our army, obtain advancement by purchasing over the heads of his seniors.

And now, to redeem my promise about the rank and file—the non-commissioned officers and privates of the English army. I will begin with the latter. Our army, as you know, is recruited by voluntary enlistments. As a rule—a rule almost without exception—the great middle class will not enter the service. The commissioned ranks are too high—too wealthy, too aristocratic—for them; the non-commissioned, or rather the private soldiers' ranks, are far too low. The consequences are that, war or no war, our shopkeepers, artisans, and others of the class of which consists the great moral—and not a little of the physical—strength of the nation, will not serve in our army; and, curious enough, this feeling is virtually encouraged by the authorities. Their wish is that the officer who commands and the soldier who is commanded should be separated by an almost impassible gulf, by a chasm which can hardly be and seldom is bridged over. This is the reason why we have in England to go to the lowest of the low orders in order to recruit for the army. For Ireland and Scotland it was a few years ago different. In those countries we had large fields open to us from which we might pick the flower of the agricultural laborers. In one district of the Highlands of Scotland a relation of mine enlisted in 1812 a hundred men in one week, every one of whom was six feet high or more, and stout in proportion. But the district in which he enlisted those men is now a howling wilderness. The Duke of Sutherland wanted it for a deer forest, and little by little the whole large population were ejected from their holdings and induced to emigrate. Where are they now? Some in Canada, more in the United States, gathering up in those lands strength for their new homes and preaching a hatred towards those who forced them to leave the country where their forefathers had lived for centuries. Even so late as twenty years ago we were able to get every year at least a few hundred Highlanders as recruits for our army; now we don't get a dozen.

It is the same in Ireland. The men that we used to enlist in that country have been, or at least their families have been, forced to emigrate. On your side of the Atlantic there are some 50,000 or 60,000 Irishmen who are trained soldiers; who would, had they been properly governed in their own land, have been in our ranks; but who now hate the very name of England. Ten years ago recruiting in Ireland—that is, among the stout-hearted, stout-limbed peasantry in the country—was easy; now it is an impossibility. The men we require we have to accept of, and be thankful, from the loafers of the large towns; from the laborers who are too lazy to work; from the artisans who are too drunken to get on; from the roughs who are too ruffianlike to find employment in civil life. In a word, nothing can be worse than the material of which the British army is now composed; and although strict discipline and a certain amount of increased comforts tend to civilize and to reform the men after they are enlisted, the feeling they have towards their superiors is anything but good, and would not be improved were a war to break out. How can it be otherwise? What have our private soldiers to look forward to? The proportion of enlisted men who rise to be officers is less than one per cent, and those who do so rise are perhaps worse off than they were before. To promote a man from sergeant major to be an ensign is, no doubt, a very great boon; but of what use is it, then, without money? As I pointed out in my last letter, he can get no higher rank. One by one all his companion ensigns who can command the price of a lieutenancy must supersede him. He generally hangs on for a few years, and in time, after he has been passed over again and again, gets a lieutenancy, which he holds for a time and then sells out, cursing a system which allows only those who have money to rise in the army. In France about a third of the general officers, half of the colonels and majors and two-thirds of the captains and subalterns have risen from the ranks. In England there are two field officers, a dozen captains and perhaps four times that number of subalterns throughout the whole army who have done so. Thus it is that, whether on or off duty, the officers and soldiers have nothing whatever in common, and that, as a rule, the spirit of the men among the rank and file of the army is anything but good.

The chief evil, in my opinion, is that the army is not looked upon as a profession. It is, in fact, so far as the officers are concerned, a pleasant pastime for the sons of wealthy men, who seek to pass away the time between leaving school or college and entering upon the more serious duties of life. Of course there are exceptions to this rule. Some few young men (I am not speaking of those who go to India, or of those who enter the artillery, the engineers or the marines, for these are mostly poor men, who do take to soldiering as they would to any other profession) enter the army, and hope to rise in it. But their ambition is quickly crushed out of them. They begin, like their companions, to look upon the service as a mere excuse for idling away their time. The enormous demands upon their purses whenever promotion reaches them, the expensive habits they have contracted, and the taste for luxury they have learned as regimental officers, generally enervate them and unfit them for anything like active life. And so they sell out, making way for others who will pass through the same ordeal. This it is that causes anything like professional zeal to be so ill-looked upon by the officers of our army. They take pride in their horses, their cricket, their driving, the different races and race meetings throughout the kingdom, and in every kind of sport and amusement; but not in their men, their duty or their profession. They are gentlemen, but not soldiers; manly fellows, but not officers; good riders, but bad commanders; the most athletic body of educated men perhaps in the world, but the worst officers in any civilized country, and caring far less than any other class I have ever heard or read of, for the work they are paid to do.

There is in this country, and I believe it exists also on your side of the Atlantic, a homely proverb that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." This holds good with our army as regards all past, and will do the same in all future wars. We have never entered upon a campaign—rarely even in India—without being in a complete muddle at the outset. Our army is brave, for personal courage is not a quality often found wanting among either Anglo-Saxons or Celts, whether born in New York, the United States, or in the cathedral town of York, England, in Missouri or Middlesex, in Cathness or California. But we are not—we never are—prepared for war. We have to learn our business when we ought to be practising it, and the consequences are that we inevitably make a mess of our work at first. Our army is a showy force, admirable in time of peace, but next to useless in time of war. And if ever we have to meet an intelligent, active enemy, we shall learn to our cost that we ought to have spent our leisure in getting a knowledge of our duties instead of leaving it until we are called upon to act. What would be said of a medical man who, when called upon to attend a patient, had to commence reading up medicine, or of a lawyer who, when called into court, had to study his law books before he could act for his client? The English army, expensive as it is, costing, as I told you in my last letter but one, man for man, nearly 700 per cent more than the French army does, is as badly prepared for service as the doctor who knows nothing of medicine is for the sick room or the lawyer who has never studied law is for the court.

So much, then, for the quality of our troops. As regards the quantity—the number which could be sent on service at an hour's notice—we are indeed badly off. What with the chronic state of bad feeling in Ireland towards the English government; the numerous colonial possessions we have all over the world; the immense force of English troops, in addition to the native army, required in India, I do not believe—and I am fully borne out by what I hear from military men in high appointments—we could send forth from England an army of more than 6,000 or 7,000 men, if our very existence as a nation depended upon our doing so. We could not do so for the best of all reasons, namely: that we have not the men, and we don't know where to get them. In short we are, so far as our army is concerned, utterly unprepared for an offensive war. What we should do in our defence, in the event of being attacked, I will write about in my next, and then go on to the defensive state of England and Ireland against any foreign enemy.

GERMANY.

New Taxes to Be Imposed—Stamp Duties—Doings in Theatres—The Grand Duchess Excitement—The Bourse.

FRANKFORT, May 9, 1869.

The blessings of Cæsarism become more apparent every week. A lot of new taxes have been submitted to the North German Reichstag, one more oppressive to trade than the other. There shall be a tax of fifteen thalers per 100 pounds on petroleum, and another on gas. A tax shall be laid on beer, which already pays a heavy *octroi*. All stamp revenues shall pass from the various States to the exchequer of the North German Confederacy, which will prove ruinous to the finances of Hamburg, as this city loses thereby an income of more than 1,090,000 thalers. Still worse than all is the tax to be levied on all exchange transactions. Brokers' bills must be stamped, and notes of sale for bonds and shares as well. This might be excused and can be enforced; but another tax, over which government has no control, can only be levied by espionage, and must lead to endless vexations. It is proposed that all foreign bonds and shares held in the Northern confederacy shall pay a stamp of one per mille if presented before the end of September, and one per cent if presented at a later day. Besides all new bonds coming in the country shall pay henceforth one per cent stamp duty, lottery loans two per cent. Of course nobody will bring by his own free will his bonds to the stamp office, where notice will be taken of the amount, and submit the owner in addition to a heavy income tax, and the same cannot be collected without the interference of spies; but with regard to new bonds it is a different thing. They cannot be negotiated without a stamp, and as this increases their price transactions will be removed to the cheaper market, as nobody will buy here, for instance, an American bond for eighty-eight which he may get at Amsterdam or Munich or anywhere without the reach of Prussia at eighty-seven. The whole plan is a miserable imitation of French Cæsarism, which levies a similar tax at Paris; still this could be done more feasibly, as there is no other exchange in France but Paris. What is most to be lamented is that all this pressure is laid on the people to keep up an immense army, which can only be required for aggression. Prussia has now remonstrated with Bavaria, Wurtemburg and Baden to bring their armies on the same expensive footing as her own, but public opinion will never allow them to consent to this. They want such taxes as they pay for the maintenance of their schools and universities and for the payment of their debt, and cannot afford the luxury of a large standing army in time of perfect peace. Should Prussia insist her treaties with the Southern States will be much compromised.

As strife must be between men, and as there is a perfect lull in politics, we have now here a storm about theatricals. A new vaudeville theatre is in construction and will be opened in the autumn. This has raised the jealousy of the directors of our city theatre, and they recently produced Miss Rabe, from the St. Petersburg theatre, who copied the mimic of the famous Mrs. Schneider, as Duchess of Gerolstein. This proved attractive to our young men, but was highly censured by all friends of dramatic art. The directors were accused to filling their halls at the cost of public morality. They tried to silence these clamors by introducing a foreign comic actor, and they made bad yet worse by it. Mr. Knaake, from Vienna, was applauded some years ago, when his comic songs and gestures had the attraction of novelty; but now they appear coarse, and the directors are again blamed for corrupting good taste. The result will probably be that the administration will resign, as they are not paid for their trouble, and that the performances must be suspended for want of managers. In other respects things have greatly improved, house property has regained its former high price, and a large number of new houses are going to be built—what nobody would have expected after the catastrophe of 1866.

Our Bourse continues animated, particularly for Austrian railway shares. American are in good demand, and the floating stock is totally absorbed. The prices remain firm; still, they cannot rise so long as gold remains at a premium of thirty-three per cent. The bad reports about the two Pacific railways have sent down the bonds of the Central, which are dealt in here at seventy-two. At that low figure some purchasers have come forward. Rock Island and St. Louis bonds maintain their prices and are sold freely, as nothing detrimental to their credit has transpired. There is now also a market here for your city bonds, such as San Francisco, St. Louis and Chicago. In spite of the numerous loans recently issued money remains a drug, and may be got to any amount at three and half per cent interest.

The Berlin Press on Prussian Policy.

The *North German Correspondent* of Berlin, of May 15, mentions that it was one of the provisions of the treaty of Prague that the movable property of the various States composing the former German confederacy contained in the federal fortresses should be verified and the value fixed by a commission of liquidation. These fortresses include Luxemburg, Mayence, Rastadt, Ulm and Landau. The claims of Austria and Holland were examined by a commission in Frankfort in the year 1867, and disposed of by the payment of a sum agreed on by the parties interested. A new commission of liquidation has now met in Munich to settle the claims of the other Northern and Southern States to the movable property of the German confederacy. Some ill-informed South German newspapers make the erroneous announcement that this commission is a so-called German military commission such as existed in the time of the old confederacy, and which was an assembly of experts and military authorities to deliberate on everything referring to the federal army. This is quite incorrect, and, in any case, Prussia has never dreamt of proposing the re-establishment of any such commission, desirous as she is of avoiding anything like interference with the military affairs of the South, and wishing to give no handle to the supposition that she seeks to encroach on the sovereignty of the Southern States. These States even founded in October last a fortress commission, in which also Prussia is unrepresented, although this commission has in its hands the control and administration of the federal movable property, in which Prussia has a share.

SPAIN.

The Policy of Delay—Prospective Carlist Risings—Carlist Adherents in the Cortes—The Debates on the Constitution.

MADRID, May 19, 1869.

Eight months have now elapsed since the breaking out of the revolution—eight months of anarchy, during which the imbecile and ambitious men now at the head of the government have kept the nation in a state of suspense, disputing among themselves, unable to come to any decision, and giving time to every other party to combine and form their plans. The result is what might have been expected. There is little doubt that we are on the eve of a civil war. The danger is imminent. A Carlist rising in the provinces was fixed for the middle of March, but the heads of the party considering this movement premature, there seems now little doubt that it will break out towards the end of the present month. It is indeed more than probable that the Carlists will succumb, if the troops are faithful. But faithful to whom? In any case the prospect of the misery and bloodshed which must necessarily ensue is truly appalling.

A friend of mine, just returned from Bayonne, where Isabellists and Carlists most do congregate, informs me that each party is distinguished by a badge, those of Isabel wearing a white lily and those of Don Carlos a violet in their buttonholes, in allusion to their future queen, the Princess Marguerite, of Parma. Were the so-called Carlos VII. a man of capacity or even a brave soldier his progress might be fair enough; but even his friends and partisans have no higher praise for him than that he is a well educated and well meaning young man.

The government affects to sneer at the idea of a Carlist movement, and General Prim has repeatedly spoken with contempt in the Cortes both of Isabellists and Carlists, of their reunions and intentions, assuring his party of the cordial friendship of France, and on one occasion explaining, with a certain degree of *naïveté*, that the appearance of these conspirators on the frontier was not the fault of the French government; "for," said he, "when we were conspiring and they prevented us from entering by the road, we always found other ways of coming in."

On one occasion a sharp war of words took place between General Kein and the old Carlist Ochoa. The latter defended the rights of Carlos VII., as he termed him. This polite irony in addressing the Minister of War was very effective. His sneers at the results of the revolution of September might have excited a cooler head than Kein's. The Minister of Fomento, in reply to his speech, observed that many of those who had lived in the palace and had received favors and honors from the Queen, who owed her ruin to their bad counsels, had now turned their backs upon her and ranged themselves on the side of Don Carlos. Ochoa replied that not only had the former partisans of Don Carlos returned to him, but that many of the Queen's constant partisans, who had received favorable honors from her, had gone over to him also. "But what argument is this?" he exclaimed. "Who are the revolutionists? Those who have been loaded with favors, honors and titles by the Queen, and who have repaid her by driving her from the throne." But the excitement rose to its height when he observed, in continuation, that in the affair of San Carlos de Kapita, the Carlist rising which took place several years ago under General Ortega, that unfortunate officer, before being led out to execution, had declared that eleven generals in the Queen's service were compromised in that affair as well as he. The anger of Prim may be imagined. He fiercely denied that such words had been uttered by Ortega. Hisses, groans and applause proceeded from the tribunes, and it was some time before order could be restored.

It was on the same day that one Don Diaz Quintero, a deputy hitherto unknown to fame, pronounced these memorable words:—"I belong to no religion. I am not even an atheist, because I have nothing to do with religions, not even to deny them. They are all subversive of morality. I say with Don Carlos in Schiller, 'My ideas are not of this age. I should have lived at a more advanced period.'"

Meanwhile the debates upon the constitution, which is now being discussed in the Cortes article by article, make slow progress, and should they continue at the same rate it is to be feared that months must pass before the project can be finally settled, 112 articles having to be discussed. As yet those which have been treated are of comparatively small importance. Those concerning capital punishment, the question of individual rights, of liberty of worship, &c., will no doubt occupy much time, and many are of opinion that the debates may be prolonged throughout the whole summer. Many of the newspapers speak with enthusiasm of the brilliant oratory which is daily to be heard in the Cortes, declaring the speakers to be superior to the greatest orators, ancient or modern. The most remarkable have been those of Señor Canovas de Castilla, of Castelar, of the Chanoine Monteroia and of the Bishop of Jaen. In the limits of a letter it is impossible to give even a resumé of these brilliant speeches. Canovas de Castilla is a true orator—profound, moderate and eloquent in the best sense of the word. Castelar speaks like one possessed. His eloquence is overpowering. Listening to his torrent of words, to his brilliant paradoxes, to his reckless assertions, to his abuse of everything sacred, his hearers remain as it were startled, hardly able to define whether their feelings are most of admiration or reprobation. It is only when the fire has died out and his listeners have had time to reflect upon the sense of his words that they discover that these brilliant fireworks have left nothing behind them but dry and unprofitable wood. Monteroia, the Chanoine, who undertook to answer the fiery young orator, reduced all his arguments one by one to nothingness.

Rumors of a ministerial crisis have been rife lately, but it is probable that for the present the Ministers will not increase the difficulties of their position by any open disunion.

ROME.

Departure of Visitors—Dulness—The Theatres and What is Being Done in Them—The Health of the Pope.

ROME, May 17, 1869.

But few strangers now remain in the Eternal City, and not only the hotels, *pensiones* and private houses in general, all seem to have come to a standstill in every way, but stagnation seems to reign complete as to news. Dulness fills the air, and yet we have six theatres open—the Politeama Romano, where they are giving little buffo operas, not very badly sung, at five o'clock in the afternoon; the Mausoleo d'Augusto, where there is a dramatic company—a pretty good one—also a day theatre, at five o'clock in the afternoon. Then we have the famous *giuoco del pallone*—(game of ball) at the Speristerio, got up last summer at the Quattro Fontane, just by the Palazzo Barberini. This game is very difficult. The players are paid, and well paid; the great dexterity consists in receiving the ball and not letting it drop. The sort of machine which throws it makes it go to an immense height.

For evening theatres we have a bad opera company at the Argentina, where *on coorche* Rossini's "Moses" and Verdi's "Traviata," giving it the name of "Violetta." At the Capranica is also a dramatic company, very middling, and two small theatres called Metastasio and Valletto, where, if you are fond of Pulcinella and incomprehensible (to us strangers) Neapolitan dialect and gestures, you may go twice in the same day, there being two representions, one at seven and the other at nine.

I am complaining of Rome, and I see that the Hon. Riccardi (as they call the Italian members of Parliament), in treating the Roman debt question, said on the 9th:—"Gentlemen, to Rome we do not go, because in Rome one is better off than anywhere else now. Here we suffer and we pay; there they enjoy themselves; from all parts of the world gold rains upon them," &c. Therefore it seems I ought not to complain.

The Italian crisis, by the by, has been very interesting to all here; those in favor of that country (the Italianissime) feared for the result; those against that government were delighted; but the new ministry is formed at last, and the interest ceases. Menabrea has been able, after all, to reconstitute his ministry with Minghetti, Ferraris, Bargoni and Mordini.

I see that the Italian papers, such as *l'Opinione Nazionale* and the *Gazetta di Milano*, insist that the Holy Father is seriously ill. Fortunately nothing can be further from it at present. On the 10th he went to Castle Gandolfo to spend the day. I happened to be at the depot and saw the pontifical train start. Pius IX. seemed not only well, but in the best of spirits. Then yesterday again I met him walking. He had got out of his carriage at the Porta del Populo and from there he walked down the Corso as far as the Piazza Colonna—quite a smart walk for any one—and he goes very fast.

TURKEY.

The Frontier Difficulties—The Investigations of the Mixed Commission—Russian Intrigue at Work Among the Kroomlees—Street Railroads.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 15, 1869.

The main items of news which reach us this week are from the northeast. From Mouch, in Anatolia, we hear that the mixed commission sent there to investigate the differences between the Persian and Turkish frontier authorities, and also to inquire into several acts of sacrilege committed by the roving Kurds on some Armenian convents and churches in the town and neighborhood of Mouch, had succeeded in finding the stolen property; but so far we are not told in whose possession the things were nor what measures have been taken to trace the actual perpetrators of the outrages committed.

Nearer the coast, in the vicinity of Trebizond, there are the districts of Surméne and Kroom, inhabited by about 5,000 men—Kroomlees they are called. About three centuries ago, at the time of the conquest, the forefathers of these Kroomlees were, by the invading race of Mussulmans, forced to embrace the faith of Islamism. In most cases, however, where large bodies of men have been obliged to change their religion, either through interest or fear, the outward ceremonies are the only forms changed, but not the real faith; so, in this case also, Demetrios or Constantine was altered to Mustapha or Ahmed, the mosque was frequented in lieu of the church, and the people assembled to their devotions at the solemn call of the Muezins, instead of the merry ring of the bells, but at heart they retained, and, when the hot zeal of the conqueror cooled down, gradually resumed their old ways, customs and superstitions, and, though Mussulmans in appearance and form, inwardly they held fast, from force of habit, if not from conviction, to their original faith. Up to a very recent period these Kroomlees, as Mussulman subjects of the Porte, furnished to the Turkish army their yearly contingent of conscripts, instead of paying, as all Christians do, the tax called Bedelee, which exempts them from service. The ground to work upon and the materials to meddle with were too good not to fix the attention of Russian intrigue, and we now hear that these Kroomlees, many of whom possess Russian passports, have thrown off the mask and declared themselves Christians of the Greek Church. To this decision they, of course, as Christians, add that of refusing to furnish conscripts to the army, but they go further and also refuse to pay the Bedelee tax.

The action and interference of foreign consuls, for good or evil, as it may best suit the interest of their respective governments, is as usual not wanting in this instance, and through them their chiefs here appear disposed to interfere in the matter, more particularly the Russians, who plead for the converts to their faith. The Porte, of course, sticks to its rights, and is decided on acting thereon. It does not refuse to recognize the right of the Kroomlees to become Christians if they wish it, and is even willing to allow them to emigrate to Russia if they feel so inclined; but from those who remain it insists on having either conscripts or Bedelee, the latter in preference, perhaps, to the former, as men are plentiful and money scarce. So far these people refuse to bear arms, to pay the Bedelee or to decamp to Russia—a piece of obstinacy rather too exacting and certainly too dangerous to be permitted.

A project on the tapis is the laying down of tramways in Stamboul and in the suburb of Galata. The project seems to meet the views and the approval of the Turkish Board, and, as it will not require a very great outlay of capital and provides means of communication in the interior of this town, which is very necessary, it has a good chance of succeeding, and may ultimately prove a profitable undertaking.

FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Count Von Beust, the Austrian Premier, will be present at the opening of the Suez Canal.

The cloth weavers of Bédarieux, France, are out on strike and demand an increase of wages.

Twelve acres of the Regent's Park, in London, are to be prepared and fenced in as a cricket ground.

Annexation to Prussia has caused the taxation to be increased by one-third in the Grand Duchy of Hesse since 1866.

The new King of Siam is busily reorganizing his army, and has appointed a French officer as his commander-in-chief.

A fire recently broke out in the village of Vaux, France, destroying all the houses excepting those of the Mayor and the priest.

The Queen of Madagascar and several of her ministers were recently publicly baptized in the English missionary church.

Prince Humbert has been presented with the insignia of the Order of the Golden Fleece by the Austrian Minister Resident at Florence.

Serious strikes and consequent disturbances have occurred in the port of Esojerg, in Denmark, among the Danish and Swedish laborers.

The city of Tortosa in Spain, with only 25,000 inhabitants, contains property belonging to the Roman Catholic Church valued at 46,000,000 reals.

A magnificent hospital for lepers is to be endowed at Rome by the Marquis of Bute as a thank offering for his conversion to the Roman Catholic Church.

Queen Victoria intends visiting Switzerland again this year, and will also proceed to Sicily and Greece. The trip will be probably via Genoa and Palermo by steamer.

The young Prince Milano of Servia, accompanied by the Ministers of War and Finance, has commenced a journey of inspection throughout the Principality.

A wealthy London merchant is bearing all the expenses of the "Marriage Reform Association," in order to legitimize his children by a marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

Great Britain imports more wheat from Russia than from the United States. During February last the importations from Russian ports amounted to £469,099, or $2,845,495.

Fears are entertained that the Belgian city of Charleroi is gradually sinking, and application has been made to the authorities to prevent further mining within the precincts.

In the year 1866 the number of letters which passed through the post offices of Austria amounted to 356,906,622, and in 1867 it was 480,549,152, being an increase of over 123,500,000 in one year alone.

A priest in a church of Madrid, having ended his sermon with the words, "Death to the Protestants and heretics who voted the law on liberty of conscience," was arrested by special order from the Minister of Justice.

The movement at the port of Suez for 1868 is represented by the arrival of 435 vessels, ganging 296,211 tons and carrying 33,347 passengers. The difference over 1867 is 65 craft, of 77,281 tons, and with 7,688 passengers.

The number of emigrant passengers who left Havre during the month of April was 6,588; out of whom 6,280 were for New York, 20 for San Francisco, 2 for Montreal, 285 for the States of Rio de la Plata and 1 for Lima.

MM. Aubert, Marie-Martin and Chaveau, for a length of time writers on the *Constitutionnel*, of Paris, have sent letters to that journal to say that in consequence of its recent change of political opinion they cease to form a part of its staff.

The German papers mention a proposed marriage between Prince Ernest, eldest son of the ex-King of Hanover, and the Princess Thyra, third daughter of the King of Denmark. The Prince is in his twenty-fourth and the Princess in her sixteenth year.

Six persons have been committed for trial on charges arising out of the late fatal riot near Tralee, Ireland. The three wounded men are included in the number; but the committal is little better than a formality in O'Hara's case, as his death is expected.

Señor Tassara, the lately appointed Spanish Minister at the Court of St. James, has been bidden not to present his credentials, but at once to return. The reason of this recall is said to be his imprudence in talking, both at Bayonne and Paris, and in London itself, of the probability of a restoration of the Prince of Asturias. Señor Tassara was originally a moderado, but he had been, or seemed to have been, won over to the views of the unionist party after the September revolution, and on his return from his American mission he was thought to have dived deeply into the scheme of an Iberian Union.

THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

Excursion of the Board of Visitors to the Farm of Mr. Albert—A Pleasant Day in the Country—Mrs. Porter's Party.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., June 1, 1869.

The examinations having finished yesterday, in anticipation of a lull while awaiting the ball on Friday next, Mr. William J. Albert, of Baltimore, one of the Board of Visitors, extended an invitation to his colleagues and a few guests to visit his farm to-day at Sparrow Point, at the mouth of the Patapsco river. To convey the party the United States steam tender Phlox, Benjamin G. Perry, master, and Second Assistant Engineer John Bostwick, engineer in charge, was placed at the disposition of Mr. Albert.

At eleven o'clock this morning the party went aboard, and the tender left her dock steaming out of the Severn river into the broad expanse of the Chesapeake bay. On the right lay the beautiful grounds of the Academy, and on the left the remains of old Fort Madison and the green hills skirting the shore. In the stream at anchor or moored to the dock were the double-turreted monitors Tonawanda, the Savannah and Macedonian, with their frowning guns pointing through the portholes, the Constitution, Santee, Marion and Dale. As the tender started on her course the Academy Band, Professor Schaaf, which accompanied the party, from the forward part of the hurricane deck enlivened the occasion with music.

The persons present were Commodore Goldsborough, Captain Harrison, wife and daughter Lillian; Captain Parrott, Chief Engineer Williamson, and Miss Price, of Richmond, Va.; Chief Engineer Charles Loring, ex-Governor Hawley, of Connecticut; Judge Humphrey, of Alabama; Mr. Wadsworth, of Kentucky; Dr. McKim, of New York, brother-in-law to Mr. Albert; midshipmen Charles P. Perkins and Theoderic Porter and your correspondent.

After entering the bay a light breeze sprung up, which was gratefully enjoyed after experiencing the oppressive temperature of the shore. The tender took her course up the beautiful sheet of water, rounding points and passing numerous vessels outward and inward bound.

Shortly after one o'clock the tender reached the wharf at Sparrow's Point, when the entire party, walking along a causeway several hundred yards in length, proceeded to the main land.

On shore there was a carriage in readiness to carry the ladies to the house. The rest of the party, together with the band, made the distance, nearly a mile, on foot. It was owing to an oversight on the part of the person entrusted with the management that there were not carriages sufficient for all. Reaching the house, a fine large brick building, the party resorted to the usual instrumentalities of cooling off, and in a few minutes were enjoying a pleasant recreation under the trees on the lawn.

There is much of historic interest connected with the Sparrow Point Farm, as Mr. Albert calls his place. Within its limits, which embrace 600 acres of fine land, the first port of entry of Baltimore county was opened in 1697. Humphey's cove, known also to history, is on the place. Several miles distant is the battle ground of North Point.

The house is well located on a dry, level spot, affording a delightful view of the bay and the passing vessels. From the cupola of the dwelling an excellent view was had, ranging in all directions. The bay of Baltimore spreads out in broad view, and the smoke and spires of the city were quite visible. Towards other points of the compass a fine prospect was had, opening to the eye beautiful valleys and and groves, and off in the dim distance the dark line of the Eastern Shore.

The party upon their arrival were met at the mansion by Mrs. Albert and Mrs. and Miss Goldsborough. These ladies had arrived from Baltimore by carriage, a distance of fourteen miles, and were now busily occupying themselves in entertaining their distinguished guests. At three o'clock the party sat down to an elegant lunch, embracing all the delicacies of the season. The afternoon passed rapidly and delightfully. At half-past five o'clock the tender was on her way back to Annapolis, where the party arrived at dusk. The company now broke up, with many thanks to Mr. Albert for his delightful entertainment.

The Board of Visitors have chosen ex-Governor Hawley, of Connecticut, to write the report to be presented to the Secretary of the Navy in relation to the examinations, and Judge Humphrey, of Alabama, will deliver the address on the occasion of the presentation of the diplomas to the graduating class on Friday next. Yesterday the Board visited the Academy photographic establishment, under the control of Mr. N. S. Bowdish, of Richfield Springs, N. Y., and an excellent picture was taken of the group. During the practical exercises a number of views were also taken, as is the annual practice.

The party given by Mrs. Admiral Porter to-night has turned out to be an elegant affair, notwithstanding the heat and threatening clouds. On the grounds outside the Admiral's residence a large pavilion was erected, in which refreshments were spread out in great abundance. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock and supper at midnight. All of the Board of Visitors and a number of officers and civilians, with the ladies of their families, were present.

The first class boat club Decatur and second class Nautilus have been devoting all their time since the completion of the examination to practising for the race which will come off, if the weather permits, before the ball.

THE OLD NORTH DUTCH CHURCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I saw a notice in your columns a few days since of the centennial celebration of this church. I was not present on the occasion, but I think that while its friends listened with delight and just pride to the glowing rehearsal of all its glory, by the learned doctor who delivered the "memorial," they must have been astonished, grieved and mortified when they heard him proceed to pronounce sentence of death by stating that the consistory (with whom rests the government of the church) have decided to condemn it to the axe and the hammer of the spoiler, and that in a very short time. Mortifying to the last degree it must be to every true-heated Dutchman to hear sacrilege cried from every quarter, and to have heard strangers, Methodists and Episcopalians, passing out pronounce it "shameful," "disgraceful," saying, "If we Methodists can keep John street and the Episcopalians two churches down town, can't you keep one?" Why is this? The reason given by the consistory—as stated by the reverend gentleman in the aforesaid memorial—is that the church costs too much in proportion to its usefulness. We should like to be informed if Twenty-ninth street, which is the richest of the collegiate churches, is self-sustaining? How long would she stand if it were not for the fund of the church? And yet we do not hear of any proposition to tear her down. It was stated that the annual expense of the North church is $12,000. How much of that expense is caused by the noon meeting is best known to the consistory, and although that meeting may have been very beneficial to other denominations, and even to other Dutch chur