EUROPE.

The Inman steamship City of Brooklyn, Captain Brooks, from Liverpool the 10th, via Queenstown the 11th, arrived here last evening. She brings details of our cable telegrams up to date of sailing.

A society has been formed in the Evangelical Vereinshaus of Berlin for the propagation of the Gospel in Spain.

The young Count Charles Walewski, attaché at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris, has been appointed Third Secretary of Embassy at London.

A sudden rise in the Arc, a torrent in the Maurienne Alps, has caused some damage to the Mont Cenis Railway, the two bridges of Tennett having been carried away.

A ministerial Council was held in Paris on the 9th instant, at which it was resolved that a short session of the Legislative Chamber should at once be held for the purpose of swearing in the new members. The session is to commence on the 28th instant.

The son of the Czarewitch, born on the 7th, has received the name of Alexander.

A private telegram from Constantinople, published by the Vienna *Presse*, announces the conclusion of a treaty regulating the question of the frontier line between Turkey and Persia.

M. Dariste, French Senator, has entered an action for defamation against the *gérant* of the *Bernais* and M. Gustave Fould, with damages laid at 100,000 francs, the plaintiff announcing his intention, if successful, to apply the money to the charitable establishments of Lescar (Basses Pyrénées).

At Arsac, France, the lightning recently fell upon the church during divine service. About thirty persons were more or less seriously injured, and a part of the roof destroyed.

On the 9th the police arrested a Dublin printer for having distributed documents of a treasonable character among the military stationed at Cork. In these productions the soldiers as well as the people were called upon to enter all gun shops and provision stores and to appropriate their contents. The prisoner was brought before the magistrates at Cork and remanded.

The periodical elections of members to the Second Chamber of Deputies of Holland has been held, and in the city of Amsterdam the three liberal candidates were all elected. The result of the provincial elections is not yet known.

It is announced that General Fleury, aide-de-camp of the Emperor Napoleon, has been appointed French Minister at the Court of Italy. General Fleury has already fulfilled several important diplomatic missions, and the *Patrie* says that his appointment at the moment when a marked *rapprochement* is taking place between France, Austria and Italy is a fact of the utmost interest.

The results of thirty-one elections to the Holland Chamber of Deputies have come to hand. Of the successful candidates twenty are liberals, fourteen of whom sat in the last Chamber, and eleven are conservatives, of whom three are new members. A second balloting will be necessary in five electoral districts.

An old man, attired in ecclesiastical costume and wearing a long white beard, has been seen for the last few days in the streets of Paris. It is Mgr. Dupond, Bishop of Azoth, in the kingdom of Siam, who has come to Europe to be present at the General Council. This prelate was born at Arras; he has resided in Siam for the last thirty years.

The Paris *Patrie* says that several papers, in enumerating the artillery force of Prussia, have declared that it consists of 8,000 guns, and that of France is numerically inferior. "Without entering now into any comparison," says the *Patrie*, "we may perhaps be allowed to remark that France possesses a total of 8,845 guns, the bulk of which are new rifled cannons, or old pieces which have been altered, and that our artillery enjoys a very high reputation in Europe.

An analysis of the rolls of the peerage shows that so far from the "descendants of the Runnymede barons" being numerously represented in the present House of Lords, only three peerages of the thirteenth century survive. There are four peerages of the fourteenth century, seven of the fifteenth, twelve of the sixteenth, thirty-five of the seventeenth, ninety-five of the eighteenth and 233 of the nineteenth. The new patents issued since Earl Grey's accession to power in 1830 are 163 in number, and of these 123 were created by liberal and forty by conservative governments.

ENGLAND.

The London Times on the Late French Elections.

In 1866 the Minister of Public Instruction published a colored map, showing the state of elementary education in the departments, according to the census tables of the annual conscription. Taking this map as a guide to the recent elections, we find that, with scarcely an exception, wherever the standard of national education is highest, the candidates of the opposition have distanced their official competitors, and the bitter parody of a celebrated phrase, in which a Paris contemporary sums up these educational and electoral statistics—*L'Empire c'est l'ignorance*—is only too well justified.

Surely this is not the sort of basis for a dynasty to satisfy a thoughtful and intelligent sovereign. All the false doctrines of rash and irresponsible advisers cannot persuade him that at this period of the nineteenth century such a people as the French will resign themselves to the tyranny of ignorance. Besides, in some slight degree this mass of ignorance is decreasing every year, and as the circle of popular intelligence widens, the majority of the satisfied shrinks, like the *Peau de Chagrin* in Balzac's story.

To gain, however, a clear view of the true meaning of these results of the second ballot, it is more important to fix attention upon the electors than upon the elected; upon the relative numbers of the majority and the minority in the constituencies where official or independent candidates have been returned, and upon the classes of the population which that majority and that minority severally and distinctly represent. It will be found that in a considerable portion of the country as well as the town constituencies, the candidate of the liberal minority has run the official nominee very hard, and when the moral and material resources of the administration against an obnoxious intruder in isolated localities are weighed in the balance, the mere apparition of any but official candidates seems in most cases almost miraculous. It is absurd to suppose that in electing a candidate of extreme opinions the populations of commercial and industrial cities, and of all the great centres of intelligence and activity, are aiming at the demolition of existing society, or the violent subversion of the peace and order of the community. What they mean is simply to choose the man who presents himself as the most uncompromising adversary to the ruling power, and this they do sometimes without much regard to the political capacity of the candidate of their choice. But the transformation of the majority in the new Corps Législatif will be more striking even than the numerical increase of the opposition. With such minorities behind them they will no longer be the docile and compliant acclaimers of every Minister who demands their unquestioning confidence and assent. One of the causes of the decline and fall of the First Napoleon was the servile acquiescence of the great bodies of the State, which so easily degenerated into desertion and insult when the master's fortunes began to wane. It may be reserved for the wiser experience of his nephew to learn the value of a representative assembly which has the courage to assert its prerogatives in due season. His best friends and well-wishers can but hope that he will be wise in time. Before the Chamber which has just been elected has fulfilled its constitutional term of existence the Prince Imperial will be legally of age. Perhaps this paternal reflection may assist the Emperor in seizing one of those supreme opportunities which once lost are irrecoverable. It needs no gift of prophecy to foretell that his conduct at this critical juncture will be his fate.

The Post Office and the Telegraphs.

The following information is communicated by the United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Company (Limited):—The Post Office have completed their arrangements, under the Telegraphs Act, with the whole of the telegraph companies for the purchase of their undertakings, and have nearly settled their arrangements with the railways. The amount of purchase money required is now, therefore, so nearly ascertained, that a reliable estimate may be arrived at of the probable financial result to the country. The money will be raised at from three and a half to three and a quarter per cent, and the revenue derived from the telegraphic business shows a return of between five and six per cent upon the total sum required, and therefore a large net gain to the national revenue. The basis of twenty years' purchase of the net receipts of the companies, as fixed by Parliament under the act, includes the plant as well as the goodwill of the business. The act of 1844 prescribed twenty-five years' purchase of the net profits and of the prospective profits of the railways; so that the present arrangement is far more favorable to the country than existing precedents would have appeared to warrant.

The Irish Church Bill—"A Speech Not Spoken."

[From the London Daily News, June 9.]

A "Speech Not Spoken" is the title of a letter to the Lord Chancellor into which the Bishop of Ely has compressed what he would say in the House of Lords if he had not made up his mind to leave the speaking to the Archbishops and the Irish prelates. The Bishop's letter is very candid and moderate. He is "fully alive to the anomaly of a Church containing but 700,000 worshippers being treated as the Church of a people numbering nearly 6,000,000 souls," and he does not doubt that Mr. Gladstone has brought forward his bill "in a spirit of anxious desire to remedy a grievance, to conciliate a nation and to do even-handed justice to all." For all that he is an earnest opponent of the Disestablishment and Disendowment bill, which, although it will leave the Irish Church, in proportion to the number of its members, the richest church in Christendom, he describes as one for "turning it out empty-handed upon the world." * * * If the political value of the Bishop's letter is small, there is a passage near its close which all parties in the Church may read with profit:—

> If the Churches of Great Britain and Ireland cease to be national, still their sphere of influence has spread so far and wide that, by good and steady organization, the whole Anglican communion may perhaps be kept, as one great patriarchate, united and independent. It cannot be done if every private opinion and every sectarian prejudice be pressed against the common good and to the disunion of the whole. But if clergy and laity will join together with mutual confidence, if men will fight and pray against extreme practices, against personal whims, against isolated and insubordinate courses, if they will renounce bitter recriminations, and, above all, discredit and discountenance violent religious periodicals (on the one side or the other), there may be a hope that United Anglicanism—at home, in America and in the colonies—may hold fast to Catholic, primitive and evangelical truth, though its nationalism may have been scattered to the winds of heaven. Otherwise there is no hope but of reabsorption in Rome.

The italics are the Bishop's. It is not pleasant for members of the State Church—and it is still less pleasant for the thorough Protestants outside its pale, who, according to the measure of their power, are responsible for its establishment—to be told that it has so trained up its children that they are in imminent danger of being absorbed into the Church of Rome. But it is always best to know the truth.

The London Star on the Alabama Question.

It is a great point gained that so many errors have already been exposed and refuted, and that we once again feel ourselves standing on firm ground. We hope that the people of both countries will resist the temptation to depart from the region of facts. The story of a tripartite alliance against the United States is one of those canards which are very apt to puzzle even sober people, and to place common sense at a discount. According to this report negotiations of some kind or other are on foot for the union of Great Britain, France and Spain in a treaty which contemplates the possibility of war with the American republic. We believe that so far as the responsible statesmen of this country are concerned these negotiations are a pure figment of the imagination, and we are inclined to think that both the Emperor and the government of Spain have domestic troubles on their hands which will indispose them to embark in so magnificent an undertaking as an alliance, offensive and defensive, with England. The facts with which we are actually confronted are sufficiently serious without the introduction of an element of romance into the question. There has already been a great deal too much of talk for the mental health of either nation, and for this reason it might be as well if the threatened debate in the House of Commons did not come off. Everybody is satisfied with the statesmanlike explanation of Lord Clarendon, and for the present the further solution of the problem may safely be left in the wise hands to which it has been entrusted. The nation has confidence in her Majesty's advisers. Debates in the House of Commons may provoke further misunderstandings—at all events, they can serve no useful object, and we should be glad if our legislators would for a time exercise the wisdom of silence.

Dreadful Boiler Explosion at Bingley.

The London *Times* of the 10th inst. contains the following heartrending account of a boiler explosion, which was attended with considerable loss of life:—

A very disastrous boiler explosion, supposed to have resulted in the death of not fewer than twenty adults and children, occurred yesterday morning at the works of Messrs. Town & Son, bobbin turners, at Bingley, between Bradford and Keighley. The workshop of Messrs. Town was situate on the north bank of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and in the rear of the National School, Park road, the two buildings being separated by the playground of the school. The premises of Messrs. Town consisted of a large workshop about fifteen yards long by fifteen in width, and two stories in height, boiler and engine house and offices. The boiler house stood between the workshop and offices, and over the latter were two rooms occupied as a dwelling by Mr. J. Town, Jr. The explosion occurred about ten o'clock yesterday morning. The boiler was lifted from its base into the air, and fell a shapeless mass about forty yards off. The works and cottages were levelled with the ground, large stones being buried long distances. Workmen who were on the building, persons in the cottages and scholars in the playground of the National School were instantly overwhelmed and buried beneath the ruins. A great number of willing hands immediately engaged in the task of disinterring those who had been so summarily buried in the ruins, and yesterday afternoon the result was reported as follows:—

Dead.—Mr. Town, jr.; two children of Mr. Joseph Midgley, Park road, manufacturer; a child of Mr. Timothy Lister, Park road; two children of Mr. Naylor, grocer, Ferrand lane; William Thompson and William Tindall, workmen of Messrs. Town, and a child of Mr. Thomas Wright, saddler.

Injured.—Mr. Town, sen., and also Mrs. Town, jr., and Henry Town, son of the latter, both of whom are not likely to recover. Also three workmen, viz.:—Joseph Murgatroyd, Hope street, Keighley; Thomas Smith, Keighley, and Sharp Butterfield, Framcliffe, Bingley.

The dead and injured were removed to the National School, and a number of surgeons from the surrounding district rendered prompt aid to those who were suffering. Some were removed to their homes and some to the Bradford Infirmary. The search for missing bodies was being prosecuted yesterday afternoon. The cause of the disaster is not known.

FRANCE.

The Provincial Elections.

Up to the present time (June 8) the ballotings have resulted in the return of thirty-three opposition and independent and twenty-five official candidates, whose names are as follows:—

Official:—MM. Gaudin, Perras, Conedia, Mathieu, Faisbot, Genton, Bucquet, Chartreuse, Rouzin, Haubville, Thouvette, Babonin, Sizerage, Gourquand, Kerjequ, Dein, Coste, Vignat, Lebreton, Pierte, Charpin, Pamard, Mallet, Johnston and Hermine.

Non-official:—MM. Esquiros, Gambetta, Boduin, Desseaux, Lecesne, Caly, Estancelin, Barante, Bastide, Rampon, Dommartin, Wilson, Hesecque, Barthelemy, Pontatis, Picard, Yvoire, Tassin, Daru, Jeuvencel, Choiseul, Cocheris, Montpayroux, Gevelot, Larrien and Fould.

M. Forcade de la Roquette, Minister of the Interior, addressed, June 8, a circular to despatch to the prefects, announcing that in the fifty-nine elections where a second balloting was necessary, thirty of the successful candidates were either supported or unopposed by the government; twenty-eight on the other hand, belonging to the opposition, and the returns from the second circumspection of the Finisterre has not yet come to hand. The final result of the elections throughout France gives a majority for the government of 213. The third and independent parties will be represeted in the Chamber by 42 deputies and the radical party by 35.

SPAIN.

Cuban Matters—Official Information Received by the Minister of War—Dulce's Resignation and Its Effect—Unsatisfactory News from the Ever Faithful Isle—What the People and the Members of the Cortes Think—Sketch of Caballero de Rodas—Strange Rumor.

MADRID, June 3, 1869.

The Captain General, of the island of Cuba, in a communication dated the 15th of last May, states that the commanding general of the forces in the Eastern Department of the island of Cuba, Count Valmaseda, has come up with the rebels several times and has killed ninety of them, among whom are the chieftans Grau, two brothers of the self-titled General Acosta and two aid-de-camps of Cespedes, and has taken possession of arms and warlike stores. The Commanding General of Cuba says that on the 23d of April last, that the refugee rebels were wandering about the positions called Ramon, which are about fourteen leagues from that city, beaten and pursued by our moveable columns; but he determined to attack them, which he did, and, although they were strongly intrenched, they dispersed after the first shots, leaving in the power of our troops a self-titled colonel and commander and other prisoners. This feat, although it has not afforded all the material advantages desirable, yet has had great moral influence, causing the surrender of 150 rebels and making the others understand they will always be pursued by our soldiers. General Pelaez writes from Santa Clara, on the 4th of last month, that the cavalry colonel of militia of Guinez attacked the rebels near Siguanaca, killing ten and taking possession of arms and horses. The communications received from the Department of the Centre does not fail to be satisfactory. Several families, convinced of the good proceedings of the authorities and Spanish troops towards those who present themselves, have abandoned the hill country, and have placed themselves under our protection. General Letona states that the works on the railroad between Nuevitas and Puerto Principe have received a great impulse, and that on the 4th of the present month a train drawn by a locomotive went out slowly in order to perfect the last repairs. The said General took Ceuta after a trifling resistance, spiked five cannon found there, and destroyed the defenses and trenches made by the rebels, ninety-nine of whom surrendered themselves.

On the 3d, Brigadier Lesca's vanguard, while conducting a convoy to Puerto Principo, found a trench which stopped the pass in the centre of the wood of Alta Gracia. This trench was taken by storm by two battalions. One was of the Arragon regiment and the other by the regiment of the Queen. Our loss was a field officer, subaltern and five soldiers, two officers and twenty-eight soldiers being wounded. By this relation it is easily understood that the rebellion is approaching its conclusion, and that the few symptoms of its existence do not consist in its resources, but in the deceit in which the country people are enveloped and made to believe that they will be shot whenever they present themselves to Spanish authorities or the military chiefs, and that this falsehood is vanishing before the humane conduct observed towards those repentant rebels who surrender themselves.

Despatches were received yesterday by the government from General Domingo Dulce, stating as follows:—

> Commission of Chiefs and Volunteers of Liberty have asked me that I resign the command to my second. I have resigned. Let General Caballero de Rodas come here immediately. I sail from Havana day after to-morrow.
>
> HAVANA, June 2, 1869. DOMINGO DULCE.

> HAVANA, June 2, 1869.
>
> I have taken charge of the military and political command of this island. It is urgent that the Proprietary General arrive here immediately. ESPINAR.

The government is in a quandary. The people are excited and expectant of some great calamity that has occurred in Cuba, and no one dare give utterance to their fears or frame their lips to say that which they would like to say. It is a pitiable sight indeed to behold a nation struggling to speak and every man dumb. Such is the sight Spain presents to-day. Not even the most hydrophobic radical republican or Carlist has a word to say. Though every journal quotes the telegrams and say that though the news is pregnant with forebodings, they know not what to make of it. The members of the Cortes asked the government what it all meant; that if it was convenient to the Executive power the Cortes would like to know something more about these portentious telegrams. Poor Admiral Topete, with something like a groan of despair coming hollowly from his bosom, rose up and said:—Gentlemen Diputados, for your information I will read the telegrams, after which you will know about it as much as the government knows. The above telegrams were read; then explanatorily Topete gave his personal opinions about them, which amount to no more than that "we all know the high noble qualities of the Captain General Dulce, and we may rest assured that the noble patriotism of our noble volunteers of liberty in Cuba is unequaled; but further we know nothing." Is it not a sad thing to see a country like Spain tasking itself to suffer for fifteen days, compelling itself to wait fifteen days for the mail, when two or three telegrams would explain all in two or three days? If Spain had only a NEW YORK HERALD, that short, unsatisfactory, portentious telegram would never have been sent without explanations enough to satisfy all accompanying it. A rumor is current to-day that Dulce has had something to do with the rebels, and that the volunteers did not like it, and they therefore, without any ceremony, ordered him to leave.

Caballero de Rodas left Madrid yesterday for Cadiz. To-morrow he will leave that port on the steamer Almansa for Havana. Five thousand men will leave in two or three days after him for the same destination. This "Gentleman of Rhodes," for that is the interpretation of his euphonious name, breathes fire and fury, and cruel murder glares out of his cruel eyes. Said he, slapping his hand over his heart, "I will have nothing to do with either Spanish or Cuban republicans, for was not the gentleman of Rhodes born a gentleman?" Imagine this man of destiny sailing now to Cuba from that saying of his. The first Caballero de Rodas was the grandfather of the present one. The new Captain General is a soldier of ability, and he is supposed to know military business better than any other man in Spain. He is about forty-two years old, of short and stout proportions, not grossly stout by any means. He is full of energy; fiery, quick in action, prompt to decide. Dulce has a more cunning brain than Caballero de Rodas, but the latter is by far the best soldier. Rodas is supremely proud and cruel. His large, vitreous eyes, could not be kindled by the light of mercy. His very face, though heavy at the first glance, stamps him as a man who could execute extremest measures without remorse. His lips, though not thin, are always drawn closely together, and his chin is exceedingly protrusive; impertinently so. He has a very fixed look, and when he meets a man in the street he always endeavors to stare him out of countenance. The soldiers and people call him the "Butcher," on account of his cruelties in 1854, and last year at Maengos and Cadiz. He rather likes the name than otherwise, and the oftener he hears it the more protrusive his chin gets and more vitreous his eyes appear. You will probably hear something from him when he has arrived at Cuba.

The government are not all satisfied with the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents by the Peruvians. Very little has been said yet about it.

A telegram from London yesterday announced that 800 Americans were about to immigrate to Spain for the purpose of forming a colony. General Robert E. Lee and several other Confederate generals are among the number.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Press on American Sympathies—Russia in the East—The Orthodox Faith.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 2, 1869.

In one of the last numbers of the Moscow *Gazette* I find a long and clever letter from Washington, evidently written by an American and calculated to afford the most unalloyed gratification to all who, like myself—and their name is legion—bear a sincere and friendly feeling to your country and wish for the closest possible intimacy with your nation. It is a remarkable fact that, however high party spirit may run, and however bitter parties may be on each other with respect to most questions of internal as well as foreign policy, this is the one point on which most hostile opinions meet. The righteousness and expediency of a fast friendship with the United States is a thing too universally acknowledged to admit of any great amount of discussion. It is not often you hear any doubts on the subject, and very rare indeed to hear it discussed in a downright sceptical or even hostile spirit. Perhaps in no instance does the national sound political sense more clearly manifest itself. The general good feeling is at present at its height in the expectation of the new American Minister, than whom no person could have been selected more agreeable to the government and to the public. If it is indeed true, as the Moscow *Gazette* Washington correspondent says, that there is a notion among the American public that the Alaska Territory has been ceded to the States only as a special act of friendship on the part of our Emperor, they are not far from the mark, for, as he very well observes, it was not those paltry seven millions that could have tempted him to part with so important, if out of the way portion of his dominions, nor would it have been ceded to any other power for ten times the sum. Another strong claim of America on our kind feeling is the invariable sympathy she has shown to our co-religionaries in the East; and as for Asia, she is rather likely, if anything, to become a link between us than an occasion for strife; for the people of Asia cannot but very soon draw a line undoubtedly favorable to both nations between their policy and the policy of the English in East India; for if they will take care of their own power and interests, neither will they leave the indigenous populations unattended to nor treat them with ill-concealed contempt, under pretence of introducing their own high standard of civilization.

As for China, all my political friends fully agree with the Moscow *Gazette's* Washington correspondent when he says that the completion of the Pacific Railroad opens a new and incalculably vast era in the history of that country, and will scarcely more affect its political and commercial relations to America than to Russia. Indeed, this is a subject so immense and fertile with possibilities that it is next to impossible, I do not say to grasp all its probable bearings and future results, but even dimly to conjecture them. That something grand will one of it can be felt but not as yet expounded. One thing may be predicted, however, with considerable certainty—it is that a revolution will be produced in our business transactions; half what was done through New York will now be turn the opposite way and go through San Francisco, of course taking China on the way, for there is exactly such an increase of attraction to our tea-growing neighbor among us as there appears to be among your countrymen. We begin at last to awake to the fact, obvious enough, it would appear, that a good understanding with our Asiatic neighbors is, if anything, rather more important than with our European ones, and that perhaps our young people have more business to study Chinese and make pleasure trips to Pekin and Yeddo than to learn Paris slang and spend their time and money in Paris cafés, or, perhaps, in still worse places.

There is one other question which bids fair to become an additional and very serious link between our two nations—I mean the religious one. We cannot but follow with intense sympathy and gratification the progress of the Greek orthodox doctrine in America. Our attachment to the faith of our fathers is a national trait, which forms one of the principal elements of the Russian charater, one of the main and deepest springs of those actions of which the nation has most reason to be proud. It is so intimately bound up with our history, our traditions, customs, early associations, with all that we hold dear and sacred, that we never can forego its influence. Our noble and affecting church rites and prayers, identified with our venerable Sclavonic mother tongue, have a hold on our inmost being which neither time nor distance can ever loosen, for it tells on the heart long after the reason has assorted its own independent way. We may have spent years of our youth in Catholic or Protestant countries, as so many of us do; we may become estranged from the land of our birth in all external things, carve out a philosophical and religious path for ourselves—as what thinking and reading individual will not?—we may lean towards Western political theories, and be betrayed into deplorable extremes; but never to our latest day, though we had lived to a sceptical, sneering old age, will a Greek church, a Greek service leave our heart unwarmed, our eye perfectly dry, if presented to us unexpectedly, though we had ceased to seek them for years, be it from negligence, indifferentism or more or less deeply rooted conviction; and not a scholar of the school of Feuerbach and Büchner, not a statesman of the school of Metternich and Talleyrand, not a hardened sceptic or revolutionary agent will be ashamed to own that at some unguarded moment of his life an unexpected gust of incense atmosphere or strain of church chant, in its touching grandeur and simplicity, has moved him to warm, unreasoning human tears. For our religion is not one of the brain only, nor one of the senses and imagination, nor is it something abstract, separate from and independent of the political and social life of the people. It is a notorious historical fact, so notorious as scarcely to need demonstration, that whereas Catholicism has always had a dividing *status in statu* tendency, a way of loosening and suppressing all really sacred ties and substituting, self-created imaginary ones, the influence of the Greek orthodox Church has been exactly contrary throughout history. The most glorious national remembrance, the sweetest, most lively associations of childhood alike endear it to us. It is a beautiful form of worship; at the same time it is the national rallying flag; it is the strongest political link between us and all of our race or our religion; it is the emblem of slavonic unity of the renovating, invigorating element to whom as undoubtedly the future belongs in this hemisphere as to you it belongs in the other hemisphere.

TURKEY.

Important Works on the Danube.

The works directed by the European commission of the Danube are being carried on actively under the surveillance of the delegates. According to the international convention the banks of that river from Isacktchia in Bulgaria to the sea are to remain free from all constructions, servitude or obligations whatever. From that branch 1,200 cubic fathoms of gravel and stones have already been dredged, and there is reason to believe that the complaints of the European commission will lead to the re-establishment of the navigation on that part of the river and place that material at the disposal of the engineers. The works are besides at present in a satisfactory state; the St. George's channel is now maintained at the same level; the cutting through the M delta—so called from its form, appears likely to be terminated in a few months, and the greatest activity prevails in the port of Sulina. The system for conveying the earth ashore, employed when the canal from the port of Amsterdam to the North Sea was being constructed, has been adopted here with great success, and the dredging machines are able to dispense with the use of lighters. The result will be a considerable saving of expense in cutting through the delta. The navigation is besides very considerable, as between the 1st of January of this year and the 16th of May not less than 878 vessels entered the Danube; as 161 were remaining at the end of last year, the total number in the river was 1,039. The departures were much less numerous, and consisted only of 487 vessels of over 30 tons, and twelve of smaller burden. Consequently 590 were still left. When that result is compared with the returns previous to the work of the commission, the influence of that undertaking on the state of the commercial and maritime affairs in those waters will be seen, the increased security offered to vessels having developed the transit in a large measure. To mention only the port of Sulina, there are at present lying there sixty-three vessels, of which twenty are English, sixteen Italian, eight Turkish, eight, Austrian, and several French, Norwegian, Mecklemburger, Rouman and Greek."

GERMANY.

Trade in the Zollverein.

In the year 1868 the state of trade in the whole territory of the Zollverein contrasted favorably with 1867, and this was more particularly the case with regard to Berlin. In the past year, indeed, confidence had not quite returned, but there was a marked improvement in most branches of business. The trade in rye and wheat did not attain its usual dimensions, but on the other hand flour, barley and oats were sold in increased quantities. The spirit trade was unusually brisk, the consumption and exportation surpassing those of 1867 by 4,000,000 of quarts and being 7,000,000 more than in 1866. In spirits of wine a good business was also done. The consumption of flesh meat in Berlin exceeded that of the preceding year by six and a half per cent, and a greater quantity of groceries was used, especially in the second half of the year. The consumption of Berlin beer and other kinds was remarkable. There were in this city forty-seven breweries at work, besides several new ones in course of erection. In wines of the Zollverein there was likewise an increased consumption, as well as in imported bottled wines. The coal trade was very active. Of English coals 200,000 centners more than in the previous year were consumed, in consequence, no doubt, of the high prices of Upper Silesian coals during the past year, arising partly from a very brisk exportation to Austria and partly from increased activity in the Silesian iron trade. Business was more lively in iron and metals. In the first six months of the year there were large transactions in rapeseed oil in consequence of extensive speculation in this article in Paris and Hamburg. The use of petroleum in lamps has increased about fifty per cent, and the trade in linseed oil, palm oil and other commodities of that class exceeded that of 1867. The wool business alone showed a falling off, and prices still continue to sink, in consequence of importations from abroad.

FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A. W. Powell, his wife and children and two missionaries are reported to have been murdered by the natives in Abyssinia.

General Hartmann will command the autumn manœuvres of the Bavarian army at the camp of Schweinfurth, which are to commence about September 1. The troops are expected to number about 18,000.

An unusual flow of emigration from Norway and Sweden has passed through various British ports during this year, mostly *en route* for the United States. The number that has passed via Leith and Glasgow since the middle of March averages 350 per week. The cause is a partial failure of the crops in those two countries during the last two seasons.

The Duchess de Riario-Sforza, having made a deposit of $12,000 in excess of the sum for which the late M. Berryer's estate at Angerville, France, was sold, will probably become the definite purchaser. The total price will then be $76,000.

At Pesth, the Captain of the city has summoned the Mayor before the Court on account of the uncleanly state of the streets and alleys.

A serious riot took place recently at Laibach, between a procession of gymnasts and the peasantry. Several persons were killed and wounded before the military could restore tranquillity.

Paris has a population of 1,700,000 souls—viz., 750,000 men, 700,000 women and 250,000 children. Of these there are 400,000 of independent means, government employes, lawyers, doctors, &c.; 100,000 are connected with the schools, hospitals, prisons, &c.; 200,000 follow various degrees of commerce; 1,000,000 are engaged in manufacturing; 35,000 are soldiers. Paris has also 1,800 steam engines, representing a power of 10,000 horses, equal to the power of 35,000 men.

FOREIGN ART NOTES.

The Koucheleff-Beskorodko collection of pictures was recently sold in Paris:—"The Woman Taken in Adultery," Paul Veronese, brought $3,600; "A Flock of Sheep," K. Dujardin, $3,800; "Pasturage," Cuip, $4,000; "A Village Fête," Teniers, $5,000; "Old Man," same, $5,020; "The Dyke," Ruysdael, $5,360; "Hunt in a Forest," A. Van de Welde, $9,900; "Bull Fight," Paul Potter, also $9,900; "Hermit," Greuze, $11,100. The whole sum realized was $117,620.

A curious discovery has been made in the old church of Saint Gervais, Paris. Some persons who were repairing the woodwork at one of the sides in the left of the nave discovered a secret door giving access to a small chapel, hitherto not known, the walls of which are entirely covered with excellent paintings in the Rénaissance style, in good preservation. This church is extremely rich in artistic relics, possessing among other things a fine Albert Durer and a remarkable Perugino; besides some stained glass of Jean Cousin, the father of the French school of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

A shameful act of vandalism has just been perpetrated in the Cathedral of St. Julien, at Le Mans (Sarthe). There exists in that building a magnificent tomb, attributed by some to Noyau, by others to Gervais Labarre, and consisting of a group in terra cotta, composed of eight persons, life size, representing St. Peter supporting the Saviour, who is lying in his grave clothes; St. John consoling the Virgin; Joseph of Arimathea at the feet of Christ, Mary Magdalen, and Mary, the mother of James and John. Two evenings back a wooden shoe maker, either from motives of anti-religious fanaticism or when under the influence of drink, entered the church, and with a hammer knocked off all the heads of the group. The man was arrested, but the loss to art is most serious.

THE MASSACRE OF AN ENGLISH PARTY IN ABYSSINIA.

From further information received at Newport it appears that Mr. Powell was accompanied by a Mr. Maccree, a Scotchman, who also met with the same cruel fate as the others forming the party. In a communication, dated the 7th May, Mr. West, the English Consul at Alexandria, writes to Mr. Maccree's brother, giving a short account of the progress of the party previous to the massacre. In this he states that Mr. Maccree had taken Mr. Powell to a rather dangerous part of the country, and it would have been better if they had gone in another direction, where the party would have been safer, the chiefs being more friendly, and where equally as good sport in lion hunting might be obtained. Then the consul admits that information has just been received of the cruel murder of Mr. Powell, Mrs. Powell, their child, and Mr. Maccree, by the natives. Two Swiss missionaries are said to have brought the news to the British authorities, and preparations were in progress to start an expedition up the country in order, if possible, to obtain further particulars. This letter adds that unless prompt retaliation follows the brutual massacre the natives will take courage, and it will not be safe for any Englishman to visit the country. Mr. W. H. P. Jenkins, a brother of Mrs. Powell, is, it appears, about to go out to Alexandria, so as to make every possible inquiry respecting the sad affair.

BOOK REVIEW.

SIGHTS AND SENSATIONS IN FRANCE, GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND; OR, EXPERIENCES OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST IN EUROPE. By Edward Gould Buffum, author of "Six Months in the Gold Mines," &c., &c. New York: Harper & Brothers.

Mr. William A. Buffum, a brother of the late Mr. Edward Gould Buffum, has presented in this volume a judicious selection from a mass of letters, sketches, studies, &c., left by the distinguished journalist, whose untimely death in Paris a few months ago spread grief throughout a widely extended circle of friends. The preface gives a brief biographical sketch of the author, whose individual cast of mind, as well as his varied experience as a traveller and his long training as a journalist, eminently qualified him to produce just such a book as this, a book at once entertaining and instructive. The Harpers have published it not only in their best style, but at a most opportune moment. The demand for summer reading is now at its height. The thousands of fashionable tourists who are leaving this port for a trip to Europe will find Mr. Buffum's "Sights and Sensations in France, Germany and Switzerland" a delightful and serviceable travelling companion. At the same time the thousands who are to spend the summer at home, either in town, in the country or on the sea shore, may, by the help of this little book, and by "making believe hard," enjoy many of the pleasures of foreign travel while they escape all its annoyances.

The very titles of the twenty-two chapters which compose this work revive the most interesting associations in the minds of all Americans who have been abroad. To enumerate them may best indicate the range of topics selected by the editor:—The Bubbles of Champagne; *Trente et Quarante* at Hombourg; A Tramp in the Bernese Oberland; The Mont Cenis Tunnel; The Quartier Latin; What the Parisians Eat; The Hospitals of Paris; The *Closerie de Lilas;* The Foundling Hospital of Paris; A Chamber of Horrors; The "*Specialité de Pumpkin Pie*" (Mme. Busquet); What and How Much the Parisians Drink; A Flying Trip in the Country; Parisian Theatres; Distinguished Negroes; Learned Institutions and Lectures; "Down Among the Dead Men" (The Catacombs); The *Chiffoniers* of Paris; Visit to the Chapel of the Tuileries; The Cemetery of Père la Chaise; Religious Freedom in France; Rouen and Its Romantic Reminiscences. Here is certainly an attractive variety.

A striking merit of these pages is derived from the fact that they do not record the hasty, confused and often erroneous impressions of a traveller who has just landed in Europe. On the contrary, they are the fruit of close, careful observations during a prolonged transatlantic residence. No more accurate, condensed and complete account of the champagne district can be given than that in the first chapter, or of the gambling at Hombourg, in the second, or of the Mont Cenis tunnel, in the fourth; and so we might go on specifying almost all the other chapters. The author's "healthy love of seeing" and his quick and broad sympathies with nature, and particularly with human nature, are revealed alike in the Bernese Oberland, in the Alps and in Paris. His vein of tenderness is disclosed in the touching simplicity with which he tells the story of "My Neighbor, Little Aglaé, the Flower Maker." Throughout the work he exhibits the tact of the practised journalist, who must learn to write about precisely what the reader is interested to know. He does not hesitate to give information which some writers too readily take for granted is already familiar to everybody. Moreover, he always gives his own impressions instead of retailing those of others at second hand. Many books of European travel can be interesting only to their compilers, and should not have been printed even "for private circulation." But Mr. Buffum's volume bears no resemblance to such books. It will doubless be more heartily welcomed by the public than any similar work which has appeared since the publication of the late Mr. Sanderson's "American in Paris." M. Jules Janin thought so highly of that clever book as to take the trouble to offer it to the Continental public in a complete French disguise. We append a few extracts from Mr. Buffum's "Sights and Sensations:"—

SONG AND STORY VS. REALITY.

Song and story have thrown so much romance about vine-growing regions and their inhabitants that one who gathers his ideas of them from song and story is liable to imbibe very false views. This champagne district, for example, in which the uninitiated and enthusiastic lover of nature and of romance would hope and expect to find beautiful landscapes, broad and smiling plains, verdant river banks and green and sunny hillsides, all covered with a luxuriant growth of the vine, and peopled with a hardy, happy race, whose principal occupation after the labors of the day is to dance and make love, and, in overflowing foaming flagons, sing Anacreontic songs in honor of the vine, will very much disappoint him in the reality. The soil of this whole district is white and chalky, abounding in carbonate of lime, which makes it very disagreeable to the eye.

This calcareous soil seems particularly adapted to the growth of the vine, the culture of which is more easy, as the earth is light, and without compactness. In fact, upon these light calcareous soils nothing but the vine will flourish.

Song and story usually convey the idea that the people in the vine-growing regions are not only exceedingly happy, but exceedingly virtuous; in fact, living evidences of the truth of the motto, "Be virtuous and you will be happy."

So far as the female portion of the laboring class of the residents of the Champagne district is concerned, I am sorry to be under the necessity of dispelling this illusion. Is it some peculiarity in the climate, or the chalky soil which reflects back the sun's rays with such burning force; or is it something in the wine, that makes Reims, the great commercial centre of Champagne, one of the most eligible fields of operation for the labors of the Moral Reform Society that I have ever discovered in France or out of it? These tall, well formed and pretty Champenoises who "have left their father's house" and the labor in the vineyards, and come to Reims to work at dressmaking or to tend shop or labor in the woollen manufactories here, and who, with little bundles in their hands, neatly dressed, with their rich, luxuriant growth of hair unconfined by cap or bonnet, may be seen in great numbers skipping over the *trottoirs* about eight o'clock in the evening, on their way home from work. These young ladies, although apparently very "happy," and certainly exceedingly pretty, it is said make no claims to being "virtuous." The *curé* who officiates in the splendid cathedral, whose tall, heaven-pointing towers ought to direct the attention of these young women to higher things, is said to be called upon much more frequently to baptize infants who in the worldly wisdom of knowing their own fathers are profoundly lacking, than he is of those begotten and born in accordance with the strict rules of propriety, virtue, law and the Church. These are melancholy facts, and may furnish interesting subjects of consideration to moral chemists and analyzers. What is the cause of it? Is it the wine, the chalky soil, the burning sun, or the cathedral?

THE VALLEY OF AARE.

All through this wild and be