EUROPE.

The Deistical Council in Naples---Its Debates and Platform.

Denial of God, Religion and Earthly Princes.

Government Control of Telegraphs in England and France.

A German Deist Murderer and His Convictions.

The Inman steamship City of Baltimore, Captain Jones, from Liverpool on the 23d and Queenstown the 24th of December, arrived at this port at an early hour yesterday morning, delivering our special correspondence and newspaper mails from Europe, dated to her day of sailing from Ireland.

The Russian expedition to the Balkhan Gulf of the Caspian consists of 1,500 men and sixty horses, amply provided with all necessaries for spending the winter in that dreary region.

Madame de Lamoricière left France for Rome, where her daughter—married only five months since to Count François de Maistre, Staff Captain in the Pontifical army—had just died.

The Cologne *Gazette* complains that the Danish agitation in Northern Schleswig is greater than ever.

Representatives of the Russian railways, accompanied by others from the Southern and Northern lines in Austria, left Vienna for Trieste on their way to Florence, to make arrangements for facilitating the through traffic from the first named country to India. Merchandise will henceforth be sent by way of Trieste and the Isthmus of Suez.

ITALY.

The Anti-Papal Council—Third Days' Proceedings—Negation of God—Free Schools—Women's Rights—Revolutionary Force—Italy on Mexico—Plato, Diderot, Voltaire and Veuillot—America Secedes—The French and Italians Clamorous.

NAPLES, Dec. 20, 1869.

On the 15th inst. the delegates to the Anti-Papal Council assembled in a saloon of the New York Hotel here, for the purpose of preparing the work before them, the execution of which it seemed well understood was to take place in a formal, grand and final meeting on the evening of the 16th.

Messrs. LUDEKING, of St. Louis, and Ronge, of Frankfort, both moved that the Anti-Papal Council "do finally come to some practical decision now that it is clear that the Italian government forbids a public session of this body." Mr. Ronge moved that a committee of five be appointed to consider the platforms submitted, and, after such consideration, to draw up a declaration of principles to be given forth to the world.

Mr. LUDEKING seconded the motion and remarked that the body had so far done as much as nothing, simply because it had began its task by theatrical performances at the San Ferdinando theatre. It was full time, he said, that they take hold practically of the job that they had been sent to Naples to perform. He would not, for his part, feel justified in the eyes of his constituents in remaining any longer if there should be any further delay.

The motion was carried, and the committee of five duly elected as follows:—Signor G. Ricciardi, of Naples, chairman; J. M. Mata, of Mexico; Carl Ludeking, of St. Louis, United States; M. Regnard, of Paris; Leopold Ovary, of Hungary. The committee with these powers met this morning at Count Ricciardi's residence at an early hour, in order to finish up their discussions before nightfall, as a hot day's work was anticipated in the way of obstinate clashing opinions.

The CHAIRMAN called the committee to order and pronounced the debate upon the various programmes to be opened.

Mr. OVARY thereupon brought forward the platform, already submitted to the Anti-Council, and which had been framed by the Austro-Hungarian-German-American delegates. This platform immediately rallied all the members of the committee except M. Regnard, of Paris, who found it incomplete, and who—for the rest being bound by a *mandat imperatif*—refused his adhesion to it. Here was the clash at once, and it gave rise to the following little chat:—

M. REGNARD—Your platform, gentlemen, has much that I approve; but I must say that on several points it appears to me to be weak and to shirk the main issue before us—viz., the solemn abnegation of God.

Signor RICCIARDI—Let us not mention that word, and let us not put in the declaration anything against God, for if we do we shall surely have all the women against us, and our cause will suffer the consequences.

Señor MATA—I agree with the chairman. The world has not yet advanced at that stage when we can afford to make any such arrangement. Besides, in our programme what you desire to be inserted in our declaration is, in fact, given, although said in a more polite way. Centuries must yet elapse before the world will consent to adopt such an advanced idea as that there is no God. Take the freest countries of the world, go to the United States of America, for instance, and if you utter any such doctrine there you will just escape being burned alive.

M. REGNARD—That is the very reason why we must announce such an idea, why we are met here to announce it. Let it be launched forth in the whole world to fructify; the world may not be up to the advanced standard we propose, but it will follow suit. The women, you say, will be opposed. Do not believe it. They have adopted it in small numbers. Many more will soon join the ranks, and when the women get imbued with anything or take hold of an idea it will spread like wildfire. Let us enlist the women on our side. We have come here to announce our full principles squarely; it is the best way to gain ground. We must get rid of this word and idea, God; for all religion and iniquity is based upon it. At first, according to my own recent experience, atheism had great difficulty in being brought forward in France, even at Paris; yet, once squarely proclaimed, it had made many converts and rapid progress within the last two years. There is one other point upon which our platforms conflict—mine is in favor of the employment of revolutionary force, whenever we may secure it, in order to accomplish our ends. We must drive out the usurpers over human minds and actions, or consent ourselves to be driven about as beasts of burden. That is the alternative before humanity, especially with us in our crowded, downtrodden Europe. I and my constituents are in favor of taking the first horn of the bull, and I am here to proclaim war to the death *(guerre à l'outrance)* to God, all religion and princes! Entertaining these views, which are distinctly embraced in my *mandat imperatif*, I will be obliged to lay before the Anti-Council this evening, when it assembles, a separate platform or declaration of principles. I will present my minority report, and then the Anti-Council will, after discussion, be enabled to decide whether yours or mine shall be adopted.

All of which was agreed to, and the committee adjourned to the evening session, fully charged, even up to the muzzle, with fire and brimstone. Your correspondent, who was the sixth of the matinée party, had ample occasion to hear in advance the mutterings of the thunder intended to be shot off at the grand evening session and to foresee that the Anti-Council was not held in the neighborhood of Vesuvius without cause. The debate had assumed that jerky, snappish mould which is usually given to words and acts when the nerves are under full pressure. There was no safety valve for the escape of steam visible. The two platforms, as finally shaped, were then read. The following are exact translations from the original French:—

MAJORITY REPORT.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.—The delegates of the various nations of the civilized world, convened in general assembly at Naples, do hereby affirm the following principles:—In face of the Middle Ages, they proclaim the modern era; in face of religious authority, free reason; in face of the despotism of Church and State, the independence of man; in face of the alliance of princes and priests, the solidarity of peoples; in face of religious teaching, free instruction; in face of privileges, right. Recognizing no other basis than science, they proclaim man free and sovereign in a free state, and the necessity of the abolition of all official religion. Woman should be freed from the obstacles which the Church and State legislation have placed in the way of her full development. They affirm the necessity of popular instruction apart from all religious intervention, as morality is entirely independent of that intervention.

G. Ricciardi, Naples; J. M. Mata, Mexico; Carl Ludeking, St. Louis; Leopold Ovary, Hungary, Committee.

NAPLES, Dec. 16, 1869.

The minority report or declaration of principles read:—

The free thinkers of Paris recognize and proclaim liberty of conscience, liberty of examination, human dignity. They consider reason as the only basis of every belief, and they consequently reject every dogma founded upon any revelation. They recognize that social equality and liberty can only exist when the individual is instructed. They contend, therefore, for gratuitous instruction in all degrees, obligatory, exclusively laical and materialistic. The duty of society is to enable the individual to give it to his children. Concerning the philosophical and religious question, considering that the idea of God is the source and the pathway of all despotism and iniquity (loud applause at this point when the report was subsequently read before the Anti-Council), considering that the Catholic religion is the personification, the most complete and terrible of this idea, that the entirety of its dogmas is the negation of society itself; therefore, the free thinkers of Paris bind themselves to work for the prompt and radical abolition of Catholicism, and to effectuate its annihilation by all means compatible with justice, including in the number of those means revolutionary force, which is merely the application to society of the right of legitimate self-defence. REGNARD, &c.

PARIS, October 27, 1869.

At last, after much palavering and negotiations backwards and forwards, the Anti-Council was again got together this evening in the fine dining room of the "United States Hotel," a hall capable of containing 200 persons comfortably seated at two long tables. Only one of the tables was used, and at its board were seated seventy delegates, twenty-six foreigners and the balance Italians. Cards of invitation to a private meeting had been distributed and were received by an usher at the door, as it was not possible to hold the gathering with doors open to the public. Signor Ricciardi presided, being seated, with his scribes and secretaries, near the middle of the table, so as to be better audible along both extremities. French, Italian, English and German were the languages used, and this babelic feature was, from the outset, one great reason of the consequences now to be related. The Germans and Americans did not speak, and only understood imperfectly French and Italian and *vice versa*.

At eight o'clock the President rang to order amidst much chatting, confusion, smoking of cigars and cigarettes and reading of pamphlets on the part of the delegates. A Latin ode in honor of the Anti-Council had been handed around and was being discussed, and affairs looked pretty lively—none but the initiated being aware of the terrific storm brewing. The ode was entitled "Oda qua Neapoli Congregatos Humanæ Dignitatis Vindicis Die VI. Idnum Decembris, Anni 1869, salutant Latomi," and sent from Hungary. Its refrain was "*liberatelitus.*" A pamphlet in Italian had also occupied some attention; it was entitled "L'Italia al Messico Vincitore"—Italy to Conquering Mexico! Extracts—"Greeting to conquering Mexico! Mexico has shown how a people, virtuous because republican, knows how to conquer and die. * * * The New World consecrates thee a victorious republic. * * * If Louis Napoleon should send his armies and navies to New York Grant would not have time to have the Emperor of Paris shot, because the American people, without any other to-do, would execute him. * * * Like America, the free men of Europe salute the conquering Mexican republic. * * * If two Italians discovered the New World, two other Italians have proclaimed liberty in the Old World. To Vespucius and Columbus Joseph Mazzini and Joseph Garibaldi succeeded! Italy will emulate thee, oh Mexico, at Rome!"

The tinkling of the President's bell was responded to by a general seating of the delegates, and the journal of the second day's proceedings at the San Fernandino theatre was read and approved. As these proceedings referred to the squelching of the assembly by the Italian authorities, M. Regnard, the delegate from Paris, who had made the revolutionary speech on that occasion, arose and asked to rectify an error that had been circulated in the Italian press. There had been no cry of "Death to the French Emperor." He had merely cried out, "Long live Italy!" when some one in the pit responded, "Long live the French republicans!" He had spoken nothing against Louis Napoleon, not that he was afraid to utter his sentiments in regard to him and his empire, and he remarked this merely because he wished to re-establish the occurrences in their true light. The President then announced several new addresses of adhesion from Hungary, adding that the true importance and chief feature of the Anti-Council consisted in the fact of these numerous adhesions, sent in from vast meetings of thousands of freethinkers from all parts of the civilized earth. He then submitted the following formal protest against the authoritative suppression, and it was read and unanimously adopted:—"Our assembly having been dissolved in the face of all right, and particularly of article thirty-two of the constitution of Italy, and all further public sittings having been rendered impossible owing to the obstacles of all sorts that the government opposes us, it is our duty to protest solemnly against such a flagrant violation of our rights and to declare at the same time and anew our principles and intentions." The two platforms of principles, as above given, were then read and the general debate upon the same pronounced in order. The Mexican representative opened the ball by defending the majority report.

General MATA—The committee have had several projects of a general declaration of principles under their consideration, and from these the committee have considered it best to unite the chief and most practical points. I do not rise to make defence of our programme, but rather to make a brief exposition of the motives that guided us in our work. The principles we decided to enumerate have been considered to be those most urgent and containing ideas beneficial to humanity. One member of the committee, M. Regnard, was found to be in disaccord with us on two points, the expediency of declaring atheism and of calling revolutionary force to our aid in the dissemination of our ideas. He, therefore, has seen fit to submit a minority report. If the divinity is solemnly denied, such a course will not aid our cause in many countries, I am convinced. We do not believe in imposing our ideas by force; they must triumph by altogether different means; they must triumph by a war of words. Let our ideas be announced and they will circulate until the world will at last repose upon liberty and justice, those two bases for humanity which it should be our object to establish. We can never consent to impose them by revolutionary force in the sense that the delegate from Paris urges. This is the history of the debate which occurred this morning in committee. We have not met with that liberty which we had a right to expect here in Italy, a country which claims to be free; and if, as it is now certain, the government opposes our public sessions, I would be in favor of going somewhere else—in free Switzerland—to assemble. Our object is grand. Many have come here from afar. I myself have come a distance of 3,000 leagues, after a tedious and expensive trip; yet I would go 3,000 leagues further to see our object triumph. The majority of us cannot, however, go elsewhere; hence we have to do the best we can under the circumstances, and I beseech all present to work practically and harmoniously together for the good cause.

M. REGNARD—Gentlemen, I could not rally to the platform of the majority that has just been submitted to your consideration, because, as I have before announced, my constituents in Paris furnished me with an imperative mandate. I could not approve of the ideas expressed in the committee, and hence I have to submit to you the declaration of principles which I received at Paris. One thing appears evident—we are all agreed as to free thought and as to religions. We differ on two points only—viz., on the questions of atheism and revolutionary force. I hold the proclamation of atheism to be of paramount necessity in the actual state of society. Atheism, it is objected, is a negative. Well, then, if that is so, I say then at the same time it is an affirmation of a negative that has hitherto crushed us; that has produced tyranny, fear and infinite misery. We free thinkers of Paris are a unit against the spiritual idea of a religion. Plato may have been a great man—his philosophy may have widely circulated; but nevertheless I hold him to have been the most pernicious of men. His ideas are not of or for man. Under the appearance of mere metaphysics the Evangile of St. John is based on the ideas of Plato. Unless we strive to extirpate the ideas of Plato there can be no freedom for humanity. What we have chiefly to do is to reject altogether and wipe out the idea of God. All our revolutions in France have miscarried, simply because men at their head did not understand the idea in regard to religions. The French revolution of '89 was a great luminary; had it rested merely upon the ideas of Diderot and Voltaire, who were deists, it would not have lasted as long as it did. Deism has been our bane. Robespierre himself was a deist. At the present epoch we French free-thinkers proclaim ourselves socialists and republicans. Before our platform the tyrants and priests tremble. Monsieur Veuillot trembles before it—it is the only thing that frightens him. The application of revolutionary force is the application of a right in behalf of society. If you do this thing, it is said, the Napoleons will be down upon us. Well, then, it has got to come to this, and we must declare our intention to oppose force against force. It will be the means, whenever we secure it, of delivering ourselves from the yoke. The life of Catholicism is the death of the republic. It is precisely for that reason that we French do not desire to support that or any other religion any longer. We will have to employ and depend upon force. Is it then so difficult to employ it? The people has merely to show itself in its redoubtable strength to cause to re-enter *(faire rentrer)* into darkness those priests and princes who should never have been allowed to come out into existence. Bonaparte is the brigand who puts his foot on the right; we must have the force to take that foot off and to support the right. Otherwise we will relapse and remain forever under the yoke of tyrants. (Loud applause.) I ask, is atheism not to be sustained and defended here in Naples when we have around us so many illustrious atheists gathered at this table? When we find ourselves assembled in the country of Luigi Giordano, who was burned because he was an atheist; Italians, the day of revenge is near; seize it. Vanini, who was also burned, though at Toulouse, was your countryman and an atheist. Proclaim loudly, then, your desire for revenge; proclaim our creed, which includes both atheism and revolutionary force. It will be a glory for Naples, a shame for the Papacy, and will cause all those cardinals and priests assembled at Rome for the purpose of crushing us to tremble. (Applause.) Recollect Rome! We do not speak here alone in behalf of Rome or of Italy or of any one nation; we do not make of this a political question; we speak for us all, of all nations. We come here also to protest against the assassination of the Roman republic in 1849. We beseech you, therefore, to accept our platform as it is brought from Paris, or with slight modifications if you choose; but accept it as your manifesto, because we think it is more precisely worded, clearer, and goes home more directly to the question at issue before us than the declaration of the majority of the committee. (Loud applause.)

M. OVARY—To protest against the Pope and the Ecumenical Council would not be worth the while. We must rather devise some practical measures to attack religion, and these measures, we think, may be found in our majority report. Two points should be insisted upon by us—to separate the State from the Church; to institute schools free from all religious interference. In Hungary and some countries of Germany great progress has been made in eliminating religion from the schools. The State should only educate men; the Church should have nothing to do with it. The dominating creed should not be supported by the money of those who are opposed to it.

Signor MONTALBANO, of Palermo, expressed his approval of the platform sent from Paris. Liberty of conscience, the negation of God, should be the basis of our creed.

M. MAGY, of Hungary, contended that the Papacy is a sufficient protest against itself. Our idea should be brotherhood, confederation and the peoples. Let us be cosmopolites and love all our fellows, whether they speak Italian, French, English, German or any other language. (Applause.) The peoples are waking up; they will not consent to be beasts of burden any longer. The alliance of peoples will replace the intrigues of cabinets. We should combat ignorance and misery—those inseparable companions. The money collected from the labor of the people should be spent in popular education instead of maintaining standing armies to oppress the people. Armies are the chief obstacles to liberty, and until they are abolished we will not have a free man in a free State. Hence we must address ourselves to influence public opinion in favor of the abolition of all armed forces. I believe war is a horrible thing. It may reoccur; but I want war only in the interest of the people, and then I want it to the knife.

M. LESALLEUR, of Marseilles—The Pope is nothing; we must not protest against the Ecumenical Council. What we must do is to combat God. The Pope is only his vicar. We must strike at the sources and undermine all religions. When we are engaged in such an undertaking as this we must have the courage of our opinions. Why do you decline to attack God squarely in your declaration? Divinity directly causes that man is a beast like the brutes. The people do not want any discussions. It wishes the destruction of what oppresses it; it yearns for emancipators to recover its rights. Away with all intrigues, intricacies, finessing and splitting of hairs. Citizens, the people tell you here, through my mouth, "We are tired of being slaves; we want our rights." You have appealed to them to send delegates to demand this; you must not endeavor to deceive or hoodwink them. You have those rights clearly expressed in the platform framed at Paris, and I beseech you to adopt it as the best manifestation of our ideas. It may be modified by amendment, if you will.

At this juncture Messrs. Andrieux, of Lyons, and Regnard, of Paris, came slightly into collision on the merits of their respective ideas, and gave utterance to some very excited and random remarks, which were frequently interrupted. The American and German delegates, who had been sitting all the time with their ears open, but without hearing in the sense of understanding what was being broached across the tapis, began to grow restive and give unmistakable signs of impatience. They tried to stop the Frenchmen from monopolizing, as they said, the debate by throwing in motions and sundry cries for order, but all in vain. The president tried to calm the Teutonic fire, but it grew apace. The French delegates clamored for full and further discussion; the Teutons were as strenuously in favor of coming to a practical conclusion this evening or of withdrawing from the Anti-Council. The war was declared at once. The representative from St. Louis, &c., pulled out his watch and stated in English that the orator had been running on against time, sense and order, and that if not stopped at once he would withdraw. No stoppage; the Frenchman declared that it was an assembly of free thinkers, and hence he, as every one present, was free to express his thoughts as long as he saw fit. Ringing of the president's bell, shouting, general confusion thereupon set in. The St. Louis delegate, Mr. Paul Ludeking, then, instead of sitting out the confusion and carrying his point through dogmatic endurance, gave the signal of the break up and grand row by putting on his hat with German stolidity, quietly abandoning the table and walking out of the room. America was gone—one nation less. Then the representatives of Hungary, Austria and Germany followed, after protesting that the Frenchmen were talking a pack of nonsense, to the exclusion of the loquacity of the rest present. Herr Ronge, of Frankfort, delivered his speeches in English. He became very impatient, and every minute would cry out in a loud guttural voice, "Nonsense." French revolution might do very well at Paris, but he wanted none of it at this board. Finally he obtained the floor.

M. RONGE—We must decide this evening on the practical question before us; afterwards we can decide upon metaphysics. We Germans did not come here to learn what is Spiritualism or materialism. You can't teach us what we knew before you were born. Decide this evening upon the practical point that we have assembled to discuss—to deliver mankind from the yoke of Popery. Accept the platform of the majority and elect an international committee to disseminate practically our ideas and doctrines in each country.

The PRESIDENT implored the assembly to vote the declaration of principles of the majority or come to some conclusion before dispersing, otherwise he would have to remind them that if they returned home without doing anything, both they and the cause would become ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

An attempt was made at the last extremity to limit debate to ten minutes; both the French and the Italians announced that they were not in a hurry, such grave questions should not be hurried over; that they felt bound to sit all night or reassemble night after night, rather than not give each man the time and means of free expression and of a full hearing. Being in the decided majority they refused to vote the declaration; whereupon all present, without order or ceremony, arose from the table and scattered in groups in the hall, in the streets and homeward bound. The foreigners are in a hurry to return home; they declare that they have been here ten days, that nothing has been done, and hence they shall leave. The Anti-Council, if it should once more get together as a formal body, will be purely a Franco-Italian affair, and without that cosmopolitan character which its president, Count Ricciardi, has striven so hard to secure and maintain. So far the Pope is ahead.

ENGLAND.

The Telegraph Purchase Money—Commercial Failures—Divorce and Religion—Rain Storm and Floods—The Army and Church.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer concluded his arrangements for the payment to the several telegraph companies of the compensation awarded to them, amounting to £5,715,048, the large funds of the savings banks and other public departments, together with the tax collections due in January, being available for the purpose.

The failure is announced of Messrs. George Barnes & Son, cotton spinners and manufacturers, Hasingden, with liabilities estimated at £4,000 to £5,000.

At a meeting of the creditors of Mr. G. W. Russum, cloth agent, at Manchester, a composition of 7s. 6d. in the pound was accepted.

It is understood that in consequence of difficulties attending the administration of the affairs of Messrs. Jorss & Co., of Leeds, by deed, the estate has been provisionally placed in bankruptcy.

In the Divorce Court, London, a juryman desired to be excused on the ground that he was a Catholic and entertained conscientious scruples with respect to divorce. His Lordship said the jury merely had to try the question whether a charge of adultery was true, and refused to excuse him.

Heavy rains which had been falling for some days caused great floods in many parts of England. In the midland counties they have been very destructive, and in the Vale of Trent thousands of acres were submerged. The river rose rapidly at Nottingham, and on Monday morning, December 20, reached within a foot and a half of the water mark of the great flood of 1852 (the highest on record).

At Derby the flood has been the greatest known since the memorable one of the 1st of April, 1842.

In Shropshire and North Wales the rains produced floods almost unprecedented in the present century.

The verdict of acquittal in the affair of Overend, Gurney & Co. was received in London with intense satisfaction.

The "cutting down" system inaugurated regarding the British army is, *nolens volens*, being promptly carried out. The intended appointments of several ensigns and cornets have been cancelled, and as soon as those now holding these grades can be absorbed the rank will disappear from the army list.

The *Times* contains long letters from its correspondent at Rome filled with speculations on the difficulties and dissensions which the dogma of infallibility is likely to produce if pressed on the Council. One of his statements is, that "in the event of the dogma being carried the Bishop of Orleans and 120 of the Fathers will retire."

On December 21 three bishops were consecrated in London, making one addition to the English Episcopate, the other two supplying vacancies which have been caused, one by death and one by resignation. The three clergymen advanced are the Rev. Dr. Frederick Temple, of Balliol College, Oxford, who has been appointed to the bishopric of Exeter; Hon. and Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey, D. D., of Trinity College, Cambridge, nominated to the bishopric of Bath and Wells, in the room of the Hon. and Right Rev. Lord Auckland, who resigned that see, and the Rev. W. H. Stirling, B. A., who has been for some years working at Terra del Fuego in connection with the South American Missionary Society, as bishop of the English congregation in the Falkland Islands.

IRELAND.

British Guard on the Coast—O'Donovan Rossa on His Election—National Agitation.

The Lords of the Admiralty have determined to station five men-of-war origs round the Irish coast.

The Dublin *Times* states that, by permission of the Home Secretary of England, the news of O'Donovan Rossa's election for Tipperary was communicated to the political convict. After evincing great surprise at the news he is said to have satirically remarked that "he hoped government would remove him from Chatham to Millbank Penitentiary in London, so that he might be able to attend to his parliamentary duties."

Colonel Thompson, of the Fifty-fourth regiment of infantry, was sworn in as a magistrate for fourteen counties in Ireland and for the borough of Dublin.

The Lord Lieutenant appointed John Theobald Dillon, Esq., resident magistrate for the county Cavan.

An extraordinary occurrence happened near Ballylongford, county Kerry. Owing to an accumulation of water from the late and constantly wet weather several hundred acres of the Ahanagran bog became violently agitated, and suddenly rolled along like a huge wave over the entire of the adjacent country, sweeping away everything before it, and devastating and burying beneath it all in its course.

At the meeting of the Cork Board of Guardians a communication was read from the North Dublin Union, enclosing a resolution stating that landlord absenteeism was the great evil of this country, calling on the Prime Minister to grant a royal residence and a national Parliament to Ireland, "as the only legitimate remedy for the pauperism and widespread disaffection which exist."

A Dublin journal remarks:—"On the 1st of January next, in accordance with the convention ratified between England and America, the transatlantic postal charge on letters will be reduced to threepence. We do not entertain a doubt that the reduction of the charge will quadruple the amount of correspondence. To the friends and relatives of emigrants in this country the diminution of the charge will be a sensible relief. It is, however, an extraordinary fact that the Americans engage very slightly, if at all, in the ocean postal traffic."

FRANCE.

What Traupmann Wanted—Telegraph Receipts—Napoleon and Secret Councils.

Traupmann, the Paris murderer, still manifested great indifference to his position. He admits that he derived little profit from the murders—a few thousand francs only. "I wanted the money," he said, "to construct a new weaving loom, which would have been the commencement of my fortune; I should have invented other machines, and then I should have become rich, very rich. I should have travelled, and there is not a corner of the earth that I would not have visited." He made to his fellow prisoners the remark, "I shall not be executed, as I possess means of committing suicide which no one could prevent me from employing; I am sure of escaping any watch that may be set on me."

Since the price of telegraphic messages has been lowered in France, their number continues to increase. In November of 1868, 291,531 despatches were sent; in the corresponding month of 1869, after the reduction, the number of telegrams rose to 476,122, being a difference of 184,197.

An English special in Paris writes:—The Emperor of the French is reported to have replied to Prince Napoleon when pressed to keep a sharp regard on the sittings at Rome:—"Let them consult and determine as they like. They will probably differ among themselves, which will nullify the effect of any decision made by a mere majority. At best, at the world's present age, the bishops in council are as harmless as the Orient Grand Lodge of Freemasons."

The tone of the financial accounts from Paris was favorable, and promised well for the new year. Money is extremely abundant, and "confidence is entertained in an era of peace under a liberal government."

The leading articles of the Paris journals consist almost exclusively of a running comment on the proceedings of the Legislative Body, and present but little interest.

GERMANY.

An Atheistic Murderer.

In Berlin young Biland was tried at the Criminal Court on the charge of attempting to shoot the Rev. Dr. Heinrich while performing Divine service in the Cathedral. Biland is an Atheistic fanatic, who looks upon Christianity as an egregious mistake and the clergy as paid cheats. To avenge himself upon them for keeping him in the dark and awaken his countrymen to a sense of their intellectual bondage, he had recourse to the pistol. On the Judge addressing to him the ordinary question whether he pleaded guilty or not guilty, the youth had the hardihood to reply, "Not guilty. Being convinced that man is not a free agent, I cannot be guilty." To the question whether his religious views had anything to do with the attempt he answered, "I determined to shoot a clergyman because it is the clergy who have kept me so long in the dark. When studying mathematics I learned to reason and emancipate myself from the untruths they taught me. There is no God. Nature is a self-supporting machine." Even when the jury found him guilty and the Judge sentenced him to twelve years of imprisonment, with hard labor, his courage, evidently the result of deep-rooted conviction, did not forsake him.

HAYTI.

Particulars of the Capture of Port au Prince—Destruction of the Palace—The Arsenal and Barracks Blown Up—Salnave Refuses British Protection—The Southern Part of the City on Fire—Two American Vessels Injured—Salnave Not Yet Captured.

PORT AU PRINCE, Dec. 19, 1869.

By the arrival of the brig Jane, Captain Allen, from Port au Prince direct, full particulars have been received of the capture of Port au Prince by the revolutionists under General Brice.

On the 18th December General Brice, of the southern division of the army of the revolutionists, succeeded in landing one-half of his forces in the immediate vicinity of Port au Prince. He at once proceeded towards the city and took possession of the northern part of it. Without much opposition he then made his way towards the palace, where Salnave was intrenched, and attacked it. In this, however, he was repulsed. In the meantime the revolutionary steamer Florida, carrying two guns, had attacked the Pequod, Salnave's steamer, running under her stern and raking her with her guns, and pouring in a deadly volley from small arms. The Pequod was then boarded and speedily taken possession of, and subsequently used by the revolutionists in their attack on the city.

Just at the juncture when General Brice was repulsed in his attack on the palace a shell from the Pequod lighted in the midst of Salnave's soldiers, causing dismay and confusion on all sides. General Brice, seizing the opportunity, renewed his attack and succeeded in driving Salnave back into the palace. The Pequod then proceeded to shell the palace and speedily reduced it to a heap of ruins. Salnave had previously evacuated it, taking shelter with 1,000 men in Fort National. The revolutionary vessels then brought their guns to bear on the arsenal and the barracks, both of which were shortly afterwards blown up, the whole of the edifices being utterly destroyed.

The commander of a British war vessel promised Salnave protection on condition he would capitulate, and offered to place a vessel at his disposal to convey him in safety to any destination he might select. The offer, however, was refused, Salnave declaring that before he would yield he would first destroy the city and then himself.

It is said that he set fire to the southern portion of the city, where the poorer classes reside, although the origin of the fire was attributed by some to the burning embers from the barracks, which were carried by the wind in a southerly direction.

During the 19th 1,500 cavalry, together with 3,000 infantry, arrived from St. Marc and were marching on the city. General Brice had issued a proclamation declaring that any act of pillage or outrage on person or property should be punished with death.

The American brig Henry and Louise, Captain Porter, and the brig Java, both lying in the harbor at the time of the bombardment of the city, accidentally received shots in their hulls, the former in the stern and the latter in the bow.

Saget, the Provisional President, had arrived in a small steamer from Archahie, and the discharge of cannon heard from the direction of the city on board the Jane was supposed to be the salute with which his arrival was greeted.

The captain of the Jane states that on his leaving port the flash of cannon was observed from Fort National, where Salnave had taken refuge.

AFRICA.

News from the West Coast—A Tiger Kaross for Queen Victoria—Something More Useful Also.

The Cape mail steamship Norseman, with twenty-five passengers and twenty sacks of mails, arrived at Southampton December 21, from the Cape of Good Hope 10th of November.

In the Eastern province all the important divisions were likely to be contested. A good deal of feeling existed in the colony in favor of the Governor's reform bill. The Cape papers state that Advocate Buchanan was to have 600 oxen for visiting England with Tsekelo to urge the claims of the Basutos, but Governor Wodehouse prevented the oxen being paid.

The Free State government had resolved upon enforcing the removal of the Basutos from the disputed lands.

Mr. M'Corkindale, the representative of the company, the owner of the River Assoto lands, arrived to hasten the settlement of the dispute between England and Portugal as to the ownership of Delagoa Bay.

The cargo included a handsome tiger Kaross, a present to Queen Victoria from the Basuto paramount chief Moseih, and a box of diamonds, value £2,000.

The Cape shipping business was dull.

MR. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.—From a private letter from this distinguished Georgian the Atlanta *Constitution* learns that his health is not so good. He is barely able to sit up and not able to stand. This will be a matter of regret to the multitudinous friends of the great Georgian.

THE COURTS.

Interesting Proceedings in the Law Courts Yesterday.

The Bankrupt Perjury Case—Mr. Moorehead Honorably Discharged—A Disputed Will Case—Important to Bankers—Gold Contracts Sustained—Charge by Judge Bedford to the Grand Jury.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

The Alleged Bankrupt Perjury Case—The Accused Honorably Discharged.

Before Commissioner Shields.

In the case of the United States vs. John Moorehead an examination was set down for yesterday, according to adjournment. On the opening of the court and the appearance of the parties Assistant District Attorney Jackson, addressing the Commissioner, said that, after a most exhaustive examination of the witnesses produced for the prosecution and a careful analysis of the complicated and rebutting evidence taken in the case, he had come to the conclusion that there was not the slightest reason or ground for further investigation into the charges against the accused. He did not deem this court the proper tribunal, in the first place, for an examination into the case. It was one that would have been better left to the court in which it originated, the Bankrupt Court. The accused here must have been put to the proof before a jury of all he swore to before the Register, and it was upon what he swore before the Register this accusation has been founded. It would have been time enough for the plaintiff to present the case when it thus came up. Mr. Jackson, in conclusion, expressed his conviction that there was not the slightest foundation laid for the charge which had been preferred against the defendant, and he moved the dismissal of the case and the honorable discharge of Mr. Moorehead.

The Commissioner coincided in the view taken of the case by the prosecuting officer, and declared the case at an end and the defendant honorably discharged. Mr. Moorehead then left the court with his friends.

End of the Great Counterfeit Hoax—The Southern Colonel Declared Non Compos.

Yesterday morning Colonel Whiteley brought up ex-Confederate Colonel Houston King, whose extraordinary revelation created such an excitement on the previous day in the Commissioners' Court, and had exercised the Treasury Department and its subordinates for several months past, before Commissioner Shields. A report of the physician at Ludlow Street Jail was handed to the Commissioner, setting forth that King was suffering from aberration of mind consequent from a bullet wound he had received in the late war. The greatest sympathy was expressed for the poor fellow—a sympathy that could hardly be exceeded had he so suffered in the cause of the Union. After some consideration it was decided to submit his case to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, who will, no doubt, pay the kindest attention to him, till his friends, who have been telegraphed to, shall arrive to take charge of him.

The Game Cock Case and the Alleged Mutiny on Shipboard.

Before Commissioner Shields.

This case came up before the Commissioner yesterday morning for final disposition. The seamen charged with mutiny were arraigned, and further evidence was taken in the case against Mr. Heath, when it having become apparent that there was ample justification on the part of Mr. Heath for the alleged punishment of Perry, the complainant, his Honor granted the motion of counsel for the defendant, Mr. W. H. Stephens, made at the previous examination of the case for the discharge of the mate. Evidence was subsequently taken as to the alleged attempt at mutiny, but after full investigation the prisoners were discharged. The Commissioner availed himself of the opportunity to comment on the danger incurred by sailors in attempting unlawful resistance to authority on shipboard, and cautioned the officers against the use of too severe measures in the discharge of their duties. Assistant District Attorney Jackson gave to the case, involving as it did the rights of officers and sailors on merchant ships, careful attention, and conducted the prosecution with his usual fairness and ability.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

Important to Bankers.

Before Judges Ingraham, Barnard and Cardozo.

The Ætna National Bank of Hartford vs. The Fourth National Bank of the City of New York.—In this case the Florence Mills, a Connecticut corporation, kept an account with the defendants, where their notes were frequently payable, averaging in number about five per month from January 1 to April, 1868, and three from 1st to 10th of April. Of these one for $5,000 became payable on the 2d of that month and one for $5,000 on the 4th of April, the following day being Sunday. It appeared that the corporation referred to had a balance to their credit with the defendants of $694 83 on the 2d of April, when the first note became due, which note defendants, as alleged, declined to pay, but on the succeeding day received a remittance from the Florence Mills which placed them in funds exceeding $5,000. The draft due on the 2d being represented was paid by the defendants, but the draft coming due on the 4th was not paid. The plaintiffs claimed that the remittance received by the defendants on the 3d of April was the proceeds of a new note of the Florence Mills corporation discounted by the plaintiffs, and which discount they had made for account of the Florence mills upon their promise that the proceeds would be appropriated by them to the payment of the note due 4th April; and that the Florence mills remitted the said proceeds in time to defendants, with suitable directions, but that defendants erroneously appropriated said proceeds to the note due 2d April; that defendants in receiving the proceeds of the draft received it charged with the instructions as to its appropriation; that by their letter of acknowledgment they assumed the obligation so to appropriate it, and that not having done so they are liable to the plaintiffs for the amount of the note, $5,000. The cause was tried before a referee, who rendered judgment in favor of the plaintiffs, from which decision appeal was taken. After the arguments of counsel yesterday the Court took the papers and reserved decision.

Disputed Will Case.

Mary Van Brunt vs. Annie C. Kerr et al.—This was an appeal from the Surrogate's decision refusing probate to a brief will of the plaintiff's deceased husband. It appeared that she was his second wife, and there were, in all, ten children living, besides a son of a deceased child. The will in one single clause gave his whole property, valued at about $52,000, to his wife, and appointed her executrix. The will was executed in Philadelphia, where he then was in a very dangerous sickness, and was witnessed by his two attending doctors, Meigs and Wilson. The dispute arose as to whether the formalities of witnessing a will were attended to. Dr. Wilson asked the sick man whether the signature to it was his, but it was not proved whether he used the word "will." Dr. Meigs does not remember whether the word "will" was used. Mrs. Van Brunt and another person present are sure of the word on direct examination, but not quite so sure on cross examination.

The Surrogate rejected the will, and the widow appeals. It was argued on her behalf that her witnesses were in no way discredited, and that a just interpretation of their testimony showed that all necessary points of execution had been complied with. On the other hand, it was contended that her own testimony was taken against the policy of the law, and without it the necessary facts were not made out, and with it were so doubtful as to justify the Surrogate's decision.

The court affirmed the decision of the Surrogate.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Alleged False Pretences of a Cincinnati Merchant.

Before Judge Cardozo.

David Joseph, of Cincinnati, was brought before the court yesterday morning on habeas corpus sued out by Mr. Howe. It appears that the prisoner stands charged with obtaining goods under false pretences to the amount of $66,000 from H. B. Claflin, Messrs. Payne, Perry and several other merchants of New York, which goods he took to Cincinnati, where he failed soon after in business. The merchants in New York, finding themselves victimized, had Joseph brought on to this city on a requisition, and three indictments were found against him.

Mr. Howe moved for his admission to bail in a reasonable sum.

District Attorney Garvin resisted the motion, insisting that Joseph ought to be made an example of.

Mr. Howe replied that there were failures every day in Wall street of which no judicial notice was taken, and if such summary proceedings