EUROPE.

French Socialism in "Alarming" Conspiracy Against Imperialism.

Bonaparte's Foreign Enemies and Outside Influence at La Creuzot.

Irish Landlordism---Its Influence and Effect in the North.

PROGRESS OF THE PAPAL COUNCIL.

The Cunard mail steamship Java, Captain Cooke, from Liverpool the 28th and Queenstown the 29th of January, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon, bringing our special European correspondence, in detail of the cable telegrams dated to her day of sailing from Ireland.

A mail telegram from Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, dated midnight, January 28, says the timber yard belonging to Messrs. Temple and two adjoining streets were one mass of flames. No chance of getting the fire under.

The London *Times* and *News* are opposed to a scheme of emigration at the expense of the State. "If the State," it is said, "has to find work, so may it find food, lodging, education and amusement until England is lauded as a purely communistic society."

The *Levant Herald* of January 25 states that the Porte telegraphed to Paris guaranteeing to pay before the 31st of January 15,000,000 francs to the contractors for the supply of iron-clads and breech-loaders to the Khedive.

The report that the Cleator screw steamer, from Liverpool for Bombay, stranded in Suez Canal, or that she had been *lightened to admit passing through*, was contradicted.

Sir George Bowyer, Bart., left England for Rome to attend *the Ecumenical Council as a Knight of* Justice of the Order of Malta, or St. John of Jerusalem.

Queen Victoria was recovering from an attack of neuralgia, which for some days prevented her leaving Osborne House, and was able to go out for a short time just before the steamer sailed.

M. de Fonvielle writes in the Paris *Marseillaise* that the story is absolutely untrue that he said in a druggist's shop "that Prince Pierre Bonaparte had killed his friend, but had himself got a jolly box on the ear."

FRANCE.

Socialist Conspiracy Amongst the Workingmen—Government Informed and Alarmed—Cash Aid from England and Other Places—Headquarters of the Democratic Propagandism, Creuzot and the "Strike."

PARIS, Jan. 25, 1870.

A great socialist conspiracy, among the working classes has been discovered. The French government is in possession of most important documents, which prove that the strike at Creuzot is connected with a widespread combination, having branches in England, Germany and other countries. In my previous letter I told you that the strike at Creuzot would not be of long duration, as the population of that place is peaceful and industrious. The strike there is at an end. The disaffected have not succeeded in exciting the masses to join them. The ringleaders declare that there will be another outbreak so soon as the troops are withdrawn, but the government will not order their removal until all chance of danger has passed. The fact of an editor of the *Marseillaise*, having gone down to Creuzot, not simply confining himself to reporting the events of the day, but taking an active part in exciting the workmen; the receipt of money in aid of the strike from Paris, England and other countries; the age of the ringleader Assy, a young man of eight and twenty, who has worked in various countries, passing from works to works, after staying but a few months at each, a fine gentleman with black coat and watch chain, but a very indifferent workman, with other indications, were enough to prove there were other levers at work and that Creuzot, the great industrial centre of France, had been chosen as the most likely spot for a successful outbreak. Disturbances may be expected elsewhere as the government have proofs that the complot has ramifications throughout Europe, especially on the borders of the Rhine; at Heidelberg and other towns where the students are in force.

The conspiracy has four headquarters—one in England, another at Paris, a third on the Rhine and the fourth the Internationale, at Berne.

The society on the Rhine has assumed the title Burgenschaft to pretend that it is the original society of students during the year 1845. That society is still in existence; but as yet 1845 not believed to have taken part with the present socialist conspiracy discovered by the government. At Douai sixty of the students in the Lycee have been expelled for having signed a subscription list for erecting a monument to the memory of Victor Noir and expressing radical sentiments. In other schools "young France" is addicted to "tall talk." A friend of mine, living at Versailles, has a son at college at that place. When the young gentleman returns home he indulges in the expression of the most rabid, radical principles.

There is proof that the recent disturbance at Sheffield is connected with that at Creuzot. The ringleader of the strike at Creuzot—Assy—is a young man as cool as a cucumber, plenty of assurance and an unbounded ambition—a person exactly suited to be used as a tool by the leaders of a party. He denies being a member of the *Fraternelle* and *Internationale*, but admits that the movement might become political, and he has for some time taught his comrades "not to tremble before their patron."

The town of Creuzot, which has assumed political importance, lies in a valley and the sound of labor is incessant by night and by day. There are coal and iron mines, and works for the construction of rails, locomotive, engines for steamers, &c. Creuzot does not only supply France, but specimens of her handicraft find their way to all parts of the world. In 1782 a company was formed to work the coal mines which had been discovered. At that time there was no means of communication and the Canal du Centre, which had long been proposed, was then commenced. A steam engine by Watt was introduced. During seventy-five years there was on the walls of the old works an inscription stating that this foundry, the first of its kind, had been constructed according to the method brought from England and put into practice by Mr. William Wilkinson. The Canal du Centre was terminated in 1793. As economical means of transport did not exist, other methods of turning the coal to account were sought for. Louis XVI. patronized the casting of cannon, Marie Antoinette the glass works. The cannon cast at Creuzot were tried on the spot, during the monarchy, republic and empire. The four lions before the Palais de l'Institut, in this capital, were cast at Creuzot. At the close of the war, in 1815, the 12,000 or 15,000 workmen were thrown out of employment. Subsequently the gas pipes at Paris and the machines for the water works at Marley were made at Creuzot. In 1826 two Englishmen bought, for one million, two-thirds of the works. *Eight years later* Creuzot passed, by a *vente judiciaire*, into other hands, and three years subsequently the house of Tellieres became possessor and the working of the establishment was confided to two of the partners, the brothers Schneiders. From that day the fortunes of Creuzot brightened. In 1845 M. Adolphe Schneider was thrown from his horse and killed, and M. Eugene Schneider became the head of the immense establishment. In 1857 there were in Creuzot 3,000 inhabitants; at the present time there are 25,000. They formerly extracted 40,000 tons of coal, 1,000 kilogrammes to the ton; they now extract 250,000 tons and consume double. One hundred and ten thousand tons of iron are produced, or one-eighth of the total production of France. One hundred locomotives annually leave the workshops, and steam engines representing 5,000 horse power. The above sketch is sufficient to show the disaster which would be caused by a suspension of work at Creuzot. Luckily, the majority of the workmen in that place is well disposed, otherwise the late strike might have been attended with most lamentable consequences. Two regiments will be kept at Creuzot, and the information at present in the possession of the government will cause such measures to be taken that all attempts at revolution will be immediately suppressed.

Free Trade or Protection—The Commercial Treaties with England—The Cotton Supply—Effects of the American War.

The Legislative Body of France met in session January 25, M. Mege, one of the vice presidents, in the chair.

The discussion on the commercial treaties was resumed. M. Estancelin called in question the figures brought forward by M. Ame, Director General of Customs; also those adduced by M. de Forcade la Roquette relative to the Gironde.

M. DE FORCADE LA ROQUETTE said—Having taken a view of the situation of some of our manufactures I now come to that of cotton. An honorable member had said that France numbered 4,000,000 of spindles, but the reports published at the close of the great exhibition gave 6,800,000; and as to the figure of 34,000,000, cited by M. Thiers for the English, the same statistics give only 30,000,000. The Zollverein, represented as a formidable competitor, has only 2,500,000; Austria, 1,700,000; Russia, 1,800,000; Italy, 450,000; Belgium, 600,000, and Switzerland, 1,500,000. Such is the picture of the cotton industry in Europe. Now let us inquire to what extent it is protected. In France the protective duty varies from fifteen cents to three francs the kilog., according to quality. In the Zollverein it is from fifteen cents to forty-five cents. Prussia protects only the low qualities of large consumption, while we do the reverse. In Austria the duty is from twenty cents to sixty cents, only on the inferior sorts. What then, in presence of these duties, has been the importation of spun cotton into France? In 1868 the value of that from England was 5,817,000f., and as our production represents four hundred and thirteen millions, the proportion is only two per cent.

M. THIERS—I have a table which gives for 1868 ten millions for the English importation.

M. DE FORCADE LA ROQUETTE—Doubtless, we do not use the same documents; you have a monthly statistic, while I have a more correct one for the whole year. But no matter; even if we say eight or ten millions, the proportion will only be three per cent. The distress in the cotton manufacture does *not arise from English competition, but from two* causes—one being transitory, *I mean the fluctuation in prices caused by the American war*, from which England suffered as much as ourselves; the other, of a more durable character, is the transformation now in progress, I mean the concentration of the trade in the great establishments leading to the disappearance of the smaller ones. But this is an inevitable law of progress; and as the cotton-spinning trade employs more of the raw material than it did before the treaty, I am entitled to affirm that it is not in a state of decay. It employed, as I have said, 6,000,000 spindles in 1859 and 6,800,000 in 1868. When people speak of grand establishments do they mean factories of a million or a million and a half of spindles? By no means. In England a great house is one of 100,000 spindles; in fact, no factory should be too large for the possible surveillance of an inspector. And there is no reason why France should not have establishments of the same magnitude, and thus sustain a competition with her neighbor. What I have said about the fluctuation in the cotton trade may apply also to that of flax. You all know its history; it had a moment of very great prosperity during the American war; then cotton returned and flax fell in value. However the customs' returns show that the importation of the raw material has increased even for this article. In 1859 it was 24,000,000, and in 1868, 85,000,000. Here also the movement of concentration, of which I spoke, is in course of progress. I come now to the wool trade. France is in a position to sustain competition with the foreigner. Since the treaty of commerce the exports of this article have largely increased; in the three years preceding the treaty they were 220,000,000, and in 1865, '66 and '67, 371,000,000. Thus, when the negotiations of the treaty fixed the protective duty on cotton tissues at fifteen per cent, fearing less the competition in the wool trade, they imposed fifteen per cent for the first period and only ten for the second. But facts which could not possibly have been foreseen occurred. The American war broke out and cotton became scarce. Then the discovery was made that stuffs woven from that material mixed with wool were as good as those of cotton alone. Roubaix and Bradford (England), two towns remarkable for their commercial activity, went largely into this trade, the former supplying goods to the value of 100,000,000 and the latter for 40,000,000.

M. BRAME.—For 60,000,000.

M. DE FORCADE LA ROQUETTE—So be it. I hasten to come to a conclusion. I shall vote for the Parliamentary enquiry and I hope it may be as general and complete as possible, that it may analyze all the elements of agricultural and industrial riches, and that it may examine all those who can cast any light on the debate. I am satisfied that this investigation will furnish the striking justification of the treaties and also the general conviction that free trade is the path in which France ought to persist. (Great applause.)

Baron LESPERUT—I shall only allude to two points which have reference to my department, the Haute-Marne, which has been frequently mentioned in the debate. They are wool and iron. In what concerns the former I simply refer to the observations of M. Thiers, whose convictions I fully share. As to the second, it has been treated in a very severe fashion by M. de Forcade la Roquette, who, we see, is not a partisan of democratic industry. He is only attracted by the great establishments and even those he is prepared to abandon if such a step were necessary to that England which he describes as being so rich in minerals.

M. THIERS—I admit that the scientific progress is in some way the cause of the present situation, but not in so great a measure as is stated. M. de Forcade la Roquette may be proud of his work, but I look upon it as deplorable. Nothing can be more imprudent than the treaties, for no one can foresee the consequences to which they may lead; engagements are contracted and cannot be terminated. The whole civilized world is opposed to such conventions. (Noise. Laughter on some benches).

M. BRAME—M. Thiers is right; the treaties must not be confounded with the tariffs.

M. THIERS—You smile in your ignorance of the subject. (Noise). Everyone, except those who have interrupted me is aware that in England the treaties are condemned, and that the ministers defend themselves by saying that there was no other means of binding France, for if the nation had been consulted it would never have consented to the arrangement. The 4th of February is the last date for denouncing the treaty, but could not negotiations be opened with England to obtain some modifications in the tariffs before that day, and which would render such a step unnecessary? For that reason we desire that the order of the day should be changed, and that the question of the treaties should be discussed to-morrow. (*Hear, hear*)

M. DE FORCADE LA ROQUETTE—I am of the same opinion. I think that the debate on the treaties should come on immediately.

The PRESIDENT—There being no more deputies inscribed to speak the general discussion is now closed. The first interpellation, deposited by M. Cazelles and several of his colleagues, is to ask the government to proceed to a parliamentary inquiry on the consequences of the Treaty of Commerce. As no one opposes this motion I now read the order of the day, with reasons assigned, relative to the same interpellation:—

The undersigned, considering that the debate which has taken place before the Legislative Body has proved the necessity for a parliamentary inquiry on the consequences of the Treaty of Commerce, proposes to name in a public sitting and by ballot a committee of twenty-seven members to proceed to that investigation.

The Chamber has therfore to fix a day to nominate that body.

M. ROULLEAUX-DUGAGE—Does the government accept the number of twenty-seven members?

The PRESIDENT—It was no doubt so established by the authors of the interpellation to give three members to each bureau.

M. THIERS—I still believe that the question of the inquiry should come after the discussion of the commercial treaties.

The Chamber decided that after the discussion of the first interpellation should come on the bill relative to the measures to be adopted concerning the money required by the city of Paris.

The proceedings were then brought to a close.

IRELAND.

Special Travel in the North—The Landlord System and Agriculture—The Herald's Review of Causes and Consequences—At Donaghadee—Farming and Rents in the County Down—What the People Say of Their Landlords.

DONAGHADEE, Jan. 27, 1870.

From Bangor to a place called Ballyholy, which is about eight miles southward from the northern coast, the soil is of a low, moory nature, and is, I think, badly adapted for either tillage or pasture. For several miles it is a perfect bog on either side, and the people generally convert it into turf, which is, I find, their chief article of fuel during the winter. The bogs, however, though numerous in this county, are generally small, and are for the most part confined to the skirts of the high hills and the mountains. The road from Bangor to Ballyholy is decidedly the worst I have yet travelled in Ireland, and is more like a private lane or avenue leading to a farmer's lawn than a public thoroughfare. It is all up hill and down hill, and I do not think that a perch of it is level ground. It is also newly gravelled with large, badly broken stones, and this made our journey over it more unpleasant. Our mode of conveyance was, as usual, "an Irish jaunting car," which rattled delightfully over the stones, particularly when "Larry" took it into his head to let us see how fast "Peg," as he called his old white mare, was able to go. The journey, short as it was, was by no means a pleasant one. The driver, however, who happened to be a Catholic, created some amusement by telling us of the attempts made by the Presbyterians and Methodists to reclaim him, when a farmer's boy in the country, from the errors of Popery. "But now," he continued, "I'm known as an honest man from Belfast to Donaghadee, an' I've a mare and car of my own, an' I don't care that (cracking his whip) for the whole lot of 'em."

After a drive of about eight miles we turned to the left, passed through the little village of Crumlin, which consists of one long street of very poor houses, and drove on to the eastern shore of the county, about two miles south of Donaghadee. For these two miles our route lay along by the ocean. We had a most extensive view, not merely of the county, but of the sea, and we saw the white hills of Scotland shining above the waters, comparatively near us. The distance between this town and Portpatrick, in Scotland, is only one and twenty miles. It is the nearest Irish seaport to Scotland, the passage to which can be made by steam vessels in an hour and a half.

DONAGHADEE.

This is a small, quiet little town on the Irish channel, about fifteen miles from Belfast. The town consists of several streets, which are wide and well kept; the houses are neat and clean, and there are some very splendid private residences. The part of the town next the shore is built in the form of a crescent, and this shape, with the neatness and whiteness of the houses along the quays, gives the place a very pleasing appearance. It occupies a site of great natural beauty, which is, to some extent, improved by art; it exhibits an appearance of cleanliness and comfort, and possesses all the advantages of a pleasant watering place. It has a fine beach, good lodging houses, baths and other requisites for the comfort and convenience of visitors, who, I may remark, come here in crowds during the summer months. For a century and a quarter the harbor has been a chief packet station of the government, and about twenty years ago a magnificent artificial harbor was constructed at the cost of a quarter of a million. Donaghadee was the first town in Ireland in which the sewed muslin trade was introduced. During the last half century this trade has been carried on here to a great extent, but during the last few years it has been on the wane. I find by the *Parliamentary Gazetteer* that in 1835 the exports of Donaghadee were estimated in value at £64,434, and had for their chief items £50,179 of cows and oxen, £6,620 of horses, £4,885 of potatoes, £1,000 of linen and £450 of wheat; and the imports were valued at £7,570, and had for their chief items £4,370 of coal, culm and cinders, and £1,250 of fish.

THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY.

Through such parts of Down as I have yet travelled, the country presented an appearance of comfort, of industry, of taste, equal to anything I have seen in England. But I am told that the farming classes are not happy, though their homes present an appearance of comfort; and the reason of their discontent is, because they have no security, and are, therefore, completely at the mercy of the landlord. *They are afraid to speak out their grievances*, as experience has told them what would follow in case they had the courage to denounce their oppressors. One instance that occurred in the neighborhood of this town will serve to illustrate the state of servitude to which even the peasantry of this great agricultural county are reduced.

LANDLORDS.

A landlord was standing on the road engaged in conversation with some person or other, when one of his tenants passed by. The latter had proceeded a perch or two when the landlord called him, and asked him the reason he did not raise his hat in passing, and why he was so disrespectful? The man, who now took his hat in his hand and remained uncovered during the conversation, endeavored to excuse himself by saying that "he thought his worship was engaged in talking to the stranger." But this excuse was, I need scarcely say, insufficient to acquit him in the eyes of the territorial lord, who communicated there and then to his astonished serf the fact that "were he again to neglect his duty he would be evicted forthwith."

Now, I do not suppose that there are many landlords in Ulster capable of this act of petty tyranny; out, then, it must be remembered that they have the power of doing so if they will. If one landlord be good and respect the tenant right, and also the feelings of his tenants, his successor may be a tyrant and may respect neither. The tenant, therefore, is entirely depending on the will of the landlord, and it is of this unsatisfactory state of things that he complains; but he complains in secret. As long as both landlord and tenant continue to stand in these relative positions, the one is a taskmaster and the other is a slave. The latter must necessarily be so, because he has not the power to exercise his own free will. The will of the landlord is to him a law against which he has no appeal. I hold that so long as a tenant is unable to refuse his vote to the landlord, and refuse it regardless of consequences, he is in a condition of serfdom which should not be tolerated under a free government. I am strongly inclined to think that the landlords of Ulster, mild as they usually are, have carried their authority a little too far. The people, who are not (unless when they receive great provocation) much inclined to grumble, are, I find, circulating in a quiet way, but nevertheless somewhat extensively, documents expressive of their feelings with regard to landlord tyranny. One of these documents, entitled "The Farmers' Catechism," came into my hands a few days ago, which, I think, represents very fully and fairly the position and the opinions of the peasantry. It says that the landlord and the agent promise and vow three things in the name of every Irish tenant:—"First, that he should renounce all the comforts of life; secondly, that he should be a hewer of wood and drawer of water, and thirdly, that he should be a slave for them all the days of his life."

The articles of the tenants' belief are as follows:—"I believe that God is no respecter of persons, that He is king of kings and lord of lords, and that He created all things for the good of man, and that every man should enjoy the fruits of his labor; for the laborer is worthy of his hire. I also believe that I do not enjoy the fruits of my labor, for I am compelled to give it to men who reap where they do not sow and gather where they have not strewn, who are better known in the banqueting hall, the foreign club house or on the betting field than in the school of industry or among their honest, careworn tenantry, save when the corn is ripe. I also believe that I am not able to pay my rent from the produce of my farm, and that the pomp and vanity of those men, who, like birds of passage, leave when they get the last grain of corn—men who live in ease and indolence, rolling about in purple and fine linen and faring sumptuously every day on the toil and sweat of their fellow creatures and revelling on the bread of idleness—have reached its highest climax, and that it is full time they should be brought to know and feel that the stalwart farmers are the bone and sinew of the land, and that they will no longer endure or submit to the burdens heaped on them by a class of extravagant landlords who are the chief cause of the grievances of this country. I believe in the fall of rents, the lowering of taxes, the suppression of crime and the emancipation of all slaves."

The opinions contained in this extract are, I feel certain, the opinions of the farming classes throughout the country. This extract does not, by any means, overstate the evils in connection with Irish landlordism nor the degradation of the tenant. Everywhere throughout the country similar complaints are made.

TENANTS.

Oppressed and persecuted as they are the peasantry must be perfectly convinced that you are in no way connected with the landlord class before they can be prevailed upon to disclose their grievances. But when they have a moral certainty that you are not a wolf in sheep's clothing they unbosom their sorrows without reserve. As long as they are persecuted, and then prevented from telling their grievances, they must necessarily be hypocrites and slaves.

ROME.

Progress of the Council—Plain Speaking by the Prelates—Church and State—French "Impotuosity"—Diocesan Appointments.

ROME, Jan. 26, 1870.

The sittings of the general congregations of the 19th and 21st, and probably of this morning, have been remarkable for the energetic speaking of some of the leaders of the opposition in the Council.

The matters in discussion relative to discipline being classed under the heading of three *schemata*, according to the government programme comprising the duties of bishops—the mode of living of *clerici*, by which expression we are to understand the clergy or whole class of ecclesiastics, and the reformation of the minor catechism, it is evident that the fathers were summoned to speak upon subjects highly interesting to them.

Wednesday the Archbishop of Smyrna, Monsignor Spaccapietra made an eloquent speech, the purport of which was in reality to advocate the modern doctrine of a complete division of Church and State—a doctrine always hateful to the Court of Rome. The Cardinal Legate De Luca evidently considered that the Archbishop had wandered a long way from the original theme of the duties of bishops, and observe to him that in inscribing his name on the list of orators on the preceding day he had not specified his intention of entering on this topic, which he therefore requested him to cease speaking on.

Other bishops rose to maintain the privileges of the orators' tribune, and opined that even if the matter treated of by the Archbishop did not, strictly speaking, enter into the order of the day, it was of such overweening interest that any formalities in opposition to it might be waived.

Monsigneur Dupanloup spoke for the first time in the general congregation of yesterday and found a theme worthy of his impetuous eloquence in the lives and habits of the clergy, *apropos* of which he launched out into comments upon the customs and careers of the prelates of the Court of Rome, which must have been anything but agreeable to "ears polite" at the Vatican.

Among the propositions of the government respecting the duties of bishops was a very important one by which, if carried, the nomination of their respective vicars general would no longer remain with them, but be attributed directly to the Pope. This naturally encountered a most vigorous opposition from the liberal fathers, several of whom spoke against it, complaining that the Council of Trent had already taken away too many of their ancient rights and privileges, and that it would be more to the purpose to restore some of those instead of reducing still further the independent action of bishops in their respective dioceses.

It is evident from the spirit thus aroused in the Ecumenical Council that the fathers are not disposed to pass unquestioned the pretensions of the Court of Rome in any category except, perhaps, that of the corporal assumption of the Madonna. It is, on the contrary, becoming more and more probable that the whole of the official *schemata* or propositions for canons elaborated with so much care and perseverance during the last year by the preparatory commissions will be rejected, at any rate in their original form, by the general congregations, and, therefore, will have to go through another long course of digestive manipulation and modification by the deputations of the four categories—Faith, Discipline, Regular Orders and Oriental Affairs—before they can obtain that preliminary sanction, if they ever do so at all, of the fathers in congregation, without which they cannot be definitively voted on and formally promulgated in the solemn public sessions of the Ecumenical Council. The *schemata* of faith had all to be sent for revision to the deputation of that category, and those of discipline stand a fair chance of undergoing the same fate. Reasoning by analogy it is to be supposed that the government propositions comprised in the other two categories, will encounter similar opposition; for experience already shows us that whatever mere numerical majority it can command, the Court of Rome cannot reckon upon the support of the enlightened and influential members of the minority, and it unfortunately happens that the official propositions of the government turn out to be invariably distasteful to the intellectual and independent portion of the Ecumenical Assembly.

The following are the names of the twenty-four fathers elected to form the deputation of Oriental Rites and Apostolic Missions:—Bostani, Maronite rite, Archbishop of Tyre and Sidon; Spaccapietra, Archbishop of Smyrna; Lavigerie, Archbishop of Algiers; Behnam Benni, Bishop of Mossul; Abdo, Greek Melchite rite, Bishop of Tarzul and Zahlè; Papp-Szilagyi, Bishop of Great Varadin, Hungary; Cuicercia, Archbishop of Trenopolis *in partibus*; De la Face, Bishop of Adrianapolis *in partibus*;; Charbonneaux, Bishop of Tasso *in partibus*; Grant, Bishop of Southwark; Alcazar, Bishop of Palo *in partibus*; McGettingan, Bishop of Raphoe; Pluym, Bishop of Nicopolis; Nasarian, Armenian rite, Archbishop of Mardin; Melchizedekian, Armenian rite, Bishop of Ezyerum; Bar-Sesnu, Caldean rite, Bishop of Talmas; Lynch, Bishop of Toronto; Marango, Bishop of Tine and Micone; Laonenan, Bishop of Flavlopolis *in partibus*; Conaseau, Bishop of Angouleme; Goesorland, Bishop of Burlington; Valerga, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem; Quinn, Bishop of Brisbane; Poirier, Bishop of Roseau (Antilles).

THE BALL SEASON.

A Week of Terpsichorean Festivities.

Notwithstanding the numerous brilliant balls which have kept New York society on the whirl throughout the winter, the ball season has lost none of its gayety and fashionables are as enthusiastic as ever in the mazes of the "German," the "Lancers," &c. Scarcely a night passes without several balls, each so attractive as to cause great distraction among the fair ones as to which they shall attend; and the caterers to such entertainments are taxed to their utmost in meeting the many demands for music, flowers and the delicacies of the banquet room. A drive through the streets of New York by gas light reveals a splendid panorama of festivity. In addition to the opera houses, theatres and other fashionable resorts, blazing with gas jets and resplendent with gorgeously attired audiences, almost every aristocratic street has some eddy of hurrying equipages in it, upon which a flood of light pours out from some palatial residences, filled with the sounds of music and dancing. It would be impossible to enumerate all such scenes that occur in the metropolis on a single night. They illuminate the fashionable quarters as if by magic, and the belated pedestrian, hurrying along the sidewalk, catches melody after melody as he hastens on past the shining entrances and groups of carriages to his home. But the feature of the ball season consists of the grand entertainments to which the public generally are invited. This week offers a magnificent programme of such festivities, and one from which it will not be easy every night to make a selection.

To-morrow night, the "Maenner-Gesang-Verein-Eichenkranz" give a grand masquerade ball at Irving Hall; and "The Festive Shoo Flies" give a similar entertainment at Dodworth's Hall, which the tickets announce shall be "theatrical," "symmetrical" and "etcetrical."

Tuesday night City Lodge No. 498, F. and A. M., gives a grand ball at the Academy of Music in aid of the distressed Master Masons in Cuba; the fifth annual calico hop of the Ball, Hop and Pleasure Club takes place at Apollo Hall, and the New York Independent Butcher Guard give their sixteenth annual fancy dress and civic ball at the National Assembly Rooms.

Wednesday evening the Apollo Coterie give their annual invitation ball at Lyric Hall, and the annual ball of the New York Firemen's Association takes place at Apollo Rooms.

Thursday night the Thirty-seventh regiment, N. Y. S. N. G., holds its annual reception at the regimental armory, corner of Thirty-fifth street and Broadway; the Dry Goods Clerks' Early Closing Association give an invitation ball at Irving Hall, and the *grande vat dansante* of the Literary Galaxy takes place at Trenor's Lyric Hall.

Friday night the Eighth regiment, N. Y. S. N. G., holds its sixth annual reception at Lyric Hall.

THE WAYS OF WALL STREET.

Report of the Committee of the Gold Board—Van Saun & Co., Recommended to Withdraw from the Board.

The special meeting of the committee of the Gold Board appointed to inquire into the charges made against Van Staun & Co. was held yesterday at two P. M., the President of the board, Mr. Underhill, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, the President stated that the report of the committee was next in order. Mr. Cambiass, then read the report. As was anticipated in these columns, the report was non-committal, but the committee significantly recommended the members of the Gold Board not to transact business with Van Saun & Co., pending the action of the courts, and also requested the suspected firm to withdraw from the Board in the meantime.

Mr. Keppler was anxious that the Board should not be held responsible for the doings of Van Saun & Co. while their affairs are being investigated, and made a motion to that effect, which, however, was not received. Quite a number of statements and affidavits were, it appears, handed to the committee as evidence, but what is remarkably strange, neither Barr, Dows nor Sharkey, who *should know more* about the doings of Van Saun & Co., were notified to give evidence before the committee. It is a pretty quarrel as it stands, but if Van Sun & Wheeler come out completely whitewashed it will be an example of the sharpest practice on the record of Wall street. Without prejudging the action of the Superior Court, it may be safely predicted that the law proceedings on Tuesday before Judge Spencer will develop facts quites as extraordinary as those in connection with the adroit firm of Gray & Co., with whom, it is alleged, Van Saun & Co. were on intimate business relations. Whatever may be the judgment of the court, there can be no doubt that the honest brokers and bankers will reap a substantial benefit from the fearless and unprejudiced exposition which first appeared exclusively in this paper. The most important functions of a newspaper is to expose flagrant wrongs and denounce them.

WILL OF HORACE BINNEY, JR.

[*From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Feb. 10.*]

The following is a copy of the will of this gentleman as admitted to probate:—

In the name of God, amen.

I, Horace Binney, Junior, of the city of Philadelphia, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament.

Imprimis.—I order and direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses be fully paid as soon as may be done after my decease.

Item 1.—I give and bequeath to my dear wife Eliza Frances, for her own use absolutely, all my household and kitchen furniture of every description, whether useful or ornamental; also all household stores, books (excepting my law books), plate, pictures, prints, clothing, jewelry, watch, personal ornaments and all my private papers, other than evidence of property.

Item 2.—I give and devise to my said dear wife, for the term of her natural life, my house, No. 227 South Sixth street, in the city of Philadelphia, she paying the taxes thereon and keeping the same in repair.

Item 3.—All the rest, residue and remainder of my property, real, personal and mixed, I give, devise and bequeath as *follows*, to wit:—One equal third part *thereof to my said* dear wife, Eliza Frances, her heirs, executors and administrators, in absolute property, and the other two-thirds parts thereof to my children who shall be living at my death, and the issue of such as shall be then dead, their heirs, executors and administrators, in absolute property, equally, but the issue of any deceased child to take only the share their parent if living would have taken.

Item 4.—I authorize and empower my executors to sell and dispose of any portion of my real estate and *convey* the same to purchasers, free from all liability to see to the application of the purchase money.

Item 5.—Should my said wife at any time desire it I authorize to sell my house, No. 227 South Sixth street, and with the proceeds thereof to purchase any other house and premises which my said wife may select for her residence, the purchasers of the said house, No. 227 South Sixth street, not to be liable to see to the application of the purchase money, and the new purchase to be considered as a substitute for the original devise, and to be held by my said wife for the term of her natural life, she paying taxes and making repairs as aforesaid, my said dear wife always to be at liberty to lease the houses designed for her residence, should she desire to do so, and to receive the rent therefor instead of personally occupying the same. HORACE BINNEY, JR.

ELIZA FRANCES BINNEY, } Executors.
Hon. H. BINNEY, }
JULY 28, 1861.

Codicil.—Should any of my children die under age, and without leaving issue living at the death of such child, the share of such child so dying shall go to my surviving children, except my son Horace and their issue, equally in absolute property, such issue to take only the share their parent if living would have taken. HORACE BINNEY, JR.

Same executors.

NOVEMBER 23, 1864.

Second Codicil.—I revoke and annul the third item of my will (containing the devise of the residue of estate) and instead thereof I devise and bequeath as follows:—

I give and bequeath to my eldest son Horace a legacy or sum of $5,000.

All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, real and personal, I give, devise and bequeath as follows, to wit:—One equal third part thereof to my said dear wife, her heirs, executors and administrators, in absolute property, and the other two-thirds thereof to and among such of my six younger children as shall be living at my death, and the issue of such of the said six younger children as shall be then dead, their heirs, executors and administrators, in absolute property equally; but the issue of any deceased child to take only the share their parents, if living, would have taken.

HORACE BINNEY, JR.

WILLIAM JOHNSON BINNEY, } Executors.
JOHN BINNEY, }
NOVEMBER 11, 1868.

ICE FROM CAYUGA LAKE.—The Auburn (N. Y.) *News* says:—"Ice dealers are reaping a rich harvest at Cayuga lake. The ice is not over six or eight inches in thickness, yet very large quantities are daily taken out. Mr. Pelton, at Cayuga bridge, shipped twenty-four car loads to Syracuse, Saturday, for the New York Central Railroad Company. One hundred car loads will be sent down to that city the coming week, and after that a large quantity will be forwarded to Rochester."

RAVAGES OF MENINGITIS IN THE SOUTH.—This malady is prevailing in Atlanta, Ga., and vicinity, and creating much alarm among the population. "Some of the most promising lads in the city," says the *Intelligencer*, "have been cut off suddenly from life." No one attacked has escaped death, and the popular alarm is increased by the fact that the physicians seem at a loss how to treat it. The same disease—cerebro spinal meningitis—is prevailing in Mobile, and is attended by the same popular dread.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

Execution in Virginia of Alexander Gardner, a Negro, for Complicity in Double Murder and Arson—Atrocious and Brutal Nature of the Crime—Speech on the Scaffold.

NEW KENT COURT HOUSE, VA., Feb. 11, 1870.

Alexander Gardner, a negro, one of the notorious New Kent murderers, in the presence of quite a crowd paid the penalty of his terrible crime on the scaffold to-day. Nearly two years has elapsed since one of the most sanguinary tragedies on record startled and horrified the peaceable and law-abiding citizens of this county. Lewis Kennedy and Alexander Gardner, negroes, murdered John Baker and Mrs. Julia Stewart.

At a place called Pegg's Point, just above the port of West Point, at the bend of the Pamunky river, lived a Mrs. Julia Stewart, a widow, the proprietress of a small plantation and the reported possessor of a considerable amount of money in specie and greenbacks. Residing with her, in the capacity of overseer or manager, was a man named John Baker, a half Indian and negro, who also lived in criminal intimacy with her, and he, too, was known to have a large amount of money of his own. In the same neighborhood in 1867, a negro named Alexander Gardner lived, who was frequently employed by Baker to work on the plantation. About this time there appeared in the vicinity another negro, named Lewis Kennedy, hailing from North Carolina, who also obtained employment from Baker, and these make the principal parties to the tragedy. Mrs. Stewart, whose maiden name was Hockady, was good looking, of very prepossessing manners, and came of a most respectable family; but report says she had been, since her marriage, a woman of loose morals. Her husband died about ten years since, and shortly afterwards John Baker, the half-breed Indian, became a frequent visitor at her house, and from the fact that he was seen coming and going at the most unseasonable hours, she was regarded by people in the neighborhood as his mistress. So notorious had this become at the close of the war that it failed to excite any surprise, and as if it was no longer an object to conceal their illicit intimacy, Baker, at the urgent request of the lady, took up his residence with her. In this double capacity of manager and paramour Baker continued to live with Mrs. Stewart; but it was not long before they disagreed, quarrelled and even blows resulted from their dissensions.

BAKER'S HISTORY

is one entirely peculiar to the South, resulting from the "peculiar institution." He had always been noted as a quiet, orderly and industrious colored man, and during the era of slavery, notwithstanding the prejudice entertained against free colored persons, he merited by his exemplary conduct the title of the most respectable free person in the county. By his industry he had always made a comfortable subsistence, and he even became the owner of a little property. Some years prior to the war he became enamored of a black maiden, for whom he professed the greatest devotion, and to whom he made proposals of marriage; but owing to the laws and customs then governing this community—wedlock between free and colored persons being forbidden—his honorable desires were frustrated. They could not be united under the cruel laws of the country. But they were at this time

Two souls with but a single thought,
Two hearts that beat as one,

and considering themselves wedded in the eyes of their Maker, they lived as man and wife. Baker hired his wife from her master and lived with her a considerable number of years, four children being born during this period; but, alas for human constancy, he loved and was loved in return by a free colored woman. He gave up his old wife for the new one, not, however, without going through the legal formality of obtaining a divorce, and, to his credit be it said, he settled upon the mother of his children one-third of all the real and personal property of which he was owner, and left her in good circumstances. Another divorce and another separation followed in the case of the second wife, when Baker became the paramour of Mrs. Stewart, over whom he obtained entire control. Her money, valuables, and everything she possessed was surrendered to him, and the former with his own money he carefully secreted in a crevice in the brick chimney up stairs, where it would be an impossibility to discover it. From all that can now be gleaned out of the testimony it is supposed that it was this

HIDDEN TREASURE

which led Gardner to participate in the terrible crime for which he died to-day. Everybody in the neighborhood, more particularly those in the employment of Messrs. Stewart & Baker, were cognizant of the fact that a large amount of money was concealed in the house; but until Gardner was dismissed from the service of both nobody ever entertained any design upon it. Gardner had for a length of time neglected his work, got in debt to Baker, and had, it is said, committed several robberies, one among the latter being the theft of a gun and other articles from the house of Mrs. Stewart during the absence of Baker at Yorktown, who, upon his return, at once discharged Gardner and warned him off the place. This robbery so alarmed Baker when he heard it that his first impulse was to see if the money was safe, and he flew to the secret police, where he found the treasure untouched. Fearing a second attempt he then placed the money in glass jars, took them with him out of the house, and, it is supposed, buried them in the woods; for, to the present, no clue has been obtained as to their whereabouts. This discharge of Gardner is one of the main causes which originated in the crime; but in the case of Kennedy

REVENGE

was the motive by which he was actuated. Like his accomplice, Kennedy had also been discharged by Baker, and was warned off the premises; but Kennedy was at the time cohabiting with a black woman named Annie, living at Mrs. Stewart's place, and in direct violation of Baker's orders he continued his visits to the woman. Between these two the most disgraceful scenes took place; they quarrelled and fought, and frequently made night hideous with yells, curses and screams. Kennedy, who was savage and vicious, used to beat the woman in a frightful manner, and it became such a nuisance *in the neighborhood* that Baker again ordered Kennedy and the woman both to leave his premises. This imperative order was at length complied with, but Kennedy had inwardly sworn vengeance against his persecutor. Kenned