

This Evening's News.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* sends the following letter, dated the 23rd inst. :—

In reference to Prince Bismarck's despatch to Count Arnim, I feel it necessary to remind your readers of an utterance by the Prince at the time of the diplomatic controversy with Austria in 1868. He said on that occasion in Parliament :—"I am opposed to the practice of publishing diplomatic documents. I think it an exceptional procedure only to be resorted to on rare occasions. Whenever I print a note that I have addressed to a foreign Court, you may be sure that a complication has arisen serious enough to make me anxious to secure the moral support of my countrymen." Viewing the publication of the despatch in the light of this declaration, many will doubtless draw the inference that the attitude of the French Government in the interval that has elapsed between the penning and the printing of the note has given cause for much dissatisfaction at Berlin. The note certainly endeavours to distinguish between the political depravity of the French people and the pure, but impotent, virtue of the French Government; but unless its author regarded both as practically hostile, would he not, it will be argued, have refrained from committing his sentiments to the press, and so exposing the French Government to the reproaches of the French people for putting up with the infliction of a document of this telling nature? A like reflection may appear to be forced upon us when we consider that Prince Bismarck must have foreseen the result of this publication upon the temper of his countrymen. However correct his statement that all Germans, whatever political party they may belong to, are agreed in condemning the attitude of the French towards them in language too strong to be quoted, there is a remarkable difference between such opinions being privately expressed and embodied in an official document entrusted to the press. Prince Bismarck, who since the conclusion of peace has done all in his power to allay the acerbity of German feeling against the French, suddenly reverses his policy and confirms the people of this country in their worst accusations against an unrelenting and haughty foe.

THE FAMINE IN PERSIA.

The Minister of Persia has received the following telegram from the Grand Vizier at Teheran :—

Upon being appointed Grand Vizier my first care was directed towards the poor. By order of his Majesty I have appointed a Relief Committee, composed of native and the following foreign members :—Ongley, English Consul; Ordel, the chief Russian dragoman; Dunnich Effendi, the secretary to the Ottoman Legation; and Berneo, the French dragoman. Two hospitals were immediately established for the poor sufficient to accommodate 300, and a school to receive poor children, 200 of whom have already been provided for. All these, the suffering poor, are lodged, fed, and provided with fire and light at the cost of the Government. The able-bodied poor are employed upon the roads of which I have commenced the formation. The road from Teheran to Tauris is being constructed under the direction of General Buchler, that from Teheran to the Caspian Sea by General Gasteiger, and that from Teheran to Khum by an English engineer. I have also appointed a Relief Committee in each town where necessity exists. I am now expending 80,000 tomans per month for the relief of the poor of the capital and those of the provinces. The hospitals are inspected by Persian and European doctors. I have received the congratulations of all the foreign Ministers for what we have done. I send you this for your information, and to reply to the statements of ill-informed journals. We have good hopes for the crops of next year. There has been abundant rain, and snow has also fallen.

DR. DOLLINGER'S RECTORIAL ADDRESS.

The *Cologne Gazette* gives the following summary of Dr. Dollinger's speech, as Rector of the University of Munich, on Saturday :—

After alluding to the glorious war and peace, and to the present hostile feeling of France against Germany, Dr. Dollinger explained the mutual influence which the two nations have always exercised upon one another. France preserves even now and for the future her importance as interpreter and carrier of the scientific ideas. She owes her defeat chiefly to the absence of veracity in her literature, especially in the historical portion of it, which has prevailed for generations past. The 18th of July, 1870, brought to Germany a second war through the Roman declaration of war against German science. The decrees of the Vatican were launched only against German science, and had been prepared for twenty years by a systematic falsification of the theological text-books. Once before Rome carried on war against science. It was against the natural sciences, and she succumbed. Now she combats against historical science. A retrospective view of German history shows the necessity of the German question being solved by the sword. By a just comprehension of the wants of the present time the King of Bavaria gave the impulse to the creation of the Imperial dignity. The German Emperor is not a Caesar, but the Imperial head of independent princes and nations. The necessity for the continuance of the Federal form is plain. As to the question which of the sciences received advancement or impulse by recent events, it is to be answered that these sciences are, above all, history, beside her philosophy, and notably theology. The task of theology has to be conceived in a quite new spirit. As it formerly had been polemical, it must now become eirenic (peace-making), and work with the object that, as Germany created the separation of the Churches, she may now bring about the reunion, or at least the reconciliation, of confessions, for which the best minds of all cultivated nations (*culturvölker*) are longing. He reminded his auditors that the duties of the nation have increased with its increase of power, especially with respect to the spread of religion and culture abroad and at home. He concluded by admonishing the students to show themselves able for the increased tasks of the present time by diligence and morality.

M. ELISEE RECLUS.

The following memorial is intended to be presented to M. Thiers on behalf of the above-named gentleman :—

To the President of the French Republic: As foreigners, yet owing a debt of gratitude to France and to her people, some of us for long years of pleasant sojourn, some for equally pleasant journeys, some for life-long friendships, and all for treasures of thought and delight derived from her ample stores of literature, science, and art, we venture to apply to you, sir, on behalf of a writer of whom we believe France to have reason to be proud, now lying under a heavy sentence. It is not for us here to express any opinion bearing on the internal politics of France. But we dare to think that the life of a man like Monsieur Eliséé Reclus—whose already widely acknowledged services to literature and science did but promise, from the ripeness of his vigorous manhood, services more signal still for the future—belongs not only to the country which has given him birth, but to the world, and that in reducing such a man to silence, or sending him a prisoner beyond the pale of civilization, France will be but crippling herself, and diminishing her influence over the world. Leniency, indeed, always becomes a victor; but how much more so when the victor is France, and among the vanquished is one of the young celebrities of French literature and science. Surely, sir, your own name is too illustrious, your place too eminent in the commonwealth of letters, to allow Monsieur Eliséé Reclus' deportation to cast a blot on the literary renown of your great country. With fervent wishes for the prosperity of France, we are, &c.

A correspondent states that the memorial has received among other signatures those of Lords Amberley and Hobart, Sir John Lubbock, Sir John Rose, Mr. Charles Darwin, Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., Professor Fawcett, M.P., Mr. W. D. Christie (late her Majesty's Minister in Brazil, who specially testifies

to the great value of M. Eliséé Reclus's writings on that country), Professors F. D. Maurice, Brewer, &c. Additional addresses may for the next few days be addressed to Mr. J. M. Ludlow, M.A., 3, Old-square, Lincoln's-inn; or to Mr. Eugene Oswald, 39, Gloucester-crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

MR. GLADSTONE TO SIR GEORGE POLLOCK.

The *Times of India* has received from a private source a copy of the letter in which Mr. Gladstone made to Sir George Pollock the offer of the post of Chief Constable of the Tower. It was as follows :—"11, Carlton House-terrace, Oct. 23, 1871. Dear Sir,—If it be agreeable to you to accept the office of Constable of the Tower vacant by the death of Sir John Burgoyne, I shall be very happy to submit your name for her Majesty's approval. And I beg that you will consider the proposal I now make as one due solely to your public services and distinction. I have not yet forgotten the description given of these services by Sir Robert Peel when head of the Government, at the climax of your military career, after the catastrophe in Afghanistan had been covered, through your exertions, with a merited and conspicuous success. But it is a great pleasure to me to have an opportunity, after the lapse of so many years, of again tendering to you a mark of honour which I feel confident will have, if accepted by you, the gracious sanction of her Majesty, and the cordial approbation of the country.—I have the honour to be, dear Sir, your very faithful servant, W. E. GLADSTONE."

There is hardly a pretence of business in London to-day, the day being a Bank holiday under Sir John Lubbock's Act. The weather has not been at all favourable for out-of-door holiday-keeping. Rain fell through the night, and has left the streets in a miserable condition for walking.

Mr. Cardwell, in company with his colleague, Mr. William Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., has accepted the invitation of the Ancient Druids of Oxford to be present at their annual festival in the town-hall of that city on New Year's Day.

It is now announced that Mr. Childers will address his constituents at Pontefract on Thursday evening next, the 28th inst.

The Lord Chief Justice arrived in town on Saturday evening from Geneva accompanied by Mr. Sanderson, of the Foreign Office.

The following announcement appears in the *Madras Mail* of November 24, under the head of latest telegrams :—"London, November 22. It is announced that Mr. Bright will return to his seat in Parliament as a Conservative, and has been elected member of Parliament for Plymouth."

The Education Department has approved of the bye-laws for compulsory education made by the School Boards of the following towns :—London, Southampton, Bath, Sunderland, Salford, Oldham, Derby, Barnsley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Longton (Staffordshire), Wednesbury, Chipping-Wycombe, Festiniog (Merioneth), Mitcham (Surrey), Carlisle, Sutton-in-Ashfield (Nottinghamshire), Maidstone, Allerton (Yorkshire), Kendal, Carno (Montgomery), Bersham (Denbigh).

The Rev. Albert Daymond retires on Thursday from the head-mastership of the Albert Middle Class College at Framlingham.

The Marquis of Anglesey has presented the Rev. W. F. Drury, M.A., to the vicarage of Holy Trinity, Burton-on-Trent, in the room of the Rev. P. French, M.A. The Prebendal Stall of Wenstrow in Wells Cathedral, vacant by the death of the Rev. W. D. Willis, M.A., has been conferred upon the Rev. John Earle, M.A., rector of Swainswick, Somerset.

The strike of engineers and ironfounders in Edinburgh has terminated by the workmen agreeing to accept a proposal that fifty-one hours should be considered a week's work after February 1, with extra allowances for overtime. This arrangement having been come to, the 600 on strike will at once resume work.

The *Leeds Mercury* records the death of Mr. Joseph Middleton, the Recorder of Scarborough and Deputy Recorder of Leeds. He had not lately been in good health, and had an attack of erysipelas, from which he had suffered twelve months ago. Congestion of the lungs occurred, and caused death on Saturday. Mr. Middleton was fifty-three years of age.

We are informed that the distress in the district behind Regent-street is greater this winter than an experienced district visitor ever knew it to be. Donations, however small, may be sent to Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co., 16, St. James's-street; or to Mr. George Cavendish, Burlington-gardens, W.

The Archbishop of Paris has authorized the priests of his diocese to let their beards grow.

The *bal masqué* on Saturday (our Paris correspondent writes) was rather a failure, and, in fact, most of the disciples of Clodoche must have come to grief during the Commune; the dominoes were few and far between; and, as a proof that there was a sad want of enthusiasm on the part of the dancers, I may mention that not more than half a dozen Corybarites were taken to the police-office for indulging in figures which shocked the modesty of the guardians of the peace. One mask is reported to have attempted to gain admittance disguised as a clock with a Prussian under his arm, but his money was refused.

Among the various improvements likely to take place in the Eternal City (says the *Garden*) as a consequence of the cessation of sacerdotal rule, is the creation of a winter garden in its centre. Attached to the garden there is to be a magnificent theatre, and also a café, and a grand arena for open-air performances and concerts. It is somewhat strange (though some may think otherwise) that no recent improvements of this kind have been originated in Rome by the Papal Government; the creation of the noble Piazza del Popolo and the beautiful promenades of the Pincian Hill having been suggested and carried into execution during the French occupation at the beginning of the present century. As palms, camellias, agaves, and other beautiful plants which cannot contend with the severity of our British frosts, will bear the comparatively mild winter of Rome with but little injury, the projected winter garden may be made highly picturesque and attractive.

THIS DAY'S WEATHER REPORT.

The barometer has been falling generally since Saturday, and during the past night the fall has been more rapid in Ireland than elsewhere. The lowest reading is at Valentia, and is 0.65 in. lower than that at Rochefort. Temperature also has varied very much. Since yesterday it has fallen rapidly in the north and north-east of England. Southerly and south-westerly winds have been and are still prevalent on our coasts. In force they are generally light to moderate, but a strong south-south-west breeze is reported from Roche's Point. Rain has fallen since yesterday in the west and south. The sky is moderately clear in the north-east, overcast elsewhere, with rain continuing in some places. The sea is rough in the south-west; moderate to smooth elsewhere.

READINGS BY NEGRETTI AND ZAMBRA'S BAROMETER

December 26, Noon.—Barometer, 29.85.
The reading on Saturday at the same hour was 29.20.
PALL MALL GAZETTE OFFICE.