

GERMANY AND ENGLAND.

THE Berlin *Kreuz Zeitung* has published an article on "German Continental Policy," of which the following is a summary:—"England is plainly about to abandon her position behind the scenes at Cairo and assume a protectorate over Egypt, which will only be the preliminary to its formal and final incorporation with the British Empire, and thus England will have nearly completed the chief links of the gigantic chain—Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Egypt, the Suez Canal, Aden, India, China, which insular supremacy has been diligently endeavoring to coil round the body of old Europe since the beginning of the last century. With Friedrich List we admit the great national virtues and the civilising capacity of England, but with him also we protest against her monopolising the trade of the world, converting the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean into English lakes, and appropriating the capital of continental nations. '*Quibus litigantibus tertius gaudet*'—England's power and wealth have to a great extent resulted from the long-standing antagonism between France and Germany. Napoleon I.'s famous 'Continental system,' which aimed at breaking the insular supremacy of England, failed for the simple reason that the Corsican confounded Europe with France, and imposed his system on nations which shook it off as they threw off his own yoke; and if Germany is now to achieve the aim which Napoleon failed to accomplish, she must seek to rally round her the nations of the Continent against the intolerable predominance of England, not by subjugating them, but by treating them as equals, and thus uniting them in moral and material concert. Germany has already united herself; but the process of binding her neighbours to her is still far from complete, owing to the jealousy of some and the revengefulness of others, especially of France, which hinders the inauguration of a German Continental policy "favorable to the common interests of Continental States." Austria has already yielded to the charms of this idea; Russia is returning to her old love; and other States (Italy, Spain, etc.) have shown a distinct tendency to gravitate towards the Teutonic and anti-English centre; but, alas! France still keeps aloof, and much water will have to flow down the hill' before Switzerland and Holland knock for admittance at the doors of the German Confederation. But it will ultimately come to this with these two nations, and France, too, will at last perceive that her interests are not opposed to, but identical with, those of Germany, who, thus placed at the head of an united Continent, will be able to shake off the chain with which insular supremacy has for nearly two centuries been endeavoring to bind the body of old Europe."

A FRENCH VIEW OF ENGLISH CIVILIZATION.

(Special Correspondence of the *Pilot*.)

Paris, March 25.

ENGLISH civilization, Frenchmen say, consists in massacring innocent men and enslaving those who are free. "Gordon," says a writer in *Figaro*, "departs for the Soudan. He is a great adventurer, inspired, a prophet. He has abolished slavery; he shakes, as a divine promise, the chains which he has broken. What a man! Suddenly, he issues his famous proclamation: 'You are all free . . . to be sold as slaves!' What a buffoon! England itself is moved! Gordon replies by one single phrase—'It is for the good of England!' And on the spot there is silence! No one moves; not an objection, not a murmur. He has said: 'It is for the good of England!' And all England bows down its head. And England approves that which it denounced the day before. And the Opposition itself has not breathed a word. What a people!"

This clear-minded Frenchman sees through the blatant boastings and pretended disinterestedness of the English. Their selfishness is revealed to the world. "Have you ever," he asks, "beheld egotism so stern and so fierce? They pretend to be generous, and disinterestedness escapes them. They have never measured anything save by the measure of their interest."

Then he turns to the burning questions: "Look at Ireland! Behold India! Endemic misery and the feudal *regime* in the dawn of the twentieth century. The laborer dying of hunger and the Sepoy at the cannon's mouth! Resistance the most legitimate, the most natural to their autocratic policy, military or commercial, takes in their eyes the character of an injury, and the least revolt becomes an outrage which must be washed out in blood. Think of Alexandria already set fire to by the Arabs, and burnt again last year by the English. They are the first bombardiers of the universe!"

The season of art exhibitions is about to open in Paris, and visitors throng the studios on the public days. Munkacsy, who has had a special studio constructed for his colossal pictures is at work over a year on the Crucifixion of Christ between the two thieves. The chief attraction in the studio of Carolus Duran is the portrait of a young American lady, represented seated, exquisite in color and masterly in execution.

The remarkable discourse pronounced against lay instruction in the Chamber by Mgr. Freppel, Bishop of Angers, has been published in pamphlet form for distribution. It is a discourse that, from the excellence of its arguments and its abundance of proof, will be of great advantage to Catholics and to honest-minded Frenchmen.

During the year 1883 over 200,000 pilgrims visited the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

A subterranean Coptic church of the fifth century, with many inscriptions, was recently discovered by the French archaeological scholar, Maspero, the director of the museum at Bulak, on the site of the ancient Thebes. These inscriptions are written on white stones with red ink, and are mostly well preserved. The largest is one of three hundred lines against the Monophysites, written in the Theban dialect. Another contains a declaration of St. Cyril of Alexandria against Nestorius. The whole interior is covered with addresses to different saints in the Coptic, Greek, and Syrian languages.—*Ave Maria*.

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

IN the House of Representatives yesterday, Major Atkinson resumed the debate on Mr. Sutton's amendment. He made a vigorous defence of the Government in the course, of which he accused Mr. Wakefield in effect of abusing his calling as a journalist by writing articles in certain Southern papers, with a view of advancing his own claims to become the leader of a new party, in the House,—an accusation which Mr. Wakefield afterwards denied indignantly. The Premier's arguments were substantially the same as those we had already heard from him. Sir George Grey made a rather abusive reply, putting himself forward as usual in the character of the paladin under whose leadership all that is most generous, peaceful, and liberal is to obtain—which they may believe who will.—Mr. Connelly denied a charge brought against him by Mr. Holmes that he had called the Canterbury "population a howling set of cowards." The House divided, Ayes, 7; noes, 67. The Address-in-Reply, as amended, was read a second time and agreed to.

A seam of coal 12ft. thick has been traced in the Grey district, near Black Ball Creek, for half a mile. The coal has been tested and highly spoken of. Mr. Thornton has brought specimens to Christchurch, and a Greytown firm has obtained a lease.

On Wednesday night the police arrested at Auckland a man named Dennon in his own house for brutality to his son of 15. He bound the lad by ropes to the ceiling and flogged him with another rope. The boy was fearfully ill-used, and was taken to the police-station for protection.

Some excellent specimens of copper ore have been brought from the Malvern district. Sanguine hopes are entertained of a payable copper-mine being found there.

Earthquakes are reported to have been felt at Christchurch on Tuesday, half an hour before midnight and early on Wednesday morning. There were two sharp shocks at Oxford at half-past 2 yesterday morning.

It is announced that Turkey will abstain from sending a delegate to the European Conference unless the discussion of Egyptian affairs be entirely unlimited, or unless a previous *entente* be come to with England as to the basis of settlement to be arrived at by the Powers.

In the election of representatives to the Chamber, which is now proceeding in Belgium, the Liberal candidates are being beaten everywhere by the clericals. The success of the Clerical party has been ill received in Brussels and serious anti-Clerical riots have occurred but were suppressed by the police.

SATURDAY.

A terrible fire occurred about four o'clock this morning at Leeston, destroying a two-roomed cottage on the Southbridge road owned by Mr. Holley. The cottage was occupied by Mr. Frank Smith and his wife, and, as neither of them was to be found, the *debris* was examined by Constable Simpson, when the charred remains of both were found. On further search being made a third body was found, but at present it is not known whose it is. An inquest will be held this afternoon.

The Duke of Manchester is a passenger for Australia by the steamship City of Sydney.

The Earl of Derby has appointed an officer to attend on the Maori Embassy. The petition of the Natives will remain in abeyance until Tawhiao and party have had a consultation with Bishop Hadfield, of Wellington, who arrived at Plymouth on Thursday by the Tongariro.

Pending the approval of Federation by the various Colonial Legislatures, Lord Derby has intimated that he does not feel disposed to proceed with the Australasian Federation Bill.

The *Times* correspondent, telegraphing from Cairo, states that 1,800 of the garrison and most of the residents of Berber were massacred by the followers of the Mahdi. The engagement was a most severe one, and the slaughter of the defenders only commenced after their ammunition was exhausted. The Governor of Berber was taken prisoner. Thirty thousand of the rebels are now marching on Dongola.

MONDAY.

A married woman named Brigens was found dead on the Brunswick line yesterday afternoon. No particulars are yet to hand as to how she met her death.

Owing to some culverts on the railway-line being blocked, the heavy fall of rain on Saturday burst them, and destroyed about a quarter of a mile of the road near Wanganui.

The schooner *Result* picked up an open boat off Caralli Island, containing two men who deserted from the scow *Bukaka* at Mongouui. They were bound for Sydney, and are supposed to have thought the voyage too risky in the scow. They were at sea 24 hours without food or water before being picked up.

A large and influential meeting of business men has been held for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessity for the reduction of the high rates of insurance prevailing in Wellington. Mr. J. E. Nathan was voted to the chair. The matter was discussed at great length, and a general opinion expressed that the people of this city were not being properly treated by the various companies. Statistics were quoted to show that the rates charged on property in Wellington are very much higher than in other large centres, and it was asserted by one or two speakers that more than one-half the profits of the companies has of late been made out of insurers in this part of the Colony. The result of the discussion was the appointment of a committee to wait on the chairman of the Underwriters' Association on Monday, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a reduction in rates is likely to be made.

The Lalla Rookh, Captain Campbell, arrived at Onehunga yesterday afternoon. The captain reports that when nine miles south-west of Manukau Heads, on the voyage from Waitara, he saw signals of distress from a ship. He ran alongside to render assistance.