

Monthly Record of Current Events.

UNITED STATES.

THE advent to power of a new Administration in the Federal Government, has been the main feature of domestic interest during the month. President PIERCE was inaugurated on the 4th of March, with the ceremonies usual on such occasions. His Address was of less than the ordinary length, and has attracted general attention by the frankness of its tone, and the important indication it affords of the spirit and general policy of the new government. Acknowledging his indebtedness to the people for elevating him to a high place which he had not sought, and declaring his reliance upon their support in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities, he refers to the rapid growth and wonderful expansion of our territories within the last few years, and to the discussions which have grown out of it on both sides of the ocean. Our country, he said, has spoken hitherto, and will continue to speak, not only by its words but by its acts, the language of sympathy, encouragement, and hope, to those who earnestly listen for tones which pronounce for the largest rational liberty. But, after all, our most powerful influence for freedom rests in our example; and that, to be useful, must rest upon eternal principles of right and justice. Experience has proved the apprehension originally entertained of danger from extended territory, multiplied States, accumulated wealth, and augmented population, to be unfounded. With an experience thus suggestive and cheering, says the President, "the policy of my administration will not be controlled by any timid forebodings of evil from expansion. Indeed it is not to be disguised that our attitude as a nation, and our position on the globe, render the acquisition of certain possessions, not within our jurisdiction, eminently important for our protection, if not, in the future, essential for our preservation of the rights of commerce and the peace of the world. Should they be obtained, it will be through no grasping spirit, but with a view to obvious national interest and security, and in a manner entirely consistent with the strictest observance of national faith." The policy of our country ought to be eminently peaceful, and with the neighboring nations upon our continent we should cultivate kindly and fraternal relations. If we should open new channels of commerce, the benefits of them will be enjoyed by all. With the politics of Europe we can have no immediate or direct concern; but the vast interests of commerce are common to all mankind. With these views firmly carried out, we shall always require prompt reciprocity. Not only are our national rights to be regarded, but those which pertain to every citizen in his individual capacity, at home or abroad, must be sacredly maintained. We must realize that upon every sea and on every soil, where our enterprise may rightfully seek the protection of our flag, American citizenship is an inviolable panoply for the security of American rights. And in this connection, it is declared, that "the rights, security, and repose of this Confederacy, reject the idea of interference or colonization, on this side of the ocean, by any foreign power, beyond present jurisdiction, as utterly inadmissible." In the administration of domestic affairs, the people will expect a devoted integrity in the public service, and an observance of rigid economy in all departments, so marked, as never to be justly questioned. Offices can only be regarded as aids for the accomplishment of these objects; and as occupancy can confer no

prerogative, nor importunate desire for preferment any claim, the public interest demands that they be considered with sole reference to the duties to be performed. While persons can not be retained known to be under the influence of political hostility and partisan prejudice, no motive will be admitted in making appointments which does not contemplate an efficient discharge of duty, and the best interests of the country. Special care is to be exercised to prevent the encroachment of the Federal Government upon the rights of the States: and in thus preserving the just line of separation, in the President's opinion, is to be sought the basis of future concord in regard to the questions which have most seriously disturbed public tranquillity. If the Federal Government will confine itself to the exercise of powers clearly granted by the Constitution, it can hardly happen that its action upon any question should endanger the institutions of the States, or interfere with their right to manage matters strictly domestic according to the will of their own people. The President declares that to every theory of society, or of government, whether the offspring of feverish ambition or of morbid enthusiasm, calculated to dissolve the bonds of law and affection which unite us, he will oppose a ready and stern resistance. He believes that involuntary servitude, as it exists in different States of this Confederacy, is recognized by the Constitution: that it stands like any other admitted right, and that the States where it exists are entitled to efficient remedies to enforce the constitutional provisions. He holds the Compromise measures of 1850 to be strictly constitutional, and to be unhesitatingly carried into effect—that they are to be respected and obeyed, not with a reluctance encouraged by abstract opinions as to their propriety in a different state of society, but cheerfully, and according to the decisions of the tribunal to which their exposition belongs.—The Senate met in Extra Session immediately, and on the 7th the President nominated the following gentlemen as members of the Cabinet, the nominations being immediately confirmed:

Secretary of State.....	WILLIAM L. MARCY, of N.Y.
Secretary of the Treasury.....	JAMES GUTHRIE, Ky.
Secretary of the Interior.....	ROBERT MCCLLELAND, Mich.
Secretary of War.....	JEFFERSON DAVIS, Miss.
Secretary of the Navy.....	JAMES C. DOBBIN, N. C.
Postmaster General.....	JAMES CAMPBELL, Penn.
Attorney General.....	CALEB CUSHING, Mass.

The closing proceedings of Congress were not marked by special interest. In the Senate, on the 11th of February, Mr. Mason, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted a Report upon the doubt that had been thrown over the stipulations of the treaty with Great Britain concerning Central America, so far as they related to the maintenance of the jurisdiction already established by the British Government in that quarter. After reciting at length the history of the negotiation, the Report closes by expressing the opinion that the treaty recognizes the existing British colonial establishments in Central America, but precludes her from establishing new ones. No further action on the subject was considered necessary on the part of this Government. On the same day the President's nomination of Senator Badger, of North Carolina, to fill the vacancy on the Bench of the Supreme Court created by the death of Judge M'Kinley, was indefinitely postponed, by a vote of 26 to 25.—On the 14th, Senator Douglas addressed the Senate upon the resolutions intro-

duced by Senator Cass, reaffirming the Monroe doctrine. He opposed their passage, not because they asserted the principle that no European power would be permitted hereafter to establish colonies on this continent, but because their language implied concessions which he could not make. He reviewed at some length the policy of this country toward other nations, denouncing the treaty concerning Central America as in violation of the Monroe principle, and repudiated the notion that it was necessary or proper for the United States to disavow any intent to seize upon Cuba.—The subject subsequently engaged attention in the Senate, but no vote was taken upon it. In the House of Representatives, on the 18th, a Message was received from the President, accompanied by a communication from the Secretary of State, announcing a proposition from the Government of Great Britain to revise the treaties between the two governments concerning Central America, and declaring her willingness to abandon the protectorate of the Mosquito Kingdom, and in other respects to go as far as possible in placing her relations with that country upon a basis satisfactory to the United States. Secretary Everett suggested, as the initial step toward such renewed negotiations, that a full Minister should be sent from the United States to Central America, to be accredited to each of the five governments included in that name. No action was taken upon this proposition.—The Mexican Garay grant, of a route across the isthmus of Tehuantepec, has engaged further attention in Congress, but no action upon the subject has been had. On the 8th of February Mr. Seward spoke upon it, in opposition to the recommendations of the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He sought to show, by historical references, that the grant was invalid at the outset, having never been made by any authorized Government—that even if made, it had been forfeited by the non-fulfillment of its conditions—that it would be the height of injustice for this country to force Mexico into confirming it; and that, as she had offered to concede the right of way, and to indemnify the alleged grantees, every desirable object could be obtained without a rupture with that Government. On the 25th, Mr. Hale spoke upon the subject, presenting the same view, and following substantially the same line of argument. Mr. Brooke of Mississippi subsequently replied, and notice was given by one or two other Senators that they should speak upon it, but up to the adjournment no action or further debate had been had.—Sundry memorials have at various times been presented to the Senate, for the more effectual protection of American citizens in the exercise of their religious freedom abroad; and on the 17th of February Mr. Underwood reported, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to which they had been referred, resolutions declaring that it would be wise for the Government of the United States, in future treaties with foreign powers, to secure liberty of worship to American citizens abroad, so far as possible.—The subject of aiding the construction of a railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific, has engaged attention at intervals, and toward the close of the session was repeatedly discussed in the Senate. All who spoke upon it were in favor of the work: the variety of plans suggested, and of offers made, create the principal difficulty. The result was the adoption of an amendment to the Appropriation bill, authorizing the President to employ engineers to make explorations, in order to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad, and appropriating \$150,000 dollars for the expenses of the survey.—A bill was passed erect-

ing a new territorial government out of part of Oregon, to be called the Territory of Washington.—A great variety of private bills, and many acts of local interest were passed; but the summary given above includes all the legislation of the last month that has general importance.

A good deal of interest has been excited by the performances of the ship *Ericsson*, driven by Caloric engines, allusion to which has already been made. The proprietors early in February proposed to the Government the construction of one or more war frigates to be driven by engines working upon this principle, offering ample guarantees for their economy, speed, and general efficiency. The Secretary of the Navy, in reply, invited them to bring the ship to Washington for personal inspection. The invitation was accepted, and the ship left New York on the 17th of February and arrived at Alexandria on the 21st. The voyage was exceedingly tempestuous, and the power of the engines was put to the severest test. Com. Sands, of the Navy, who was on board, made a report to the Navy Department bearing testimony in the strongest terms to the entire success of her performance. The invention is very generally regarded as one of great importance to the interests of commerce and manufactures.

Previous to his retirement from office some friends of President Fillmore contributed a thousand dollars to make him a life member of the Colonization Society. In his letter of acknowledgement he took occasion to express his decided approval of the objects of the Society, and to say that it appeared to him to have pointed out the only rational mode of ameliorating the condition of the colored race in this country. The members of his Cabinet also presented to him a cordial letter, acknowledging their indebtedness to him for the uniform courtesy of his official intercourse, and their high appreciation of his public services and personal character.

From CALIFORNIA we have intelligence to the 1st of February, but it is of little interest. Governor Bigler's Message recommends biennial instead of annual sessions of the Legislature, and a general reduction of expenses. From his statement it appears that the annual expenditures of the State are six hundred thousand dollars more than the receipts. The aggregate indebtedness of the State is over two millions of dollars. The Governor also urges the importance of some provision for bringing contested land claims to the decision of the United States District Courts. The project of a State Convention to divide the State is again agitated. Freshets in several of the rivers had destroyed a great deal of property, and inflicted much suffering. The intelligence from the mines was generally satisfactory.

MEXICO.

We have still another revolution in Mexico. Our last Record left General Cevallos at the head of a Provisional Government. The plan of Jalisco, however, adopted on the 20th of October, proved unacceptable to him, and he refused to acquiesce in its provisions. He accordingly renounced the Presidency, and the powers of the office fell into the hands of General Uruga, who on behalf of the Government invited Santa Anna to return and resume control of Mexican affairs. This was decided upon by the military chiefs who had joined in signing the plan of Jalisco, and is regarded as the act of the Supreme Government. Envoys had been sent to Carthagena, where Santa Anna was residing, to tender him the invitation to return and place himself at the head of the republic. Public opinion in Mexico seemed to

sanction this movement and to regard the return of Santa Anna as likely to give stability and confidence to the political organization of the country. The liberal party anticipate, however, a renewal under him of the dictatorship, and are dissatisfied at the turn taken by the revolution. The Legislature of Puebla has disavowed it, and declined to join in the election. During the presidency of Cevallos, a distinct arrangement was made by the Government for accepting the propositions of the Company represented by Mr. A. G. Sloo, for the opening of communication across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The President in his decree announcing this result, alleges the pressure of a commercial exigency and a political necessity involving the preservation of the integrity and independence of the territory, as the reasons for making the ant. The contract provides that the communication is to be by water as far as the Coatzacoalcos river is navigable, and that from that point a plank road is to be commenced within one year and completed within three years, and a railroad to be commenced within three years and completed within seven from the present time. The company is to pay \$600,000 for the grant, to carry Mexican mails, troops, &c., free, to pay the Mexican Government twenty per cent. of the profits for fifty years, and at the end of that time to turn the road over to the control of the Government. The Company is to have the exclusive right of transit over the road: and foreigners in its employ are to have only the same rights as Mexican citizens. The contract was signed on the 5th of February.

SOUTH AMERICA.

We have news of fresh revolutions in Buenos Ayres. It will be remembered that on the 10th of September, the province rejected the rule of Urquiza, driving away his deputy Governor, and restoring the Representative and National Government. Urquiza was at that time at Santa Fé, attending the Congress which was to organize the new Federal Government: he then at least ostensibly, acquiesced in the proceedings of Buenos Ayres, saying he should leave that province to pursue her own course, and retire himself to Entre Rios. Alsina was elected President of Buenos Ayres at the end of October, and on the 11th of November dispatched about 1500 troops to the river Uruguay to invade the province of Entre Rios, who were, however, entirely defeated. Another detachment had been sent to invade Santa Fé, at the same time, and thus to attack Urquiza on both sides of the Parana at once. General Flores, Alsina's Minister of War, had been sent to this division with money to the amount of twenty thousand pounds. On the 1st of December, while awaiting news from this force, an address was published by a Col. Lagos to the soldiers and people calling for the deposition of Alsina, as a friend of consolidation, and for the appointment of Flores, a supporter of the Federal plan of Urquiza in his stead. Accompanying this address was a letter from Flores to Alsina, dated only four days after his departure from Buenos Ayres, and advising him to resign his office immediately. This he did—sending his resignation to the Representatives on the 6th of December, accompanied by the proclamation of Lagos and the letter of Flores. The resignation was accepted. General Pinto was appointed Governor, the town declared in a state of siege, the National Guard called to arms, and all business suspended. Lagos, meantime, had collected a force of some thousands outside, and proceeded to invest the city. The representatives published a decree ordering the besieging forces to disband and recognize the new

authorities. This Lagos at first agreed to do, but afterward refused. A suspension of hostilities was meantime agreed upon. On the 9th extraordinary powers were conferred on the Governor, who was ordered not to treat with Lagos on any other terms than a recognition of the authorities. On the 12th, news arrived that Flores who had all the time been acting in Urquiza's interest, had deceived him also, and decamped with the money. On the same day the besiegers sent in their ultimatum, demanding that half the Assembly should be dissolved, deputies sent to Urquiza, the expenses of the besieging army met, and the revolution declared glorious. Only 48 hours were given to consider these terms—which were at once rejected. On the 15th, the city began to be closely blockaded, and in that condition affairs were left at our last advices—the 5th of January. Meantime it is stated that the Congress at Santa Fé, had elected Urquiza, President of the Confederation, and left Buenos Ayres to join or remain aloof as she may see fit. There is but little doubt, however, that Urquiza will endeavor to coerce her into union, and the result of the struggle it is not easy to foresee.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Political agitation in England has taken a more definite shape in consequence of the re-assembling of Parliament on the 10th of February and the development of ministerial measures. The elections had been very sharply contested, but the result was favorable to the Government. Speculation was rife as to the measures which would be introduced, and the mixed character of the Cabinet increased the difficulty of safe conjecture. In the House of Commons, Lord John Russell, on the first day of the session, made a full statement of the course which the Ministry designed to pursue. No further increase in the army would be proposed, though there would be an increase in the estimates. A bill would be introduced to enable the Legislature of Canada to dispose of the clergy reserves in that colony: a new pilotage bill has been contemplated with other suggestions touching the shipping interest of the country: the House would soon be asked to consider the removal of Jewish disabilities, and the Government intended to offer a plan for education, which, it was believed, would tend to great improvements and promote the cause of education throughout the country. University education, schools in Scotland, transportation as a punishment (it being designed to stop sending criminals to Australia), and the general subject of penal legislation, would successively engage attention. The Chancellor would also submit bills for law reform, and especially for changing the laws relating to land tenure in Ireland. In regard to Parliamentary reform, while the Government were desirous of doing something to promote it, and would probably introduce a bill at the opening of the next session of Parliament, it had not been deemed advisable to take any action upon the subject at present. Sundry bills had been subsequently introduced upon the various topics referred to by Lord John Russell. The Chancellor's propositions for legal reform were less comprehensive than had been anticipated, but were still considered valuable. The Canada clergy reserve question seemed likely to be satisfactorily adjusted, although it encounters some opposition in ecclesiastical quarters. Mr. D'Israeli, on the 18th, called the attention of the House to the condition of the relations between England and France, in a speech generally regarded as the beginning of a vigorous and formidable crusade against the Ministry. He was particularly earnest in deprecating the violent denunciations of the Em-

peror by the London press, and dwelt upon the disastrous consequences which would follow a rupture of the friendly relations between the two countries. Lord John Russell, in reply, asserted the existence of a perfectly good understanding with the French Government, and denied the existence of cause for any apprehension.

A good deal of attention has been given in England to the alleged persecutions of the Madiai by the Tuscan Government, and on the 17th of February an address was moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Kinnaird, asking the interposition of the English Government on their behalf. Mr. Lucas, a Catholic member, opposed the motion on the ground that the Madiai were imprisoned, not for their religious opinions, but for attempting to make proselytes to them, which was an offense against Tuscan law, with the administration of which England had no right to interfere. He also cited several cases in which the English Government had sanctioned the persecution of Catholics upon religious grounds, and urged the duty of first correcting their own errors before meddling with the affairs of other states. Lord John Russell replied in vigorous vindication of the Government, and asserted in emphatic language the principle that persecution for religious opinion was odious and detestable, that the English Government would always raise its voice against it, and that he believed the Catholics in general disapproved of it. Mr. Fitzgerald declared himself, as a Catholic, utterly opposed to the treatment the Madiai had received at the hands of the Tuscan Government, and hostile to the principle that any fair attempt to convince others of the truth of one's religious faith, could be a crime and deserving punishment. A letter of instructions has been published from Lord John Russell to Sir Henry Bulwer, directing him to remonstrate in the most earnest manner with the Grand Duke of Tuscany upon the imprisonment of the Madiai, and to represent to him, that notwithstanding the various pleas by which the attempt is made to justify that act, if one of the prisoners should die in prison, the public opinion of all Europe will hold the Grand Duke guilty of having put a man to death for being a Protestant. The subject was widely discussed at public meetings, and through the English press.

Fresh meetings of the Peace Association have been held at Manchester—the primary object being to prevent any augmentation of the naval or military defenses of Great Britain under the apprehension of a French invasion. Messrs. Cobden and Bright made especially, earnest remonstrances, urging strenuously the friendly disposition of the French people, denouncing the British press for its stringent censures of Louis Napoleon, and insisting that the true way to insure the peace of Europe was by abandoning these irritating preparations for war. Mr. Cobden has also published a very able pamphlet, mainly historical, and designed to show that the last long war between England and France was produced by the aggressions and undue pretensions of the English Government, and that the French nation had no desire but that of preserving peace.—Emigration from England to Australia continues to be very large:—nearly a hundred vessels leave English ports for that country every month. The entire emigration from England during the past year exceeds three hundred thousand.—Four members of the House of Commons have been unseated, on the report of a Select Committee, on proof of having obtained their seats by bribery.—Captain Parry is turning his exploration of the Arctic regions to prac-

tical profit, having made arrangements for establishing a colony in Northumberland Inlet.—Application was made to the English court, on the 17th, by the French Government, for the delivery of the will and codicils of Napoleon Bonaparte: the delivery was ordered.—The steamer *Victoria* was wrecked between Liverpool and Dublin, and above seventy lives lost.

FRANCE.

The marriage of the Emperor and the meeting of the Legislative Assembly, are the events by which the month has been marked in France. On the 22d of January the Senate, Assembly, and Council of State met at the Tuileries, and were addressed by the Emperor in person, who said he had come to announce his marriage. The union he was about to contract, he said, was not in accordance with the traditions of the ancient policy, and there is its advantage. Every wise government would seek to replace France within the pale of the old monarchies: but this could be more surely attained by a straight-forward and frank policy, by good faith in its transactions, than by royal alliances which create false security, and substitute frequently interests of family in place of the national interests. The examples of the past, moreover, he said, had left superstitious beliefs in the public mind. Foreign princesses, during the last seventy years, had mounted the throne only to see their race deposed and proscribed by war or revolution. One woman alone had seemed to carry blessings in her train, and to live more than others in the memory of the people; and that woman, the modest and estimable wife of General Bonaparte, was not the issue of royal blood. Referring to the marriage of Napoleon with Maria Louisa, as a satisfaction to French pride, the Emperor went on to say, that "when in the face of ancient Europe, a man is borne by the force of a new principle to the lofty level of the old dynasties, it is not by the adjunction of a coat of arms drawn from remote antiquity, and by seeking at any cost introduction into the family of kings, that he assures his acceptance. It is rather by never ceasing to remember whence he springs, by preserving his individual character, and by accepting frankly, in his relations with Europe, the position of *parvenu*—a glorious title when one has started up by virtue of the free suffrage of a great people." He had therefore considered his marriage simply a private affair. The selection of the person was all that remained. The object of his choice was of high birth—French by affection and education, and possessing, as a Spaniard, the advantage of not having a family upon which it would be necessary to confer honors and dignities. "Endowed with all the qualities of the soul, she will be the ornament of the throne, and in the day of danger she would become one of its courageous supporters." The Emperor, after some other phrases of commendation, announced that he should soon present the Empress to the people and the army; and that when they came to know her, they would be convinced that this time also he had been inspired by Providence. The lady in question was Mdle. de Montijo, the Countess of Teba, descended from a Scottish family who settled in Spain. The civil marriage was celebrated at the Tuileries on the 29th of January, and the religious ceremonies took place the next day, which was Sunday, at Notre Dame. Very extensive preparations had been made for the occasion, and the display was one of the finest ever witnessed in France. The details of course would be of little interest here. The Emperor signaled his marriage by pardoning 4312 per-

sons who were suffering banishment or imprisonment for political offenses: the list, however, contains no names but those of obscure participants in the alleged disturbances, and is said to embrace several women and one child of fourteen years old. It excites comment as showing the actual rigor and recklessness by which the Emperor's rule has been marked. All the banished generals and all the men of note who were proscribed after the events of December, 1851, are still under the ban. Over a thousand political prisoners are still unpardoned. And their number has been considerably augmented by the sweeping arrest on the night of the 5th of February of thirty or forty gentlemen, who were suspected by the Government of being the secret Paris correspondents of Belgian, Swiss, German, and Italian journals, and of having put in circulation rumors unfavorable to the character of the new Empress. This arbitrary arrest, effected in the night, and without due process of law, or the slightest proof of offense, created a good deal of dissatisfaction and affected the funds temporarily.—The Legislative Assembly met on the 14th of February, and with the other bodies was addressed by the Emperor in a brief, but emphatic speech. He said that calm had not been disturbed within the year: the law, in resuming its empire, had allowed the return to their homes of a majority of the men who were made the subjects of necessary rigors: the riches of the nation have increased: the activity of labor had developed itself in every branch of industry: the form of Government had been changed without any shock: great works have been undertaken without any new tax or loan: peace had been maintained without weakness; all the powers have recognized the new Government: and France now has institutions which may defend themselves, and the stability of which does not depend upon the life of a man. "These results," says the Emperor, "have not cost great efforts, because they were in the minds and for the interests of all. To those who would doubt their importance, I will reply, that scarcely fourteen months ago France was delivered up to the hazards of anarchy. To those who may regret that a wider field has not been given to liberty, I will reply, that liberty, has never aided in founding a durable political edifice; it crowns it when it has been consolidated by time. Let us, besides, not forget that the immense majority of the country has confidence in the present and faith in the future; there still remain incorrigible individuals, who, forgetful of their own experience, of their past errors, and of their disappointments, obstinately persist in paying no attention to the national will, deny the reality of facts, and in the midst of a sea which every day lowers more and more, call for tempests in which they would be the first to be swallowed up. These occult proceedings of the different parties serve no purpose but to show their weakness, and the Government, instead of being disturbed at them, only think of governing France and tranquilizing Europe." The Government would devote to useful purposes all the resources of the country, and prove to the most incredulous that when France expresses her formal intention to remain at peace, it may be believed, for she is strong enough not to deceive any one. The public revenues have increased: the financial position of the country has never been better for the last twenty years; and the army reduced by thirty thousand men last year, is about to be reduced by twenty thousand more.

Most of the laws to be presented will not go beyond present exigencies; let us, therefore, he adds, persevere in this course of firmness and moderation, which reassures without irritating, which leads to good without violence, and so prevents all reaction.

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN EUROPE.

An insurrection broke out at Milan on the 6th of February, news of which for a time created general interest in England and other countries, inasmuch as circumstances seemed to indicate that it might be the initial step of a general revolutionary movement on the Continent. This belief was strengthened by the fact that proclamations were circulated from Mazzini and Kossuth—the former addressed to the Italian people, and calling upon them to join in a new crusade for freedom; and the latter to the Hungarian soldiers in the Austrian army, calling upon them to make common cause with the Italians, as both countries were united in political interests. The outbreak itself was partial, and was very speedily suppressed, with the loss of but few lives, by the Austrian troops. Kossuth subsequently pronounced the proclamation circulated in his name to be a forgery, and expressed his opposition to the Milan insurrection, or to any similar outbreak, which could be only local and partial in its effect, and thus lead to no good result. Martial law had been proclaimed in Milan, and a number of executions had taken place.

In HUNGARY the feeling of discontent with the Austrian rule is rapidly gaining strength. Writers in the direct interest of the Government state that its recent action has been received with the most unmistakable dissatisfaction—that a revolutionary net is undoubtedly spread over the whole country, and that upon any movement in any part of Europe the masses of the people would act precisely as they did in 1848. In the Southern Slavonic provinces great discontent prevails. An attempt was recently made at Vienna, by a Hungarian, to assassinate the Emperor of Austria. The details of the crime have not been made public. The wound inflicted, however, was slight, and the assassin was immediately secured.

From TURKEY, in regard to the Montenegrin war, of which we spoke in our last Record, no decisive intelligence has been received. At the latest dates Montenegro was invested on all sides by a Turkish force, amounting to 44,000 men. Both parties had met with reverses; but there had been a steady gain on the side of the Turks. Alarmed at this, and perhaps desirous of effecting other objects, Austria, under the pretense of protecting her frontier, has dispatched thither large bodies of troops, mainly from Vienna. The march of the Russian corps for the scene of action is also confirmed; and other Russian forces were expected in Wallachia. Omar Pacha has addressed a proclamation to the insurgent districts, informing the Montenegrins that they may purchase peace by submission. He offers them religious liberty, with the right of electing their own judges and magistrates, subject to the control of the Pacha of Scutari; and he promises that no taxes shall be imposed except to maintain these officials, whose duty it will be especially to protect the poor; while the Montenegrins will be expected to protect the frontier. There is nothing in the proclamation about giving up arms. Meanwhile, until answers should be received, operations were suspended. Austria, meantime, has sent an ambassador to Constantinople to offer her offices as mediator.

Editor's Table.

GHOST STORIES—or Tales of *Ghostly Apparitions*—have ever been regarded as forming a legitimate part of our more serious, as well as our lighter literature. A portion of the pages of this Magazine has been frequently devoted to it, and, we think, for the benefit as well as for the pleasure of our readers. Severe critics might condemn some particular tales, and still more severe critics might, perhaps, be disposed to rule out the whole department of ghostly narrative, whether given as true or fictitious, on the ground of evil tendency; yet we can only say, that while we might gratefully assent to the candid strictures of the one class, we could never yield to the sweeping demands of the other. The writings of this kind that have been given to the public in the pages of this Magazine, have been of three different classes. They have consisted, in the first place, of narrations of ghostly appearances, either supposed to be true or to have a sufficiency of evidence demanding, at least, a philosophical investigation; or, secondly, they have been *fictions*, known as such, yet designed to present the subject in its more serious aspects; or they have been, in the third place, tales of a lighter character, intended by their sportive denouement to bring into merited contempt, not the absolute truth of ghostly apparitions, but the absurd and trifling evidence on which such appearances are sometimes credited.

In all these ways the cause of truth, and even of religion, instead of being injured, may be actually promoted, if care is taken not to give too much prominence to a Sadducean skepticism, on the one hand, or to revolting forms of alleged ghostly experiences on the other. On the question, how far, in the selections or original tales furnished for this Magazine, either extreme has been shunned, the conductors would cheerfully submit themselves to all fair and candid criticism. Errors may doubtless be pointed out, but to have ignored this whole field could not have been justly demanded, either on the ground of a pure literature or a sound morality.

Such tales, it is often said, are injurious to the young, and they should, above all things, be carefully kept from the minds of children. Doubtless the excessive, the revolting, the terrifying, the deeply exciting in this department of literature, may disturb the healthy balance of the soul, and produce, in other respects, some of the most incurable mental disorders. And yet there is a counter evil which is equally, and in some ages, we think, even more to be dreaded. We mean the Sadducean feeling which *must* grow up, when from the very cradle, a hard, dry naturalism is ever being drilled into the young soul, and the ineffaceable impression produced that nothing is true, nothing real, nothing rational, that can not be felt, or grasped, or handled, or reduced to the conditions of the most ordinary experience in time and space, and measurable materiality. In the instruction of children all should be real. A most important truth indeed! But what is reality? Have our sober rationalists settled the bounds of this wide field, and truly determined that among the realities of the soul, and the soul's destiny, the vivid exercises of the imagination have no place and no office for which they are to be carefully and religiously trained? Even at the risk of excessive and morbid emotion, this department of the soul needs cultivation as well as the other spiritual faculties; and woe to the

age in which it is *wholly* neglected, for the sake of an arid scientific tangibility, or a hardening of the understanding which calls itself rational, when it has shut out from the mind's contemplation whatever gives that rationality its highest value. Especially may this be said of that exercise of the imagination which connects our thoughts with the other world, and the belief in present surrounding spiritual existences. Mischievous as may sometimes be a morbid fondness for the ghostly and the supernatural, we may well doubt whether all the stories of haunted castles, and all the tales of demonology and witchcraft that ever came from the most weird imagination, could possibly breed so monstrous a lie in the human soul, as those books which are ever canting about "physical laws," and that system of instruction which boasts of explaining every thing on "scientific principles," to the entire exclusion of the imaginative, the romantic, the mysterious, or, in other words, of every immaterial power and entity that can not be brought within its dynamical formulas. It may well be doubted, we say, whether all the horrors of the worst novels of Mrs. Radcliffe or Maturin could ever exert so baleful an influence upon the mind as such an exclusive training. If compelled to choose between the two poisons, we do not hesitate to avow it—we would much prefer *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, or the *Romance of the Pyrenees*, as reading books for schools, to Spurzheim's *Phrenology*, or Combe's *Constitution of Man*.

The old ghostly legend, too, as it has been presented in all ages of the world, is so very different a thing from that naturalizing spiritualism which now prevails under the name of "spiritual rappings," that we can not help regarding the former as one of the best antidotes against many of the absurdities and fooleries that are connected with the latter. Any one who will carefully study the alleged modern phenomena, must see that it is all sheer naturalism, under an assumed spiritual form. It is a rank Sadduceism, that impudently pretends to be converted to a belief in spirits and devils of its own raising. Its warmest defenders make a merit of it, that the whole affair is strictly physical, and as far as it is so we have no wish to deny its facts or its proofs. As involving certain alleged questions of science, let it have the most thorough investigation. But aside from this, instead of cultivating the imagination, or enhancing its religious awe, which was always more or less the effect of the old ghostly tales, the whole tendency of this new form of demonology, or as we might better call it, naturalizing devilism, is to harden, dry up, unspiritualize, or, to employ a term which we have borrowed and used before, to de-religionize to an incurable degree the human soul. In the ghostly legend, on the other hand, that has sprung from real ghostly appearances, or has had its fictitious birth in the moral, in distinction from the mere naturalizing imagination, there has ever been an element of religion, and of religious accountability. Amid all its gross superstitions the *moral*, in some form, was ever predominant over the *physical*. The old ghosts preached retribution, they divulged crimes, they warned men of a judgment to come; the modern spirit-rappers gabble about "electricity," and "progress," and "physical laws," and a "new light," that is ever about to break, and yet never dawns upon the world. The former school of ghostly vision may