

PRUSSIA.

KONIGSBERG, Sept. 14.—No king of Prussia, on ascending the throne of his ancestors, is ever crowned, the only form observed being the act of homage publicly sworn to by the representative states of the various provinces, which homage the Kings of Prussia till now have received in silence, without any declaration, and much less without any oath on their part, they being despotic monarchs in the fullest sense of the word. To receive this homage, the King, for the time being, comes as soon as possible after the death of his predecessor to Konigsberg, where the representatives of East and West Prussia and of Posen are assembled. As customary, the lieutenant of the King opens the States some days before the homage is rendered, informing them that it is the desire of the Monarch that they should deliberate upon and claim any privilege which they may fancy themselves entitled to. On the day appointed, the States were opened in the usual form; and, on the motion of M. Heinrich, a shopkeeper of this place, and a man of cultivated mind and patriotic feelings, it was proposed to ask the King whether it was his intention to fulfil the promise given by his late father, of giving a constitution to the country, which promise had never been carried into effect. This motion gave rise to a violent debate, and, on a division taking place, the result was a majority of 84 to 5! The enthusiasm caused by this decision was tremendous, but it was soon damped by an evasive answer given by the King, who, however, expressed himself, in the most explicit terms, perfectly satisfied with the proceedings of the Representative States. On the 10th of September, the act of homage was to take place, and upwards of 15,000 people were assembled in the great square of the castle, to witness the imposing ceremony. The King proceeded first to church, where the service was read, and an appropriate sermon preached; he then returned to the open balcony in front of the castle, seated himself on his throne, and there, surrounded by the princes of his house and the great officers of state, the military and civil authorities, the protestant clergy standing at the foot of the throne to his left, and to his right the catholic priests, headed by the much-talked-of Archbishop of Posen, M. Dunin, he received the oaths of his people to be "faithful vassals and true subjects." Whilst the deputies were swearing in an audible voice the oath which was read to them word for word by an officer of the crown, the assembled multitude could easily perceive that the King was greatly agitated, and the final "Amen" had scarcely ascended to the skies, when the monarch with great impetuosity left the throne, and advancing to the very front of the open balcony, his right hand uplifted towards heaven, with a most audible voice, which was distinctly to be heard at the very furthest extremity of the immense square, in the most emphatic manner, "every inch a king," and in great agitation, pronounced the following voluntary, and evidently unpremeditated, oath to his people:—"and I swear here, in the presence of God, and before all these dear witnesses, that I will be an upright judge, a faithful, careful, and merciful prince, a christian King, such as my never to be forgotten father—blessed be his memory! I will execute right and justice energetically, and without regard to persons. I will embrace, cherish, and promote the advantage, success, and the honour of all ranks with equal love; all ranks and all religious confessions have to expect from me the like protection. And I invoke from God, the blessing bestowed upon princes which turns the heart of man towards those that are so blessed, and forms them according to God's will—the delight of the good—a terror to the transgressor. God bless our dear fatherland: its state and condition have for ages been often envied, frequently emulated in vain. With us there is an unity of head and members—of prince and people—a grand, a universal, and delightful unity of struggle towards one beautiful goal—towards the general weal, in sacred faith and true honour. Out of this spirit originates our moral and physical ability of defence (*wehrhaftigkeit*), which is without compare. May the Almighty preserve our Prussian fatherland for itself, for Germany, and for the world! Manifest, and yet one, like the noble metal which, formed by the fusion of many an ore, is yet but a single and most noble whole, subject to no other rust than the beautifying rust of centuries." He sank back upon his throne, covered his eyes with his handkerchief, and the audible sobs of the multitude were soon drowned in never-ending thunders of applause. Thus ended this important ceremony, which gives every Prussian citizen just cause to rejoice in his monarch, the first who ever bound himself by an oath to his people. The demand for a constitution, although negatived for the moment, was received in such a gracious manner, and the King expressed himself so well satisfied with the behaviour of the states, that there is but little doubt of our seeing this desideratum soon accomplished.

MEMOIR OF MARSHAL MACDONALD.
(From the Journal des Debats.)

One of the greatest and most illustrious of the military men of France, Marshal Macdonald, Duke of Tarento, has just died at his chateau of Courcelles, near Gien (Loiret), at the age of 75 years. Etienne-Jacques-Joseph-Alexandre Macdonald was born at Sancerre, in the department of Cher, in the year 1765, of a distinguished Scotch family which came over to France in the suite of the Stuarts. While still very young, he entered as a Lieutenant into Dillon's regiment of Irish Infantry, and served in 1784 under M. de Maillebois, in the legion which went to the assistance of the patriots of Holland. Having adopted the principles of the revolution, he continued to serve, and distinguished himself at the battle of Gemapes, where he gained the

rank of Colonel. He was afterwards employed in the capacity of Brigadier-General to the Army of the North. Commanding the advanced guard, he pursued the British army, and beat the Duke of York more than once.

It was he that opened, in 1795, the famous campaign against Holland, by passing the Vahol on the ice, and seizing the enemy's ships at the head of his infantry. This action, unexampled in history, obtained for him the rank of a General of division.

Up to 1798, the French army, under the command of Berthier, occupied the Roman States. Macdonald, having the government of Rome, was obliged to restrain the violence of the insurgents who assembled in force at several points. The King of Naples having sent a body of 24,000 men to the relief of Rome, these troops, united to those of Mack, formed an army of 40,000 combatants, whom Macdonald with only 6,000 held in check. He subsequently vanquished the Neapolitans near Etricoli, took possession of that town, and made the enemy suffer considerable loss.

In consequence of a misunderstanding which arose between him and Championnet, Macdonald gave in his resignation; but the Directory took his part, deprived Championnet of his commission, and gave to Macdonald the general command of the army.

He had subjected Calabria to the French dominion, when the defeats of Scherer forced him to evacuate the kingdom of Naples. After executing a most skilfully conducted retreat, he found himself on the right bank of the Trebia, with Suwarrow in front of him, at the head of an army of 50,000 Austrians and Russians. With 35,000 men he maintained an entire day's struggle with this army, and continued, with the same success, to hold his position on the following day, until a council of war which he called together decided, contrary to his opinion, upon the necessity of retreating.

He commanded at Versailles on the celebrated 18th Brumaire. After the battle of Marengo, and the campaign of the Grisons, Macdonald was sent to Denmark as Minister Plenipotentiary until 1803. On his return he received the title of Grand-Officer of the Legion of Honour. He fell into disgrace in consequence of opposing Moreau's trial, and it was not until 1809 that he resumed the command of a division in Italy. At Wagram he was made a Marshal, after having broken the centre of the Austrian army, which was protected by 200 pieces of artillery.

Upon his return to Paris in 1810, he was created Duke of Tarento, and went to take the command of the corps d'armee in Spain. In 1812 he commanded the 10th corps of Russia. In 1813 he took a brilliant part in the affairs of Lutzen, Bautzen, and Leipsic. He swam across the Elster, where Poniatowski perished. During the campaign of 1814 he commanded the left wing of the army; and at Fontainebleau assisted at the abdication of Napoleon.

During the period of the Hundred Days he was named Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Army, but presently lost his command through the turn of events. He accompanied Louis XVIII. as far as Menin, and returned with him to France.

He refused to serve under the Imperial Government, and performed the duties of a simple grenadier in the National Guards.

On the 4th of June, 1814, the Duke of Tarento was named a member of the Chamber of Peers, and in 1816 Grand Chancellor of the Order of the Legion of Honour, a dignity which he retained up to 1831.

The Marshal Duke of Tarento leaves a son 15 years old. His remains will be deposited in the Hotel des Invalides.

NAVAL BIOGRAPHY.—THE LATE SAMPSON EDWARDS, ESQ., ADMIRAL OF THE RED.—This officer, when a Lieutenant, commanded the Canada schooner, on the Newfoundland station, where she was wrecked in a tremendous gale of wind. The next mention we find of him is 28th May, 1781, on which day, being on a cruise on the banks of Newfoundland, in the Atlante, sloop of 14 guns and 125 men, in company with the Trepassy, 14 guns and 80 men, he fell in with, and was attacked by the Alliance, American frigate, 40 guns and 250 men. An hour after the commencement of the action, Capt. Smith, of the Trepassy, was killed; but Lieut. King, on whom the command devolved, continued to defend that vessel until she was a complete wreck; he was then obliged to strike. Capt. Edwards, in the Atlante, still maintained the fight with uncommon bravery; but his antagonist having no longer any other to contend with, compelled him to surrender, after a battle of more than three hours, in which many of his men were killed, and the ship dreadfully cut up. Our officer was promoted to the rank of Post Captain, 16th of October, 1781; and, at the conclusion of the war with the Colonies, commanded the Diana, frigate. At the commencement of hostilities against France, in 1793, he was appointed to the Terpsichore, 32 guns, and in that vessel assisted at the reduction of the French West India Islands. He subsequently commanded the Veteran, 64, Impeteux, 73, and St. George, 98; and in the latter ship terminated his services as Captain. He was advanced to the rank of Rear-Admiral, 1st January, 1801; Vice-Admiral, 13th December, 1806; and Admiral, 4th June, 1814.—Died at Ringwood, Hants, 14th September, 1840, at the advanced age of 95.

ERECTION OF A SAFETY BEACON ON GOODWIN SANDS.—The almost incredible task, undertaken by Captain Bullock, of her Majesty's steamer Boxer, of erecting a safety beacon on the Goodwin Sands, about seven miles from Deal, has been successfully accomplished. This desirable object was accomplished on Thursday, under his superintendance and that of Capt. Boyes, superintendent of the Naval Store Department at Deal. The beacon consists of a column about 40 feet above the level of the sea, having cleets and ropes attached to four of its sides, with holds for hands and feet. At the summit of the column is attached a gallery of a hexagon form, made of trellis work, and capable of holding twenty persons at one time. Above the gallery, and in continuation of the column, is a flag-staff 10 feet long, thus making the entire beacon 50 feet in height. The sides of the gallery are so constructed as to enable the persons in it to be covered in with sail-cloth, which is reefed in and round it, and can be used at pleasure; as also an awning to pass over it, which is fixed to the flag-staff; thus entirely protecting any unfortunate mariner who may seek shelter on the column from foul and tempestuous weather. A barrel of fresh water, together with a painted bag enclosing a flag of distress, is stationed on the gallery, and the words "hoist the flag," painted in the languages of all nations on boards stationed round the inner part of the gallery, so that the foreigner, as well as native seaman, may be enabled to show a

signal of distress, and obtain help from shore, which is about seven miles distant from the beacon.

The Admiralty has recently sent a handsome sword to Lieut. Dupare, of the French Navy, in acknowledgment of the friendly assistance he gave to the Bellerophon in February, 1838, when that ship was accidentally placed in a situation of considerable danger off Gibraltar, when the French Lieut. then commanding the Phare steamer, towed her into a place of safety.

An opera by Frederick the Great, called *Il Re Pastore*, and which was performed for the first time at the Palace of Charlottenberg in August, 1747, has just been published at Berlin. It is said to be a very clever production, and to contain some beautiful melodies. Frederick the Great had prohibited the publication of his musical productions, and up to the present time the prohibition had been respected.

A CONSCIENTIOUS BRIGAND.—A letter from Tomeswar, in Austrian Servia, bearing date the 27th July, relates the following trait of the notorious Berzewitch, chief of the Bosniac brigands;—"A young man, named Yarkitch, presented himself before him, and requested to be enrolled in his band. On being asked for the proofs of his bravery, he replied by stating that he had just assassinated the father and two brothers of a young girl, whom they had refused to him in marriage; and that the girl having declined to follow him, he violated her, and then set fire to the house. 'I see,' said Berzewitch, 'that you are a man of courage, but you must pass through another trial to prove it, and for that purpose you must go to the mountain with one of my men.' Berzewitch then whispered a few words into the ear of one of his brigands, and Yarkitch and the latter set off together; when they had reached the summit of the mountain, the robber commissioned by Berzewitch blew out Yarkitch's brains with a pistol. Shortly afterwards the brigand chief wrote the following note to the Temeswar magistrates:—"The assassin, ravisher, and incendiary, Yarkitch, has been punished with death by an order of Berzewitch, captain of the Free Bozniacs." The bearer of this note disappeared immediately after its delivery; and Berzewitch has since been called throughout the whole district 'the Grand Justiciary.'

THE SYRIAN BISHOP.—Our city has been visited during the past week by strangers from the East, of no ordinary interest. We refer to a Bishop of the Ancient Church of Antioch, *Mar Athanasius Abmesih*, ordained by the Patriarch of Antioch, as the Metropolitan of the Christian Churches of Malabar. His authority was rejected by some schismatic brethren, instigated by the American missionaries, and he is now in England, anxious to obtain the sympathy of his brethren here. He is mentioned by the late Bishop Heber in his journal. After receiving attention from some of the clergy of this city, he had the honour of dining with his Grace the Archbishop, and Lord Wenlock. He is in the direct line of the succession from the earliest bishop of Antioch, and holds the same creed with the English Church.—*Yorkshire Gazette*.

CURIOS CALCULATION.—An account was taken on the 19th of August, of the number of carriages, of various descriptions, which passed King William-street, London-bridge, from eight in the morning till eight in the evening.—From eight to nine o'clock, 903; from nine to ten 997; from ten to eleven, 895; from eleven to twelve, 1,015; from twelve to one, 984; from one to two, 806; from two to three, 905; from three to four, 975; from four to five, 1,053; from five to six, 812; from six to seven, 771; from seven to eight, 894; total, 11,010. This averages 997 an hour, or 15 in every minute; and it is fair to presume that there is no street in the world were so many carriages pass and repass in one day. On the 1st of September last, several persons were engaged in order to ascertain the number of foot passengers which passed the same place, from eight in the morning till eight in the evening, and the result was as follows:—From eight to nine o'clock, 3,600; from nine to ten, 4,460; from ten to eleven, 4,380; from eleven to twelve, 4,620; from twelve to one, 3,900; from one to two, 3,840; from two to three, 4,200; from three to four, 4,480; from four to five, 5,280; from five to six, 4,480; from six to seven, 3,945; from seven to eight, 6,720; total, 53,505. This statement will be found equal in number to 4,455½ per hour, or 74 in every minute. The number of persons supposed to pass in and with carriages, (averaging two to each) amounts to 22,020, which, added to the above, makes a total of 75,505 passengers in twelve hours.

HUMAN HEADS ON LONDON BRIDGE.—The head of the noble Sir William Wallace was for many months exposed from this spot. In 1741, after the defeat of the famous Faulconbridge, who made an attack upon London, his head and nine others were stuck upon the bridge together, upon ten spears, where they remained visible to all comers, till the elements and the carrion crows had left nothing of them but the bones. At a later period, the heads of the pious Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, was stuck up here, along with that of the philosopher, Sir Thomas More. The legs of Sir T. Wyatt, the son of the well-known poet of that name, were exhibited from the same spot, during the reign of Mary. Even power to kill and destroy as the kings and queens, so reckless was the age of the life of man. In the year 1335, the mayor, one Andrew Aubrey, ordered seven skimmers and fishmongers, whose only offence was rioting in the streets, aggravated by personal insult to himself, to be beheaded without form of trial. Their heads were also exposed on the bridge, and the mayor was not called to an account for his conduct! Jack Cade, in the hot fervour of his hot success, imitated this fine example, and set up Lord

Saye's head at the same place, little thinking how soon his own would bear it company. The top of the gate used to be like a butcher's shambles, covered with the heads and quarters of unhappy wretches! Hentzner, the German traveller, states, that, when he visited England in 1598, *temp. Eliz.*, he counted no less than thirty heads upon this awful gate. In an old map of the city, the heads are represented in clusters, numerous as the grapes on a bunch.—*Mackay's Thames and its Tributaries*.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—This extraordinary machine is now being worked on the Great Western Railroad, between Drayton and Paddington; and though no distinct idea of the apparatus can be imparted without plans and draughts of the dial, pipes, rods, &c., of which it is composed, yet the principle will excite unqualified admiration when it is known that intelligence is conveyed at the rate of two hundred thousand miles per second, or eight thousand times quicker than light travels during the same period, by means of electrical currents passing through coils of copper wire, placed immediately behind some fine magnetic needles, made to operate upon a circular series of twenty letters, which indicate such terms, either separately or collectively, as they have been arranged to represent. This telegraph will act both day and night, in all states of the weather, and with a rapidity so superior to the common process, that one minute only is required for the communication of thirty signals.

STEAM NAVIGATION IN AUSTRALIA.—The Steamship "Sea-horse," 250 horse power, has sailed from Gravesend for Sydney. We understand that this vessel is intended to ply between the various ports in the Australian Colonies, for which purpose, from her build and great power, she is eminently qualified, it having been proved that the small steam vessels which have hitherto been sent out were unable to contend with the heavy seas of those southern latitudes. The Sea-Horse is universally admitted to be one of the finest steam ships which has been seen in the port of London, and is, we hear, valued at £30,000. Her cabins and saloon were full of passengers, and she takes out a valuable cargo.

THE PERPETUAL MOTION.—A resident in the upper province of Assam, writing to a friend at Calcutta, in May, bears favourable testimony to the climate, but observes:—"I have got quite accustomed to earthquakes since my sojourn in Assam. The ground seems, indeed, to be in constant motion."

A SELFISH PUN.—A doctor lately told an eminent solicitor that he had just returned from visiting a patient who had been attacked by a "remitting fever." "An intermitting fever, you mean?" "No—a remitting fever." Then, said the lawyer, "I wish some of my country agents caught it."

A FINE STATE OF SOCIETY.—An alligator lately entered a confectioner's shop in Galveston, Texas. The weather being uncommonly sultry, probably suggested the idea of an ice cream. Having helped himself to half a dozen oranges, several jumbles, and other nicknacks, and showing no disposition to pay the damages, the young lady who stood behind the counter called for assistance. His usual capacity of jaw, however, enabled him to dispose of the stolen articles securely before assistance arrived. The scaly fellow was captured soon after, and was treated rather more harshly than many fellows are who decline paying for what they obtain. Previously to his entering the shop he had seized and devoured a fat pig in the street. His visit to the confectioner's was perhaps in search of a *dessert*, and he got his *desert* sure enough!

An advocate was lately convicted at Berne, of having needlessly protracted a suit in which he was engaged 13 years, and sentenced to a fine of 25 francs—£1 sterling!

HORSE-HOEING.—The effect of hoeing is remarkable in very dry weather. Although the stirring of the soil would seem to extract what little moisture there might be in it, and the weeds wither on its surface, it soon appears, that on the contrary, moisture is attached or produced, and the plants which drooped before appear refreshed and invigorated. This is probably effected by a chemical action of the air on the vegetable portion of the soil and roots of the plants which have the power of combining the gaseous principles in various ways, producing that combination of oxygen and hydrogen which forms water, while the power of vegetation in the plant itself can combine hydrogen and carbon so as to form oil and various other substances. Whatever be the mode in which it acts, experience has proved that the more the earth is stirred around plants the better they thrive.

TO KEEP APPLES.—Apples preserved in hods, or pits, in the manner of potatoes, will remain uninjured for months. The apples should be of the hardy and keeping sorts, and not more than four or five bushels should be put into one hod. It is requisite to place straw at the bottom and sides, and also to cover the heap of apples with straw, so as entirely to separate them from the earth; this is not always done with potatoes. This plan of preserving apples must be very useful to cottagers, and others, who have not the advantage of a fruit room.—*English Paper*.

COMPOST MANURE.—M. Quenard, an experienced cultivator of France, recommends as perfect, a compost prepared as follows:—1. a layer of green stuff taken from a pond. 2. a layer of quick lime, ashes, and soot. 3. a layer of straw and green grass. 4. the same as the first. These layers to be repeated as often as need be. Holes are then made through the several layers, and sufficient water introduced to saturate the mass, and cause a thorough mixture of the vegetable and alkaline substances.