

continued. On the latter day 800 mercantile firms, connected with the Bourse, waited on the Government to ask further delay on due Bills, and were refused.

CONTINENTAL AFFAIRS.

BELGIUM is firm. She plainly refuses to fraternise with French Republicanism. She is fortifying her citadels, and arming her population, in order to maintain her independence. The conduct of Leopold seems vigorous and firm, under the trying circumstances in which he is placed.

SWITZERLAND is greatly excited. The Helvetic Directory has addressed a letter to the Cantonal authorities, in which, although they sympathise with the movement, they declare the first duty of the Swiss Confederation to be to maintain, under all circumstances, the neutrality it has acquired.

PRUSSIA is rapidly arming, but has expressed an intention not to interfere with the internal affairs of France, at the same time looking with deep alarm towards the Rhine, where the main force of the French is collecting, and which former boundary a vast number of the French people regard as the natural limits of France by previous right of conquest. Whether Lamartine wishes to restrain this rising passion for aggrandisement and glory, is even doubtful, since he boldly declares that "it will be fortunate for France if war is declared against her, and if she be constrained thus to increase in strength and in glory, in spite of her moderation." In order to be prepared for defence, the Diet at Frankfort has determined to intrust to Prussia, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden, and the Grand Duchy of Hesse, the guard of the western frontier of Germany. All that portion of Europe seems on the brink of a volcano, which one act of temerity or imprudence may light into a flame.

AUSTRIA, PRUSSIA, and RUSSIA, by special treaty, were previously concentrating a numerous army on the Italian frontiers, with a view to protect Austrian Lombardy, and the establishment of the Republic will no doubt accelerate these movements. The Russians have already considerable forces on the frontiers of Austria, commanded by Prince Paskewitch; and when the events in France shall have fully reached the Russian capital little doubt can be entertained but that a large combined army will be assembled.

IN SPAIN, the French party is completely overthrown. Christina is in utter despair. Narvaez has proposed in the Chambers a suspension of the individual guarantees of public liberty, and has obtained £2,000,000 sterling to enable the Government to protect the throne of the Queen and the independence of Spain. No republican feelings exist, but the Progressistas strenuously oppose the surrender of their liberties to the executive.

ITALY is, however, the point to which all eyes are directed, in the expectation that the Milanese will again become the seat of war. Austrian authority totters; and according to the shape which affairs may take in Lombardy will be the greater or less danger of an explosion. In the Two Sicilies a further popular movement may be feared; but the people will be wise if they are satisfied with real guarantees without rashly changing the forms of liberty. Sardinia will be critically placed with the French Republic on the north amidst the general commotion in Italy. It would be rash to predict what will take place by the lesser Italian States for the consolidation and emancipation of that beautiful country from thralldom. It will be upon these events, whatever they may prove, that the conflict of opinions and the pretence for hostilities will be seized upon, by those who thirst for war. For the sake of the commerce, the interests, the happiness of mankind, we earnestly trust the peace of Europe will not be interrupted.

IN GERMANY, tumults have broken out in the chief commercial cities along the western frontiers of Germany, but not the slightest tendency to fraternise with the French is exhibited by the phlegmatic Germans, whose prejudices tend all the other way, and Germany will rise to a man to defend "Faderland," should the French push forward to the Rhine.

At Munich a rising has taken place, and a constitution has been extorted from the infatuated King at the point of the bayonet. It is positively stated that Prince Metternich resigned office on the 8th instant. The Prince d'Aumale and Prince de Joinville having appeared off Toulon, a vessel of war has been placed at their disposal to go where they please. An American squadron has appeared off Genoa.

FOREIGN POLICY OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

The following interesting and important article appears in the *National*, of which the chief editor, M. Marrast, is a member of the Provisional Government:—

"It is useful to examine the situation of the French Republic with respect to foreign powers. Never have the relation of nations been so close—never ought the counter blows to be so deeply felt in the west, and never have any blows been struck of greater violence than that which has just carried off the dynasty of Orleans, and with it the monarchy. France, contemplated at present with admiration and astonishment by all nations, will become their guiding light from the moment that the new Republic shall have surmounted the difficulties which encompass it. Amongst those difficulties are the foreign relations. Three alternatives are possible. Shall we be attacked? Shall we attack? Or, lastly, shall we remain in an expectant state? First of all, shall we be

attacked? It is only necessary to cast a glance over Europe to comprehend how unlikely that is. Let us take, one by one, the three northern powers,—those to whom the event of our three days will be the most displeasing,—and let us see what they can really do against us. Austria has in face of her the whole of Italy, which is arming and preparing for the struggle, and which, if there was a war against us, would be a powerful auxiliary to France. An Austrian army occupies Lombardy, and Lombardy at each instant menaces her oppressors with an insurrection. On the flank of Austria, and stretching forth the hand to Italy, is Switzerland, radical, victorious over the Sonderbund, and wholly devoted to the popular cause. There, from the summit of her mountains, as from the top of an impregnable fortress, she would disquiet and impede any military demonstration on the part of Austria, and would render the situation perilous. Austria has plenty to do to maintain her *statu quo*, and, consequently, it is improbable that she will first give the signal of battle. The great German power, Prussia, is not, certainly, in the presence of Italy calling for arms to maintain her liberty; but she has not the advantage of being free in her movements. Who is there that is not aware how much revolutionary and social ideas have advanced in Germany, and who does not foresee what an impulse they will receive from the triumph obtained by Paris? The Prussian Government is about to find itself in presence of the increasing exigencies of that assembly which it consults, and of German public opinion, of which the voice becomes every day louder and louder. On what grounds could it decide the Germans to invade our provinces, and to wage war on us when we do not meddle with them? We are satisfied with our power, glorious of the example which we are giving to the world, proud of the sacrifices which we are making for general civilisation, and we only ask to work out amongst ourselves the difficult problems which arise. Never, on such conditions, will Germany be induced to march against us. Russia, then, remains, lying far away in the north; but what can she do if she is deprived of Germany? And, besides, is she not occupied enough in keeping down Poland, which has not renounced her claim to nationality, and which will soon gather hope from the cry that has burst forth on the banks of the Seine? Let us, therefore, allow to vanish like a phantom, these fears of a coalition against us, and let not our ideas in that respect be troubled by any remembrance of 1814 and 1815. Then, by the most disastrous of mistakes, we had for our adversaries, besides the kings, our natural enemies, the people, who, in exasperation at the conquests of Napoleon, precipitated themselves on us. At present, nothing is more clear than our position; we are friends of the people, and the people know it—the kings will not succeed in deceiving any one on so manifest a matter. Shall we attack? That would be a capital fault, and thereby we should afford a pretext for all kinds of calumnies. Reminiscences of the past would be turned against us; our spirit would be discussed; the chord of our national pride would be touched; and soon we should be misrepresented in the minds of the nations which are at present so much in favour of France and so confident in her; the fatal dissensions which brought about the fall of the empire would be renewed, and the fraternity of nations would be broken. An expectant state, therefore, is the course which it is important for us to follow,—it is the policy which will save our interests and those of Europe. We shall in that state behold events proceeding—we shall recognise among the nations those which have the greatest tendency to renew their social state, and we shall not in any way trouble the work of an opportune intervention of ideas which is enfranchising them. Our example, our moral support, are sufficient to modify Europe; our arms would only serve to retard the modification, it would be necessary to quit an expectant state; and that would be if Austria, not confining herself to remaining on the defensive, should of herself attack and invade Italy. Whether she marches on Tuscany, Rome, or Naples, or sends forces against Piedmont, the French Republic would be under a strict obligation to oppose that act of aggression and violence, and offer to Italy the aid of an army and fleet. Not that we consider the Italians as weak and incapable of defending themselves; but the struggle would be doubtful, and it is important that it should not be so. They must permit their friends in France to share their dangers, and to pay to Italy a debt of gratitude for all the blood which the Italians have shed in the French ranks.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE.

As our readers must be anxious to know the characters of these men, we give a sketch of them in a few words. Extreme in opinion, though respectable in character and sincere in conviction, we do not conceive them to represent the intelligence, the wealth, the influence, or the commercial or manufacturing industry and landed wealth of France. They unquestionably represent the triumphant party—an extreme section of the national guard—many of the *sous officiers* of the line, a majority of the schools, and *proletaires*—a section of the shopkeepers, and some of the younger of the learned professions.

M. DE SAMARTINE, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is as famous in the republic of letters as his colleague, M. Arago, in the department of science. He represents Macon, and his political opinions have been freely and copiously expressed in his newspaper, *Le Bien*

Public, published in that town. He is every where a poet, even at the tribune. Like all poets, however, he is rather fickle and inconstant; but the elevation of his soul secures him against the greatest dangers of versatility. M. de Lamartine for a length of time occupied a very undecided position in the chamber, but he eventually ranged himself on the side of the opposition. The day on which he announced his intention of joining the camp of the *gauche* was as gloomy an one for the ministry as the memorable desertion of the treasury bench of the English House of Commons by the great Burke. From that period M. de Lamartine took a decided part in favour of progressive reform, and ridiculed the Guizot cabinet as the ministry of "limitation." He voted against the Pritchard indemnity, and was proscribed by the opposition as an invaluable acquisition.

M. ARAGO is one of the first savans in France, and his reputation as an orator is scarcely less brilliant. He was born in 1786, and is perpetual secretary of the Academy of Sciences, member of the office of longitudes, and most illustrious scientific man of the age. In politics, M. Arago is an excellent patriot, a sworn enemy of privileges and monopoly, and an ardent defender of the rights of the people. He voted against the Pritchard Indemnity Bill, and has ever supported all the measures of the *gauche*, although he goes much further, and belongs to the extreme *gauche*. He is now Provisional Minister of Marine.

M. CARNOT, the new Minister of Public Instruction (including the administration of religious affairs), was born in 1801, and is a son of a famous conventionalist of that name. He is a devoted partisan of democratic ideas, and belongs to the extreme left. He voted against the Pritchard Indemnity Bill, and for M. Rumeau's project of Parliamentary Reform. "He would," says the authors of the work, writing in 1846, "support a large and complete reform which would have the effect of restoring sincerity to the Government, and all their rights to the citizens."

M. DUPONT (de l'Eure), the new President of the Council (deputy for Evreux), is highly esteemed for his virtues by the French people. At the elections of 1842, M. Dupont, indignant at seeing the deputies of the Eure servilely voting in favour of the execrated Guizot ministry, contested four colleges of that department simultaneously; he was elected in all four, and chose Evreux. The votes of M. Dupont need not be pointed out; he invariably voted against the corrupt and dishonest administration which has fallen with the King, its protector.

M. ARMAND MARRAST is not precisely a member of the *government provisoire*, being a secretary merely; but he will, nevertheless, exercise an immense influence. He is a writer of great merit, who has displayed an indomitable energy, and an uncommon talent, in the direction of the *National*. He has shown himself a worthy successor of Armand Carel. Between the Government of Louis Philippe and M. Marrast, there has always been a very decided enmity. The former was irritated at the obstinate resistance of the latter, which could not be put down either by processes or fines, while M. Marrast carried in his heart the most bitter hatred, which was excited by the arbitrary persecutions and imprisonments, and principally on account of the great obstacle which Louis Philippe proved to the promulgation of his political views. M. Marrast has certainly very exalted opinions. A native of the southern portion of France, his acts bear the impress of fiery temperament, and great mental vivacity. But he is a man possessing too much strong sense, and his views of the future are too profound for him to give way to the excitement which success is apt to produce. He will be well calculated to restrain the impetuosity of those who are to partake of success with him. It is quite certain that he will be one of the most decided oppositionists against any measures favourable to the exiled family.

MARIE, Minister of Public Works, and one of the members for Paris, is sixty years of age, and also an advocate by profession. He attained the rank of *Batonnier* of the order. After a youth passed in laborious struggles, he rose in 1830 to the place occupied by the Dupins, Maugins, and Berreyers, and has since been considered the leading counsel for political causes. His defence for one of the conspirators of the *Pots des Arts* was a masterpiece of cleverness. One should think that the fame of so remarkable a pleading might have reached an ex-under secretary for foreign affairs, and that so accomplished and reading a person as the ex-member for Canterbury would not speak of a man in every sense his superior, "as a person whom nobody has ever heard of." Marie is not a person who would go beyond the Barnaves or Thourrets, or the constitution of 1791.

GARNIER-PAGES, the Mayor of Paris, and deputy for Mans, was also bred to the bar. Though rather a tedious and solemn man, without the science of his late brother, yet he is of upright and respectable character.

M. LEDRU-ROLIN, the Provisional Minister of the Interior was elected for Mans, vice the late M. Garnier Pages. His speech to the electors subjected him to a prosecution on the part of the Government, and the trial of the case produced a great sensation. M. Rolin represents the ultra-radical interest; and has often attacked not only M. Guizot, but also the policy of such men as Thiers and Odillon Barrot. He sits on the extreme