CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM ROME.

Definition of the Infallibility Dogma—The Vatican Basilica—Statistics of Constantine—The Jesuits—A Solemn Scene—Withdrawal of the French Troops.

(Correspondence of the Phila. Evening Bulletin.)

ROME, Italy, July 21st, 1870.—Events have crowded in upon us pretty fast since I wrote last. The Government Journal of Saturday evening, July 16th, *Giornale di Roma*, announced that a public session would be held on the following Monday, July 18th, at which the "Definition,"—as this Infallibility dogma is called,—would be voted on, and proclaimed. Accordingly, at half-past six Monday morning we drove over to St. Peter's. The weather was dark and rainy; there were only a half-dozen persons in the church besides the police-guard. We had good three hours to wait, so I interested myself in examining the church, recalling how it looked three hundred years ago, and comparing its present completed splendor with the appearance it presented in the latter half of the sixteenth century, an epoch as eventful as the present.

THE OLD VATICAN BASILICA.

Any one who is curious to see a representation of the Vatican Basilica at that period, can find one in a fresco on the wall of the Sixtus Quint Hall of the Vatican Library (1588). There is also an engraving of it in the Cesarini Library, engraved by a Tyrolese artist, whose name I forget, dedicated to Cardinal Madruccio.

Julius II. (1503-1513) began the present St. Peter's. It is true that Nicholas V. (1447-1455), in 1450, wishing to have a larger temple, began a new tribune back of the old one; but this was only a few feet above the soil for many years. Over two hundred years passed from the date of the first enlargement to the epoch of Sixtus Quint. Generation after generation worshipped in the old building, and never saw the church in any other—way than cut into compartments by immense curtains and filled with pilfers, idlers and workmen.

Michael Angelo, too, never saw his Pantheon dome suspended in the air, except in his mind's eye." When the great Florentine artist died, the old Greek form of the church remained. Paul V. it was (1605-1621), the elegant, luxurious Borghese, who changed it, saying: "The chief of the Latin Church does not accept the Greek cross." So Carlo Maderno, under Paul V.'s directions, destroyed the wells of Pope Symmachus, the façade and portico of Constantine—monuments consecrated by history and the piety of centuries; remnants and accessories of an edifice which saw Christianity mount the throne of the Cæsars and take official possession of the world.

On the space thus gained, however, half of the present grand nave, the façade and fine arcades were raised. When we visit the crypt we can see very well the size but not the form of the church as it was; the parts of it were filled up to make strong foundations for the support of the huge dome.

But in the papacy of Sixtus Quint, the period which came back to me by memory on Monday morning, the old court, portico and façade of Constantine were in existence, and in the court under a canopy supported by low antique columns, was the ancient well of Pope Symmachus. It was Symmachus (514) who instituted that the hymn of Divine praise called *Gloria in Excelsis* should be sung every Sunday, and on feasts of martyrs, as the Pontifical testifies.

On entering this court could be seen the old Ballica of Constantine, or St. Peter's; its front resplendent with gold and mosaics, a fine specimen of the child-like magnificence peculiar to the early ages of the Church. The Basilica had five openings on the first floor. In the second or clere story there were three large trefoil full-arched windows, and a rose window above. Behind this could be seen the gallery of the famous cupola, elevated to a stupendous height above the Apostles' tomb. Michael Angelo had been dead twenty-five years, but his cupola was not yet raised. Sixtus Quint it was who crowned the summit of this vast pile—the greatest temple of Christendom.

Such was St. Peter's when the conclave held in 1585 at the adjoining Vatican, in the rooms next to the Sistin Chapel, elected the old decrepit Cardelier Monk Fra Felice Peretti, of Montalto, Pope, he who reigned so grandly as Sixtus Quint, contemporaneous with Philip II. of Spain, Henry II. and Catherine of France, and Elizabeth of England (1585-1590).

IN THE COUNCIL HALL—THE JESUITS.

I sat on a camp-stool, in front of the right transept, which is the Council Hall; looked up into the giant cupola, down the great nave, and back into the vast abis where a priest in splendid vestments celebrated low mass. I thought of those famous old days, following the close of the Council of Trent, when this great power which now rules the Church—the Jesuit—was born—this famous discipline which is both military and religious; one of the most remarkable creations of the human mind; possessing all the mystery and attraction of Free Masonry, and governed by one simple clear idea—the control of humanity through religious influences.

Three hundred years nearly have rolled by, and this Order has arrived at its culminating point. On that very morning last Monday it was to display to the world its vast spiritual edifice crowned at last with the true triple sign Infallibility. But as all great human creations—like the Tower of Babel symbolize, its moment of greatest success will be the commencement of dissolution. Babel confusion of tongues will now enter; but the Church of Christ, if true to herself, will come forth from the turmoil purer and better for the trial.

AN OMINOUS STORM.

Such a storm as I never witnessed was on the morning! It was dark everywhere. Even in that grand church whose architecture makes it so rich in light, it was gloomy and solemn. At half-past nine the doors of the Council Hall opened; the *Guardie Nobile* and Knights of Malta mounted guard; the Bishops began to enter by ones, twos, threes and half-dozens. Their superbly gold-embroidered, many-hued robes and brilliant mitres flashed as they passed the large lighted candles on the Council altar. The Hall looked like a cavern. All the morning the thunder peal'ed and the lightning flashed in at the upper windows, and spread long rays over the assemblage. Just as the voice was announced, a little before mid-day, there came a tremendous thunder-clap and sharp vivid lightning.

I felt superstitious, I freely confess. It made me think of Justinian's reign, and that period of the world when this peninsula, indeed all this part of the globe, was so shaken and ruined with earthquakes that human civilization four destroyed and barbarism covered the whole land. Then imperial Cæsars proclaimed themselves Gods and nature seemed to resent it. Now, the visible Head of Christ's Church was doing almost the same, and the very elements appeared to be uttering a warning. No! I, and one of the most solemn scenes I ever witnessed. The poor old Pope seemed to be affected by the occasion; he was sombre and stern; his usually rich and pleasing voice was low and entirely without *timbre*. Cardinal Antonelli, too, looked old and suffering.

THE VOTE.

The cable telegram has told you the whole story how 533 out of 900 and odd Fathers voted *placet*. Only 505 were present; there was a little farce played in having two negatives, thus giving a chance for the Pope in his short address to express a wish that these *two* might be enlightened. His Holiness said nothing of the minority, numbering nearly 200, who were absent.

A PROTEST.

Twenty-two Bishops left Rome the night before. One of them, a French Bishop, told a friend of mine he could not stay in a city where "the Trinity was compromised by three persons." One hundred and twenty sent in a paper to the Pope on Tuesday morning; some say it was presented Sunday evening. Cardinal Prince Schwarzenberg, Archbishop of Vienna, presented it. This paper was as follows:

"Resolute and resolved forever not to derogate from our convictions, which have forced us to vote *non placet*, we think it useless to affirm again our unshaken opinion. We prefer to quit Rome rather than remain, to be a hearing votes which will be painful to him and which our consciences impose on us."

But the Pope, while one of the purest and most pious of Prelates, is the most stubborn son of St. Peter who has ever sat in the Papal chair. He was not shaken a feather's weight in his resolution: Delaye he has found to be dangerous. At every new congregation there were fresh and startling defections, so he decided on his *coup d'état*. When Mgr. Darboy, Archbishop of Paris, called to pay his parting visit, the Pope said:

"The Sovereign Pontiff is infallible, in himself, for things which concern the Church, and also for things which he believes have any relationship whatever with the Church."

THE PROCLAMATION.

So the famous Definition was proclaimed, and the little crowd of priests and students in the Church—about 1,500—and the 533 Fathers and employes of the Council, mingled their cries with the rolling thunder, and sent up loud "*Vivas Papas infallible*," and the death-warrant of temporal power of Papal Rome was duly signed and published.

COMING EVENTS.

The French, Bavarian and Austrian Ambassadors, by order of their governments, were not present. Since Monday there has been a heavy, close calm, like that which precedes a storm. What may take place no one knows. On Monday night, hung out some paper lanterns, and next Sunday, in the Gardens of the Vatican, the new hymn will be sung, which has been composed, by Rolaind, Band-master of the Corps of *Gens d'armes*, in honor of Papal Infallibility. But the times are too stormy for glorifications and rejoicing.

ANNE BREWSTER.

OUR POTTSVILLE LETTER

Particulars of the Fearful Colliery Accident—Recovery of Some of the Wounded—Who is to Blame?—A Badly-Managed Affair.

(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.)

POTTSVILLE, August 11, 1870.—A terrible colliery accident occurred yesterday, and in the universal theme of conversation to-day. The scene was the New Philadelphia Slope of the Colliery of Hein & Glassmire, formerly Gay & Hein, at New Philadelphia, six miles east of this place. It was about half-past four P. M., and the men, who had gone out to work for the day, were being hoisted to the surface by means of the cage used to raise and lower the coal cars, when suddenly a portion of the footing was chinery gave way. The ascending cage, which was then about 225 feet from the bottom of the mine, stopped, fell back, stopped again for an instant, and then went rushing down with its living freight into the black depths from which it had just risen. At the bottom of the shaft is the "sump" or reservoir, which collects the drainage of the mine, containing at this time five or six feet of water, and into this went cage and men, falling a distance of nearly 400 feet, of which one rested on top of them. The men at the bottom hastened to the relief of their companions, but found themselves almost powerless to aid them.

There were received in a dying condition. One, after three or four efforts, succeeded in freeing himself from the superincumbent rope, and at once bestirred himself to rescue others, but discovered, when he tried to stand, that his left leg was broken, and his right ankle badly sprained. Another, his lips just above the surface of the fast rising water, called lustily to those about him to help him out or start the pump; but three strong men tried in vain to lift the pump up, and they refused to assist their repeated signals. Ten minutes after another attempt to draw him out of the wreck met with an easy success. The drowning men who had gripped him so firmly before had released their grasp forever. This man, the sixth who had also been withdrawn from the sump, crawled, with some assistance, up a steep and difficult mine-way" to the surface; but both sustained severe internal injuries, one of them dying that night. The first was reported dead and the second in a dangerous condition. Their names were William Mathews and Patrick Day. The rest of the wounded were obliged to remain in the mine until a proper rope could be procured and a temporary apparatus rigged, and it was not until 8 o'clock that they were finally raised to the surface. Three died during the night; the fourth, Albert Koch, had had presence of mind enough, when he left the cage going down, to grasp an iron bar above his head and draw himself up until the bar was level with his breast. The shock of the bottom loosened his hold, but not until the velocity of his fall was so checked that he escaped with less injuries than any of the others.

These men were recovered without difficulty, but there were still six men under the water in the sump, and all efforts to find their bodies were unavailing, until the broken machinery was again started and the heavy chain was slowly lifted up. Then the bodies were found, after considerable search, and at five o'clock this morning the last one was raised out of the horrible pit, and the weary workers went home to rest.

The dead are: John Mathews, Elisha Mason, John Roper, Jacob Kline, David Jones, John McGinley, George Stout, Hugh McAnulty and Patrick Day. William Mathews was fatally injured, and is now reported dead. The wounded are Albert Koch and Patrick Day.

The cause of the accident was defective tools on the pinion-wheel—a small wheel on the top of the shaft, which geared into the drum-wheel. The rope which raised and lowered the cage was brought up from the shaft, passed over a pulley above the mouth of the shaft, and then wound round a huge cylinder of wood, called the drum, a band of iron ten inches in width and one-half in thickness encircling one end of which is sometimes called the drum-wheel: but in this case the drum-wheel was a large cog-wheel fixed to the end of the drum.

There was a flaw in the iron of the pinion-wheel, and the tooth which covered it having been weakened by repeated thumps of its big antagonist, gave way at last, carrying two sound teeth with it. This caused a slipping of the machinery, and when the broken tooth came round again, the jar broke out a segment of the drum-wheel, in which, also, two or three ugly flaws are plainly visible. Something in iron was not first-quality.

When the drum-wheel broke the engine had no longer any control over the machinery, and its movements were now controlled entirely by the big iron-armed cog-wheel. That this wheel with a diameter ten times as great as the drum-wheel, should do its work slightly and steadily, was sufficient to excite very rapid action on the part of the machinery, it evident from the appearance of things in that engine-house. The rope ran off the drum so rapidly that the solid oak planks of which it was built were torn asunder and broken into pieces, iron bars and wooden beams were shattered like pipe-stems, and the roof and side-walls were torn down and flung in indiscriminate chaos among the wreck. Fortunately, the engine was unhoused, and so was the pump-shaft, whose wheel geared into the pinion-wheel on the side opposite to the drum-wheel. The pump was thus worked of gear, and the shaft on which the pump-wheel revolved was made to do duty as a drum. By careful management and slow running, the pinion wheel was made to work, notwithstanding its imperfect condition, and did good service in bringing up the men, one by one, and in raising the heavy wire-rope which, in all probability, was the death of some of them, and which had no business there, at all. It was an old rope and had been wound on the drum to get it out of the way. Unfortunately, the new rope had been attached to it, and, as there was nothing to stop it at the usual length, dragged down with it. Yet! Think of six men at the bottom of a subterranean lake, and 125 yards of 7-1 cable piling itself on them to keep them there! Pleasant, isn't it? But if there had been proper braking machinery on the drum, the rope need not have run off; the brake would have stopped it and the accident would not have happened. So, if there had been proper coupling irons attached to the cage it would have been held by them and the accident would not have happened. But, you see, none of these things were where they should have been, and so ten men are dead, and nobody is to blame. It was a small colliery, and could not be expected to have all these costly contrivances. But there was a hole in the ground, and a deep one—210 yards deep—and a steep one. I have called it a shaft, and so does the mine inspector in his last report; but it is really a slope, pitching 75 degrees, then 70 degrees, then 80 degrees—and men rode up and down this crooked chimney every day, because the "man-way" provided for them was so steep and so inconvenient that they would rather risk their lives than use it.

It is a dangerous mine in other respects, too. Four-men have been burned in it by fire-damp explosions, this summer—one of them fatally. That may have been their own fault—miners will sometimes persist in doing such things—but the coal gangway; the safety lamps are not well cleaned and the fan is not good for much, "on account of the size and narrowness of the draw holes."

It looks to an outsider as if the whole establishment was badly in need of reconstruction, but the people in the vicinity, not excepting the families of the sufferers, have no word of blame for the operators, Messrs. Hein & Glassmire. On the contrary, they express great sympathy for their misfortunes, and seem to think they have rather more than their share of "bad luck." It is probable that the colliery, like Avondale, is no worse than many others which have hitherto had better "luck."

It may interest Philadelphians to know that the colliery is on lands owned, in part, by William M. Swain, of the *Public Record*.

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TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

HENRY HOINING, a baker, killed himself in Washington yesterday.

THEY had snow at Helena, Montana, yesterday, and the thermometer was 32 deg.

THE army headquarters for New Mexico have finally been located at Santa Fe.

At Providence, R. I., a foundry was partially burnt yesterday, causing a loss of $20,000.

THE American Schutzenfest, at Cincinnati, is to begin October 1st, and continue until the 10th.

EXTENSIVE preparations have been made for the reception of Archbishop Purcell in Cincinnati to-day.

BECH, the murderer of the Good family, was taken from jail at Aurora, Mississippi, Wednesday, and hanged by Lynch law.

THE general election for Chief of the Chocaw Nation was held Wednesday, there being three candidates. The result has not yet been announced.

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The French army is being most rapidly reinforced, and the Government will be almost deserted of young men. The popular devotion to the cause is unbounded. Long live the dynasty, but everything looks to-day as if the Orleanists or Republicans would succeed the Empire.

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The Chamber must know what votes for. There must be no equivocation. The Minister replied that the government did not seek to equivocate.

Deputy Ganivet said, by a vote of 179 to 79, that the question of the reorganization of the National Guard should go over until to-morrow. The residence expressed a desire to close the meeting, but Deputy Estancelin insisted on a reply to his question, as a permanent session so long as the war continues, but this was defeated by a vote of 177 to 75.

M. Perry renewed the agitation by demanding to know what the state of siege is continued as against enemies within the city of Paris. No answer was given, but it was impossible to hear more.

The President, worn out with the toil of the preceding night, ordered his officers to preserve order, and slowly the meeting dispersed.

The Senate met to-day and greeted Count Palikao warmly. A vote of thanks was given to the army, and a project of law tending to the arming of the masses was adopted.

LONDON, Aug. 11.—[Special to the New York *Herald*.]—A correspondent of the *Herald*, who was present at the battle of Worth, telegraphs as follows from Carlsruhe:

The Prussian Guards attacked the Bavarians at Woerth is wholly untrue. MacMahon was completely surprised. The French abandoned everything and fled, leaving behind them their killed, wounded, and prisoners, numbering 20,000 out of 60,000 engaged. The French held a strong position, but the Prussians fired with terrible precision, and the French very badly.

"Both sides fought desperately, and finally the French gave way in a panic.

"The accounts representing that Strasbourg is still in communication with Bazaine are untrue. Strasbourg has been completely besieged since Monday, and the gates are shut. The garrison is made up of the best of the Prussians, and a stout resistance is expected.

MAYENCE, Thursday, Aug. 11.—Bazaine is vigorously pushing MacMahon, and another engagement is expected. It is believed the object of the Prussians is to get between Metz and Paris.

A special despatch from Carlsruhe to the London *Globe* announces that Strasbourg is invested on all sides by Prussians who hold the railway. General Du Beyer, the commandant, was, that night, wounded in the shoulder and retired. It is said the citadel is scarcely provisioned, and the garrison consists of only one regiment of men and the National Guard of the place.

It is the opinion, here, that the delay and among the people, that the rule of the Bonaparte dynasty is over, and the restoration of the House of Orleans is anticipated. The Count of Paris is now in England.

The *Petit Moll Gazette* reaffirms the presence of the Prince Imperial and the Imperial jewels in London.

The City Council of Brussels has voted an address of thanks to Victoria for asserting Belgian neutrality. The address takes a Roman form before the enemy to answer to an accusation.

The Chamber proceeded to vote the reestablishment of the National Guard in all the departments. It was made apparent that the widows and orphans of the war. It was announced that all citizens over twenty-one years of age, and able to bear arms, if not already, would be furnished with arms.

The Ministers have stated that the moment the Senate passed the law for a general armament, he (Ollivier) had the fact to all prefects at once. [Applause.]

Count Palikao announced that the armament of Paris would be complete in eight days, and expressed full confidence in Bazaine, and counted on victory to efface the traces of the recent reverses.

M. Glais Bisoin demanded that the nation should make no treaty of peace so long as the enemy was on French soil.

Minister Magrat proposed that the amount of the loan which the government had been authorized to make be increased from 500,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 francs; that the bills of the Bank of France be a legal tender; that the bank shall not be obliged to redeem them in gold or silver, but that further circulation of the bank be limited to 1,000,000,000 francs; or which 800,000,000 francs be applicable to the use of the government. The new Mexico have finally been located at Santa Fe.

At Providence, R. I., a foundry was partially burnt yesterday, causing a loss of $20,000.

THE American Schutzenfest, at Cincinnati, is to begin October 1st, and continue until the 10th.

EXTENSIVE preparations have been made for the reception of Archbishop Purcell in Cincinnati to-day.

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