

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the *London Times*, writing on Tuesday, the 13th March, says:—"In my letter of Sunday I alluded to the rumors which then circulated on the improved prospects of a pacific solution of our difficulties, and on the effect which, true or false, they produced on the public securities. Those rumors appear to assume a certain degree of consistency. They proceed from various quarters, and are not totally denied in sources where there ought to be means of estimating the real value that should be given to them. Not only is it still affirmed that the intelligence received from Vienna is of the kind hinted at on Sunday, but it is added that another letter has been received from the Emperor of Austria, declaratory of the same facilities for establishing peace that have been already noticed, and expressive of the hope that the French Government will not let slip the occasion now offered for arriving at such a consummation. Notwithstanding the tone of the late Russian manifesto, the Emperor Francis Joseph believes that the Czar would accept such conditions, and is anxious to impress upon England that they ought to be taken into serious consideration. There are persons anxious to propagate the idea that England will not be regardless of such arguments, and that she will not fail to impress her powerful ally with her own ultimate convictions. But the same idea of the sufficiency of such an arrangement is not attributed to the Emperor of the French, who, we are told, is likely to be the great, if not the only obstacle to peace, and whose equanimity has been disturbed by the turn which matters are said to have taken at Vienna. The Emperor's journey to the Crimea, which has assumed so many phases, is also said to be postponed in consequence of the views entertained at Vienna, and the Emperor of Austria is said, once more, to have urged the postponement, if not the abandonment of it, with as much persistence as before—at least, until something decisive shall have been resolved by the statesmen who compose the Conference. In confirmation of the effect of the news from Vienna, the Emperor is described as uncertain about the date of his departure, and great stress was laid on the counter-order given to the Guides a few days ago. That counter-order appears, however, to have been owing only to matters of detail in the corps itself, and had no reference to their departure. The Emperor spoke of his journey as certain at the dinner given on Sunday to the officers whose regiments he had reviewed, and the necessities for encampment have been distributed to the officers of his household. It must be a powerful cause indeed which would oblige him to give up this long cherished project, and, notwithstanding all that has been said, I still doubt whether that cause has been as yet found.

**THE PRESENT STATE OF FRANCE.**—I believe there never was a period in modern history when the old material for French revolution was less abundant. The army and the lower classes are devoted to the Empire. The former regards with pride the throne occupied by the Prince of a family with whose name all the glory of modern France is associated; and the latter experience a material prosperity under Napoleon which is the best basis of popular content. The impossible dream of Socialism has indeed left its poison here and there, to disease the minds of the poor; but the masses have outlived the fatal intoxication, and learnt that much which appears very just and very beautiful in theory, is essentially unjust and ugly when put in practice. The more we reflect on the difficulties which surrounded the Emperor as President, the more we shall be struck with his triumph over them. The Republic had rendered government impossible, and society impracticable. It was the drunkenness of democracy. Now and then a ruling mind may be met with, not yet emancipated from the drug; now and then you will hear a politician delivering impossible laws from his high Olympus, pitying the Thessalian darkness below; and now and then you will hear an humble member of society advocating a division of property every twelve, twenty-four, or forty-eight hours, for the benefit of the idle and the worthless; but the present Government of France has nothing to fear from such a deluded minority. The great masses of the people are themselves the throne on which Napoleon rests. The very elements of former revolutions are the bases of present tranquillity. Napoleon III. has made France respected abroad and honored at home; and men who, but a year or two since, blushed at domestic anarchy, are now flushed with national pride. The army of this warlike people assumes its old proportions under the shadow of the eagle. Railways are facing the rich lands in every direction. Public improvements are progressing with wonderful rapidity. Money comes to the surface, and is for the first time practically dedicated to national prosperity. No one acquainted with the vast commercial operations of France at the present moment, can find any parallel for them in modern times. All this has taken place under a form of government very repulsive to an Englishman—properly so; but very suitable to the genius of the French. The Government of France is a crowned democracy. France wants not merely a king—she demands a hero. The Emperor must never cease to do something. He governs the most difficult people in the world. They grow tired of parliamentary rule; and those assemblies, which have made England prosperous, and kept us free from revolution, whilst half the world was in anarchy, have not succeeded in France. *Correspondent of the Morning Post.*

**FRENCH EMIGRATION.**—*A Man in a Garret* writes from Paris to the *Post*:—"The Emperor attends to everything; he has just turned his attention to emigration. Alarmed at seeing tens of thou-

sands of Europeans leave their country annually for the United States, and reflecting that the day may come at which the States will be a danger to Europe, his Majesty has resolved that, so far at least as France is concerned, measures shall be taken to, as far as possible, put an end to this constant drain of the population. He has accordingly caused a Bureau to be established in the Ministry of the Interior for the special purpose of taking such steps as may appear advisable for turning the tide of emigration from the United States towards the French colonies.

**DEATH OF FATHER LAMBILLOTTE, S.J.**—The Rev. Father Lambillotte, of the Society of Jesus, so well known for his learned works on religious music, died last week at the College of the Immaculate Conception, at Vaugirard.

## GERMAN POWERS.

It is now decided, we believe, that Prussia will not be allowed to take part in the conference at Vienna, and her exclusion is a just punishment for the deception and feebleness which she has exhibited throughout the whole course of the diplomatic negotiations.

The idea is becoming general among political men here that the Emperor of Austria is disposed to think more favorably than before of the feasibility of peace without the terrible alternative of the destruction of Sebastopol, which can hardly be demanded of the Russians themselves, and which, after so long and so painful a siege, the allied armies have failed in effecting. It is said that the Emperor of Austria does not, on reflection, think that the opening of the Danube, the freedom of the navigation of the Black Sea, and the surrender on the part of Russia of the exclusive protection of the Danubian provinces, are concessions of small value; and that, as an equivalent for the integrity of Sebastopol, the liberty to the maritime Powers to erect fortresses or military posts on the southern coasts of the Euxine, on points such as Batoum, Trebizonde, Sinope, would be a sufficient guarantee for the original objects of the war. The protectorate over the Christians in the East, and the free navigation of the Danube, will probably present no great difficulties. The arrangement relative to the Principalities will in all likelihood lead to very animated discussions, but the greatest difference of opinion will be manifested when the Congress has to provide for the further balance of power in the Black Sea. "Russia will as little consent to raze the walls of Sebastopol as she will to destroy Cronstadt and Sveaborg; and, should the Western Powers make such a demand on the Czar, it can only be that they feel morally certain that the expedition to the Crimea will succeed." The Vienna journalist, who affirms that the possession of Sebastopol is the sole cause of the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea, somewhat naively adds that the only way of effectually putting an end to her supremacy would be to deprive her of her Crimea. The conclusion of the article is, that the best way of overturning the difficulties which present themselves would be for all the great powers to agree to keep no more than a limited number of vessels of war in the Euxine, "To demand from Russia the voluntary surrender of Sebastopol would inevitably lead, not to the fall of that fortress, but to the breaking up of the Peace Congress."

**DISCOVERY OF THE BONES OF S. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY.**—The bones of S. Elizabeth of Hungary, Duchess of Thuringia, who died in 1231, have been, it is believed, discovered at Marburg in Hesse. A *procès verbal* of the discovery, which took place on the 20th of July, 1854, has been published. All those on the spot were Protestants. The care with which the examination was made proves that they looked upon the discovery as a very serious and important matter. It is even added that "the bones of the Saint emitted a light like crystal." The illustrious author of the "History of S. Elizabeth"—the Count de Montalembert—supposed that the Landgrave Philip of Hesse had caused the bones of the Saint to be re-interred; but it was the act of the Teutonic Order. *L'Ami de la Religion*, February 22, 1855.

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.**—A Carlsruhe journal of the 28th Feb. says—"The Jesuits have been definitely expelled from Friburg. The archbishop had sent for two of the body to preach during Lent; and had notified what he had done to the minister of the interior. An order was sent back that they should immediately quit the town."

## ITALY.

**PASSING OF THE CONVENTS SUPPRESSION BILL.**—The Sardinian Chamber of Deputies has adopted the Bill for the Suppression of Convents and other Ecclesiastical Corporations by a majority of 117 votes against 36.

## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

**THREATENED DISTURBANCES.**—With great concern, but with little feeling of surprise, we hear rumors of a renewal of those frontier disturbances at the Cape of Good Hope which were brought to an apparent termination so short a time ago. We are concerned at this intelligence, because of all contests in which this country could be engaged, a Caffre war is the most absolutely unproductive and inglorious; but we cannot profess any wonder at a result which is little more than a natural consequence of conditions permitted to subsist. *Times.*

## RUSSIA.

**THE DEATH OF NICHOLAS.**—It appears that the Emperor first complained of oppression of the head and chest. He had before been subject to such a feeling. His physicians were immediately called, and their experienced eyes foresaw that this attack was likely to be his last. They had indeed been attending him, during some days, for an attack of influenza, to which some slight symptoms of pulmonary affection had supervened. From the first moment of his final seizure, they held out no hopes of recovery.

**THE NEW CZAR.**—The character of the young Czar Alexander, appears to have excited the most Elysian anticipations. By some he was described as a pensive, sentimental young gentleman, totally opposed to the gigantic ambition of his father, and consequently the idol of the pacific party in St. Petersburg; others insisted that he was merely a luxurious drone, incapable of intellectual exertion, habitually spending his days in smoking and his nights in play. Here is the latest portrait of the young Emperor, daguerreotyped by one of the most influential though not the most respectable journals in England:—"He is one of the most indolent of men," says the *Morning Advertiser*. "It is almost impossible to rouse him to action, or to evoke from him any manifestation of energy, whether mental or physical. He is dull, depressed, inanimate. In person he is tall and attenuated, with a demure expression of countenance, and a sickly looking complexion. He has the appearance of one who is half-starved, and yet it is well known in St. Petersburg that there is not a greater glutton in Europe. We are assured he does not think that he has had anything like an adequate meal if he does not eat what would be tantamount to about three pounds of butcher's meat. In fact, his life is spent in eating, smoking, and card-playing. His extraordinary appetite, we ought to add, is looked upon by the medical men of St. Petersburg as the result of some latent disease."

Scarcely has this voluptuous imbecile ascended the throne, however, when the nobles, clergy, and army hasten to render him the homage of the empire; and he issues a Manifesto proclaiming his highest aim to be the fulfilment of the destiny of his race. "May Providence," he says, "which has selected us for so high a calling, be our guide and protector, that we may maintain Russia on the highest standard of power and glory, and in our person accomplish the incessant wishes and views of Peter, of Catherine, of Alexander, and of our father." And it is presumed that he will forthwith proceed with the enfranchisement of the serfs and the enrolment of the National Militia, decreed by the last ukase of the deceased Czar. *Nation.*

A person high in office, who was a few days ago asked whether he thought the Emperor Alexander was likely to consent to turn Sebastopol into a commercial port, indirectly replied by relating the following anecdote. In the year 1831 Louis Philippe sent Marshal Maison to St. Petersburg to intercede with the late Czar in favor of Poland. In the name of the French monarch the military envoy strongly urged the Emperor to make certain concessions in favor of Poland; in short, to grant a kind of constitution to that kingdom. The countenance of the autocrat grew darker and darker as he listened, and as soon as the Ambassador had finished speaking he exclaimed, "Do you know what you demand of me, Marshal? It is to—". The monarch completed the sentence by passing his hand rapidly across his throat. The person who related the anecdote was evidently of opinion that the Emperor Alexander could not venture to raze Sebastopol, even if he should feel inclined to do so.

## WAR IN THE EAST.

The *Times* correspondent, writing on the 2nd ult., says, the silence and calm of the last few days are but the omens of the struggle which is about to be renewed very speedily for the possession of Sebastopol. "The Russians are silent, because the allies do not impede the progress of their works; the allies are silent, because they are preparing for the contest, and are using every energy to bring up from Kamiesch and Balaklava the enormous mounds of projectiles, and mountains of ammunition, which will be required for the service of the new batteries, and to extend complete, and strengthen their offensive and defensive lines and trenches. The railway has commenced to render service in saving the hard labor attendant on the transport of shot and shell, and it is quite evident that an unusual display of energy has been visible recently in most of the public departments connected with the army. The word must begin to be heard; officers are now told so many guns must be furnished by such a time. It is now rumored that our fire will really be opened against the place very soon. The 24-pounder guns are all to be retired from our batteries, and 32-pounder ship guns are to be put in their stead. In addition to this, eight new 8-inch guns are to be added to our armament, and are to be advanced to the second parallel, where their fire will be most destructive. All this is to be done by a date which will have elapsed several days ere these lines are in print. In addition to our present stores it is hoped that 30,000 shot and shell will be up at the front ere the 9th of this month. The Russians have begun to construct an advance from their new entrenchments to Malakoff. This is besieging with a vengeance. The French seem to have given up all notions of taking this work from the enemy, although twenty thousand men were under arms the other night to do it. Emboldened by this success the Russians are preparing to throw up another work on the right of the new trenches. A council of war was held at Lord Raglan's on the 27th, after the departure of the post. The weather has been of the most extraordinary character for the last few days—Three days ago the very sight of a great coat or a warm pair of gloves made one perspire. The next day it was so cold that even our immense stores of warm clothing were not superfluous. Out of the midst of summer you are here suddenly precipitated at half an hour's notice into the midst of winter."

March 1st.—The following is Menschikoff's last despatch:—"During last night we erected a second redoubt in front of that which is on the left side of our fortifications. It was impossible for the enemy to prevent us."

Nothing of importance has occurred at Eupatoria.

March 2nd.—Balaklava advices report sickness decreasing. Weather clear and frosty. Three miles of railway now in operation. Allies' rear is generally strengthened. Burgoyne, Chief of Engineers, has left, and is succeeded by General Jones, who recommended, contrary to Napier's advice, an attack on Cronstadt.

March 3d.—Russian are fortifying in a formidable manner the valley of Inkermann, and are erecting a mortar battery at Kamara to threaten Balaklava, and have sunk two more ships in Sebastopol Harbor.

March 7th.—(Official French Dispatch).—"Information of the death of the Emperor Nicholas has just arrived. Yesterday we threw rockets upon Kamiesch, which set the town on fire. Two Russian officers have deserted to the English."

**SECOND BOMBARDMENT OF ODESSA.**—A letter from Vienna, in the *Augsburg Gazette*, says:—"The events which have lately taken place at Odessa have attracted more attention than usual to that port. It has now been transformed into a fortified place. During the summer of 1854 it had been in contemplation by the allies to destroy Odessa—a measure which, although severe, then appeared to be called for by strategic reasons. Out of feelings of humanity, however, Admirals Hamelin and Dundas wished to spare the property of so many mercantile houses, which, during the scarcity of 1847 and 1853, had preserved the half of Europe from famine. They consequently confined their operations to the destruction of a part of the military port and the establishment of a blockade. What has since taken place at Odessa? All the warehouses have been transformed into military depots, and Odessa, which was the centre of maritime commerce, has become the pivot of the operations of Prince Gortschakoff and Prince Menschikoff. This is why hostile operations are now about to be undertaken against that port from strategic reasons, and if the Russians do not evacuate it voluntarily, which is scarcely probable, Admiral Lyons will immediately proceed to effect its destruction. The allies also intend to bombard Theodosia—an undertaking with which Admiral Bruat will be charged. General Luders, who is now at Odessa, is to have the command of all the forces concentrated on that point."

## A PEEP INTO SEBASTOPOL.

(From Correspondent of Times, Feb. 24.)

In company with two officers from the headquarters camp, I had a long inspection of Sebastopol to-day from the ground behind the French position, and I must say the result was by no means gratifying. We went up to the French picket-house first (*la Maison d'Eau*, or *Maison Blanche* of the plans), and had a view of the left of the town, looking down towards the end of the ravine which runs down to the Dockyard Creek, the buildings of the Admiralty, the north side of the harbor, and the plateau towards the Belbek and behind Inkermann. As the day was clear one could see very well through a good glass, in spite of the dazzling effect of the snow and the bitter wind, which chilled the hands so as to render it impossible to retain the glass very long in one position. The little bridge of boats from the Admiralty buildings across to the French side of the town was covered with men, who were busily engaged passing across supplies, and rolling barrels and cases to the other side of the Creek, showing that there is a centre of supply or some kind of depot in the Government stores behind the Redan, and opposite to the fire of our batteries.

Several large lighters, under sail and full of men, were standing over from side to side of the harbor, and dockyard galleys, manned with large crews of rowers all dressed in white jackets, were engaged in tugging flats laden with stores to the south-western side of the town. A tug steamer was also very active, and spluttered about in all directions, furrowing the surface of the water, which was scarcely "crisp" by the breeze, so completely is the harbor landlocked. The men-of-war, with their large white ensigns barred by a blue St. Andrew's cross flying from the peak, lay in a line at the North side, between Forts Sievernia and Constantine, the top gallant yards and masts of two out of four being down; a two-decker with bare topmasts lay on the south side, with her broadside towards the Ville Civile, and the white masts of three vessels peered above the buildings of the town further away on the right towards Inkermann. The inner part of the town itself seemed perfectly untouched, the white houses shone brightly and freshly in the sun, and the bells of a Gothic chapel were ringing out lustily in the frosty air. Its tall houses running up the hill-sides, its solid look of masonry, gives Sebastopol a resemblance to parts of Bath, or at least put one in mind of that city as it is seen from the declivity which overhangs the river. There was, however, a remarkable change in the look of the city since I saw it last—there were no idlers and no women visible in the streets, and, indeed, there was scarcely a person to be seen who looked like a civilian. This may in some measure lead us to believe the report that the Governor has ordered all the women across to the North side, and out of the place. There were, however, abundance of soldiers; and to spare, in the streets. They could be seen in all directions, now sauntering in pairs down desolate-looking streets, now chatting at the corners or running across the open space from one battery to another; again in large parties on fatigue duty, or relieving guards, or drawn up in well known gray masses in the barracks-squares. Among those who were working on the open space, carrying stores, I thought I could make out two French soldiers. At all events, the men wore long blue coats and red trousers, and, as we work our prisoners and make them useful at Balaklava, where I have seen them aiding in making the railway, I suppose the Muscovite commanders adopt the same plan. Outside the city, at the verge of the good houses, the eye rests on great walls of earth piled up some 10 or twelve feet, and 18 or 20 feet thick, indented at regular intervals with embrasures, in which you can just detect the black dots which are the throats of cannon. These works are of tremendous strength. For the most part there is a very deep and broad ditch in front of them, and their fire is so far from being direct that, wherever the ground allows of it, there are angles and fleches which admit of flanking fires along the front and of cross fires on centre points of each line of attack or approach. In front of most of the works on