

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

FRENCH DIPLOMATIC CIRCULAR.—The following circular has been addressed by Count Walewski to the diplomatic agents of France:—

“Monsieur—According to the intelligence which reaches me from many parts of Germany, the speech uttered by the Emperor, on the occasion of the closing of the Universal Exposition, has produced, as it was easy to foresee, a profound impression. Nevertheless, it has been appreciated everywhere alike, and it has become the subject of diverse interpretations. It bears, however, but one, and the neutral states cannot mistake sentiments which it is evident they can only commend.

“The Emperor has said that he desired a prompt and durable peace. I have not to dwell upon this declaration—it explains itself, and needs no commentary.

“In addressing neutral states, in order to invite them to offer wishes in this sense with him, his Imperial Majesty has given sufficient evidence of the value which he attaches to their opinion, and of the part which he assigns to their influence in the march of events. Such, in fact, has been his manner of viewing their position from the commencement of the diplomatic conflict which preceded hostilities. The Emperor has always thought that if they had then more forcibly defined their opinions upon the subject in dispute, they would have exercised a salutary action upon the determinations of the power that provoked the war. Their position has undergone no change in the eyes of his Imperial Majesty, and they can to-day, by a firm and decided attitude, hasten the denouement of a contest, which, in his estimation, they might have prevented.

“It is with this thought that the Emperor requests them to boldly make known their dispositions towards the belligerent powers, and to put the weight of their opinion in the scales of the respective forces. This appeal, so well understood and so warmly received by an audience composed of representatives of all nations, is in truth but a solemn homage paid to the importance and the efficacy of the role devolving upon neutrals in the actual crisis.

(Signed) “WALEWSKI.”

According to the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on Tuesday, the peace bubble was beginning to explode, to the discomfiture of the Bulls at the Bourse.

GERMAN POWERS.

It is affirmed that a representation, with pacific objects, has been made by the German governments to Russia. The courts which have addressed the representations to Russia are Saxony and Bararia, which scarcely a year ago opposed the policy of Austria at Hamburg as being too favorable to the western powers, and also the court of Wurtemberg, attached to the Russian court by numerous and intimate family ties.

It is rumored here that Baden is about to conclude a Concordat with Rome, and in fact the speech which the Prince Regent made when he opened the Chambers, on the 26th, contains the following passage:—

“Respecting the relations between the State and the Catholic Church, negotiations have been opened with the Papal Chair, and I cherish the hope that they will end in a way which shall be conducive to the interests both of State and Church.”—*Times' Correspondent*.

The new sect of Rongians or “German Catholics” has been losing ground in Germany ever since the precipitous flight to England of its founder. This sacrilegious wretch, like all pretended Reformers, (the whole American Protestant press extolled him with one voice as a second Luther) had far other objects in view, than those that he held up before his adherents and admirers. Not content with his rebellion against Church-authority, and the breaking of his priestly vows, he seduced the wife of a Hamburg banker, who had espoused the new creed, and fled with her to England, carrying with them the greater portion of the unhappy husband's funds.—This misconduct of the founder of the new sect effectually checked its progress in Silesia and other parts of Germany, where several of the clergy and laity had been induced to favor its growth. Now the sect is virtually extinguished; for a recent ordinance of the King of Prussia, the only country in which Rongism retained a visible organization, forbids Pastors, Czerski and other ministers of the sect, to baptize, marry, or do any other act of ecclesiastical ministry, in future.

ITALY.

REPUBLICAN CONSPIRACY.—A republican conspiracy, it is said, has been discovered at Rome, but the particulars have not transpired as yet.

NORTHERN POWERS.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* announces that on the day after General Canrobert left Stockholm an act of convention, or protocol, was signed between the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs on one side, and the French and English ministers on the other. The articles in this document are most satisfactory to the allies, and advantageous to Sweden.

No information is given as to the nature of the engagements entered into, between Sweden and the western powers.

THE SPRING CAMPAIGN IN THE BALTIC.—It is rumored at Stockholm and Copenhagen that in the spring of the ensuing year a fleet, composed chiefly of gunboats and mortars, will undertake a third campaign in the Baltic, but supported this time by one or even two armies operating in Finland and

RUSSIA.

Great efforts are being made to increase the flotilla of row-boats at Cronstadt, Sweaborg, and on Lake Ladoga. A portion of the crews of the Black Sea fleet is being drafted to the north, for the purpose of helping to this end; and it is expected that there will shortly be a second levy of seafaring men with the same objects in view. The regiment of sharpshooters raised from the domains of the imperial family is to be divided into three parts:—1,000 more are despatched to the Crimea; 1,000 remain under the orders of General Luder; and 1,000 are to be put under General Choumatoff.

The new Russian levy of ten men out of every 1,000 has been caused by the dread that Sweden and Denmark are about to join the Western Alliance.—This levy has already begun, but the season and the exhaustion of the provinces will, it is thought, prevent its producing the force calculated on.

A despatch, dated Berlin, Dec. 3rd, says:—“The Russian journals and letters represent the Emperor Alexander as bent on continuing the war, so satisfied is he with the state of things in the Crimea. On the other hand, private letters depict a terrible state of things as existing. Official documents show the immense loss Russia has sustained in the war.”

WAR IN THE EAST.

THE ALLIES CHECKMATED.—The following letter (French) has been received from Constantinople, under date of the 22d ult:—“The news from the Crimea, brought by this day's courier, is of the 20th. It seems that any movement whatever, under present circumstances, has become impossible. The Russians occupy formidable positions, which they do not appear to think of quitting, as they construct each day new works, such as they so well know how to make, which would indicate that they have no intention of evacuating the Crimea, as most persons suppose. They are far from being in want of provisions or munitions of all kinds. These facts you may rely on as I have them from a person who has just arrived from the Crimea, and who was in a good condition to know exactly the position of both armies. Be this as it may, our troops, as I mentioned in my last letter, are always prepared for the combat. Our positions are impregnable, and to have any chance against us a regular siege would be necessary. The Russians know it well: the only idea they can have is to attempt to surprise us, and the thing is not possible. The only thing that remains for them is to change the theatre of war. The expedition to Kinburn has given the Russians a sufficient indication, and they, therefore, work at Nicholaieff with the utmost ardor. It is General Tolleben who directs the works, and you know what he has done at Sebastopol. At Eupatoria an important affair is out of the question. The Russians have choked up the wells, and besides they have a considerable force. General d'Altonville, tempted by his first success, wished, before engaging in a new action, to ascertain the resources of the enemy, and you know that, on the occasion of this great reconnaissance lately, he stumbled on 80 guns and an army of 60,000 men. He has, therefore, judged it prudent to undertake nothing in that quarter. The campaign is regarded generally as over for this winter, and we must wait for spring.”

FORTUNATE ESCAPE OF ONE OF THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN THE CRIMEA.—As the Rev. Augustine Maguire, now acting as Catholic Chaplain at Scutari, and Captain Hickie, who had been wounded in the attack on the Redan, were about crossing the Bosphorus on the 6th of last month, the light boat in which they were was run down by a large vessel. Captain Hickie and the boatman were taken on board the vessel almost immediately; but the Rev. Mr. Maguire, after having in vain attempted to hold on by the rudder of the vessel, was compelled to swim for a French vessel lying at anchor, which, being an admirable swimmer, and always greatly devoted to that healthful and useful exercise, he was enabled to do, though in an exhausted state. Captain Hickie and the boatman were soon after brought on board the friendly vessel, in which every attention was paid to them, and all three were safely put on shore next morning.—*Cork Examiner*.

THE BRITISH EXPEDITION.

(From the London Times Correspondent.)
CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Nov. 24.—There is really nothing to write about, and no events have occurred worthy of lengthened notice since my last letter. There is a camp story going that Kerich has been taken, by which, I presume, is meant either Pavlovskai, the Quarantine station, or Yemkale, inasmuch as Kerich is not in our military possession, and it is quite impossible to conjecture what the Russians would do with it if they had it. There is also a rumor, which hasled a vagabond and precarious existence ever since the 8th of September, “that the enemy are leaving the north side,” but no ocular demonstration can be afforded of the assertion, although there have been considerable movements and changes of position among the Russian troops at Mackenzie's Farm and the Belbek for the last few days. My hut commands a view of a considerable portion of the plateau at the west side of the Tchornaya, and overlooks the spur at Mackenzie's Farm and the Russian encampments at Inkermann and between it and the Lower Belbek, and from the windows the movements of the enemy are plainly visible in moderately clear weather. Yesterday we observed that the whole of the enemy were in motion along the plateau, and from an early hour in the morning till 2 o'clock in the afternoon their battalions were marching to and fro, but it was evident they were only changing their troops, and that the regiments which left Mackenzie were replaced by regiments from the camp in the rear. The new-comers at the spur huts seem to be better dressed, to be taller men, and to wear darker coats than those who were relieved by them, and this appearance, which, after all, may be ideal and deceptive, has given rise to the notion that the troops so

close to us belong to the Imperial Guard. Their various camps are rapidly losing the look of snowy neatness of canvas, and are being converted into dingy rows of huts. We can see their telegraphs at work with the greatest facility, and to-day I can make out the flags with my glass. It is a pity one cannot get the Imperial Code Book of Signals and a dictionary. They have a considerable quantity of cattle feeding among the brushwood at Inkermann, and their works on the north side, rapidly attaining prodigious and gigantic dimensions, indicate every intention of holding their position. They fire seldom in comparison with their former abortive cannonade upon the town ever since the French have ceased to reply to them, but they do not hesitate to waste a shot or shell on a horseman riding near Fort Nicholas by the water's edge, or coming down the streets enflamed by their fire; and at night they fire at any light in the ruins of the city. The French batteries have been shut up by orders for the last fortnight or more. Our allies share with us the labors of destroying the docks, which will be ready to go at any moment we desire. The Sappers experienced great difficulty in forming the mines, in consequence of the water running in on them from the clay, but with their usual energy they worked away and formed the mines, which will contain eight small and two large magazines. It is expected that the explosions will just disintegrate the masonry and tumble the stonework into the basins.—The English works are under the charge of Captain Nicholson, R.E., and Mr. Deane has lent the use of his batteries for the purpose of firing the mines, and will undertake that part of the operation. The loss of the rafts is confirmed. In a strong breeze, with a fresh running down the Bay of Cherson (which some people call the liman of the Dnieper, although it is formed by the confluence of that river and the Bug), the rafts parted from their moorings and got away towards Odessa. They will no doubt break up, and the floating timbers may work some mischief at sea this stormy winter to come. May we not expect to hear of sunken rocks, of sea serpents, and floating islands encountered between this and Varna? The weather is all that can be desired at present. To-day there is a bright sun, a blue sky, studded with fleecy clouds, which drifts gently along before a genial Favourite. The Muscovite poets are justified by such weather in all their praises of the climate of the Crimea. On Wednesday last, however, we had a foretaste of winter. The wind was bitterly cold, the thermometer fell to 24°, the snow fell at intervals, and the distant mountain ranges were soon clad in white. It froze hard all day, but at 2 o'clock on Thursday morning the wind changed, and all the former mildness of this cheerful November returned upon us. There has not been a day yet this autumn unsuitable to military operations, and the Russians are making the most of the time, like ourselves, in clearing the brushwood and forming roads between their camps. The only grumbling that is heard now comes from officers who feel themselves neglected in the recent brevet, some of whose cases appear very hard, but as it might injure them with the authorities if I were to particularize and identify them I shall refrain from doing so; but a slight knowledge of the services of officers out here, and an inspection of the “Army List,” will enable people who take an interest in these matters to ascertain the truth. The Provost Marshals and their assistants are looking very sharply after all strangers and all malpractices.—Drunkenness is much on the decline; the petty thefts have been traced in nearly every instance to natives or camp followers, and on the whole there never was a better conducted army in the field placed under similar circumstances.

TYING UP A TAILOR.

The agent or representative of a celebrated military tailor in London was unfortunate enough to engage in a personal controversy with one of the Provost Marshal's sergeants some nights ago in Balaclava, and having been dining out, he was indiscreet and valorous enough to “let fly with his left” on the official's frontispiece by way of bringing the affair to a satisfactory termination. He was at once seized and carried off to the main guard, where delinquents pass the night in fear and trembling till they are tied up for the attentions of the drummers in the morning.—In vain did he entreat the presiding judge to send for various distinguished clients to speak to character or bail him out—in vain did he implore that Lord Chief or General that, whose intimate friend he was, might be summoned. No efforts could avert or delay his doom; he was tied up, when his turn came, like the rest, and received “two dozen” on the back.

CAMP OF THE ALLIED ARMIES ON THE TCHORNAYA, Nov. 24.—As the gradual settling down of the allied armies for the winter fixes more and more our position for the next few months, the question about the final arrangements of the Russians excites once more the attention of the allied camp, and every slight change in the Russian lines is watched with double interest, for every one knows that if the Russians have really the intention to evacuate the Crimea it is high time that they should do so. Every column of smoke, every movement of men—in fact, anything in the least different from what we are accustomed to see, gives immediate rise to a thousand conjectures, which, however, always end in the question—“Are they retreating or not?” The last week was especially very suggestive in this respect. Every clear day you could see the Russians turn out and marching in different directions. The day before yesterday wreaths of smoke were visible all along the higher part of the Mackenzie ridge, and yesterday, finally, bodies of troops in heavy marching order, with baggage carts, &c., were moving along the north side towards Inkermann. But all this unusual activity may be construed either way, into preparations for passing the winter in the present position, or into preliminaries for a retreat. The accounts which arrive by deserters are of the same ambiguous character. Lately great numbers of the latter have come in, partly to the Piedmontese, and partly to the French, and from every arm of the service. This frequent desertion speaks either of a great carelessness in the Russian outposts, or else, what is more probable, of an indifferent state of discipline; for, as it must be assumed that considering the distance which separates us from the Russians, only a small part of those who intend to desert are actually able to reach our lines, the spirit of the Russian soldiery cannot be very good when so many make their way to our outposts. All those who have lately come in are unanimous in their assertion that the Emperor Alexander was in the Crimea in the middle of this month. They all agree in stating that he reviewed the troops on the Mackenzie ridge on the 12th, those in the Sevastopol on the 13th, and those

on the plateau of Korales, towards the Upper Belbek, on the 14th. They say the Emperor expressed at the review his satisfaction at their defence of Sebastopol, and thanked them for it. He said that they were not driven from Sebastopol, but evacuated it according to his orders, as he did not think that the holding the south side was worth the lives of so many of his brave soldiers and dear children. In conclusion he said that he hoped they would prove worthy of their fame as the defenders of Sebastopol now that they are going to march. None of the deserters knew what this last expression meant, whether it applied to a retreat or to an attack. After the review every man received a gratuity of three rubles, or very nearly nine months' pay. The unanimity with which all deserters speak of the presence of the Emperor and of the reviews which he held seems to put doubt out of the question. About the movements of the Russian army, the deserters seem to know nothing. The expression which they say the Emperor used in his speech, namely, that they are going to march, puzzles them as much as it does us; whether they are marching forward or backwards is to them as much a mystery as to us. Every one who has kept a recollection of last winter, and it is not easily forgotten, must be quite at a loss in his meteorology. The two years are as different from each other as if we passed them in a different climate. Up to Tuesday last we had most beautiful autumn weather, without one drop of rain. On Tuesday a mild summer rain fell, in the afternoon a windy cold set in, and the thermometer soon fell below freezing point, as low as 24 deg. On Wednesday morning all the hills were covered with a white coating of snow, and we thought the winter had at last come; but yesterday it was again beautifully clear and actually hot in the sun, and winter as far away as ever. So much the better; notwithstanding the time and leisure we have had, the winter preparations are far from finished. Every additional fine day seems to suggest some improvement, such as a little byroad, or widening the ditches, or patching up the roofs of the underground huts, &c.

THE EVANGELICAL MINISTER.—Given, a man with moderate intellect, a moral standard not higher than the average, some rhetorical fluency and great glibness of speech, what is the career in which, without the aid of birth or money, he may most easily attain power and reputation in English society? Where is that Gehenn of mediocrity in which a smattering of science and learning will pass for profound instruction, where platitudes will be accepted for wisdom, bigoted narrowness as holy zeal, unctuous egoism as God-given piety? Let such a man become an evangelical preacher; he will then find it possible to reconcile small ability with great ambition, superficial knowledge with the prestige of erudition, a middling morale with a high reputation for sanctity. Let him shun practical extremes and be ultra only in what is purely theoretic; let him be stringent on predestination, but latitudinarian on fasting; unflinching in insisting on the eternity of punishment, but diffident of curtailing the substantial comforts of time; ardent and imaginative on the premillennial advent of Christ, but cold and cautious towards every other infringement of the status quo. Let him fish for souls not with the bait of inconvenient singularity, but with the drag-net of comfortable conformity. Let him be hard and literal in his interpretation only when he wants to hurl texts at the heads of unbelievers and adversaries; but when the letter of the Scriptures presses too closely on the general Christianity of the nineteenth century, let him use his spiritualizing alchemic and disperse it into impalpable ether. Let him preach less of Christ than of Antichrist; let him be less defensive in showing what sin is than in showing who is the Man of Sin, less expansive on the blessedness of faith than on the accursedness of infidelity. Above all, let him set up as an interpreter of prophecy, and rival Moore's Almanack in the prediction of political events, tickling the interest of hearers who are but moderately spiritual by showing how the Holy Spirit has dictated problems and charades for their benefit, and how if they are ingenious enough to solve these, they may have their Christian graces nourished by learning precisely to whom they may point as the ‘horn that had eyes,’ ‘the lying prophet,’ and the ‘unclean spirit.’ In this way he will draw men to him by the strong cords of their passions, made reason proof by being baptised with the name of piety. In this way he may gain a metropolitan pulpity, the avenues to this church will be as crowded as the passages to the opera; he has but to print his prophetic sermons and bind them in lilac and gold, and they will adorn the drawing room table of all evangelical ladies, who will regard as a sort of pious ‘light reading,’ the demonstration that the prophecy of the locusts whose sting is in their tail, is fulfilled in the fact of the Turkish commander's having taken a horse's tail for his standard, and that the French are the very frogs predicted in the Revelations. Pleasant to the clerical flesh under such circumstances is the arrival of Sunday. Somewhat at a disadvantage during the week, in the presence of working-day interests and lay splendors, on Sunday the preacher becomes the cynosure of a thousand eyes, and predominates at once over the Amphitryon with whom the dines, and the most captious member of his church, and vestry. He has an immense advantage over all other public speakers. The platform orator is subject to the criticism of lieses and groans. Counsel for the plaintiff expects the felot of counsel for the defendant. The honorable gentleman on one side of the House is liable to have his facts and figures shown up by his honorable friend on the opposite side. Even the scientific or literary lecturer, if he is dull or incompetent, may see the best part of his audience quietly slip one by one. But the preacher is completely master of the situation; no one may hiss, no one may depart. Like the writer of imaginary conversations, he may put what prophecies he pleases into the mouths of his antagonists, and swell with triumph when he has satisfied them. He may not in gratuitous assertions, confident that no man will contradict him; he may exercise perfect free will in logic, and invent illustrative experience; he may give an evangelical edition of history with the incongruous facts omitted. All this he may do with impunity, certain that those of his hearers who are not sympathizing are not listening. For the press has no band of critics who go the round of the churches and chapels, and are on the watch for a slip or defect in the preacher, to make a feature in their articles; the clergy are practically the most irresponsible of all talkers. For this reason, at least, it is well that they do not always allow their discourses to be merely fugitive, but are often induced to fix them in that black and white in-