

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.—The Paris correspondent of the Daily News, writing on Tuesday evening, says:—"The council of war assembled daily at Paris under the presidency of the Emperor, but the strictest secrecy is maintained respecting the deliberations. The Debats of yesterday says that one of the principal questions under discussion is the unity of the command of the allied armies. The Paris correspondent of the Independance Belge believes that the campaign will be continued in the Crimea, and that the expedition to the Baltic, to be almost exclusively English, will be without an army for disembarkation. The same writer mentions a report that the new French loan will be subscribed, if not entirely in England, at least with a solidarity of the resources of the two nations, and guaranteed by the two governments."

The same correspondent writes:—"I attach importance to the reports which reach me that the Senate is expected to propose the regency of the Empress, both in case of the Emperor's decease, and in the probable event of his leaving France to take the command of an army."

ADDITION TO THE SENATE.—An article appeared in the Moniteur of Friday, which is said to have created some sensation, on account of the inference drawn from it, viz., that a modification of the constitution is not at all improbable. This supposed change is believed to arise from the members of the Senate, who are hinted at as either not understanding their duties, or else neglecting them. The article in question then points out the high functions that distinguished body has to perform; and concludes by saying that if it discharge those obligations aright, then it will inspire in the country an opinion of the privileges entrusted to it by the author of the constitution.

The Moniteur publishes the report of the Minister of Finances to the Emperor upon the financial condition of the country.

The report concludes as follows:—

"To resume, Sire, this simple sketch of the principal financial events of the past year shows us a commercial activity without a parallel: unheard-of progress in consumption; two enormous loans, paid up with the greatest regularity, and in a great measure before the payments were due; besides the loans, more than 135,000,000, a sum which had never before been known to have been employed in the purchase of rentes, for the departments; the direct contributions paid by anticipation, and almost without expense; a well-balanced budget; the floating debt reduced; and all this despite the war, despite the crisis in the high price of food, despite the very considerable outlay which accidental circumstances imposed upon us. What greater proof could be given of the vitality and richness of the country and of all that France is capable of under a popular government, with such resources wisely employed?"

GERMANY.

The New Gazette of Prussia informs us that M. de Kettenbourg has at length obtained permission from the Grand Duke of Mecklenbourg Schwerin to have a Catholic Chaplain at his Chateau of Matgendorf for the family and followers. This advantage for this distinguished convert to Catholicity has taken three years of pleading and of praying to obtain. The Grand Duke's first refusal was referred to the Germanic Confederation, and that assembly would not interfere; now the privilege is given as a favor and not as a right. Such is the Protestant liberality of Mecklenbourg Schwerin. The Baron Hammerstein Gesmold has abjured the errors of Protestantism at Lünebourg, and his conversion has created a great sensation amongst his Protestant friends, who attribute his and the many other conversions in that country to the Catholic liturgy, and accordingly they have begun an evening service, with ceremonies and liturgy. At Hanover the Protestants have even established the Mass, so far as that want felt. Their new Mass is all ceremony, and this once so decried Popish idolatry is mimicked by them in all its outward forms. At Saxe Meiningen a peasant girl, who became a Catholic, was banished as a criminal, and for the sole change of her religion. On the Neckar a most respectable citizen was most persecuted, and for the same reason.

PRUSSIAN NEWSPAPERS.—The police of Berlin have forbidden newspapers to admit advertisements for wives and husbands, on the ground that they are contrary to propriety.

ITALY.

The Cattolico of Mantua has the following:—"In the conference of the Bishops of Lombardy, just held at Rho, it has been decided to give the most rigorous interpretation to the new Concordat, in conformity with the pious wishes of his Apostolic Majesty. Hence the imperial placet is declared to be no longer necessary for the institution of benefices, of whatever kind they may be; the sub-economy, or deputy-treasurers, being no longer appointed by government, are to be placed under the sole direction of the Bishops; all works contrary to the Catholic dogma are to be prohibited by the same authority, and the Bishops at Vienna are requested to use their utmost endeavors to obtain from government the restitution of such Ecclesiastical property as still remains unsold in order to employ it in the re-establishment of monasteries and religious communities of various denominations. Questions relating to matrimonial impediments revert under the sole control of the Episcopal sees. Meanwhile, hymns of thanksgiving are being sung in all the parishes for the restoration of the ancient state of things."

SWEDEN.

Baron Stiernel, the Swedish Minister of Foreign

Affairs, has addressed to all the Swedish envoys a circular, dated December 18th, respecting the recent treaty with the western powers. He says that Sweden, entertaining apprehensions (founded upon remembrances too well known to need repetition) of Russian encroachment in the north, had, at the proposal of France and England, entered into a defensive treaty of alliance, designed to assure the integrity of the united kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. He points out, however, that this treaty will not be of any prejudice to Russia. It will not, in fact, come into application, unless through aggression on her part; and he adds that it does not imply any change in the actual position of Sweden, for her declaration of neutrality still subsists, and will continue to be adhered to as hitherto. All hope of military assistance from Sweden and Denmark in the coming spring would appear, therefore, to be at an end.

DENMARK.

THE SOUND DUES.—EMBARRASSMENT OF DENMARK.—A private letter from Altona mentions that the Danish government has now lost all hopes of bringing anything like a conference together on the subject of the Sound dues. The government is described in this letter as in the greatest embarrassment and disunion as to the course to be pursued towards the flag of the United States, on its first attempting to pass Kronenborg duty free after the expiration of the present treaty. It is naturally enough feared that the attempt if successful will be imitated by other nations, and the example become widely contagious. It is even affirmed that the Danish authorities have at least deliberated upon the plan of letting the Americans through unmolested, but of keeping an account against them for presentation when the subject of the Sound dues shall have been adjusted.

RUSSIA.

The great council of war is concluded, and from what has transpired on the subject, it appears that the Russian tactics for the approaching campaign have undergone some important modifications. Various orders sent off from head-quarters would seem to indicate the resolution to abandon the Crimea altogether, for a part of the troops are to be directed to march to the Caucasus, to reinforce the corps of General Mouravieff, whilst others have orders to join the grand army of the centre, under General Panintine.

There can be no doubt that the Russians fully expect that the principal theatre of war will be transferred in the spring from the south to the Baltic, and preparations are making for a vigorous defence of their line of coast.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY IN THE BALTIC.—The Nord publishes the following letter, dated Riga, Jan. 6th:—"It is said that the Baltic army, which last spring was 80,000 strong, will before the end of the winter have received an increase of 20,000 men, which will bring it up to a total of 100,000. This increase was decided upon to oppose the army which it is so confidently announced the allies purpose landing next spring in Courland. They will find us well prepared, and we will dispute every inch of ground with the invaders. Our fortifications at Dunamunde, Riga, Revel, and all along the coast of the gulf at the most exposed points, will be greatly strengthened before the opening of the campaign. It has, moreover, been decided at St. Petersburg that batteries shall be erected in front of all the approaches to the Baltic ports, armed with guns of heavy calibre and long range, so as to be able to compete with the guns of the English and French men of war. The allies will find, if they effect a landing, that we are prepared to meet them."

DISTRESS IN RUSSIA.—The Post says there can be no doubt of the distress existing in the vast empire. The terms Russia yields are a proof of this, but these terms are not ours, nor those of Austria, who rejects them.

A letter from St. Petersburg, dated December 31st, states that the losses caused by the capture of Sebastopol are estimated by the Russians to amount to above 300,000,000 of silver roubles. The writer thinks the estimate too low; but, as all the archives, accounts, and vouchers relating to the matter were destroyed (perhaps less innocently than is supposed) during the retreat of the Russian army to the north side, the truth can never be accurately ascertained. The attempt made to give a religious character to the war, and the success at Kars, constitute obstacles to peace; but there is nevertheless a general disposition in that direction, although the authorities dare not make peace, for Russian pride and hope still survive disaster and defy reason. The writer has no doubt that war will recommence in the spring with new vigor, and he says that the people of St. Petersburg apprehend that Cronstadt will not be strong enough to resist our new engines of destruction, in consequence of which apprehension a project was on foot to fortify the capital. In the opinion of this writer, that hostilities will recommence as soon as the weather permits, Prince Gortschakoff and the whole of the Russian legation at Vienna appear to share.

PERSIAN CRUELTY.—A correspondent of the Times states that he has recently received, on good authority, the following extraordinary account of an act of cruelty perpetrated by an ambassador from the court of Persia now resident in Russia. It appears that during the stay of the ambassador in Moscow a fire of charcoal, lighted by his servant in a stove of the room where his son and the servant slept, caused the death of the former by suffocation, while the latter narrowly escaped with his life. The ambassador in order to avenge the death of his son commanded the servant to whose carelessness the accident was attributed, to be flayed alive. The Russian police, however, interfered, alleging that such a punishment could not be allowed in their country. Accordingly his excellency ordered a box with airholes to be made, for the purpose of transporting the unfortunate ser-

vant to Persia, there to suffer the fearful death which even Russian civilisation prohibited. "The poor man is probably now on his way to Persia."

FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF DOCKS.

Camp before Sebastopol, Jan. 1st.

It was at six minutes to one that the drum was beaten by the French sapper, for the 39 French and four English engineers, to light their port-fires. At 5 minutes, the drum beat two taps for all to be ready, and at 4 1/2 minutes to one the drum beat one more tap to fire; in 5 1/2 minutes afterwards the charges in the side and bottom of the French east-dock exploded almost simultaneously. Shortly afterwards the large charges in the piers of the entrance and behind the steps leading down to the dock blew up. These three charges shook the ground all round terribly, and propelled large stones perpendicularly up in the air to the height of at least 900 feet. In 9 1/2 minutes the English charges exploded, causing a very neat demolition of half the side wall of the basin; but the powder was, I think, run a little too fine. After the smoke had cleared away, it was evident that four of the French charges and one of the English had not gone off, the four French charges being two in the entrance pier to their west dock, which was not blown in by them on the 21st, and two in the side wall of the basin, adjoining our charges. The demolition of the French east dock—or "Steamer Dock," as it is called, for it contains the remains of the paddle steamer, which was brought from Sinope and set fire to by the Russians on the 9th of Sept.—was complete. They appear to have used too much powder, and the right floodgate being blown in against the left floodgate has the effect of making the destruction of the left entrance pier look less complete than that of the rest of the dock. The quantity of powder expended in blowing up this dock alone was 10,000lbs., with 33 charges in all. The 12 side charges were each 500lbs. Behind the steps leading down to the bottom of the dock there were 1 charge of 1,000lbs. and 2 of 500lbs. of powder each. The remaining charges, I mean those under the docks and the floodgate, averaged about 110lbs. each. After the Russians had fired a few badly-aimed shells, and the French and English engineers had examined the debris, the former again fired the four charges that had not gone off. After the lapse of a few minutes these exploded, and thus the west and east docks of the French half, together with the left side of the large basin, even to the gates, were completely destroyed. Sir W. Codrington now asked Colonel Lloyd how long he thought it would be before our engineers would be ready to blow up the bottom of their east dock. The answer was "As soon as Mr. Deen, who has charge of the voltaic batteries, is ready." Mr. Deen, on being asked, stated that he could be ready for two hours; and at this time it was about two. Our three docks, on account of being about four feet lower than the two French docks and entrance, have about half a foot of water in each of them. As a result of this, great difficulties have had to be contended with; and owing to the severity of the weather, the sappers have suffered terribly, both by night and by day. At about five the wires and cables appeared to be getting fixed. The bunk where Mr. Deen had his ten voltaic batteries, and from which he fired his mines, was on the other side of the dockyard high white wall, and up a steep hill. In the bottom of the dock were ten charges, each of 162lbs. These were connected by electric wires to the two cables, making five wires for each cable, and these two cables, with an electric wire inside, ran up the hill through holes in the wall to Mr. Deen's bunk. Just before the explosion the force of the electricity was tested at the end of the cables, which were about a hundred yards long. At twenty minutes past five o'clock, just before dark, Private Scully, tinsmith by trade, of the 10th company of sappers, was ordered by Major Nicholson to connect the ten wires to the two cables. In another two minutes all had cleared away. The moment the word "all right" was passed up to Mr. Deen eight of the ten charges blew up, which were, quite sufficient completely to destroy the bottom of this dock. The latter was 191 feet long on the stone kids at bottom, 40 feet wide, and 29 feet deep. At top it is 238 feet long, and 95 feet 4 inches wide. The revetment at top was 6 feet 8 inches broad. Our centre dock, which in all probability will have its bottom blown up to-morrow evening, is 236 feet long, and the west dock is 233 feet. There is every reason to expect that in another fortnight the whole of the Sebastopol docks will be totally worthless for any purpose whatever. The French appeared to be much pleased at our engineers being so successful under water. They will have nearly as great an obstacle to contend with in their centre entrance. As for the Russians, they took no notice of the first or second explosions, not even jumping on their parapets. The French and English have been each taking down one of the large flood gates complete, to send home as trophies; either half of a gate constitutes twelve hollow iron ribs, each weighing about 2 1/2 tons. The French took down their two halves bodily, and now that these are at the bottom of the dock, they have been obliged to take the ribs off and drag them across the basin at an immense cost of labor. We, on the contrary, by means of 140 artillerymen, under the charge of Major Andrews, R. A., and two lieutenants, the whole under the superintendence of Lieut.-Colonel Bent, R. E., have been lifting the ribs up by pulleys, one by one, as the halves of the gates stand.—Daily News Correspondent.

UNITED STATES.

CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS AUTHORS.—It is often flippantly asserted that the great mass of crime in the United States is committed by foreigners. It is a convenient argument, but one which will be found, on examination, to be merely assertion, without facts to sustain it. We observe in the American Almanac for 1855 (a work prepared with great skill and accuracy, and consequently of high statistical authority) a statement carefully collected from the returns of the clerks of the courts, under the head of crime, from which it appears that of the 14,998 convictions had before the courts of the United States, from 1841 to 1854 inclusive—a period of fourteen years—9,538 were natives of the United States, and 5,450 foreigners. So that, so far as the crusade against foreigners, now going on in this country, to which they have, in many direct and indirect ways been invited, is based upon their objectionable character in this respect, it is thus by figures shown to be without any justification whatever.—Washington Star.

STATE SCHOOLISM IN THE UNITED STATES.—A Protestant paper, the Richmond Examiner has the following:—"The worst of all these abominations—because, when once installed, it becomes the hot-bed propagator of all—is the modern system of free schools. We forgive what it is that has charged and proved that the New-England system of free schools has been the cause and prolific source of all the legions of horrible infidelities and treasons that have turned her cities into Sodoms and Gomorrah's; and her fair lands into the common nesting-place of howling bedlamities. We abominate the system because, the schools are free, and because they make, that which ought to be the reward of toil and earnest, ardent, and almost superhuman individual effort, cheap, commonplace, prizeless and unwinning. As there is no royal road to learning, so there ought to be no mob-road to learning. A little learning is a dangerous thing—to the individual, to society, to learning itself, to all conservatism of thought and all stability in general affairs. The only function of the free school is to supply that little learning; and thus it is charged to the brim with incendiaryisms, heresies, and all the explosive elements which uproot and rend and desolate society. Free schools are only another name for government schools; and both natural and revealed law make it the duty of the parent to educate his children, and not the duty of government. It is as much the business of the father to instruct the mind of the child as to fill its belly; and it is no more the duty of government to furnish free education for children than free soup, free butter-milk or free bonnyclabber—no more its duty to furnish governesses and pedagogues, than grannies, wet-nurses and baby-jumpers. It is the duty of parents to support and nurture their children; and if the task is a burden to them they are apt to forego the having of children at all—which is much better than having children to be bundled off upon the cold charities of the public for nurture and instruction. It is alike their duty to educate their children in the rudiments of knowledge; and if they feel themselves unequal to the burden, in this case too they will be apt to forego the having of children. This responsibility of parents for their children is the well-spring of parental happiness, and every effort to divest them of it dries up the home affections, undermines the institution of the family, fills society with reprobate ruffians, and approximates the nature of the human species to that of the brutal and callous crocodile, which deposits its eggs upon the sand, leaves them to be hatched by the sun and the brood to be reared by the tender mercies of the elements. Care and anxiety are the sources of affection; and as you divest parents of these for their children, you cut the tie by which God bound together the home circle. It is the duty of the parent to nurture and instruct his children, and it is the duty of the Government for the parent's as the children's good. When you destroy the recollections of the child the youth or the man, for mother and for father, upon what an awful abyss of licentiousness and crime do you not launch him? Shall the State, in the name of benevolence or any other name under heaven, with iron grasp, tear the infant from home, father and mother, without incurring the vengeance of outraged Nature? Whom God has joined together let no man put asunder."

NON-CATHOLIC CHARITABLE ASYLUMS.—A case of unusual interest transpired at the Mayor's Office last week. The affidavits made denounce an institution called the "American Ladies' Association for the benefit of American Orphan Girls," located at 435 Broome-street, as a public fraud. It is charged that the above-named Institution is kept by a Mrs. Lincoln and her two daughters, and that these parties, with other females, who was paid \$1 per day for their services, have been for the past six months going about the city, soliciting and receiving moneys in aid of the aforesaid institution. Over five thousand dollars, it is estimated have been in this way collected, and of this sum, it is said, not one cent, so far as discovered, has ever been applied to the objects for which it was given. It is further asserted that only two or three orphans have been in the "Institution," and that they only remained for a few weeks, and that the house is not fitted up for the accommodation of orphans, there not being a bedstead or any other accommodation for them in the building. An orphan girl named Harriet Ackley attests that not long since she was induced to apply for aid at the above-named institution, and on being received was, during her stay, obliged to sleep on the floor. Miss Ackley further said that Mrs. Lincoln and her associates in the establishment are all members of the Free-Love Association. The accused was arrested, and bound over by Justice Osborne for examination.—N. Y. Citizen.

MORMON STATISTICS.—An official statement has been published at Salt Lake City, in the Deseret News, by George A. Smith the Church Historian, showing the latest facts of interest connected with the progress of Mormonism. According to it, the Church has about ninety-five Missionaries in Europe and an equal number in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Isles; besides large numbers of native elders in the various fields of labor, and also a considerable number scattered throughout the United States and British America. Of newspapers and periodicals, the Church has—of the former, one in Salt Lake City, issuing 4,000 copies weekly, one in New York; one in Liverpool, issuing 22,000 weekly copies; one in Swansea, South Wales; one in Australia; and one in India.

NICK KIRWAN.—We know of nothing equal to the impudence of such lecturers as Kirwan except the gullibility of his hearers. For a man to come to Cincinnati, where our booksellers publish huge lists of the different size and quality of the Bibles they keep constantly on hand, and say that Catholics are not allowed to read the Bible, seems wonderfully impudent; but for an audience of Cincinnatians to sit still, as though they believed him, is gullibility unaccountable. He is reported to have told his audience that the present Pope wrote to the priests of Ireland that they should "flee reading the Bible;" whereas the same Pope has sent a medal and a letter of encouragement to the Dominicans of New York, for their zeal in publishing their unrivalled English edition. He told them also that the priests were "hard-hearted, selfish impostors;"—in Cincinnati—where the orphan asylums and charitable societies, founded by their influence, and supported by people who, such maligners as Kirwan always declare, are blindly devoted to them, and hence, filled with their spirit, are a palpable refutation of the impudent charge! Both he and his audience seemed delighted with the fact that Joseph R. Chandler had "lost his seat in Congress" because he became a Catholic.—Catholic Telegraph.