

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Archbishop of Paris has addressed a long pastoral letter to the clergy and faithful of the diocese, in which he orders that prayers shall be offered up for the success of the French arms in the East. The prelate contends that, for the protection of political, religious, and material interests, it is necessary to oppose Russian designs on Turkey; and he declares that the war may be said to have been brought about by the direct intervention of God, and that consequently it may be hoped He will give it His blessing and insure its success.

The *Chronicle's* Paris Correspondent mentions a report that certain members of the Senate and of the Legislative Corps have conferred together on the propriety of offering a dictatorial power to the Emperor during the continuance of the war. A meeting of the members of the two Chambers has taken place, at which was discussed the best mode of drawing up a proposition for the suspension of the ordinary laws and the establishment of a dictatorship. Persons who are well informed seem to think that the project is not without chances of being carried out.

THE GERMAN POWERS.

The King is ill. Erysipelas is threatened. Bulletins are issued.

The Austrian army in the Hungarian provinces has been placed on a war footing; but this is no proof that the passage of the Danube will be considered a *casus belli* by the Austrian government.

It is said that at his audience on the 28th M. de Bourqueney communicated to the Emperor of Austria that the Emperor Napoleon would be necessitated to post an army of observation on the frontiers of Savoy and in Italy.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

A Christiana journal states that Russia has acknowledged the neutrality of Sweden only upon the condition, accepted by King Oscar, that no more than four foreign ships of war shall enter any Swedish or Norwegian fortified port at one time.

THE BALTIC.

The Gulfs of Finland and Bothnia are still firmly frozen over; the re-opening of the navigation at Cronstadt last year took place towards the end of April; in 1852, on the 12th May; in 1851, on April 20th; and in 1850, on April 30th. It is said that there is little probability of the ice breaking up this year any earlier. At Revel it is forbidden to light the lamps or the lighthouses, and the destruction of all buoys and other helps to navigation is commanded.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says that the Russians are transporting masses of rock along the ice in the Bay of Finland to the site of the only navigable channel in front of Cronstadt, with the intention of their sinking them into the already shallow bed as soon as the ice breaks up. He adds the following alarming piece of news, with due gratification:—

"A plan has been arranged by a man of the name of Jacobi, which has so far obtained the Emperor's approbation that a very liberal reward has been promised him in case of success. It is of this nature: the blocks of rock are bored, and charged with blasting powder, previous to being placed on the ice over their future bed; the *caissons* containing the charges are provided with a wire connected with an electric battery in the fortress; and it is intended to carry into execution this interesting blasting experiment just when our craft are passing over the spot where these masses lie. The thing is feasible."

It is rumored that very urgent despatches have been received from Sir Charles Napier, which, however, have been very properly kept secret by Government—praying for reinforcements; as he finds, or rather expects to find, his position a much more critical one than he imagined it would be when he left Spithead. As for the Russians, they appear to be firmly convinced that, even if things go well with the allies, only a part of the fleet will be fit for service by the time it gets up to Cronstadt. The sand-banks are numberless, and, in addition to these, the ships will have to contend with the Scheeren flotilla, which is likely to be very destructive to single vessels. This flotilla is stationed behind the Scheeren (the archipelago of islets and reefs or ridges of rocks which line the coast on both sides of the Baltic is so called), where there is not sufficient depth of water for larger vessels. It is supposed that in the operations against Sweaborg, Oesel, and Revel, the allies will suffer severely. The greater part of the Russian fleet is at Cronstadt, "which is being fortified so as to bid defiance to all attacks." The island is connected with the Continent by means of an artificial dam, which is covered with batteries. The strand batteries which command the channel leading up to the harbor have been doubled, and before Cronstadt can be attacked these batteries, which contain 800 guns of the largest calibre, must be destroyed. There are three artillery parks in reserve.

TURKEY.

The combined fleets entered the Black Sea on 24th ult.

All political and commercial relations between Turkey and Greece are broken off.

The Vienna papers publish advices from Constantinople of the 27th ult., according to which the Porte has resolved to expel all the subjects of King Otto from the Sultan's dominions. A declaration of war was expected to accompany the execution of this measure. The Turks have in Thessaly and Epirus a force of 15,000 men, of whom 3,000 are cavalry, with 120 guns. As soon as the roads are practicable this corps will be reinforced, and the insurrection will be attacked in its centre and home, which is Greece.

THE DOBRUDSCHA.—The following account of this desolate district, which has suddenly risen into interest and importance, is taken, from the forthcoming new edition of *Murray's Turkish Guide*. At Tchernavoda the Danube approaches within 34 miles of the Black Sea, but is separated from it by a peninsula or tongue of high land, extending north, nearly opposite to Galatz, called Dobrudscha. From Tchernavoda a road runs to Kostendje, on the Black Sea, partly parallel with a stream, or rather a chain of lakes, called Karason. At Bourlack (four hours), the stream ceases, and the valley is shut in by hills crowned with downs, from which the sea is visible. Kostendje (Constantina), a small village on a height above the shore, has a little port, with remains of a Roman mole, now destroyed. From a point a little south of this, to Rassova, on the Danube, runs a rampart of earth called Trajan's Wall. It is certain that no branch of the Danube ever flowed into the sea across this tongue of land, which presents on the side of the sea an uninterrupted range of low hills and cliffs. The district of the Dobrudscha is at most seasons a wilderness, partly owing to its having been deprived of its Tartar inhabitants, after 1829, by the Russians, but chiefly owing to its subsoil, which, excepting to the north extremity, where rise the hills of Matschin, (granite?), consists of porous limestone, which retain no water, and furnishes no springs on the surface. Population is scanty, and villages widely scattered, and drinking water is obtained only through a few deep wells. Corn is scarcely cultivated at all, hay fodder are very scarce, the scanty herbage dries up early in the summer, and the flocks of sheep and herds of buffaloes repair to the borders of the Danube for pasture. This desert extends south of the Wall of Trajan, nearly as far as Basarjik and Varna. It is not tenable by troops, unless they carry food, forage, and water with them. A canal was at one time projected between the Danube at Tchernavoda and the Black Sea at Kostendje, but a survey made by a Prussian engineer proved that the head of the valley of Karason was 164 feet above the sea, and that not a drop of water was to be obtained on the summit-level (limestone hills) to feed a canal if it were made.

ITALY.

The Roman correspondent of the *Univers*, under date March 24th, mentions that the German newspapers had stated, and itself after them, that General Schreckenstein, who accompanied Prince Frederick William of Prussia to Rome, had been charged by the Baden government with laying the basis of an arrangement of the religious question. The general is a native of Baden, and a Catholic; these circumstances gave rise to the rumor, which, however, now appears is without foundation.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE DUKE OF PARMA.—It was in a sort of low wine shop, frequented by the lowest people, that the event occurred. The Duke entered the common room, and was recognised by a soldier who was reading, and who immediately rose and saluted him, and then sitting down again, continued the perusal of the journal he was engaged with. The Duke then, it appears, went up to him and said, "What! you go on reading before your prince, and seated?" The soldier replied in a low tone, "In seeing your Royal Highness enter such a place, I thought you desired to remain *incognito*; and I feared to show you too much respect, as that would only attract notice." The Duke then got into a violent passion, and, after using most abusive language, struck the soldier a violent blow with his whip across the face. The soldier then, in a fit of exasperation, drew out his short sword, and plunged it into the lower part of the Duke's stomach. In the tumult he succeeded in effecting his escape.

THE WAR OF 1854.

We find the following particulars in *La Cronica*, relative to the new missiles of warfare which will be used in the coming struggle between Great Britain and Russia. We have not seen in any English paper so particular a description of them, the reason being perhaps that it was not considered expedient to enter into detail on things which were in some sort a state secret. However, they may now be alluded to without impropriety:—*International Journal*.

According to our English correspondent, the new missiles of destruction which the Eastern war is about to bring to light, will exceed everything that has been anticipated, at least as far as relates to Great Britain. That country has closed all its arsenals to visitors, and even to members of Parliament, since the time that war was resolved on.

Among these missiles, we cite the "floating rocket" which darts in a straight line, skimming the surface of the water, and strikes its iron head, which contains one kilogramme (2lb 5 oz.) of fulminating mercury, in the ribs of the vessel against which it is launched. When the fire reaches the deposit, it explodes, making a breach, of the size of a large door, and which cannot, from its irregular shape, be stopped, like the round hole of a cannon ball.

Admitting that the Russian squadrons might take refuge under the guns of Sebastopol and Cronstadt, they could not avoid this terrible rocket, the terrific speed of which is almost unimaginable, and exceeds that of any other missile—nor could the entrance to any port, however narrow, hinder its assault.

Use also will be made of submarine vessels, the construction of which is now so perfect, that they can be steered, without the least danger, to the enemies' ships, to fasten fire ships to them, or throw "choke balls," which do not kill but paralyze a ship's crew, and render them incapable of defence sufficiently long to be made prisoners. A considerable quantity of exploding balls, which burst the moment they touch their object, has also been embarked. They will be used with effect against tumbrils and powder magazines of the enemy.

Two vessels of a small size and very singular construction have been built. These mount only one or two enormous Paixham guns in the bow and stern. Their sides are six feet and a half thick, and are covered with a felt substance impenetrable to balls,

and also with a coating of iron and lead. The bow is also shaped like a cuirass, so as to turn aside the balls directed upon it. They are also covered with a roof of similar form, calculated to throw off into the sea any shells which may fall upon it. These fire ships are very heavy and move slowly by steam; but can be, of course, aided by tug steamers. They will invariably present their bow and stern to assail an enemy, and hurl their shells on a level with the surface of the water, and sweep the enemies' ships with a flood of Greek fire by means of a pump worked by steam. A squadron of ships of the line becalmed could be destroyed by a single one of these "burners," as they are called, manned with a crew of only ten resolute men.

The letter from which we extract the above adds, "You are acquainted with ordinary fire ships—stupid machines known by their fizz more than by any advantages they offer. Any vessel that has a magazine is a fire ship, and invariably burns before reaching the enemy, and generally before reaching him at all, as at Sinope."

The coming struggle will witness something very different. I know not whether I ought to explain the terrific war engine which Slatham invented without intending it, when he discovered his "Electric rocket," for the use of blasting in the mines. But as it has been admitted that the more terrible are made the implements of destruction—so much shorter and less bloody is war likely to become; love for humanity encourages me to reveal this secret.

The crew of a ship likely to be taken, evacuates it—the last boat, containing the chief officers, draws out after it a wire covered with gutta percha—this wire is wound on a roller in the between-decks of each ship of war, and is placed in communication with the magazine by means of a "Sleatham rocket." The captain's barge contains a voltaic pile. The moment for sending the electric spark is entirely at the command of the captain or officer in charge, but of course it will be communicated whenever the enemy has got possession of the ship and are singing the song of victory.

The celebrated Faraday has just finished a series of experiments in the work-shops of the company, charged with the duty of furnishing these submarine conductors for the use of fire-ships—about 160 kilometres (200,000 yards) of said wires have been tested, by submerging them in water to try their conductivity, the result has been complete success.

I have just been to Woolwich, where I witnessed the embarkation of a series of iron cylinders, carried by soldiers from the arsenal to the ships. A sort of procession lasted two hours, and I was told that for several days the same thing had taken place. The number of sentinels on guard to protect them, gave one clearly to understand that this was not a convoy of alimentary matters but of terrible combustibles—from each of these cylinders projected a wire, the use of which may be imagined.

I have heard from good authority the use to which it is intended to put these new instruments of death, and which explains the mystery of the enormous quantity of British flags made in the Penitentiaries, and of the 40 leagues of electric wire that I spoke of in my last letter.

In case that landing may be made on the enemy's coast, and works thrown up, these cylinders will be buried, and flags planted on the spot—and should the places be evacuated, the last boat's crew will run a wire from the mine to the ship, whence it can be exploded the moment the enemy has taken the place; but the knowledge of which will keep them at a respectable distance.

The above correspondent speaks also of a new mortar invented by a Scotch Artilleryman. In place of putting the shell into the mortar, this invention places the mortar in the shell. That is to say, the mortar is covered with a conical cylinder, like a thimble placed upon the finger. By this means a shell of equal weight to the mortar can be thrown for a short distance. These enormous projectiles fall always point foremost, and explode by concussion at the moment when they penetrate the casemates of a fortification or the deck of a ship. A single one of these shells, when well directed, is sufficient to burst the arch of a powder magazine or to break open a line of battle ship. In an experiment recently made, the explosion of one of these shells opened a conical pit 14 feet deep, and 30 feet diameter. The English Squadron is also provided with globes, which fly through the air scattering showers of inflammable material over buildings and towns subject to bombardment.

It having been discussed whether the laws of war allowed of the use of such terrific missiles against an enemy, Sir Charles Napier put an end to the discussion by the ironical reply, "If you are afraid of hurting the enemy, load your muskets with cotton balls, and your canons with bags of rice."

THE NUNNERY DEBATE.

BY A "STRANGER IN PARLIAMENT."

A coalition is an invention, in an age of no principles, to carry on the Queen's government; not to allow reaction, but not to attempt progress—to keep quiet, and, during a war, to withhold information, and defend the blunders of the admirals and generals. It is more particularly the duty of a coalition not to meddle with religious matters; and we already see how serious are the consequences of the government not doing with Mr. Chambers's motion what they did with Lord Blandford's bill. The confusion of Tuesday night was terrible. There was Mr. Bernal Osborne making a violent speech against the committee, and there was Mr. Gladstone shortly following him, and pointing out that the question was not about granting the committee, but of whom it should be composed. It was amusing to hear Mr. Osborne, but he was wrong to break a silence which has been conspicuously discreet. That is his affair, however, and the government's; the house was glad to see him on his legs again. On Tuesday, certainly, he got completely out of the Secretaryship of the Admiralty, and spoke with a joyous swagger and insolent indifference which were charming. The house would any day sooner hear Osborne than one of its crack statesmen: indeed, rather than Macaulay. The house is conscientious, and will cheer and counter-cheer a minister with assiduity; but it is an assembly of average men of the world and boys of the town, and it has a strong taste for being amused. And Mr. Bernal Osborne is amusing; he is something more—if he chose, he could be a great Liberal leader—but he has selected his rôle—to be amusing. He is amusing because he has studied the house, and knows what amuses it—acting accordingly. He acts the natural parts; he is really one

of the most careful, but appears a most *déjà vu*, debater—his manner is rigidly impulsive; and his jokes are elaborately impromptu. His speech are merely smart conversations; the style is a familiar style—he takes Mr. Speaker by the button and winks at "out of doors." On Tuesday he rattled terrible jokes over the head of Mr. Newdegate, who looked like a statue getting dusted; and it is noticeable that those who laughed loudest were Mr. Newdegate's friends. It is always effective in the house to ridicule bigotry; for though bigots' votes are given there, there are very few bigots. Free talk to free-thinkers is safe; and Mr. Osborne's hits at Protestantism told enormously, both with Catholics and Tories! Perhaps the whole neckcloth interest in the county of Middlesex may not appreciate a member who shocks T. Chambers, and throws Mr. Lucas, of the *Tablet*, into convulsions of laughter. But Mr. Osborne is bold, and at any rate is fond of being cheered in the house.

Mr. Lucas also made a great speech on the same question, on Thursday. The house is terribly bored with this eternal T. Chambers's business, which is a malapropos business, being an offence to certain fellow subjects, at a moment when we are advising the Sultan to grant civil equality to his Christians. But the house listened to and admired Mr. Lucas. It is singular how unpopular Irish members are with English members; and it is a fortunate thing for Catholic Ireland that her parliamentary leader is now an Englishman, and an Englishman who not only does not offend with a brogue, but who is a man of genius and an accomplished orator. It was noticed last session that Mr. Lucas was a parliamentary success: this session it is observable that he is an accepted House of Commons' personage—a man whose speeches are important, and whom it is a matter of house business to listen to, watch, and comprehend. As a Catholic leader in a Protestant assembly, he took up a proper position on Thursday. The wretched crew of Scullys and Fitzgeralds—the genus Irish members—they oppose the bigots with a whine—or at best with a snarl. Mr. John O'Connell, on Tuesday, appealed to the generosity and justice of the house, as if the house cared for anything but keeping individually its seats; and he assured them, in a wailing whine, that though insulted, his countrymen were of immaculate loyalty—quite ready to "rally to me" the throne. Now, Mr. Lucas said on Thursday:—This committee is part of a system: you want to crush and to intimidate the Catholics; but you shall not; we mean to resist you, and we defy you, and we say you shall not stop the progress which our religion is making in your land. That is intelligible; certainly dignified; and by altering the tactics from the defensive to the offensive, Mr. Lucas keeps off and keeps down the shenan famatics and real sycophants of parliamentary Protestantism. Perhaps one reason why Mr. Lucas is so effective is that he is so vigorously in earnest as a religiousist. No one believes that the Scullys go to confession, or that the Fitzgeralds are partial to the society of Priests; and hence a disbelief in their vindications of their faith, and a tendency to try and not listen to them when they are up roaring, and blundering, and tearing up the English language with the hoofs and horns of their native bulls. They were fearful on Tuesday and Thursday. Vincent Scully addressing "de Ouse" is a terrible spectacle. I would rather see Sinope twice a day. Some men talk against time: on Thursday he talked against eternity. He is a Hodgepodge-looking man, with a Tipperary accent, and suits his manner to his words; and as de Ouse won't listen to him, but moves in and out, and talks, and gossips, and laughs, he lifts his tiny voice high above the incoherent buzz; that makes the house increase its buzz, so that, after Vincent Scully has been up an hour, which he always is, he is in full screech, gesticulating like a maniac, and every member talking to every other member in whispering at the very top of their voices; the general impression on the strangers, consequently, being that Bedlam somehow managed to obtain the educational franchise in the last Reform Bill.—*The Leader*.

We frequently hear loud boastings of the Puritan fathers of England—what they had suffered for conscience sake—how they had crossed the perilous deep and how they "left untainted what there they found—freedom to worship to God." The Boston *Ten-script*, however, has been looking through the documents and gives us a peep at "Puritan Sunday."

A PURITAN SUNDAY.—As every matter connected with the social life and customs of the first settlers of New England is of much interest to their descendants, we propose, in a few short articles, to give us correct a description of "Sunday in New England" two hundred years ago, as we can collate from our former annals. The Puritan Sabbath commenced on Saturday afternoon. No labor was performed on the evening which preceded the Lord's Day. Early on Sunday morning, the blowing of a horn, in some village, announced that the hour of worship was at hand: in other places, a flag was hung out of the rude building occupied by the church. In Cambridge, a drum was beat in military style. In Salem, a bell indicated the opening of the settlement. The religious services usually commenced at nine o'clock in the morning, and occupied from six to eight hours, divided by an intermission of one hour for dinner. The people collected quite punctually, as the law compelled their attendance, and there was a heavy fine for any one that rode too fast to meeting. The sexton called upon the minister and escorted him to church, in the same fashion that the sheriff now conducts the judges into our State Courts. The minister was clothed with mysterious awe and great sanctity by the people, and so intense was this sentiment, that even the minister's family were regarded as demigods. The Puritan meeting House was an odd structure. The first ones erected by the Colonists, were built of logs, and had a cannon on the top. Those standing two centuries ago were built of brick, with clay plastered over the coarses, with clay-boards, now called clap-boards. The roof was thatched, as buildings are now seen in Canada East. Near the church edifice stood those ancient institutions—the stocks, the whipping-post, and a large wooden cage to confine offenders against the laws. Upon the outside of the church, and fastened to the walls, were the heads of all the wolves killed during the season. In front of the church, in many towns, an armed sentry stood, dressed in the habiliments of war. There were no pews in the church. The congregation had places assigned them upon the rude benches, at the annual town meeting, according to their age and social position. "Seating the meeting house," as it was called, was a delicate and difficult business, as pride, envy and jealousy were active passions in those days. A person was