OPINION OF THE PRESS.

(From the Nation.)

ASPECT OF THE WAR .- A mingled murmur of joy and sorrow comes from the beleaguered camp of the Allies, as the gloomy characteristics of Winter begin at last to disappear, and Nature robes even the terrible Crimea in all the glories of Spring. The heighis around Balaklava no longer seem solid masses of ice: the snow drifts are melting away in the valleys: the roads have ceased to he impassable rivers of mud: sweet flowers are peeping everywhere over ground, and the birds again sing cheerfully under the influence of a cloudless sky. But this is merely the bright side of the picture. Upon the whole, the Allies have never had less reason for real or permanent rejoicing; and if any change has taken place in the relative position of the belligerents, it is that Fortune has still further advanced the standard of the Czar. Because this is the simple fact—the Russians not only derive as much advantage as the Allies, from the return of fine weather but they are in a far better position for turning them to practical use. And so, while the japed remnant of the Anglo-French expedition is doing little better than nursing its invalids and stand on the defensive, the Russians are assidiously strengthening their batteries, pouring in ammunition and reinforcements, and advancing their operations up to the very camp. It is computed that there are more than two hundred thousand Russian troops now actually manœuvring to invest them; and the official Journal de St. Petersburg declares that this manœuvre has been effected already: -" The position of the Allies is now completely shut in by an enclosure of formidable entrenchments extending from the great infantry camp near the citadel by the heights of lnkermann, along the Tchernaya, as far as to the approaches of Balaklava. New divisions have joined the army. Grave events are expected." There was a fierce collision near Sebastopol on Patrick's Day, no reliable intelligence of which has reached us as yet-though each party as usual, claims the result as a brilliant victory. The Allies, however, one would think, have enjoyed but too many of these expensive "triumphs" already. Omer Pasha, who was to have been the true scourge of the Muscovite, seems to be driven to his last shift at Eupatoria, and when he travelled to Sebastopol a few days ago to demand reinforcements, "he was told that he could not be spared a single man."

(From the Tablet.)

THE NEGOCIATIONS AND THE WAR .- Whatever result may follow from the labors of the diplomatists at Vienna, it is hard to suppose that negociations, carried on with so much solemnity, and having for their object the pacification of Europe and the termination of a war, which, even in a single campaign, has grown to such terrible proportions, can be after all nothing better than a sham. It is hard to think that so miserable a mockery of the hopes and feelings of humanity would be enacted in the face of the world as that of carrying on negociations for a peace, which neither party sincerely expected or desired. And yet, so far as present appearances indicate, there seems but little reality in the negociations, and but slender grounds for expecting from them any

.The great obstacle to the success of the negociations is worse than the indecisive character of the campaign in the Crimea. Notwithstanding the brilliant victories of the Alma and of Inkermann, it is universally felt that the military prestige of the Western Powers has been greatly shaken by the utter failure of the attacks upon Sebastopol.

On the other hand, the undoubted success of the Russian army, in defending that fortress, must raise the military and national spirit of the Russian people to a high pitch. After such a desperate and glorious defence, which has cost Ressia many thousands of her bravest soldiers, it would be impossible for the Emperor Alexander to accept peace on the terms of surrendering or dismantling Sebastopol. The Russian people and the Russian army would never submit to such a gratuitous degradation. The Russian Emperor dare not consent to it.

The difficult question, then, is how to satisfy the military honor and retrieve the military prestige of the Western Powers by any arrangement which would leave the Russians in victorious possession of Sebastopol-a question about as difficult as that of how to drive the Russian army from that fortress.

On this point, as every one expected, the Vienna Conference has just come to a stand still. The precise terms offered on either side have not transpired. but it is said that the ladies demand something which is much less than the destruction or surrender of Sebastopol, and that the Russians hesitate to submit to this mitigated demand. We are told that the Conference has been interrupted in order that the diplomatists' may obtain fresh instructions from their respective governments. If we may trust the Monning Post nothing more is asked of Russia than a limitation of her naval force in the Black Sea; this, however, seems hardly credible; such a limitation would form but a temporary check to the ambitious designs of Russia in the East, and would certainly be a wretched return for the immense sacrifices which the war has already cost us. A peace concluded on such terms would be a virtual triumph to Russia .-Having sustained, without suffering any material loss orinjury, a war against the western allies, Russia could bide her time till that alliance should be dissolved by one lof the thousand accidents which are constantly occurring in European history.

The ruinous consequences of the wretched official bungling in the conduct of the war are every day exhibiting themselves more plainly. Already broad and significant hints are thrown out even amongst our excellent and faithful allies that the present would be a cellent and faithful allies that the present would be a he do,—he had no money? How many millions of don, every Catholic has always been the object of volunteered into the 60th Rifles, and were lattested on very opportune time for limiting the naval supremacy bounds sterling have been devoted to their abuse. When they abuse Maynooth, they mean Tuesday, and almost an equal number of volunteers of England. A famous political writer, of an epi- this expedition, and yet a few pounds are catholics. If were attested the day following.

gramatic turn, M. E. Girardin, goes so far as to hint that the dismantling of Gibraltar might be found a very convenient counterpoise to the destruction of Sebastopol. Meanwhile the prospects of the ensuing campaign in the Crimea are not over bright.

The London Times says :- "Whatever are the reasons that may be given for such a step, however tymey be smoothed no one will be convinced that our withdrawal from the Crimea is not a defeat. Whatever may be thought of the prudence or necessity of the step, we certainly went to Sebastopol to capture or dismantle it, and to destroy the fleet it maintain large armaments in the Black Sea, and not to build ships; but have we not over and over again declared that we considered Russia unworthy of belief, regardless of the most solemn obligations, when her interests of her ambition were concerned, incapable of being bound by any treaties, however stringent; and that the only security we could safely accept was a "material guarantee? Russia will claim to have a certain number of ships in the Euxine; the number will doubtless be regulated by the naval force not of one, but of the Allied Powers together. But were her number much reduced, is it certain that she will not be willing and able to commit aggression? Did not the Russian squadron annihilate the Turkish navy at Sinope, with the fleets of England and France almost within hearing, and then return unimpeded to their shelter at Sebastopol? Such a resolution may be adopted, but to see the Allied armies quit the heights before Sebastopol, with the Russian flag still flying on her fortress, it will most assuredly be believed that they withdrew because they have failed, and that they had no other alternative but a reireat."

The Morning Post says :- " The third condition is under consideration. It is this to which public attion has been most strongly and intently directed, as being the real test of the feelings of Russia-as being the point on which turns the question of peace or war. It lays down that the object of the revision of the treaty of July 13, 1841, should be more completely to attach the existence of the Ottoman empire to the European balance of power, and to put an end to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea. The means by which these objects are to be effected -the mode and the arrangements by which they are to be secured—are now to be arranged and decided. We have already expressed our opinion that the consent of Russia will not be given even to the necessary arrangements insisted on by the Allied Powers. On this point, therefore, if we be right in our estimate of Russian policy, the Congress will probably break up—the representative of England will return to this country—and the war will proceed with increased vigor and means. The war in its origin betrayed the designs of Russia; and Russia will now be called on, seriously and strongly, to step back to a point beyond that which it had reached at the date of the mission of Menschikoff.-It will be called on effectually to give up its supremacy, its preponderance in the Black Sea."

PROTESTANT HOSPITALS. (From the Times.)

Under ordinary circumstances we should preface what we are about to print with an apology for printing it at all, from the sheer horror, from the pure unmitigated filth of the statements which it must necessarily contain. But Englishmen-ay, and Englishwomen too- may well afford to stifle their delicacies of sentiment for a short space, and to read a plain account of that which their gallant countrymen have been compelled to suffer through the unparal-leled neglect and mismanagement of the military, East. There have not been wanting many eager roices raised in condemnation of the Times because we thought it our bounden duty to bring these horrors under the notice of the public while they were yet in course of enactment. The tale could not be true t was a fiction of the "ribald press." Was it possible to believe that so many noble lords, and great generals, and experienced staff officers, and competent medical men, and energetic admirals and sea captains, and excellent ambassadors, could have been guilty of such gross neglect of duty as was charged? The fabrication, from its very monstrous nature, carried with it its own refutation. Mark the result. On Monday a witness who certainly cannot be charged with any complicity with the conspirators of the press gave his testimony before the Crimean Committee. This witness was Mr. Stafford—Let us at once accompany Mr. Stafford to the Barrack Hospital. Even as we enter we are stopped by a most disgusting and abominable obstacle. The faces of the wretched soldiers are lying more than a foot deep in the ante-room. What must be the result upon the inmates when even the casual visitor who looks in for a moment upon this unutterable pollution finds himself attacked by the prevailing disease? Mr. Stafford remonstrated with Dr. Macgregor on the subject. The answer he got from this gentleman was, that he had frequently been remonstrated with before, and that he himself had frequently remonstrated with the superior authorities upon the matter. It was all in vain. It was not in Dr. Macgregor's department, and nobody knew in whose department it was. No one could distinguish the limits of authority. "I have no hesitation in saying," added Mr. Stafford, "that if Dr. Mac-Greggor had of his own mind employed a dozen men to do anything in that building, he would have been pounced upon by some department, and told that an order for that purpose must go through that department." After a while, by the help of the Doctor, Mr. Stafford succeeded in digging out an individual who, theoretically, might be supposed to have something to do with the necessary purifications. By this person the eager inquirer was told that he was perfectly aware of the magnitude of the evil-so much so, indeed, that it, was his conviction that gangrene and hospital fever must soon set in. But what could

coming in the hour of need to free our poor sick and they could flatter themselves it was Protestant, the from wounds and uncleanliness of all kinds was so expressed themselves in terms of the most burning as they were landed from the transports. Sometimes they were kept lying in the offing for hour after hour ple on board ship thought they would be fed when they got to the hospital, the people in the hospital thought they would be fed on board ship, and so they were left without food altogether. And such food as it was which they got on board the transport !- meat floating about in warm greasy water, and unsplit peas, hard as small bullets, served out to men suffering from dysentery and dyarrhoa! "I never saw," said Mr. Stafford, "human suffering greater than the pangs of hunger superinduced by diarrhoa." When the men were landed a fresh scene of horror began before they were delivered in the wards of the filthy hospital-so great was the delay, so defective the means of transport. The clothes of the sick and wounded were swarming with lice as thick as the letters in a page of print," In this condition they were carried across the ante-room in which "the forces were nearly a foot deep," and left to the care of the medical authorities.

The same state of things existed in the hospital at Balaklava. Mr. Stafford found fourteen men in one room, and eleven in another, lying upon the bare floor. There was no ventilation, save through the broken windows. The orderlies and patients were swearing at each other. There were but two bedpans in the whole establishment. There was no ashing. The statement made by the medical men at Balaklava was, that while the food of the army continued to be what it was no expectation could be held out of any remission of disease. To this statement we most earnestly invite attention, because so strenuous an effort has been made by officers high in command to refer the disasters of our army almost exclusively to the fact that they were overworked.-Such was not the opinion of the military medical staff at Balaklava. The transport and commissariat service have something to answer for as well. We may mention by the way Mr. Stafford's remark, "that if you wished to excite the most phlegmatic soldier, or to irritate the most patient sufferer, it was only necessary to speak to him of the green coffee." The French had a street of mill ovens at Kamiesch Bay, and roasted coffee by the ton for the use of their own troops. One more little picture, and for to-day we have done. Want of space, not of matter, compels us to desist. The time is about the middle of December—the scene the coast at Balaklava. 340 sick and wounded Englishmen are huddled together on the beach, waiting for transport to the Avon. Some of them are sitting on trusses of hay, some on heaps of stones, some lying on the bare ground. The rain is pouring down, as rain can pour down in the Crimea in the month of December. Two boats only are employed to convey the wretched men on board, and very slowly the mass of human misery on the shore is converted into a mass of human misery fon the deck of the transport. On the deck they are placed, with nothing but a great coat and a blanket to cover them-and this blanket saturated with ordere and abomination.

One more instance, and this shall really be the last for to-day, in illustration of the results which followed to the sufferers from the middle passage and the

"They landed in a state of exhaustion; let it be called by any medical name whatever, it was chiefly exhaustion-affickering of the lamp of life; for men in this state these medical comforts were what was most needed. There was one case of a man dying naval, and medical authorities at home and in the from his diet having been changed. He had been put on a strengthening diet and was recovering, when cause of his death, as he spoke of it; he said he supposed in so great a crowd it could not be helped."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF A PATRIARCHAL CLERGYMAN.—At Kilmore, on Wednesday, the 21st inst., the Rev. John Fitzgerald, Parish Priest of the union of St. John's at the patriarchal age of 105 years. For a period of seventy-five years the venerable and Rev. subject of our obituary officialed in the ministry; and held place as an accomplished gentleman and pious Priest among the first of his order. He witnessed the most thrilling scenes of the French revolution in 1789, and retained to the last the most vivid recallection of the many startling incidents of his long and eventful life. - May he rest in peace. - Roscommon Messenger

PROSECUTION AGAINST A CATHOLIC PRIEST. - AG-QUITTAL .- At the Derry Assizes last week, the grand jury found true bills for riot against the various parties charged with the attack on the Catholics in Newtownlimavaddy, on Sunday evening, the 3d of September last. The charge of feloniously discharging a pistol, which was trumped up against the Rev. James Con-way, C.C., as a "set-off" to the prosecution for riot, has just been disposed of. The jury, made up of nine Protestants and three Catholics, returned a verdict of acquittal immediately on the conclusion of the charge of the learned judge. The conduct of Mr. Justice Crampton has been most impartial throughout. and has very much contributed to restore confidence in the tribunals of the land. He has given general

THE MAYNOOTH REPORT.—Whom has the Maynooth Report satisfied; and whom was it intended to satisfy? It is impossible to mistake the object of the assailants of the College. That it did not educate good Catholic priests was, in good truth, no part of their complaint. Abuse them of course the yidid. It is their habit to abuse everything Catholic ... From the reigning Pontiff to the poor boy who sweeps our crossings in Lon-

wounded men from such indescribable pollution, from assailants would find no fauit with its management; such imminent danger! . "The horrible smell arising as long as they see it to be Catholic they will simply reject any testimony or any sentence in its favor.intense that the effluyium from the necessaries could | This is the key to the comments upon the Report in not be immediately detected, as it would have been the Protestant press. One paper complains, "The had this been the only foul spot in a building other- Commissioners Report how the College may be made wise clean." So, to be sure, there was some kind of more efficient, not how we are to get ild of it. Another excuse; it was only a nose educated for analysis which says, "The Commissioners assumed from the first could have disentangled the various footid effluvia, and that there is to be a Popish College." Here is the referred each to its proper head. We pass on to another implication the transport of the sick. Upon this is—that the mass of the Irish people are Catholics. point Mr. Stafford says that the poor soldiers always Here is the rub. How are you to meet it? If you cannot prevent it, you must make up your mind to sheltered. A good deal is said in the Belgian papers indignation. It is impossible to convey an adequate the necessary consequences—for instance, that if Ca-about treaties, by which Russia shall be bound not to impression of the ghastly appearance of the poor men tholics, they will have priests. Government has already tried several plans, and none have given them entire satisfaction. First, the Orange Irish Parliament, without food, their condition being so debilitated and before the Union, adopted the plan of sentencing full of agony as we know it to have been. The peo- every Bishop and priest to be hanged. Summary, no doubt; but, unfortunately, laws do not execute themselves; and in a Catholic country this law did not find it easy to get executed by any one else. Parliament next offered a prize for the head of every Bishop, and in proportion for a priest. There was something practical in this at least, for the plan had succeeded with the wolves in England; and what staunch Protestantism could believe that a man would hesitate to betray a Popish Bishop for a sum for which he was willing to fight a wolf? However, even this failed -owing, no doubt, to Irish bigotry and stupidity-and Bishops and Priests there were still. Other legislative plans were tried, some vigorous enough, only hardly decorous enough for mention here. Mr. G. H. Moore, M.P. for Mayo, has now in his possession the original of an Act, agreed to by both the Irish Houses, Protestant Bishops and all, little more than a century ago, and which imposed upon every priest in Ireland a sentence of mutilation, such as the first Plantagenet tyrant imposed on some who refused submission to his will. Above all, the law forbade, under the most awful penalties, that any child should be educated a Catholic in Ireland, or sent abroad for Catholic education. Still Catholics they were; and still they had Bishops and priests. In France, in Belgium, in Portugal, in Germany, at the centre of Christendom, were colleges of Irish priests; and the British Government could not prevent its most faithful allies from training its subjects in a calling upon which its laws pronounced the doom of a traitor's death. The persecutor got tired before his victims; for in the midst of the burning fiery furnace they were sale from the flames which, even at a distance, he found intolerable to himself. And so at last even Protestants felt that, if we must have priests we must; and it we would not have them educated in the dominions of Napoleon I., we must have a college at home. No one, we suppose, expected that this would satisfy the old rancour of two hundred years; and satisfied it no doubt it has not. On the other hand, we have here a Report, bearing the names of some of the most extreme Protestants who can be considered gentlemen or men of honor-the Earl of Harrowby, for instance, and Mr. Twiss, fully entering into every charge against Maynooth, except this, that it it is a seminary for the education of Catholic priests, and it dismisses them all, Treason, disloyalty, implety, impurity, what not -these were the cries of our enemies. examined by judges not even professing impartiality, but acknowledging the strongest bias against us, and they have unanimously pronounced all these charges to be without foundation. This will weigh as nothing with men whose real quarrel with it is, only that it is Catholic. But it cannot be without its force upon sober judges and honorable enemies, upon the civilised world, and upon history. RESIGNATION OF MR. FORTESCUE, M.P .- The Louth

Advertiser says :- "The hou. Member for this county has resigned his office as Junior Lord of the Treasury. We understand that Mr. Fortescue assigns as his motive for resigning office, the probability of certain questions coming before parliament on which he could not, consistently with his own convictions, or his duty to his constituents, give his support to minis-

An Informer Detected.—At the recent assizes a man named Farrell was convicted of having written a threatening notice, directed to Mr. Eyre, an English gentleman, who not long since purchased the Upperby a mistake it was changed to a lowering one, and court property in this county. For this offence he was he died in consequence. He was quite aware of the sentenced by Baron Greene to a lengthened period of imprisonment; but upon the trial a circumstance came to fight which does credit to the sagacity of Mr. Kirwan, of Castlecomer, the magistrate by whom the informations were returned. It appears that Farrell came to this gentleman at the time that inquiry was being made after the writer of the notice and informed him that he could convict three persons, whom he named, as parties to the offence. From something in his manner, Mr. Kirwan suspected that he was telling a falsehood, and he at once required of him to put his statement in writing, having then compared the deposition with the notice (at that time in his possession), he found that his suspicions were justified, for the handwriting in both were perfectly identical. He accordingly had him arrested and sent to gaol, and other evidence against him having been subsequently procured, his guilt was established beyond all doubt.—Kilkenny Journal.

"LAW AND ORDER." - We regret to learn that owing, it is said, to the existnece of ill-feeling between militia and the lower classes of the population of . Londonderry and its neighborhood, disturbances of a serious character are apprehended, and that in consequence application has been made for the assistance of the military from this town .- Belfast News-Letter .

A' Model Militia Man .- James Gardiner, described as a private in the militia, was brought up in-custody of Police Constable 26 D. charged with being disorderly at the Catholic Church, North Annestreet, Dublin, and also with assaulting the constable. It appeared that the person, who informed all whom it might concern, that he was an Orangeman, was endeavoring to force an entrance into the church, and, on being arrested for the offence, he proceeded to molest the constable, who was conducting him to the station-house. He was fined five shillings for each offence, or the alternative of fourteen day's imprisonment.

PROGRESS OF ENLISTMENT.—At the Dublin head Police office, last week, upwards of 50 privates of the 109th, or county of Dublin Regiment of Militia. volunteered into the 60th Rifles, and were attested on Tuesday, and almost an equal number of volunteers-