

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

FRANCE

The Emperor has decided on two military expeditions, which are to set out, one from Algeria, and the other from Senegal, to proceed to Timbuctoo, where they are to unite...

It is said that several arrests have taken place in Paris in consequence of some plot having been discovered against the Emperor by Italians. Of the plot I only hear that it is not true.

Notwithstanding the great improvement introduced into the police force, and the unwearied attention of the Minister of the Interior and of the Prefect of Police to the preservation of the lives and properties of the inhabitants, crime is increasing fearfully in Paris.

A great number of Catholics in Paris, wishing to give the Bishop of Orleans a proof of the profound and respectful admiration with which they followed him in his struggles for the Church and for legality, presented him, by a deputation, on Wednesday, with a cross, bearing this inscription: "Bonum certamen certavi."

"Monseigneur,—The cause of the Holy See is that of all Catholics, for on the independence of the Head of the Church depends that of all its members. Such is the elevated motive which history (writing under the dictation of Providence) assigns to the temporal sovereignty of the Popes.

The annexation of Nice and Savoy does not seem to elicit much popular feeling in Paris. It is considered to be only a portion of a system, which induced a tradesman to tell a friend of mine the other day, that Florence would shortly constitute a part of France. The questions connected with the Legations have rendered the term of annexation distasteful to the public mind, in many places; and there is a wide spread impression that the acquisition of the new territories has been paid for too dearly, both in blood and in money; and some timid minds think that an extension of Alpine frontiers was not an object for which to barter a royal pledge.

The Bishop of Orleans was greatly affected at this mark of sympathy offered to him by men of all opinions. He replied in a few words:—"I do not deserve such homage; I have done but little for the Church, and I have suffered nothing for her."

The morning papers (including the Monteur) contain the following communication:—"An anonymous pamphlet, entitled La Coalition, has been for two days past the pretext for Bourse manoeuvres, and for efforts to keep up disquietude in the public mind."

The Minister of the Interior is in this instance I think, unusually scrupulous and severe. The pamphlet in question has been talked about more or less for the last day or two; but clearly there is found in it nothing illegal or reprehensible—that is, displeasing to the government, or it would have been prosecuted like M. de Montalembert's pamphlet or Bishop Dupanloup's letter.

A Ministerial paper has already declared that La Coalition was the production of a private person totally unconnected with official people—in fact, that it had no official origin whatever; and, in spite of the little credit attached to such statements, I am inclined to the belief that the paper in question has, by accident, told something like the truth.

The object of this pamphlet is to show that a coalition against France is impossible—that the coalitions which followed the wars of the republic and the Empire were the work of "monarchies by Divine right," and not the combination of peoples. "What was called the ambition of Napoleon the I. was the pretext; the restoration in France of the monarchy of Divine right, and its reconstitution throughout the Continent, was the object."

"People speak, however, says the writer, of again uniting the inert members of the Holy Alliance, of attaching them well or ill together, and animating them with galvanic life. England, which instigated the first coalition, is accused of wishing to foment a second. A speech delivered by Lord John Russell in the British Parliament caused a suspicion that England wished to arm Europe against us. It would be strange that she should wish to do so—impossible

that she could succeed. There is a reason why she should wish to do so, and it is entirely sufficient in itself. The English have been our allies for the last seven years, and we do not think that they have to complain of being so. We have not perhaps reaped all the advantages from this alliance and all the civilities we had a right to expect; but England, at least has gained all she promised herself. It would not be generous to reproach England with all the little services we have rendered her, but we may well, in the present state of our relations, and in order to clear up the situation, remind her that our alliance on the fields of battle of the Crimea secured her a victory which she could not have obtained alone, and of which the results were more useful to her than to us. Our good friendship suffered her to establish herself in the Island of Perim in contempt of treaties, and solely not to compromise our cordial understanding. We have gone to China with the English to fight for commercial interests which affect us but little. It is to the Anglo-French alliance that must be attributed that treaty of commerce so useful to the two nations, but particularly useful to British commerce. In fine, when enumerating the difficulties and misfortunes which our friendship has spared her, England may calculate the number of our services. The Government of the Emperor spared no pains to maintain these good relations—spared nothing which was compatible with the honour of France. He answered with the silence of contempt the invectives of the London journals, and, after the Parliament rejected the Bill on the refugees, he repressed his dissatisfaction, and far from declaring that unfriendly proceeding to have altered the good understanding between the countries, he carried his zeal for the alliance so far as to disavow the military manifestations inserted in the Monteur. Nevertheless, England, where reasons of State prevail over every other consideration, the emotions of gratitude, might well forget all the advantages she acquired by her alliance with us. The day on which, for the first time, France claims, in exchange for the sacrifices she has made, a slight material advantage, which is especially a measure of indispensable precaution, England may speak of rupture, and may seek for allies in Europe against us. This ingratitude is enormous; but, whatever Prince Schwartzberg may have said in speaking of Austria, it is sufficiently great to astonish the world. Well! even on this hypothesis, England could with difficulty find allies."

The writer then goes on to show that England cannot get Russia for an ally, for this among other reasons—that

"An abyss is dug between the two Powers; that which serves the interests of the one is hurtful to the other. Both wish to rule in the Black Sea and in Asia; they represent in Europe influences the most opposite that it is possible to conceive."

Austria will not be the ally of England;—there is nothing in common between two such Powers—between Protestant and liberal England and Austria, Catholic and subject to an absolute regime; and the moral support given by England to the independence of the Italian States has completely separated both Powers.

The annexation of Nice and Savoy does not seem to elicit much popular feeling in Paris. It is considered to be only a portion of a system, which induced a tradesman to tell a friend of mine the other day, that Florence would shortly constitute a part of France. The questions connected with the Legations have rendered the term of annexation distasteful to the public mind, in many places; and there is a wide spread impression that the acquisition of the new territories has been paid for too dearly, both in blood and in money; and some timid minds think that an extension of Alpine frontiers was not an object for which to barter a royal pledge. The delicacy with which the necessity of this annexation is being justified by the versatile correspondent of the "Globe" induces some men to think that the judgment in England upon the transaction is proving more favourable, and the quiet, clever advocacy of the "Globe" is held to counterbalance the plodding opposition of the "Daily News" or the "Chronicle." On homme d'esprit, and a man of sound sense also, has wittily observed, regarding the voting in Nice and in the Legations, "that the provinces of Central Italy had voted annexation with Piedmont, because they did not know her; but that those provinces which knew her, had been unanimous in their votes for separation from her." There is little doubt that the strong feeling in Savoy and in Nice, especially among the Catholic laity, has been for annexation with France. At Chambéry, the Archbishop went to record his vote, in procession at the head of his clergy; and the Capuchin monks went, for the same purpose, in a body, preceded by the French tricoloured flag, and followed by a large sympathising crowd.—Paris Cor. of Tablet.

SHEEP AND OXEN IN FRANCE.—The efforts being now made to restore the breeding of sheep and oxen—so utterly neglected since the division of property that butchers' meat is becoming a luxury unknown to the poorer classes of the peasantry—are being met in the provinces with the greatest energy, and the researches made by M. de Chavannes upon the subject are occupying a great degree of the public attention. The Norman breed seems to be the only one qualified to serve as food, and to the breeding and improvement of this one M. de Chavannes urges that the greatest attention be immediately paid, or it will become of too much expense to be kept up in numbers sufficient for the population. Already is the complaint raised in the Paris markets that the meat is all first-rate in quality and insufficient in quantity; and that, unless speculation upon a large scale be induced to come to the rescue, the race will be absorbed, and the taste of beef become as rare among the middle classes of the population as that of venison is already.—Letter from Paris.

AUSTRIA. It was on Friday last that the news reached London that the Archduke Albert had retired from the Civil and Military Government of Hungary, and that General Benedek had been appointed to succeed him. The next news was the abolition of the five military divisions, the intended re-establishment of the Comitats, and the restoration of the functions of the Hungarian Diet. It was further announced that these changes were only portions of a general change from the system of centralisation to a federal system, in which all the integral portions of the Austrian Empire would receive Constitutions in accordance with their traditions and local requirements. The Emperor Francis Joseph, it was also said, would be crowned King of Hungary. Tuesday brought the news that Baron Bruck was out of office on Monday, the 23rd; that at noon his successor was appointed, and that at five p.m. he was dead.—Congestion of the blood was said to be the cause.—But on the 27th, the telegram brings us the awful news that the great Finance Minister had been dismissed for complicity in those gigantic frauds and robberies which have astonished Europe, and that he had died by his own hand. We must defer till next week our comments on these changes in the Austrian policy, merely warning our readers for the present that the Hungarian correspondence of the Times is not entitled to the slightest credit. The recent disaffection and resistance to the Imperial Government has been mainly the work of the extreme Conservatives among the old Hungarian nobles—the Magyar magnates, who availed themselves of the present difficulties of the Empire to recover those privileges of which they were deprived in consequence of the revolution of 1848. The Emperor's difficulty will be to carry out Conservative reforms over the whole Empire, restoring, re-invigorating, and developing the National institutions of the various dependencies of the Austrian Crown without a complete surrender of the interests of the Empire and the population of Hungary to the feudal rule of the Magyar magnates.—Tablet.

FORTIFICATIONS ON THE LOMBARD FRONTIER.—A letter from Butzen, in the Augsburg Gazette, says:—

A notice has just been published calling for contractors to come forward for the construction of forts to be erected on the frontier of the Tyrol on the side of Lombardy. The steam navigation on the Lake of Garda, between Riva and Peschiera, is suspended. Piedmont has a flotilla of steam gunboats on that lake.

A communication from Trieste says:—The Austrians are building at Peschiera six gunboats on the English plan; each to carry one gun. The pontoons are continuing their exercises on the Adige, and navigation is forbidden there before ten o'clock in the morning. About 40,000 men are cantoned between Bolzano and Innsbruck, ready for any eventuality. The Austrians have lately turned their attention to mules, which rendered such services to the French army in the last campaign, and a great number have been bought.

The Times has the following on the commercial dishonesty prevalent in Austria:—There is an omen in States far more terrible than comet or eclipse. There are signs of weakness and impending ruin more certain even than lost battles and dismembered provinces. Before the storm broke out in France in 1848 black clouds had gathered round and an unusual heaviness had filled the air for months. There had been a vague and fearful expectation of impending evil, induced by the feeling that rulers were stricken with judicial blindness and men in high places were demoralized and corrupt. The unhappy empire of Austria shows signs of similar import. To those who look below the surface the late gigantic frauds are more discouraging than the loss of Milan or the threatened insurrection in Hungary. Not only are the branches of the State likely to be torn away by the storms of popular passion, but a slow disease is withering the trunk, and all will be a dry and asplend block together. A telegram which we publish gives a darker shade to this gloomy history. We do not learn the melancholy circumstances of Baron Bruck's death. This statesman, justly considered one of the ablest in Austria, and the only Minister who was capable of retrieving the finances of the State, has just put an end to his life in an agony of despair and shame. It will be remembered that a few days since the resignation of Baron Bruck was announced, and that immediately after came tidings of his death. The mysterious sequence, which at once gave rise to the most painful suspicions, is now fully explained, and there need be no more delicacy on the subject. The Minister was dismissed for complicity in the system of frauds, which seems to have extended from Bohemia to Trieste, and he has expiated his offence by cutting his throat, after having, as seems to be suspected, swallowed poison.

The fate of this eminent politician is one of those terrible events which leave an impress on history. That the finance Minister of a great Empire, the trusted adviser of an ancient Throne, the friend of the chief statesmen in Europe, the honoured guest of Princes in every capital, the liberal supporter of enterprise and commerce, the representative of enlightenment amid the bigotry of nobles, soldiers, and priests, should betray his trust, plunder his country, and only escape by suicide from the retribution due to such offences, is an event which cannot be easily forgotten. The cause of progress and liberalism in Austria has indeed been impelled by the fall of this unhappy statesman. No one had done more to break down the prejudice which are the bane of Austria; no one will prove to have done more to confirm them. The aristocrat will be always able to point to the bloody corpse of the parvenu financier, and to ask if this is what comes of raising men from the counting-house to the Council-Chamber. The General will have a ready sneer for the Administration which affected to curtail military expenditure while it was embezzling thousands with the assistance of contractors and jobbers. There will, we fancy, be something not displeasing to the highest society in Vienna in the fall of a man who had raised himself so conspicuously above his station. Baron Bruck was in early life engaged in business, and was one of the founders of the commercial prosperity of Trieste. The Austrian Lloyds was principally his own creation. His Diplomatic and Ministerial career was in all respects most successful and when five years since he resigned the embassy to Constantinople in order to take charge of the finances of the Austrian Empire he may be considered as having risen to the height of his fortunes. Unhappily the system of fraud which is now being disclosed must have begun about the same time. How far Bruck is implicated it is impossible to say. He may have been a leader in these malpractices, or he may have been merely connived at the illicit gains of others. But that the matters which are now investigated extend over a long period there can be no doubt. The luxury of the Viennese and Trieste millionaires has evidently been supplied for years out of the plunder of the State.—Times.

ITALY

The King of Sardinia, following the friendly advice of France, has for the moment abandoned the idea of taking the title of 'King of Italy.' The Court of the Tuilleries represented that such a change of title would only complicate the existing international difficulties without giving any practical advantage to Piedmont.

Victor Emmanuel is making a tour of his newly-acquired dominions, and indulging his new subjects in every form of dissipation. This, however, fails to satisfy some of his admirers. Even the notorious Gallenga, the Florence correspondent of the Times, and a most unscrupulous abettor of Cavour in his revolutionary designs, is forced to admit that there is something perfectly revolting in this long season or incessant merry-making. One of his most recent letters is so significant, that we must really find space for an extract. He says:—

"The insatiable craving of the multitude for panem et circenses, no less than the eagerness of their rulers to minister to it, makes a sensation all the more painful, as the position of public affairs is more than ever critical, and the political horizon looms as dark before us as the physical atmosphere, which converts the spring season of this year into an unprecedented succession of gloom and storm. The conduct of France causes many an anxious night to the boding patriots. The French and English Ambassadors withdraw their countenances from this Royal progress, while the ex-Grand ducal diplomatic agent, Pansy de Neril, still enjoys hospitality at the Tuilleries. The annexation of Central Italy is not acknowledged by right; the Monteur carefully and pointedly shuns every allusion to it, even as a fact. Three citizens, long in the confidence of the French Emperor, are busy editing a journal professedly hostile to that annexation—a course they would scarcely venture on without open encouragement from Paris. On the other hand, the Mazzinian party, whose journal the Unità Italiana, is already doing much mischief in Genoa, have started another journal bearing the same title in Florence—a journal not read in the higher circles, but lurking in holes and corners, poisoning the minds of the humbler classes. Truly this is no season for banquets, illuminations, and popular balls without tickets! The armaments in Rome and Naples, under such a chief as Lamoriciere, and with the new element of able French officers, aided, as they would in all probability be, openly by Austria, and by France underneath—seconded, also, it is grievous to think, by Mazzinian intrigues—would put the newly-conquered, imperfectly developed Italian union to some very rude trials. The Emperor Napoleon has evidently still plans to unfold, batteries to unmask. Were he to secure Savoy and Nice, and rid himself of Swiss claims, what would he say to Tuscan annexation? His last word on the subject was a positive veto; since that he wraps himself up in silence and mystery. His agents are at work, his partisans more boldly outspoken than ever. There is doubt and misgiving all round about us, yet we light up our farthing candles and enjoy our free balls."

The Sardinian Government does not find the Ex-

communication so trifling an affair as its friends have wished the world to believe. Many officers in the army, belonging to the best families, have thrown up their commissions, and others are prepared to do so if they are sent on duty to the Romagna. The clergy, animated by a determined resistance to the Government, refer to the Bishops for instructions how they are to act, the bishops in their turn referring for instructions to Rome. When the King went to visit the Cathedral of Pisa the other day, the Canons and Clergy quitted the church the moment the Excommunicated monarch set his foot on the pavement. This they did in obedience to the orders of the Cardinal Archbishop Corsi, of Pisa.

To counteract this spirit, the Government journals fabricate statements in a contrary sense. We observe that according to a letter sent from Turin to the "Messenger de Paris" a commission, formed from among the Clergy of the Kingdom, is to be sent to Rome, representing to His Holiness, on purely religious grounds, the dangers attendant on the present policy of Rome, and pointing out that the surest means of warding them off consists in accepting the propositions contained in the King's letter. We have another vision of this statement in the letter of the private correspondent of the Constitutionnel, from Turin, under date 20th of April, writes:—"There is a report that semi-official invitation is about to be addressed by the Minister of public instruction, to all the diocesan parish priests of the kingdom, to induce them to sign an address to the Holy Father, humbly requesting His Holiness to accept the propositions contained in the letter of His Majesty, Victor Emmanuel. I do not know whether this report has any serious foundation, but it is certain that the rumour has caused much alarm to the clerical party."

Tablet. What is to be expected from the revolutionary demagogues now in power in Italy may be gathered from a letter from Milan addressed to the Gazette de Lyon. That communication states that the last act of Salvagnoli, as Minister of Worship in Tuscany, was to issue a decree authorizing the spoliation of the Church property, which before had been let out in perpetual leases for an annual rent which might be compounded for at the rate of 3 per cent. To this was added the payment of a sum equal to 84 per cent of the value of the property every time the property changed hands. According to Salvagnoli's decree, any tenant of such property can become its owner by paying a sum based upon the annual rent, as an interest of 6 per cent. This purchase-money, moreover, is to be invested for the clergy in such Government securities as the illegal debts contracted by a revolutionary Government can afford. This reduces the patrimony of some dioceses to one-fourth of its value. The bishops have protested in vain against such spoliation. Cardinal Corsi, Archbishop of Pisa, has shown himself immovable in refusing all recognition of the revolutionary usurpation. As for the Archbishop of Florence, he has yielded to it to the extent of officiating at the Te Deum sung in the Cathedral in honor of the annexation, and of paying a visit of civility to the Prince of Carignano; but his Grace afterwards protested, in a letter to an official journal, against the assertion of that newspaper that all this had taken place with mutual satisfaction. It is worthy of remark, too, that the Tuscan revolutionists are very much shocked that the Prince of Carignano goes to mass every day and observes abstinence on Fridays and Saturdays.—Weekly Register.

THE PAPAL STATES.—General de Lamoriciere proceeds in the military organisation of the Roman States with remarkable energy and capacity. He has already declared that the army must be raised to 40,000 men, and that it can be easily maintained at that amount with a very slight increase of the present expenditure. He is forming two regiments of cavalry, and has enrolled a number of the volunteers of rank who have arrived at Rome in a corps of Guides, who will accompany him, and be rapidly educated as officers. He left Rome on the 18th for Ancona, which he is determined to fortify—£25,000 he estimates, will complete the necessary works, and for this sum he has made a special appeal to the Catholics of Lyons. The Minerva Hotel, during his stay at Rome, was crowded with young men from all the Catholic nations, tendering themselves for service, and many of them of the highest rank. Monsignore de Merode, who has been appointed Minister of War, was an old comrade in arms of the General's before he entered the Church. He served in the Belgian and French armies in the grade of Captain, and got the Cross of the Legion of Honour from Louis Philippe, for his courage at the siege of Constantine. It is said, however, that M. de Merode's appointment is only provisional, that another French General, probably Beseau, is expected at Rome, to take charge of the Departments of War.—Tablet.

THE DUKE DE GRAMONT AND CARDINAL ANTONELLI.—On the arrival of General Lamoriciere in Rome the Duc de Gramont went off in a great rage to Cardinal Antonelli to complain of the circumstance, and the following dialogue, it is said, took place.—Gramont:—"My master will recall his troops immediately." Cardinal:—"Oh, I hope you will be good enough to let me know as soon as possible, so that I may give orders and arrange everything for their departure." "I shall leave myself, your Eminence." "You, too! How sorry I shall be to see you for the last time!" "And Monsignor Sacconi will receive his passports." "Then he will return to Rome. I shall be very happy to see him again." The Ambassador, seeing his French fury broken against the Cardinal's imperturbability, went off in a huff to telegraph his annoyance to the Emperor.—Armonia.

A letter from Rome of the 14th, in the Monde, says:—

"The day before yesterday was one which afforded immense consolation to the Sovereign Pontiff. At an early hour in the morning His Holiness went to the Church of St. Agnes extra muros, to return thanks to God and the Immaculate Virgin for the extraordinary protection which had preserved his life and that of a numerous assembly on the 12th of April, 1853. As it was also the anniversary of his return from Gaeta in 1850, it was a double fête for the faithful, who greeted the Head of the Church with the most extraordinary enthusiasm. His Holiness officiated on the occasion, and among the numerous persons to whom he had distributed the sacramental bread he remarked two young American girls, dressed in white and crowned with flowers, and who, for the first time, approached the communion table. These children had come with their father and mother, and were, after Mass, introduced into the room, where Pius IX., and all the assistants, as is the custom on such occasions, were partaking of a collation consisting of chocolate, ices, cakes, and sweetmeats. The Pope was graciously pleased to look for the children, and to say, 'Where are those little angels? I wish them to come and sit at my side.' The children then placed themselves without timidity and without boldness one on either side of His Holiness. The father of the young girls was very much affected, and the mother was as if beside herself. Being the week in albis, the Pope, conformably to the rubric, only dresses in white.—His stole, his camail, and even his shoes are white. The young pupils of the Roman College came, and presented him with a handsome red stole richly embroidered. Pius IX. felt how gratified the pupils would be at his immediately putting on the vestment, but then the rubric stood in the way. 'I will ask permission of the Pope,' he said, with a smile, and then put the red stole over his neck. On returning to the Vatican His Holiness was greeted with redoubled enthusiasm. In the evening Rome was illuminated as during the greatest solemnities."

The Tribunal Criminal and Civil of Bologna has just been occupied with the trial of Father Feletti, of the Order of St. Dominic, Inquisitor of the Holy Office at Bologna (whom, it may be remembered was arrested some time ago, on the charge of having carried off by force the child of the Jewish couple Mor-

tara). The rev. father, in answer to the charge, represented that in "sequestrating" the child (so he designated the abduction) he had only obeyed the orders of the Supreme Holy Office at Rome, whose agent he was; and could not, therefore, be held personally responsible. In consequence of this defence the court endeavoured to ascertain whether orders really had been sent to Feletti from the Inquisition at Rome; and also who had communicated to the Inquisition the alleged fact of the baptism of the child Mortara, on which those orders were based. It further examined the question whether, supposing the child to have been baptised, the right existed of taking him from his parents in order to bring him up as a Roman Catholic; and lastly, whether the participation of Feletti in the affair brought him within the jurisdiction of the law. The public prosecutor demanded that Feletti should be condemned to the penalties set forth in Arts. 133 and 200 of the Penal Edict of 1832, against magistrates who make an abusive use of their power by arbitrarily arresting and detaining any person; such penalties being from one to three years imprisonment, or even double in the event of the case being an aggravated one; also the payment of damages and costs. The tribunal, however, acquitted the reverend defendant.

NAPLES.—A letter from Naples, under date 7th ult. says:—"The calm which we enjoy here contrasts singularly with the alarming reports which the revolutionary press, assisted by the English newspapers, endeavors to circulate in foreign countries. I cannot read all the journals, which are brought to me every day, as containing some new inventions regarding Naples; but in those which I do read, I see with distrust letters from 'Own Correspondents' filled with intelligence of what has never occurred; and I cannot but regret that in this nineteenth century, falsehood can have been erected into a lucrative trade, placed at the command of a policy that is devoid as well of shame as of morality. A significant fact, that may be opposed to the alarmists, is the formidable armament of the civic guard of the kingdom. Unless I am much mistaken this indicates precaution against the foreigner, and not distrust of the subject. It would be real madness in any Government thus to arm the entire people, unless it was sure of its attachment."

The notorious Mazzini seems to have had a hand in organizing the recent revolutionary movements in Sicily. At least the Turin correspondent of the Presse asserts that the arch-agitator has declared that such is the fact, and that he did so with a view to carry out still further the centralization of Italy under Victor Emmanuel. Mazzini is said to be on very good terms with the Piedmontese Government. According to Lord John Russell, the rebellion is perfectly justifiable. In his place in Parliament he calls it "an effort of the Sicilian population to obtain a better sort of government." If this insurrection is to be commended, we should like to know why such different language was used with regard to the outbreak in Ireland a few years of ago.—Weekly Register.

SPAIN

The following are special particulars concerning the arrest of Count de Montemolin:—

"During the night of the 20th inst. the Gendarmes surrounded a house where Count de Montemolin and his brother were supposed to be concealed. After having vainly demanded admittance, one of the Gendarmes entered the house through the window. The Princes were dressed, and declared themselves at the disposal of the Gendarmes.

"The majority of the press is in favor of a trial by ordinary court-martial.

"The Correspondencia Autografa considers that nothing will be resolved upon until the return of Marshal O'Donnell from Africa, but believes that the conspirators will be tried by the Senate.—Cor. of Times.

CHINA

RUMORS ABOUT A NAVAL FIGHT AT THE PEHO.—A despatch has arrived at the Dutch Consulate confirming the precarious situation of foreigners in Japan. The Chinese are making great preparations for the defence of the country, and are endeavoring to enlist European artillerymen. It is asserted that two English frigates, the Dove and the Albatross, have been sunk by the guns of the forts on the Peiho river. The Sampson, which accompanied them, has returned to Hong Kong, the bearer of important despatches.

Advices from St. Petersburg state that Russia has ordered her diplomatic agents to quit Peking during the approaching hostilities. The reason given is that she desires to avoid being accused either by England or France of aiding or counselling the Chinese.

THE RAT-TAIL CACTUS.—The New York Leader, in giving a sketch of the late Mike Walsh, relates of him, when a member of Congress, the following:—

At the foot of the Capitol gardens in Pennsylvania avenue (on the right hand side as you are fronting that building) is an inclosed space—national property—containing one or more tenements and some conservatories and hot-houses. Here for some years past and until his death, enjoying Uncle Sam's patronage, sojourned a Frenchman, learned in botany and many other sciences. Some companions, while passing these premises, were vaunting his acquirements to Mike, who, from a spirit of contradiction, called them in question. He doubted whether these eminent botanists knew the difference between oats and wheat, and believed, he said that a Brewery boy could persuade them that corn was clover. Finally, Mike undertook, "botanically," to deceive the Frenchman with whatever he could pick up where they stood, in the lane, skirting his premises. From a wreck of flower pots and rubbish, he selected one sound pot and a dead rat lying next to the heap. Placing the rat in the flower pot he covered it up with mould, leaving out the tail, which he fixed perpendicularly by tying it carefully to a small green stick which happened to be "convenient" amongst the garden rubbish. He next called on the Professor, and told him that a friend, Lieut. (whose ship having touched at one of the islands of the then terra incognita Japan, had excited some interest) had presented him with a very curious kind of cactus. This he wished the Professor to examine. No one, Mike said, had been able to make it out, and he might have it for ten years, and no find five people who would; so he hardly felt justified in keeping it out of a public collection, and yet he did not like to part with a keepsake from a friend."

The Professor eagerly repaired to examine the vegetable curiosity. After a close inspection he determined what it was, or at least christened it by a Greek name—two words, as Mike said, averaging sixteen letters. The Professor exhausted himself in persuading Mike that the interest of science required that he should sacrifice to them the sentiments of friendship by surrendering this rare production of the vegetable kingdom to the keeping of the botanist. The reluctant Mike eventually consented on the willing and solemn assurances of the Professor that it would be attended with the utmost care;—and so it was. Placed in a hot-house, it was carefully de-sprinkled with water at a temperature of seventy degrees by the thermometer. It was noticed and described by the National Intelligencer. The notice was copied into other papers. The plant was exhibited with pride to several eminent individuals; at length with the heat and moisture, the tip of the tail began to exoriate. The Professor was delighted—it was budding. It was examined with great interest by one of the chief patrons; "the great Daniel," to whom the Botanist promised one of the first slips for Marshfield. "It was too good a joke to keep," said Mike, especially in a hot house, so before long they smelt a rat." The wrath and shame of the Professor were excessive, and so was the indignation of the great Daniel, not at the author of the joke, but at the unfortunate Botanist, whom he