

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Moniteur publishes the following letter, which has been addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by the British Ambassador:—

PARIS, DEC. 17.—Monsieur le Ministre—Never did a more pleasing or flattering duty devolve on me than that which I now fulfil in transmitting to your Excellency the minutes of the sitting of the British Parliament of the 15th of this month, in which both Houses resolved unanimously to offer their thanks to the French army and navy for the cordial co-operation and assistance which they have given to the naval and military forces of the Queen in their combined operations.

In conformity with the rules and usages of Parliament, Field-Marshal Lord Raglan and Vice Admiral Dundas will be charged to convey to General Canrobert and Admiral Hamelin the thanks of the two Houses; but I am at the same time instructed to make known to the Emperor and to his Government in what high esteem the British Parliament hold the conduct of the French army and navy, as also the great satisfaction with which the Government of the Queen has seen the National Legislature unite with so much cordiality in the sentiments which it itself professes for the Imperial army and navy.

In begging your Excellency to be the medium of this communication, I am, &c.;

“COWLEY.”

The Moniteur of Wednesday, the 20th Dec., says:—

The whole of France will be deeply moved by the thanks which England has just voted by acclamation to General Canrobert and our army, and to Admiral Hamelin and our navy, for their valiant co-operation and their cordial assistance in the war in the East.

In the political and commercial world, as well of Paris as of London, the treaty with Austria is not regarded with much confidence. Everything seems progressing with us more and more decidedly for an energetic war, which it is feared may become general next spring. This is the opinion of the Generals who have most frequent interviews with the Emperor at the Tuileries.

It is said in Paris, that it is intended immediately to send four regiments of the Imperial Guard to the Crimea, under the command of two colonels of this corps d'elite. The colonels of the First Regiment of Grenadiers and of the Second Regiment of Voltigeurs will, it is said, be selected for this honorable service. It has further been determined that as soon as the Imperial Guard arrives in the Crimea, a battalion of Zouaves, consisting entirely of men who have distinguished themselves in the Crimean campaign, shall be incorporated in the force.

THE FRENCH GARRISON IN THE ROMAN STATES.—The Moniteur says:—Several foreign journals have announced that the government of the Emperor had decided to recall the corps of occupation which it maintains in the states of the Holy See. This assertion is not exact. The Pontifical government proceeds successfully with the reorganisation of its army, and, in order to give place to Roman troops, a gradual diminution of our force may possibly take place. At the same time, our soldiers will not abandon the garrisons of Rome and Civita Vecchia until the government of the Emperor and that of the Holy See agree in thinking that their withdrawal may take place without risk to public tranquility.

SPAIN.

Several deputies from the Basque Provinces presented themselves on the 11th December before the Duke de la Victoire, to protest against the expulsion of the Jesuits from Loyola, and to demand, in the name of the people of these Provinces, the return of these Religious. The Duke de la Victoire gave an evasive reply. He declared that the Government had just ground for taking this measure; that it was difficult, under present circumstances, to open the question, but that he would examine the matter anew. It is probable, under the circumstances, that the Jesuits will be sacrificed completely, and that all the protestations of the Basque people will be in vain.—Revolutionary governments have not the habit of acceding to the desires of the people.

ITALY.

A letter from Turin, of the 12th Dec., in the Independance of Brussels, says:—

The night before last the police arrested several emigrants. These arrests, it would appear, are connected with the plots of the Mazzinians, over whom the Government, as its right and its duty, keep a very sharp watch. Public opinion, far from being alarmed, approves of the conduct of the Government, and it is positive that the approbation of the country would be given to any act of energy. It is true that public order runs no risk of being disturbed, but the avowed object of the friends of M. Mazzini is, at any price, to compromise Piedmont with the neighboring Powers. The country and the Government very well know all this, and the latter will never meet with any opposition from the former, except it should, instead of showing energy, betray weakness.

NORTHERN POWERS.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN IN THE BALTIC.—ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 8.—It ought not to be supposed in England that because Russia remained entirely passive this summer in the Baltic, and allowed her ships to be cooped up at Cronstadt and Sweaborg, that she intends to follow a similar course in the ensuing campaign in the Baltic. It may with truth be asserted that the declaration of war took Russia by surprise, and that, with all the gigantic resources she possesses, neither the army nor the fortresses were at all prepared for

active warfare. The same may be said with regard to the navy, and to a much greater extent, both in the Baltic and the Black Sea. But the extensive preparations now making in the Imperial arsenals for putting the Baltic fleet in a condition not only to carry on a defensive war, but even to assume the offensive, are of such vast magnitude that they ought not to be overlooked in England or thought lightly of.

NEW RUSSIAN CONSCRIPTION.—It has been ordered that should negotiations not have led to peace by the end of the year, a new conscription shall take place throughout Russia of sixteen in every thousand. It is computed at St. Petersburg that this measure will produce an army of 1,000,000 soldiers.

PROTESTANT INTOLERANCE.—The Swedish Diet, under Government influence, has passed another barbarous and intolerant law, enacting a fine of \$100 bank against any person administering the Lord's Supper who is not an ordained priest, and of \$16 32 skilling against all who receive the same.—Scotch paper.

THE CRIMEA.

Despatches from Sebastopol, dated December 13, state that nothing of importance has taken place since the last news. The weather had improved. All the batteries had been re-established and strengthened. Batteries, containing 30 cannon, had been erected. Ninety-two rockets, intended to set fire to the Russian fleet, had been landed. The garrison of Eupatoria had been reinforced by two battalions. The Duke of Cambridge was to return to Balaklava.

The Allies are formidably entrenched, and now receive their provisions with so much ease and regularity that they can, if necessary, remain the whole winter in their present position. The Russians have abandoned their first line of defence before Sebastopol, and have retired beyond the Tchernaya—with what object is not known. The Portofoglio, of Malta, pretends that 60,600 more Russians had passed by Perekop to reinforce the Russian army in the Crimea. The same journal also speaks of an engagement between a Russian corps and an English detachment, which pursued the Russians to the town and took possession of an important height.

AUSTRALIA.

A proposition has been laid before the Legislative Assembly of Australia Felix, to vote the Mother Country £100,000 per annum as long as the present war continues. This is better than the old system of taxing colonies for imperial purposes. The motto adopted by our friends at the antipodes is "Advance Australia," and the present is certainly a noble move in the right direction.—Pilot.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

(From the Times.)

Our allies the French are in nothing more admirable than in the power they possess of complete, minute, and comprehensive organisation. Before they had been in Gallipoli three days they had named all the streets, numbered all the houses, ticketed all the shops and offices, and worried an easy-going old Pasha actually, and without metaphor, to death; for he took to his bed and departed this life, thinking that a less evil than to conform his dull routine to the demands of a nation so exact and so innovating. They have, above all things, the organ of order—a place for everything, and everything in its place; and the same fine sense of proportion and symmetry which is manifested in all their social and economical arrangements shines out conspicuous in their military regulations. For ourselves, it is with shame and sorrow we confess that, at least among military and official persons, the faculty of order and organisation seems to be wholly wanting. Who could suppose that a nation could possess the best men and best materials in the world, and yet contrive matters so that the one should be of little or no use to the other? We have sent out to the Crimea an army which is indisputably equal, or even superior, to any force of equal numbers in the world. We have supplied its necessities with no niggard or sparing hand. Ammunition and stores have been furnished with enormous profusion; the sea is alive with our transports, and the land groans under the weight of our cannon and our provisions. We have supplied drugs and medical comforts and all the appliances of a hospital with the utmost liberality. Any one would suppose that the soldier must be enjoying every luxury and every comfort consistent with the life of hazard and fatigue which active service implies. Such would be the expectation. Now let us look a little to facts. We have sent out abundant ammunition, but our batteries appear to be wanting in guns, powder, and ball, and, above all, in mortars—by far the most important arm in siege operations prosecuted from a distance. The amount of provisions we have sent out and procured is enormous, but our men are reduced to half rations, and sometimes cannot get even that. We have sent out and are sending out clothing, but our array is in rags, and seeks in vain for shelter under tents which the rain penetrates at will. Our cavalry were admirably mounted, and our artillery horsed to admiration, but our horses are rapidly dying from cold, wet, exposure, and starvation, and the hay which we destined for their support is floating about on the stormy billows of the Euxine. Our army is dreadfully in want of shelter from the pelting of the ceaseless rain, and the keen and unsparing wind. The coasts are covered with the wrecks of many a noble ship, but there is no one to gather up the wood for huts, or even for fuel. We are possessed of an excellent land-locked harbor, but there is only one jetty, and our ships can only unload one at once, and that one very likely the ship the cargo of which is the least needed. Balaklava is blocked up with shot and guns, while the trenches are empty for want of them. We have exported acres of lint, and have been reduced to dress amputated limbs with hay.

The truth is that organisation and system seem to be totally foreign to the military and official mind. The stores are put on board, but no care is taken to see where or in what order they are packed. That which is wanted at Constantinople is at Varna—that which is wanted in the Crimea is at Constantinople. Drugs are buried under shot and shell, and shot and shell cannot be landed because there is but one jetty for twenty or thirty ships, till drugs and shell go together to the bottom. The army is starved, the

siege is interrupted, the horses perish, because it is found impossible to carry food, ammunition, and fodder over unfenced tracks which the rain has converted into quagmires.

Had one-half of the care, energy, and attention which goes to the management of a railway, a manufactory, or a steampacket company been bestowed upon the conduct of this expedition, on which the freedom of Europe, the regeneration of Asia, and the destiny of the whole human race for the next century depend, we should not have to chronicle these disasters or complain of these miseries. But that practical ability which any man can get for a few hundreds a year all our apparatus of peerages, titles, pensions, and honors fails to call into existence. We seem to possess no one public servant capable of seeing that a ship is properly loaded, no one capable of seeing that the cargo is landed at the place for which it is designed, no one capable of arranging the fleet of transports on their arrival.

We might have saved many noble lives if we would only have erected a jetty on the shore of Scutari to enable us to land the wounded without an agony which leads to death, and many a precious cargo had we erected a few wharfs along the side of the land-locked basin of Balaklava. We might have saved our ships if we could have unloaded them by such means and let them go, or if, by establishing depots and hospitals on shore, we could have dispensed with the necessity of trusting our wounded and our stores to floating hospitals or magazines. Our siege need not have been intermitted, our troops starved, and our horses destroyed, if we had made a road, as we should have done, from Balaklava to the trenches.

A staff composed of exquisites, gallant and daring indeed, but utterly ignorant of the wants and requirements of an army and of great military operations, naval officers without authority, commanders of transports without subordination, generals without resources, medical men individually able and benevolent, but without order or system—these things go to make up an aggregate of helpless disorder and hopeless confusion, which our government must find speedy means of terminating, or they will infallibly induce the conviction that we may trust the aristocracy to administer the affairs of peace, but must devote to a lower station of society for the tact, the talent, and the energy requisite for meeting the fierce and urgent emergencies of war.

THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA—OFFICIAL CONTRADICTIONS.

(From the London Examiner.)

According to the Minister of War, twenty thousand men have been despatched to the East since June, which, added to the force landed in the Crimea, makes a total of forty-seven thousand; but the Duke of Newcastle calculates the whole number that has passed under Lord Raglan at fifty-three thousand.

According to the Secretary at War, Lord Raglan was at the head of twenty-seven thousand men when he invaded the Russian territory, and the reinforcements were as follows:—

In June, ... ..	941
July, ... ..	4588
August, ... ..	2032
September, ... ..	1386
October, ... ..	2855
November ... ..	7037
	18,739

This, added to the twenty-seven thousand originally landed, makes a total of 45,739; but something must be omitted, as Mr. S. Herbert agrees with the Duke of Newcastle in rating the entire force sent out at more than fifty-three thousand—namely, 54,736.

What, then, has become of this great army? How was it that at Inkermann only eight thousand could be mustered to bear the brunt of an attack of forty thousand men, while the remaining troops, amounting to only six thousand, were occupied with the trenches? Fourteen thousand bayonets with the cavalry and artillery seem to have been the whole remains of the army before the last reinforcements went out. What, then, have been the losses? Why, according to the Secretary at War, the whole loss, including 2,782 who have died of wounds and of disease, is 4,132, and deducting this from the 54,736 sent out, should leave an army of more than fifty thousand men.

Mr. Gladstone states that the allied forces are little short of 150,000 men.

The discrepancy between these statements and the private accounts is wide and inexplicable indeed, and the discrepancy extends beyond the figures to the acts and position, for of so strong a force something more decisive might be expected than has yet been accomplished by an army outnumbering the enemy, for so it is if it really amounts to 150,000 men.

But we cannot reconcile these calculations with any of the acts of the campaign. On the day of Inkermann, by the account of Mr. S. Herbert, the British should have been more than forty thousand strong, yet we know that Lord Raglan could not spare more than eight thousand to meet the enemy's attack, and that consequently, at the odds of one to five at the least, a strain almost beyond example was put upon the courage and physical powers of the troops, and grievous was the consequent loss of brave and generous blood.

It was generally understood, too, that the operations of the siege flagged, if they were not suspended for want of reinforcements; but if there have been 150,000 men before the place, there has been a force more than equal to its conquest in the opinion of those who called for the largest means for the desired object. When the Times raised the cry for reinforcements, it startled many of its military readers by saying that the allied forces should be raised to one hundred and fifty thousand for the certain, safe, and speedy reduction of Sebastopol; but little could our contemporaries have divined that at that very time the besieging army was little, if anything, short of that number, as we are now told, and yet remaining in comparative inactivity.

And again, if we are to rely on these official figures, how are we to account for Lord Raglan's urgency for reinforcements. He must have had about forty-five thousand men at the end of October, without the last addition of seven thousand, composed as the Duke of Newcastle has described; and with forty-five thousand could there be the pressing necessity which caused the Minister of War, as we have seen reluctantly and with regret, to send out men not sufficiently trained and habituated to their duties?

All these apparent inconsistencies and discrepancies may be explained satisfactorily, and it is most desirable that they should be cleared up.

WILL SEBASTOPOL BE TAKEN THIS WINTER?—The London Morning Advertiser quoted in the Courrier de Etats-Unis, says that it has learned from a source by which it has never been deceived, that the allied governments have resolved to make great efforts to take Sebastopol before the end of December—that is to say, before the time fixed for Russia to accept the bases for negotiation agreed to in the treaty of the 2d of December. This accomplished will be followed in effect by a forced armistice, and the fate of Sebastopol would necessarily have great weight in the negotiations. It adds that a great battle will be fought with the forces of Prince Menschikoff outside, and if the attempt of the allies be successful, they will proceed immediately to the assault of the town.

THE ROUTINE OF MILITARY LIFE.—The correspondent of the Morning Post gives the following account of military life in the camp:—"Let me briefly tell you how the day is passed. Early in the morning, generally at half-past four, there is a scraping at the tent door, and a voice is heard, "Signior alzate, vi prego, il cafe e pronto," to which a lispng voice responds, "What, Thpero, it ih't five thurely?" "Si Signior, si Signior, vicino alle cinque," cries the faithful old idiot (our best servants have been in lunatic asylums), and the British officer is soon up and doing, his coffee is drunk, biscuit and pork are consumed, a wallet is thrown across the shoulder, containing provender for the day, and a flask of rum; the sword is girt on, and away goes our companion to the trenches, there to remain until six P.M., leaving us to snooze away until the sun has arisen as a cheering supply of light and heat, when we rise from our bed of blankets, and having drunk in pure air during the night, rush to breakfast with ravenous appetites. The breakfast table, made of two pieces of plank nailed upon four stakes, is covered with tin spoons, tin pots, tin canisters, and all those little tin articles for salt, pepper, &c., so well known to campaigners; and when we are seated, waiting anxiously, like hungry coach travellers of old, in comes a fine-faced finger-begrimed soldier, with a large supply of fried pork or beef frizzling from a black frying-pan in one hand, and in the other a cargo of soaked biscuit, which, to give it a flavor, has been baked in the fat of ration pork—this, with now and then a potato, or onion for a change, and a cup or two of coffee, forms our breakfast. The pipe, that indispensable friend of the soldier in the field, follows every meal pour exciter la digestion; and after it, should no duty (rare occurrence) call us away, each employs himself as inclination prompts; but the soldier can never be certain of a moment's quiet, for, not seldom when an affectionate son has settled himself expressly to soothe the anxiety of a worthy parent, an officer is seen pacing over from the commandant's tent. The scribe looks at him with awe, and, as he approaches, asks breathlessly, "For whom are you looking?" to which the dreaded answer is given, "You are the man for me, sir. The colonel wants you to take half a brigade of Sappers, and go to complete the cutting in the Inkerman road; it has not, he considers, been thoroughly done." Of course, go the subaltern must, and without a moment's delay, and at that road he is engaged until sunset, with his clothes drenched with rain, and rum and ration pork his best friends. Our regular dinner hour is three, and as we have a mess of five, ours is strictly military time. As to what we get for dinner, that depends very much upon circumstances, but we generally have a good meal, as we go upon the principle that the best preserver of health under our sharp trials of constitution is good and regular food, and therefore that it is wiser to have a well supported body rather than a richly supplied purse; and what laughing and joking is there over the reeking camp-kettle! One is accused of taking all the meal, another of forgetting that the delicacies of the season cost money, a third is placed under arrest for consuming more than his ration of grog; indeed, each in his turn is voted a robber of his neighbor, and all with such perfect good humour, that we are like the happy family in Trafalgar Square, for the slightest disagreement is unknown to us. When the dinner is over, and the ration coffee (far from bad) in tavola, a voice is heard in the distance, "Thpero, puth the thinner ready, for I cannot thwait—I'm ravenous." Spero knows well the voice and the order, and at once exclaims—"Momento, Signior, moment! pranzo subito, subito!" and with lightning speed the pot re-appears, and a right good pranzo the man of the trencher makes. In truth, pure air works wonders upon dyspeptic stomachs, and, with us, even the hypochondriac finds himself hungry; imagine, then, how an officer just in from the open air, one who has never known a day's sickness, how he eats and drinks: yes, and as he enjoys his food, thanks God for his mercy. By the time the last dinner is over darkness has well set in; then it is we all gather beneath the canvass and talk over the occurrences of the day—and very pleasant chats they are, save when the loss of some officer causes a damp to come over us all."

THE CZAR'S HABITS.—We extract (says the Constitutionnel) from a letter from St. Petersburg, the correctness of which we can guarantee, the following details as to the state of affairs in that capital:—"The Emperor Nicholas, notwithstanding the pre-occupations of the war, still keeps to his usual habit of taking solitary walks. He may frequently be met in the streets on foot, protected, however, against the indiscretions of curiosity, by the police regulations, which forbid any one to speak to him. Although his face has long since contracted a character of impassibility, it is readily seen that terrible storms have assailed his mind and re-acted on his physical strength. He has got much thinner, and his hair is almost white. We have already spoken of the honorable treatment given to two of our officers, MM. de Dampierre and Lagondie. The two following anecdotes may serve as a pendant to that trait of character. A Frenchman having been insulted by a tradesman in a large way of business, the Emperor was informed of it. He sent for the tradesman, and demanded the reason of his conduct. "Because I detest their nation." "You have no other motive, and it is from hatred of the French that you have acted so?" "Yes, sire." "Well, then, I will give you an opportunity of gratifying that resentment. You shall be sent to the army in the Crimea?" On another occasion the Czar was informed that some nobles refused to pay a debt they owed to a French tradesman. He sent orders to them to settle their accounts immediately. The consequence of the war are severely felt in the capital. With the exception of bread, the price of which is moderate in consequence of the abundance of the late harvest, everything is excessively dear. A bottle of champagne costs from 20 to 25 f.; sugar is 1 f. 60 c.