

News by the English Mail!

IMPORTANT FROM THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

MOUTH OF THE DANUBE, SEPT. 29.—We have been thunderstruck here by the intelligence that 4000 Austrian soldiers have suddenly pounced upon Galatz and occupied it—done the same at Ibrail—and seized all the ports of the Danube. The *Constantinople Journal* speaks only of Ibrail being occupied, but no doubt both have been so. They have not only quartered their troops in these towns, but they have taken possession of police and post offices, so that all persons and communications must pass through their hands. This, of course, shuts the door in the face of the commissaries charged to consult the Principalities, and you may, in consequence, expect Sir Henry Bulwer home. You will be better able to judge than I am, the cause of this defiance to the Western Powers. Is it a set-off for any demonstration of ours against Naples, and a significant declaration that, if we carry out our liberal policy in Italy, Austria will carry out a contrary one upon the Danube and in the Euxine? This would be a very grave challenge, for Austria is not the power to cast that challenge, if it did not know that it was supported by some other power, and there is none to support it in such a policy except Russia.

We cut for the present, rather a ridiculous figure. After having made war to drive Russia from the Principalities, we withdraw all our soldiers on the understanding that Austria would do the same, instead of which Austria re-occupies the Principalities, and seizes the ports at the mouth of the river. Let me add, that this is rendered more serious by the recent conduct of Austria to a French naval officer. Captain Magnan brought out here a certain class of flat-bottomed boats, to be used in the Sea of Azoff, and in shallow waters, for war purposes. The war being over, the captain obtained permission of his government to try his boats on the Danube, and he considered them applicable to the navigation of the Pruth, the Sereth, and the Maritza. The Turks, however, do not like the Maritza to be navigated but by their own boats—that is to say, they will never allow it to be navigated at all. A French company in Armenia, with Captain Magnan, applied for the navigation of the Pruth and Sereth, and offered, at its own expense, to remove the obstructions in the rivers. The Moldavian government and hospodar granted the request; but Austria has compelled the Porte to annul that concession, on the plea that, by the clause of some treaty, Austria has the monopoly of navigating these inland waters. Both English and French ambassadors tried in vain to get this rescinded.

Captain Magnan, forbidden to attempt the Pruth, sailed up the Danube. First of all an Austrian vessel ran into one of his boats, and destroyed it. A commission of naval officers have declared that this was done on purpose. He again sails up the Danube, and meets with every obstacle that the Austrians can put in his way. He pleaded that he was not going to interfere with the Austrians, but that the Turks had a right to at least half the river; that it was most important for them to be able to send supplies and troops by the Danube and the Save to their fortresses in Bosnia; and that he was making the experiment to enable the Turks to use the great high road up the Danube. To this the Austrians replied that they would never permit the Turks to navigate the Danube. So much for the chief ally of Turkey, who is one of the contracting powers for maintaining the liberty of the Danube, and who is determined to stop it and its tributaries, not only to France and England, but to Turkey.

But neither Capt. Magnan nor his Government are to be daunted by the threats of Austrian agents. You are aware that in his vessel, the *Lyonnais*, he passed the rapids of the Iron Gates, and, being forbidden to advance higher up the river, he left his vessel aground in order to go and seek diplomatic succour and advice. The gallant captain has got both, and has returned to the Danube to prosecute his voyage, and to assert the freedom of that river,

or, at least, to know the reason why the French flag is to be prohibited from floating on these waters. It is neither unamusing nor uninteresting to learn that, on one occasion, when the *Lyonnais* attempted to tie a cable to the only landing place of a town, from which the men in authority rejected the cable, and would not allow the jetty to be made use of, the population came forward to welcome the French flag, they drove their own Austrian authorities from the jetty, pulled down the double eagle and flung it into the river. So much for the loyalty of the Danubian populations to the Kaiser.

It is no doubt under the pretext of Russia still menacing the Danube by keeping—or rather by claiming—the Isle of Serpents that Austria has seized Galatz. No doubt she will plead that, when France and England think it necessary to send back a naval force to the Black Sea, Austria can do no less than occupy the Principalities. But this is done so manifestly with the design of quashing the question of the organisation of Moldo-Wallachia, that it is impossible not to see that Austria considers herself to inherit those pretensions which Russia entertained, and to repel which we engaged in an expensive and sanguinary war.

The gravest consideration attending these circumstances is, however, the report that Turkey was no stranger to the intention of Austria to occupy Galatz. It is said that neither Lord Redcliffe nor M. Thouvenel knew of it—that the intelligence took them by surprise—and that, when they expressed their surprise, the Turkish minister declared he thought they were fully apprised of it. It could not be the Turkish Government's intention to take any reverse step, or resolve on questions arising out of the Treaty of Paris, without consulting all the allies. Ali Pacha would not do this; and, perhaps, it will be found that the Austrians spoke of it to the Turks as a step that would be requisite by-and-by, whilst they precipitated it for fear of objections. Provided the French and English embassies be in the same accord and situation, the rest is of small importance. And I believe they were both equally taken by surprise, for what two such powerful countries think to be wrong, they are fully able to rectify.

The Russian Government has ordered 20 steamers for the postal and passenger service from Odessa to different ports—Constantinople principally. I need not say that two steamers would amply suffice, with one to take the place of whichever should be disabled; therefore, the use of the remaining 17, it is for you to guess.—*Morning Post*.

THE THREATENING CLOUD.

Europe has been startled during the last day or two by the Russian manifesto, the effect of which on the Bourses of France and England was at the time very marked. The English funds speedily recovered from the shock, but the quidnuncs are busily speculating on the consequences of this manifesto, the genuineness of which, although doubted at first, is now generally believed; and these speculations embrace questions of the most striking and momentous kind to the peace of Europe and the world.

The first feeling which the perusal of this diplomatic note produces on the mind of the reader is, that the people of Western Europe have altogether mistaken the new Czar. When he came to the throne he was believed to be eminently pacific, and he received credit for having had the war left to him as a legacy by his father, while his own views were supposed to be in the interests of peace. Circumstances favoured this delusion. When he declared his intention of developing the resources of his empire through the arts of peace, it was inferred that he had arrived at the conclusion that the material prosperity of Russia would be best promoted by Free-trade and the breaking down of those barriers of restriction which the late Czar had long built up and maintained. But straight-forwardness of purpose is neither characteristic of the Russian people nor their ruler. Every thing in that country is enveloped in mystery; everything wears an artificial, unnatural appearance; so that inference ap-

parently based on the soundest principles often turn out to be mere delusions. It is now discovered, somewhat tardily, that the present autocrat of all the Russians is a faithful transcript of his father,—wily, de-ceptive, ambitious, that he patched up the peace to secure breathing time for his exhausted country, and that Muscovite humiliation in that conflict now seeks revenge by casting to the winds all the professions of amity which secured for him the respect and honour of the commercial and progressive classes throughout Europe.

The spirit of the Russian diplomatic note, which will be found in another column, and which has been addressed to the agents of Russia at the European courts, by Prince Gortschakoff, is in effect a challenge to England and France, for it says in substance that if the Western Powers attempt to coerce the King of Naples into the adoption of reforms necessary to prevent an outbreak in Italy, or, in other words, a general convulsion throughout Europe, Russia will espouse the cause of the tyrannical King, on the principle that he is a Sovereign in his own right, and is justified in doing what he likes with his own. The spirit of this manifesto justifies the belief which prevails that Russia will send her fleet for this purpose to the Bay of Naples to oppose those of England and France, and a collision may arise, the consequences of which cannot be overestimated. The policy on which Russia has now deliberately entered, and of which this circular is the programme, is so lofty in its pretensions and so insolent in its tone—maintains the "Divine Right of Kings" in a form so irreconcilable with modern, at all events, with English feeling, that it is nothing more nor less than an insult to free opinions throughout the world, and as such will be resented. It is a very bad augury of the continuance of peace—it is an indication of the breaking of that cloud which will precipitate the fearful struggle between peoples and rulers, and decide their pretensions of representative institutions as opposed to despotic government on the Continent of Europe.

The position of England in this state of things is singular, and some say undignified. Our alliance with France continues; but in France a despotism prevails hardly inferior to that of Russia herself. We do not undervalue the French alliance, but we preserve it at the expense of consistency. France has objects in coercing the King of Naples with which England does not sympathise. An explosion throughout Italy would probably cause a blaze in France; and it is the fear of this calamity which induces Louis Napoleon to press upon the King of Naples. All the great European Powers are huge despots, and they are all insolvent; for the maintenance of large standing armies to suppress the popular voice ends in financial ruin. Is there any necessity for England to be dragged into this struggle, with which we have nothing to do, and from which we have nothing to gain? If we set out on the knight-errantry of restoring constitutional privileges to all the enslaved nationalities of Europe, we ought, strictly speaking, to begin with fighting France, our nearest neighbour; and nothing, it occurs to us, can show the wisdom of a neutral attitude in our position more forcibly than the fact that we cannot stir in such a contest without compromising those principles of religious and civil freedom to which we profess to be devoted. The alliance of England and France was formed to prevent Russia from swallowing up Turkey, and thus disturbing the territorial balance of Europe; but this object, praiseworthy in itself, is very different from the Western Powers becoming the Conservative policemen of Europe, under the pretence of making a weak and foolish King carry out certain peddling reforms, while the chronic vices of his Government remain intact.

When the British Government sought to raise a German Legion during the war in the Crimea, an inducement to enter the service was made in the form of an offer to convey the soldiers when the contest was over, to an English colony, and to give each man a piece of land to till. That time has now arrived, and the colony which has been selected is the Cape of Good Hope.

The men composing this British German Legion amount to 7000 of well trained troops, but they hesitate to accept the offer of the Government because stronger temptations, it is said, have been tendered by other Powers—by the Dutch, who desire to send them to their own colony of Batavia; by the King of Naples, who begins to feel uneasy at the cloud which is gathering round him; and by the Republic of Buenos Ayres, and others, who require troops. The advantage, as far as we are concerned, if we had sent them to the Cape, would have been that they might have assisted our own troops there in keeping the Caffres quiet. But we hope that for the future the Caffres will be kept down, not by force but by affection—by kind treatment, and that parental kind of colonisation which raises the well-disposed and easily trained savages to the refinements of civilisation and the lights of Christianity.

An appalling accident took place on Wednesday last at a coal-pit called the Bryn Mally, about two miles from Wrexham, North Wales, which has produced a serious loss of life. The accident was caused by the water of an adjoining mine, on a higher level, which has not been worked for a great number of years, breaking suddenly into the Bryn Mally Colliery, and drowning the miners. At the time of the calamity there were upwards of 200 hands employed, and it is providential that all of them were not destroyed. Owing, however, to the quickness and cleverness of a boy, the son of one of the miners, who gave the alarm, and saved his father's life by risking his own, numbers of the men contrived to reach the eye of the mine, were hauled up, and thus escaped; but others were less fortunate, and on calling over the muster-roll it was found that 15 were missing—the number which perished below.

A meeting was held in the early part of the present week at Newcastle-on-Tyne, to receive an address from the working men of Genoa, and to raise subscriptions for aiding in the emancipation of Italy. Letters were read from Mazzini, pressing for money payments, and one of them declared that insurrection alone could save Italy. There was also a communication from Garibaldi, dated Genoa, in which he urged the same prayer. Some money was subscribed, and a resolution was passed recommending the object of the meeting to the support of the public.—*Times*.

The Sardinian government has addressed a circular to all the superiors of the convents, suppressed by the law of May 29, 1855, summoning them to deliver up to the authorities all the title deeds, contracts, and registers, still in their possession, it having been discovered that the clause of the above law relating to such documents has been in many cases eluded.

On the 29th, it was stated at the police-office that the prosecution of the Connors, in the case of the Blarney murder, had cost the county £3000; and a post-office case, where the value of the property stolen was about a penny, cost £200.

CENSUS OF RUSSIA.—The *Moniteur de l'Armee* gives the following as the results of the census of the Russian empire taken by the order of the Emperor at the time of his accession to the throne:—"The total number of the population amounts to 63,000,000, the principal elements of which give results unknown to the rest of Europe. The Clergy of the Russian church stand for the enormous number of 510,000; that of the tolerated creeds, 35,000; the hereditary nobility, 155,000; the petty bourgeoisie, including discharged soldiers, 425,000; foreigners residing temporarily, 40,000; different bodies of Cossacks colonised on the Oural, the Don, the Volga, the Black Sea, the Baikal, the Baschkirs, and the irregular Kalmucks, 2,000,000; the population of the towns, the middle and lower classes, 5,000,000; the population of the country parts, 45,000,000; the wandering tribes, 500,000; the inhabitants of the trans-Caucasian possessions, 1,400,000; the kingdom of Poland, 4,200,000; the Grand Duchy of Finland, 1,400,000; and

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