

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Nicholas has returned his answer to the Turkish proposals adopted by the Vienna Conference. He declares them to be quite unsatisfactory, that he will allow of no mediation between himself and Turkey, and that Turkey, if she wishes to treat, may send an ambassador to St. Petersburg. For any further information the members of the Conference are referred to their respective Courts. The official announcement of the rejection by the Emperor of Russia of the propositions accepted by the Divan has been received by the French government, and a communication to that effect made to the Ottoman ambassador.

DEPARTURE OF THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR.—M. de Kisseleff, the Russian Ambassador, left Paris for Brussels, on Monday evening.

The Russian Residents in Paris have been ordered to return home within a month, on pain of confiscation of their property.

The Paris correspondent of the *Chronicle* says: "The belief here is that the effect of the refusal of Austria and Prussia to make common cause with Russia will be able to force the Czar to abandon his enterprise, or, if he should still persist, to confine the war, at all events, to the borders of the Black Sea. It appears that both Prussia and Austria, at the same time that they rejected Count Orloff's propositions, expressed a hope, on the other hand, that England and France should, if possible, avoid extreme measures against Russia. Here the Russian party affects to think that this moderation shows an intention on the part of these two powers to remain strictly neutral but it would probably be more correct to say that they are to remain neutral as long as they properly can; but that they will take part against Russia should events arise which will give them an opportunity of doing so with advantage."

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows:—

"The plan is, that the division to be sent to the East shall consist of from 70,000 to 80,000 men; 50,000 or 60,000 to be furnished by France, 15,000 or 20,000 by England. Of the French contingent, 25,000 or 30,000 men, indigenous troops, or of men well hardened to the climate, are to proceed from Africa; the remainder from the army in France.—The body thus composed will be transported to Civita Vecchia, and march overland to Ancona. If Austria permit them to land in one of her ports in the Adriatic, so much the better; if not, they will disembark in a Turkish port lower down, then march to Servia, and then to wherever their services may be required, or would be most available. With the Austrians in Italy, where so much fermentation exists at this moment, with Hungary discontented on one hand, and Lombardy on the other, the political consequences of such a move would undoubtedly, be very great. I cannot undertake to affirm that the plan I notice will be followed out to the letter, but I assure you that it is seriously spoken of as having been suggested by the Emperor himself, and as not having been rejected in England.

The rumor has circulated for several days past that a part of the English force intended for the East would pass through France to the Mediterranean by way of Paris. I allude to the rumor in order to mention that any English regiment that would pass through Paris would be received with welcome, if not enthusiasm, by the people—at least, if I may judge from what is generally said.

AUSTRIA.

According to telegraph despatches from Vienna the terms of the Russian project, or rather counter-project, brought by Count Orloff, were, it is understood, as follows:—First, it was proposed that a Turkish Plenipotentiary should be sent either to the head quarters of the army of occupation, or to St. Petersburg, to treat directly with Russia, but to be free to see and advise with the ministers of the four powers. Secondly, the former treaties between Russia and the Porte to be renewed. Thirdly, Turkey to enter into an engagement with respect to political refugees—to the effect, it is supposed, that they should not from henceforth be harbored in the Ottoman dominions. And lastly, a declaration from the Porte, couched in similar terms to the Menschikoff ultimatum, with reference to the protection of the Greek Christians.

This project was communicated to the conference by Count Buol, and was at once rejected as totally inadmissible. All negotiations are, therefore, brought to a close, and there is no probability that they will be removed.

Count Orloff also demanded whether Austria would object to a Russian Corps marching through Servia. The answer was, that any violation of neutrality in Servia would lead to counter measures on the part of Austria.

PRUSSIA.

In Prussia, the Czar has met with a severe rebuff. Having had the assurance to offer that Power his protection, if the King would only join him in an offensive and defensive alliance, the Prussian Government replied, that Prussia did not need the protection of any other Potentate,—that she was well able to defend her own independence, no matter where or by whom attacked,—and that, were it otherwise, the aid of Russia would avail little against the fleets of England or the legions of France on the Rhine. At one moment the Prussian-Sovereign appeared disposed to waver; but the influence and patriotic advice of the Heir Presumptive, the Prince of Prussia, removed this cause of apprehension from the public mind; and during Count Orloff's stay at Vienna, he ascertained that it would be useless to pursue his journey to Berlin.

DENMARK.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the *Chronicle* writes that warlike preparations continue on a large scale. The War Minister (Hansen) has made inquiries of the town authorities whether they can accommodate 10,000 men and a large number of horses in Elsinore; and questions of a similar kind have been asked in other towns. Orders are said to have been issued for the armament of three frigates, three corvettes, three brigs, and five armed steamers. The news from Sweden becomes daily more distrustful of the government, and full of defiance against the Russian autocrat. The island of Gothland will receive an additional force of 15,000 men, and another army will be drawn together on the west coast.

SWEDEN.

The persecutions in Sweden of Protestants by Protestants still continue. Between three and four hundred persons are under sentence of imprisonment, on bread and water, for twenty-eight days, for exclusively religious causes.

A letter from Stockholm states that it will be difficult for Sweden to maintain her neutrality in case of war. The Russians have fortified the island of Aland, from which they menace Stockholm itself. The writer dwells much on the importance of a union between Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, with an army of 200,000 men, and a fleet of more than 400 sail, manned by more than 60,000 seamen, in case of a rupture. The entire North would thus be raised against Russia, and Finland itself would probably join Sweden.

SPAIN.

The political horizon is assuming a very threatening aspect. Rumors of the wildest character are afloat; on the part of the Queen and her government a *coup d'état* and absolutism; on the part of the opposition and the alarmists blood, revolution, dethronement, and all the horrors of civil war. The garrison is under arms almost every night, the sentinels are doubled, and orders are given to all military men and public servants to be at their posts on the least sign of an outbreak. Fears are entertained of the fidelity of the army—regiments and officers are shifted about from one town to another—all soldiers and officers on furlough are ordered to be at their respective posts on the first proximo. Many rumors are, of course, utterly groundless, others very much exaggerated; but the public mind is extremely agitated, and there is a ferment abroad which will end ill for the cause, perhaps, of religion, and certainly of all social improvement.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

According to General Schilder's report to the Russian Embassy, the army of occupation is in a pitiable condition—the original corps being 35,000 men weaker than when it crossed the Pruth in July last.

Since the arrival of General Schilder a retrograde movement of the Russian forces in Wallachia has been observed.

The right wing and centre of the Russian corps in Little Wallachia were advancing towards Kalafat. It is rumored that the army corps at Galicia has received positive orders to march. A sanguinary action had taken place near Giurgevo, with great loss on both sides. Three thousand Turks crossed the Danube, drove in the Russian advanced posts, attacked the town, and then retired. It is reported that the Turks have again crossed the Danube at Oltenitza in considerable numbers; that they have succeeded in establishing themselves on the left bank; and that they were threatening a demonstration towards Bucharest.

It appears that Russian agents are at this moment employed in the Lebanon and all over Syria to get up an insurrection, and are everywhere preaching the holy war. Their efforts are counteracted as much as possible by the Pashas, who do their best to assure the Christian population in the East that no harm will come to them. The Russians persuade them that a general massacre of the Christians by the Turks is imminent, and spread falsehoods of every kind.

A vast conspiracy, with the object of raising in insurrection the Greek population on the banks of the Danube, has been discovered. It is believed that many eminent persons at the Court of Athens are concerned in the scheme.

Everything in the Turkish capital is tranquil, almost motionless, anxiously awaiting the important news which must be on its way.

Military operations in Asia are suspended. On January 22nd the combined French and English fleets returned to their anchorage in the Beicos Bay, having completed their cruise in the Black Sea. With the exception of two merchant vessels, they did not see a Russian sail while out.

Constantinople letters of the 23d ult., state that the admirals decline the responsibility of navigation with sailing vessels in the Black Sea, during the present most dangerous season.

News from Constantinople of January the 25th says the fleets having taken in fresh provisions, will re-enter the Black Sea on the 28th. In the meantime three French and three English steam-frigates have sailed to-day for Varna. On the 28th another Turkish convoy, intended to carry men and ammunition to Batoum, will sail under the escort of a part of the Turkish fleet and the French and English frigates.

ROME.

The correspondent of the *Dublin Telegraph* says:—

I am authorised to contradict a report in one of the French papers—I believe in the form of a letter—that the Pope has received the confession of a certain French Countess, the lady whose name is given as writer of that letter, in the course of which sacramental act one subject dwelt upon was the practice or interrogation of "spiritual rappings"—in re-

ference to which his Holiness is represented as expressing himself with severity, implying the condemnation of the system as diabolical. The opinions maintained and ably argued upon by the *Civiltà Cattolica*, on this subject, may be taken, I believe, on the authority of that journal, as those prevailing in ecclesiastical circles here generally—and, if these mystic theories ever should induce interposition from the high functionaries of the Church, few can doubt the sense in which they will be judged—but such *ex-cathedra* sentence certainly has not yet been past by the very highest authority, nor could have been revealed by any conscientious person, if incidentally conveyed under that seal of secrecy the most binding.

DIPLOMATIC ARRANGEMENT WITH ROME.—Declarations have been exchanged between the Governments of Great Britain and the Roman States for securing national treatment to the vessels and commerce of each country in the ports of the other. The arrangement is to be in force seven years, and, further, until after twelve months' notice on one or other side.

THE BADENESE PERSECUTION.

We read in the *Volkshalle* of Cologne that serious apprehensions are entertained respecting the decision of the Bavarian Government, in the conflict existing between the Catholic Church and the Governments of Baden and Nassau. The Cabinet of Munich feel disposed to take the side of these Governments, and intend publishing soon a reply to the note of the Bishops of the ecclesiastical province of the Upper Rhine. This news is unfortunately too probable. It is known that grave difficulties exist between the Bishops of Bavaria and the Governments of that country. By espousing the cause of the Governments of Nassau and Baden, it augments them considerably; for by that it engages itself in some measure to act on the same principles as the Ministers of Carlsruhe and Wiesbaden.

AUSTRALIA.

Trade appears to be steadily recovering, and the prices were likely to be maintained. Gold had advanced to 74s. 6d. to 75s. for New South Wales, and 77s. 3d. to 77s. 6d. for Port Philip and Ovens gold. The accounts received from the various mines were favorable. Labor still continues in demand in the agricultural districts. The rush to the mines causes a complete drain. Good mechanics and domestic servants in great request.

THE RUSSIANS AND THE GOLD FLEETS.—Letters from Australia state that the heavy 50-gun Russian frigate, *Dwina*, that fitted out in England, has arrived out on that station. The *Calliope*, 26, is the largest British man-of-war on the Australian station, which, with the *Fantome*, 12, and a small tender or two, are the only ships-of-war of this nation at all there.

THE FRENCH IN AUSTRALIA.—The French have taken possession of New Caledonia. There is plenty of gold there, at least so it has already been believed from the large granite regions among the group. New Caledonia is an island, or rather a group of islands, lying to the eastward of New South Wales, being in lat. 23 S., long 165 E.

FACTS FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE MADIAT.

The propriety of interfering in the internal affairs of Foreign States is at all times a delicate subject; when such intermeddling is directed against laws relating to the religion of the people of such States, the least that can be expected of the self-elected champions who set themselves up as judges of these laws, is, that they should be consistent in their opposition, and that they should be free themselves from what they are pleased to consider criminal in countries afar off. If policy, or necessity, or any other cause, render laws of a like tenor valid and defensible in our own country, surely we can regard as little short of presumption that spirit, which neglecting the things that are under its own control, yet denounces a distant people for acts, which pass uncondemned at home.

A Mrs. Douglas—a disciple of Abolitionism, has been condemned to one month's imprisonment in the goal at Norfolk, Va., in addition to the proper fine and costs, under the act forbidding the teaching of slaves, or free colored people to read or write. We do not intend to discuss the justice or expediency of this law—sufficient for our consideration, that it exists in Virginia and other States. Certainly the people of New York do not hold themselves in any way responsible for its effects, yet we respectfully direct the attention of the reverend gentlemen and their associates who met together in public meeting to sympathize with the Madiat, and also those other reverend gentlemen and their abettors, who lately congregated at the Tabernacle to enlist the Federal government in their undertakings—to ponder well on this Virginia case, and ask themselves by what right they denounce foreign governments, whilst such things have an existence in their midst, and examine, whether in this respect they do not live in "glass houses" themselves?

From the decision of Judge Baker, we quote, and it is particularly interesting to those who urge the *indiscriminate* reading and distribution of the Scriptures, and who hold them as the *only rule of Faith*—the Judge says:—

The Court is not called on to vindicate the policy of the law in question, for so long as it remains upon the statute book, and unrepealed, public and private justice and morality require that it should be respected and sustained. There are persons, I believe, opposed to the policy of the law in question. They profess to believe that universal intellectual culture is necessary to religious instruction and education, and that such culture is suitable to a state of slavery.

Further on he remarks:—

It is not true that our slaves cannot be taught religion and moral duty, without being able to read the Bible and use the pen. Intellectual and religious instruction often go hand in hand, but the latter may exist without the former; and the truth of this is abundantly vindicated by the well-known fact that in many parts of our Commonwealth, as in other parts of the country in which among the whites one-fourth or more are entirely without a knowledge of letters, respect for the law and for moral and religious conduct and behavior, are justly and properly appreciable and practised.

A valuable report or document recently published in the city of New York, by the Southern Aid Society, sets forth many valuable and important truths upon the condition of Southern slaves and the utility of moral instruction apart from the knowledge of books. I recommend the careful perusal of it to all whose opinions concur with your own. It shows that a system of catechetical instruction, with a clear and simple exposition of Scripture, has been employed with gratifying success.

Now, if we admit a free colored person, or a slave, to be a man and a Christian, by what right do we deny him the privilege of reading the Bible? And if the Scriptures be the only rule of faith, shall the gentlemen of Metropolitan Hall direct their attention exclusively to the dominions of the Grand Duke Leopold, neglectful of the prior right on their good offices and sympathy, of the Christian of Virginia—for Christian he may be in the most glorious acceptance of the word, even though his skin be black, and he be a slave?

The Judge enumerates the different acts on the subject, and continues:—

After these several and repeated recognitions of the wisdom and propriety of the said act, it may well be said that bold and open opposition to it is a matter not to be slightly regarded, especially as we have reason to believe that every Southern slave State in the country as a measure of self-preservation and protection, has deemed it wise and just to adopt laws with similar provisions.

There might have been no occasion for such enactments in Virginia or elsewhere, on the subject of negro education, but as a matter of self-defence against Northern incendiaries.

Shall the argument of "self-defence against Northern incendiaries," on the part of Virginia and her Southern neighbors, be deemed good, and shall we deny to Tuscan, the right to protect herself against British emissaries and incendiaries? The indictment against Mrs. Douglas was found "for assembling with negroes to instruct them to read or write, and for associating with them in an *unlawful assembly*;" the indictment against the Madiat was for associating in an "unlawful assembly." Gentlemen of Metropolitan Hall, what say you to the law of Virginia?

"Teaching negroes to read or write (adds the Judge) is made penalty by the laws of our State." It is therefore denied to a Christian (if a negro) to read the Scriptures. What say you to this, gentlemen of the Metropolitan Hall meeting? Shall the Government of the Grand Duke alone be visited with your anathemas, for prohibiting the circulation of a spurious edition of the Scriptures, and have you no word of censure for the Sovereign State of Virginia, when she renders impossible the reading of any version, by the fact of her prohibiting the act of teaching to read, and branding it as a penal offence.

The *Norfolk Argus* has the following remarks on the Judge's decision:—

It was the hope and wish of every one that she would leave the city. But no, "a martyr" she "would be in the cause of benevolence;" and to cap the climax, she brought her daughter, a maiden of some seventeen summers, who had obeyed the injunctions of her mother as a child should, to try the stern realities of the laws, and to use her own language in defending her cause, "to glory in works of benevolence and charity to a race down-trodden." Then sympathy departed, and in the breast of every one rose a righteous indignation towards a person who would throw contempt in the face of our laws, and brave the imprisonment for "the cause of humanity."

The decision of Judge Baker is cogent and pungent and will be read with interest. The laws must be upheld. It is not for the Judge to set upon the constitutionality or justice of the law; it is for him a sacred duty to impose the punishment meted out in the code. Virginia must keep in restraint the wire-workings of Abolition sentiments. We have, in this town, suffered much from the aggression of Northern foes, and a strong cord must encircle our domestic institutions. We must preserve from discord and angry passions our firesides and homesteads. We must preserve in violation the majesty of laws necessary for the protection of our rights; and there is no one of intelligence and foresight who will pronounce the judgment unrighteous.

Mrs. Douglass' time will run out this week, and we have heard it stated, from good authority, that her imprisonment will be a pecuniary reward to her. We hope that our citizens will prevent, by all possible means, any attempt to aid this woman, but let her depart hence with only one wish, that her presence will never be intruded upon again. Let her seek her associates at the North, and with them commingle, but let us put a check to such mischievous views as fell from her lips last November—sentiments unworthy a resident of the State, and in direct rebellion against our Constitution.

Let us transfer this American pleading to the dominions of the Grand Duke, and decide whether that Government had not as clear a right to protect itself against the tools of Lord Palmerston's foreign policy, stirring up sedition under the sacred name of religious liberty, as the chivalric State of Virginia had to pass judgment on Mrs. Douglass? We do not here advocate the course of either; we neither attack nor defend, but we do place this Virginia case before the eyes of the gentlemen of the Metropolitan Hall meeting, and in all candor we urge them to look at home before sitting in judgment on "the rest of mankind."

BIBLE SOCIETIES AND BURIAL CLUBS.

(From the *Tablet*.)

In those cities of Britain, where the population is most mournfully Protestant, we find two species of societies rising and growing harmoniously together—we mean Bible Societies and Burial Clubs. Rooted deeply in the soil of Protestantism, these twin societies flourish with a kind of common life, like the Polypt of the Pacific. One of these societies professes to impart to Pagans the doctrines of Christianity, while the other is more successful in engraving among Christians the practices of the infidels. Both profess the most laudable and pious objects—one to bury the dead, the other to instruct the ignorant.

Thus in ostensible objects both are similar, and both have a common object at heart, the mainspring of both being hard cash. Both of course profess to imitate, as all good Christians should do, the example of the Redeemer; but one of them, at least, is successful only in imitating His adversary, Herod.

The result of their united action on the public mind may be seen in Mr Kay's "Social Condition and Education of the People." "The wife of a Clergyman told me," says Mr. Kay, "that visiting a district just when a child's death had occurred, instead