

which, at its inception by Russia, stipulated for the preservation of its ancient constitution. In this charter the legislative power was vested in a national Parliament, composed of four estates, the nobles, the clergy, the burghers and the peasants. By different classes the functions of this Parliament have been greatly narrowed, so that at present the executive and much of the legislative power is vested in a governor general, aided by ministerial council, with a consultative body, known as the imperial Senate, composed of nineteen members nominated by the Emperor of the Russian house from the nobility and the other four classes of the empire, and its own officials. The civil service is its own official, its own police, and its own militia. "It also had a military organization distinct from that of Russia, its contingent to the imperial forces being composed of English battalions of riflemen, and companies of light and heavy

VICTORIAN HOVES

The French are not doing greatly well in the Balkans.

The severe check encountered by the French forces in their invasion of Madagascar, although regarded by Englishmen generally with much interest, has occasioned among themselves little surprise. Thus, large quantities of arms and munitions were sent to Madagascar, and were captured in the hands of the French, and were sent to London. "Early last week a large cargo of arms and munitions were shipped to the House of England. Both are still about, but are be-

will be in the charge of persons, who
 lived and died in the cause of the French
 Republic. Several American officers have for
 months past been drilling the "borders
 of the Rhine," and superintending
 the construction of fortifications and
 lines of defence. The pass leading from
 the coast to Antwerp, the capital, is still
 maintained by the Prussians. During May
 and June last, a French emissary passed
 through England, and Germany, purchas-
 ing improved military rifles for im-
 mediate service in Spain. France is
 known to have been supplied with
 The British war office has received intel-
 ligence from the report of a French
 diplomat. This news has come from
 well known and reliable sources, and
 is confirmed by the report of the
 French minister at London. The
 Paris papers, however, deny and dispute
 the report that French soldiers suffered
 a serious loss the hands of the Prussians.
 but still say that the French troops
 were not in a position to fight.

THE NEW MAIL BOAT.
 Successful Test on an Experimental
 Run. (Continued from page 1.) The first
 electric motor, for which we have

[illegible][illegible]