

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Herald* writes: "Besides a very brief telegraphic despatch from General Pelissier of the 31st, that all was going on well, and that they were advancing their works, it is said that the government is in possession of more precise information of a very hopeful character. There is now great caution observed with regard to the publication of despatches; for the sufficient reason; that any hint of intended design, or any piece of information, no matter how slight, calculated to awaken the suspicion of the enemy, would be immediately telegraphed to the Russian government. All that the despatch published in the *Moniteur* says is, that everything is going on well; but it is rumored that these words only give the *résumé* of more precisely detailed information, which the government keeps for itself, but which is described to be most satisfactory."

POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS.—It is stated with much apparent confidence that whilst her Majesty Queen Victoria was recently at Paris, grave consultations took place between the English and French Ministers, to which also Baron Hubner, the Austrian ambassador, was invited, and at which he positively took part. From this circumstance it is being deduced that France and England are again trying hard and fast to clinch the Austrian alliance; but it is added that whilst the French Cabinet attaches infinite importance hereto, English statesmen are believed to be more indifferent about it, seeing that past experience has shown that, however, willing Austria may be to enter into an active co-operation with the West against the common enemy, with a view to the more speedy termination of the war, and the final settlement of the existing complications, yet, as she is bound hand and foot, or, at all events, is most seriously hampered by Prussia and her other Russo-German allies, with whom, it is clear, nothing is to be done by fair means, it follows, as a matter of course, that to entertain hopes of Austria's immediate co-operation almost amounts to wilful self-deception.

THE CHOLERA IN PARIS.—The official sanitary journal, the *Moniteur des Hopitaux*, has at last formally announced the presence of the cholera in Paris. It admits (what nearly every one knew) that it has been there for three weeks; but says that during the last week it has acquired such intensity, that measures of precaution must be publicly advised. The cases are mostly of an instantaneous kind, what is called "*choléra foudroyant*," but as the government (perhaps wisely) does not allow the publication of any returns, we can as yet know nothing of the numbers of victims.

AUSTRIA AT ST. CLOUD.—That capital actor Regnier, in the play at St. Cloud, has given a filip in the face of Austria—and that two in the presence of France and England. In the *Demoiselle de St. Cyr*, "the policy" of Austria is named; upon which Regnier, as *Duboulay*, after his manner cries "O Austria! Austria!" Queen Victoria laughed—the emperor chuckled in his own hearty way—and Prince Albert roared! It is said that the Austrian Ambassador has asked for an explanation of the government of France, and has been respectfully referred to—M. Regnier!

QUEEN VICTORIA AND GENERAL CANROBERT.—General Canrobert, who had only arrived in Paris the day before the entry of the Queen, was detained in his own apartments by fatigue and fever, and was unable to accompany the *cortège* that went to meet and escort her Majesty, nor could he be in the evening repair to St. Cloud. The Queen deigned to remark his absence, and to express her regret. On the next day the General received an invitation to dine at St. Cloud by order of the Emperor. He was waiting in the drawing-room with the other *aides-de-camp* and guests of the Emperor when the Queen entered leaning on his Majesty's arm. As soon as she perceived the General, she advanced towards him, and expressed to him, in the most handsome manner, how happy she felt in being able to thank him for the good understanding he had always maintained with her army, and to congratulate him on the great achievements of the French army under his command. When the guests passed to the dining-room, General Canrobert prepared to take his seat near the spot where he happened to be; but the Queen made him sit on her left hand. During dinner she conversed a good deal with him, and seemed eager to learn from his lips any details respecting the state of the allied armies, and the management and probable issue of the war. On Monday, General Canrobert was invited to the apartments of Prince Albert at St. Cloud. He had been there some time, in conversation with the Prince about the war in the Crimea, when the Queen entered, without being announced. The General prepared to leave, but the Queen detained him. She sat down, and seeing that the General remained standing, she requested him to be seated. She then told him that, with the sanction of his Majesty the Emperor, she had conferred on him the Grand Cross of her Order of the Bath, as a testimony of her gratitude for the services he had rendered to her army. In this interview, which the Queen deigned to prolong, she again spoke to General Canrobert with the utmost kindness respecting the merits of his individual command, and of the fine conduct of the French army. On the day of the Queen's departure, General Canrobert formed part of the *cortège* that accompanied her Majesty to the terminus of the Eastern Railway. On his return he was recognized in the Faubourg St. Denis, and received a real ovation. The enthusiasm of the people assumed such a character that an account of it was given to the Emperor, who said, "They have acted quite right."

AUSTRIA.

The *Austrian Gazette* says:—"We learn that Austria will present to the Germanic Diet, immediately after the recess, a fresh note concerning the political situation—a note which will have reference more than the preceding declaration had, to the question of the Principalities. The Diet will thus have an opportunity of declaring itself both on this question and on the policy pursued by Austria, as it affects the interests of Germany so intimately connected with the affairs of the Danube. This intimate connection has never been explicitly called in question by the Diet, but Austria's desire is that it should be precisely and solemnly recognised by all the German governments—an act that would also imply approbation of Austria's political conduct."

SWITZERLAND.

If we may believe the German journals, the Cabinet of St. Petersburg is seeking to renew the good relations with the Helvetic Confederation, which had been deeply affected by the refusal of the Czar to recognise the new Federal Constitution. For this purpose it is said to have decided that the Russian Embassy, which since 1848 has resided at Frankfurt, shall now fix themselves at Berne. "In this movement," says a Swiss journal, in mentioning the affair, "there is a reconciliation, or at least an approach to it, on the part of Russia towards Switzerland, and that power will now cease to be so intractable towards us. These new sentiments manifested in reverses will do us no good. There will be nothing really changed, we presume, in our relations with Russia or in the opinion which has prevailed on the subject of the present conflict. All the difference will, therefore, be to have one legation the more in the federal city."

A PRIEST EXCOMMUNICATED IN TICINO.—The Bishop of Como has excommunicated a priest, named Perucchi, for having exercised the office of curate in a parish belonging to that part of his diocese which lies in the Canton of Ticino, having been elected to that office by popular nomination, according to the new law of Ticino, without any authority from the episcopal see. In his sentence the bishop denies the right of the popular assembly to make the nomination, declares it to amount to simony, and contends that Perucchi has no right to the parochial benefice of Stabio. He states that on the 8th of May last, he suspended Perucchi *a divinis*, and that on the 28th of June following he sent him a monitory, commanding him instantly to cease every ecclesiastical function; all of which measures having proved ineffectual he feels himself bound, after duly consulting the Holy See, to pronounce excommunication against him, until he shall have reconciled himself to the Church.

ITALY.

Portentous signs are beginning to manifest themselves in Italy. Accounts from various parts of that fair but misruled Peninsula concur in stating the probability of serious events soon taking place there; and letters from Austria speak of a feeling of apprehension on the same subject, as also of the preparation of the Government for all consequences. Whether the war with Russia will continue limited to the theatre of its present operations, or whether, by the force of circumstances, independent of her will, or of that of the Allies, it will assume greater proportions, and extend over Europe, no one can say; but it is on the latter eventuality that the hopes of the Italian, and doubtless those of the Hungarian and Polish emigrants also, are chiefly founded.

SECRET SOCIETIES.—A letter from Florence says:—"On the 20th August there commenced here, before the Royal Court, the trial of a secret society which had been detected in correspondence with the Republican committee in London. Up to this day, the trial has not presented any features worthy of particular remark—it is throughout the same history of dupers and duped. The most curious point that has come to my knowledge connected with this secret society is the oath administered to its members, which is as follows:—"In the name of God and of the people, I swear faith to Italy, which is to form itself into one republic; continual war against all its enemies, whether foreigners or Italians, and, above all, against the Pope-King, who is its worst enemy. I swear to conform to the instructions which shall be transmitted to me by the delegates of the Triumvirate, who direct this association; I swear to keep secret the laws and operations of the association whenever I cannot myself take part in these operations for the triumph of the good cause. So be it, and for ever!"

The cholera has almost entirely disappeared from the Roman States, and during the violence of the epidemic the exertions and devotion of the Clergy of all ranks elicited the profound admiration of the people. Their Eminences Cardinal Vannicelli, Archbishop of Ferrara, and Cardinal Morichini, Bishop of Jassi—two cities where the scourge appeared with unusual virulence—were indefatigable in their visits to the hospitals and private houses, bestowing the blessings of their sacred ministry, and distributing alms, and rendering every possible assistance; their example stimulating the exertions of all whose duty called them to the succor of the afflicted.

RUSSIA.

RUSSIA DESIRES FOR PEACE.—Count Nesselrode has addressed a fresh despatch to all the Russian Embassies, affirming the willingness of his Government to accept honorable propositions for peace, with a hint that some of the Governments whom this suggestion may reach should advance their good offices for the purpose of rescuing Russia from the really alarming position in which she is now placed.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of *La Presse*, writing under date of the 27th of August, says:—"The Emperor was seriously affected at the disastrous result of the affair on the Tchernaya, and has

ordered a searching inquiry into the facts connected with the battle. All the accounts which arrive from the Crimea are unanimous on the point of the want of provisions. At Simpheropol, in which the Russian resources are collected, provisions have been measured out to the inhabitants for a long time past, as if the place was besieged."

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* says:—"Having drained the country by every means, direct and indirect, the government of St. Petersburg has despatched agents to get up a sort of secret loan of 100 millions of roubles. The headquarters of those agents appear to be at Berlin, and, if my information be correct, the loan will be assisted by certain governments friendly to Russia. Royal personages, it is said, have contributed from their private purse. This is not remarkable, for the cause of Russia is the cause of many small European sovereigns, who see their own destruction in the fall of Russian prestige." The *Nord* of Brussels says:—"If we may interpret in a pacific sense the returning activity of diplomatists, all hope of an arrangement is not lost. M. de Bourquency and Prince Gortschakoff passed the whole morning of the 30th ult., together in conference with Count Buol at Vienna. The Vienna cabinet has already replied to the last circular of Count Nesselrode, the existence of which is now out of doubt. The communications which take place between Austria and Prussia give reason to believe that the German powers will end by agreeing upon a political programme, which they will be able to oppose to the belligerent parties who may be tempted to extend the war beyond the object for which it was ostensibly undertaken."

STATE OF FEELING IN RUSSIA.—Correspondence from St. Petersburg says, the late defeat of the Russians on the Tchernaya has produced a profound sensation in the capital—much more than the affairs of Alma and Inkermann.

The authorities in St. Petersburg, after twisting and turning the news of the battle of the Tchernaya into every possible shape, and after finding that by no legerdemain anything could be made of it but a defeat, have set themselves to invent excuses for the disagreeable fact. Prince Gortschakoff, it would appear, is to be made the scape-goat. The St. Petersburg correspondent of *Le Nord* has been instructed to write to that journal, that "an impatient desire of measuring his strength with the enemy hurried Prince Gortschakoff on beyond the limits of prudence." In Russia this false accusation is certain to be believed, for there no one dare publish the fact that Prince Gortschakoff, instead of being hurried away by an impatient desire of battle, merely carried into effect instructions received from St. Petersburg, in a letter from the Emperor, which was read to the troops before going into action. But any sympathy for Prince Gortschakoff would be entirely thrown away. He has merely been treated by his Government as he has himself treated a braver and a better officer. Among the Russian officers who fell at the battle of the Tchernaya was General Read. "Dead men tell no tales," and accordingly Prince Gortschakoff has resolved that General Read shall bear the blame of his failure.

THE RUSSIAN FINANCES.—At the commencement of the present year, there were in circulation in Russia credit notes to the amount of 556,337,021 silver roubles (the silver rouble is about 3s. 6d.), being 244,961,440 roubles more than at the beginning of 1853. The cash in hand, to guarantee this paper money, has only increased during this same period by 4,996,137 roubles, having been at the beginning of 1853 146,794,848, and at the commencement of this year 151,793,895. The debt of Russia at the beginning of 1853 was as follows:—Due abroad at fixed periods, 57,149,000 Dutch florins (the Dutch florin is about 2s.); Home Debt, 110,867,050 silver roubles; debt requiring to be paid at any moment, 223,861,476 silver roubles, and £5,280,000 sterling. These figures prove that the financial situation of Russia is very critical, and that it must get worse and worse every day, since the expenses caused by the war are estimated at 20 millions of silver roubles a month.

THE INSURRECTION IN THE UKRAINE.—The insurrection of the peasants of the Ukraine is far from being appeased. I give you the particulars which I have ascertained from the lips of the landed proprietors of that province. For some years past the popes have been employed in exciting the people against the nobles. A depot of knives and daggers, prepared expressly for this new jacquerie, had been discovered. When, in the beginning of spring, the popes proclaimed the mandates of the Holy Synod, they always added to them these words:—"Serve the Czar faithfully; combat for him; your recompense shall be your freedom; you shall possess the land and you shall no longer be exposed to the *corvée*." The peasants replied, "Yes, we wish for liberty; we wish to be like those free Cossacks, who were in other times our fathers. On that condition we will faithfully serve the Czar. We have no hatred against the nobles; we only wish for liberty, and the right to possess property." They organized them as militia, and distributed arms among them. The peasants assembled at once, and refused to separate any more. Many of the popes had been sent to Siberia for excess of zeal; many others have been beaten by the peasants because they did not use with them the same form of oath administered to the free men. Some 60,000 peasants were under arms. A battalion of regular troops which had tried to restore order was cut to pieces. Blood has been often shed; in one village 20 peasants were killed. Some of them who had been sent to the Crimea, and were made prisoners by the French, recounted how they were treated at the camp. "The French made us prisoners," they said. "Their priests taught us how to love God and the Virgin Mary. Their priests are indeed saints and true servants of God. They tell us that liberty of conscience will one day come to us from France. We wish to be free men and Catholics, as our fathers were."

THE BALTIC.

We fear that, for the present season, all available

work is over in the Baltic. The mortar-boats were returned to England, and the fleets had retired from before Cronstadt, and stood out to sea. In the Gulf of Bothnia, Captain Oter, in the *Tirefly*, has been punishing the foe—burning his stores, store-houses, and property, and capturing and destroying his ships. In the White Sea similar punishment has been inflicted by a portion of the allied squadron, but these little successes will hardly satisfy the country. It was fully expected, when the present campaign opened, that we should have had gun-boats and mortars quite sufficient to attack the great fortress which guards the Russian capital with a fair chance of success; but the doings even before Sweaborg showed that ample preparation had not been made to assail the foe in that quarter. With the requisite appliances, no reason exists, as far as we know, why Helsingfors should not have shared the fate of Sweaborg, and better still, a dash at Cronstadt would have made our power felt in St. Petersburg. It would really seem that there was some truth in the scandal current at the time that the ministry of Lord Aberdeen was not in earnest about the war. When Sir James Graham was at the head of the Admiralty, at the end of the last and the beginning of the present year, he had ample time and opportunity for providing the requisite means to carry on the struggle; but he evidently neglected it, and his speech, this week, at Carlisle, seems to indicate that his heart was not in his work. We are unwilling to join in a popular cry to hunt down an able man; but looking at the past and the present, we reluctantly arrive at the conclusion that the late First Lord of the Admiralty wanted the nerve or energy for the post which he filled.—*European Times*.

LOSSES OF THE RUSSIANS AT SWEABORG.—A letter addressed to Admiral Dundas by the English ambassador at Stockholm, states that the Russians lost upwards of 2,000 men at Sweaborg the terrific explosion which took place at noon on the first day blew up the magazine, containing the entire stock of shells and 600 men were killed by it. Every magazine in the place was destroyed, also immense stores of cordage, rope, tar, and other naval supplies. The large Russian man-of-war, which was anchored in the passage between the two islands to the north of the fortress had her side blown out, and 14 or 15 different descriptions of vessels lying inside the dock-yard basins were destroyed entirely. The Russian authorities at Helsingfors have forbidden all intercourse between that place and Sweaborg, so anxious are they to conceal from every eye the immense amount of damage done by the bombardment.

WAR IN THE EAST.

The following is the last despatch that has been received from the seat of war:—

DESTRUCTION OF A RUSSIAN SHIP OF WAR.—Great Fire at Sebastopol.—The French Minister of War has received a despatch from General Pelissier, dated the Crimea the 6th instant, at 8 o'clock A.M., which contains the following gratifying intelligence:—

On the night of the 5th instant, a great fire took place—it was caused by the burning of the Russian two-decker *Marian*, which was anchored in the bay of Sebastopol.

The fire originated in the bursting of a shell discharged from the right attack.

The brilliancy of the flames arising from the conflagration, illuminated the whole of the allied camp.

HAMBURG, SEP. 5.—Prince Gortschakoff writes from Sebastopol that the fortifications have been greatly damaged, and that the garrison has suffered heavy losses.

From Asiatic Turkey, the intelligence which has reached us during the last few days is cheering. The Russians have been defeated before Kars, leaving more than a hundred men on the field. The position of the Russian commander will soon be critical, for Omar Pacha was about to embark his army for Asia Minor, and he may probably be enabled to strike a decisive blow before the winter sets in.

THE CHURCH IN SARDINIA.

(From the Tablet.)

The long series of unprincipled and sacrilegious acts committed against the Church by the Government of Sardinia, which so well supports its historic reputation for perfidy and meanness, has at length compelled the Supreme Vicar of Jesus Christ to resort to those spiritual weapons placed in his hands for the defence of his flock and for the punishment of those who commit an impious aggression upon the fold. In the Allocation of July 26th, the Holy Father, after again pronouncing null and void the acts and decrees which during the past six years have passed in Piedmont to the detriment of religion, of the Church, and of the authority and rights of the Holy See, declares that all those who have proposed, approved, or sanctioned these measures, or who have in any way aided in carrying them out, have incurred excommunication. This heavy but most justly-merited sentence, pronounced by the Vicar of Jesus Christ against the Government and Legislature of a country which still professes to be Catholic, has been not merely provoked, but rendered absolutely necessary by a long series of persecutions and outrages which can find few parallels in any country professing the Catholic religion. We shall briefly recapitulate some of these acts.

The revolutionary movement of 1848 was attended in Piedmont by an outburst of the licentious spirit of liberalism and contempt for religion which distinguished most of the Continental revolutionists. This spirit soon found vent in a ribald press, pandering to the exciting passions of the day, and was likewise embodied in an act of the legislature which infringed on the authority of the Holy See by interfering with the freedom and exercise of Ecclesiastical jurisdiction. This was followed by an attempt to deprive the theological teaching of the universities of the supervision and guardianship of the Episcopacy; and by the approval given in the public examinations to heterodox theses founded on a condemned work of the unhappy Professor Nuyts, of Turin. A warrant of attack upon the persons and properties of Ecclesiastics was also made by the decree of the 25th August, 1848, which expelled from the Sardinian territories the Jesuits and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart; and by a most monstrous act of public robbery confiscated the entire property of these Orders. Of course these injurious and unprincipled acts found vigorous opponents in the Sardinian Episcopacy, and especially in