

caught by this sort of overture, I simply answered that I had always understood that the English views upon Egypt did not go beyond the point of securing a safe and ready communication between British India and the mother country."

In dismissing Sir H. Seymour the Emperor said, "I have confidence in the English Government. Ce n'est point un engagement, une convention que je leur demande; c'est un libre échange d'idées, et au besoin, une parole de gentilhomme; entre nous cela suffit."

These conversations were embodied in a Russian memorandum, dated Feb. 21, which stipulated that "the result of this discussion should remain what it ought to be, a *secret between the two sovereigns*."

To these disclosures of the views of Russia, which reached the Foreign-office on the 6th of March, Lord Clarendon replied that, concurring as he did in the negative propositions of the Emperor Nicholas, the British Government perseveres in the belief that Turkey still possesses the elements of existence, and that the hastening or indefinite postponement of an event which every Power in Europe is concerned in averting will mainly depend on the policy of Russia herself towards the Porte: but that in any case England desires no territorial aggrandisement, and could be no party to a previous arrangement from which she was to derive any such benefit, or to any understanding, however general, which was to be kept secret from the other Powers. Seeing that no good could arise out of a further correspondence, the Foreign Secretary desires that it should cease. He previously, however, makes the following observations in respect to the instructions given to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, in regard to the Holy Places. He was told to bear in mind that Her Majesty's Government, without professing to give an opinion on the subject, were not insensible to the superior claims of Russia, both as respected the treaty obligations of Turkey, and the loss of the moral influence that the Emperor would sustain throughout his dominions, if, in the position occupied by his Imperial Majesty with reference to the Greek church, he was to yield any privileges it had hitherto enjoyed to the Latin church, of which the Emperor of the French claimed to be the protector.

The following Russian memorandum closes the correspondence:

"The Emperor has, with lively satisfaction, made himself acquainted with Lord Clarendon's despatch of the 23d of March. His Majesty congratulates himself on perceiving that his views and those of the English Cabinet entirely coincide on the subject of the political combinations which it would be chiefly necessary to avoid, in the extreme case of the contingency occurring in the East, which Russia and England have equally at heart to prevent, or, at all events, to delay as long as possible. Sharing, generally, the opinions expressed by Lord Clarendon, on the necessity of the prolonged maintenance of the existing state of things in Turkey, the Emperor, nevertheless, cannot abstain from advertng to a special point, which leads him to suppose that the information received by the British Government is not altogether in accordance with ours. It refers to the humanity and the toleration to be shewn by

Turkey in her manner of treating her Christian subjects.

"Putting aside many other examples to the contrary of an old date, it is, for all that, notorious that recently the cruelties committed by the Turks in Bosnia forced hundreds of Christian families to seek refuge in Austria. In other respects, without wishing on this occasion to enter upon a discussion as to the symptoms of decay, more or less evident, presented by the Ottoman Power, or the greater or less degree of vitality which its internal constitution may retain, the Emperor will readily agree that the best means of upholding the duration of the Turkish Government, is not to harass it by overbearing demands, supported in a manner humiliating to its independence and its dignity. His Majesty is disposed, as he has ever been, to act upon this system, with the clear understanding, however, that the same rule of conduct shall be observed, without distinction, and unanimously, by each of the great Powers, and that none of them shall take advantage of the weakness of the Porte, to obtain from it concessions which might turn to the prejudice of the others. This principle being laid down, the Emperor declares that he is ready to labour, in concert with England, at the common work of prolonging the existence of the Turkish Empire, setting aside all causes of alarm on the subject of its dissolution. He readily accepts the evidence offered by the British Cabinet, of entire confidence in the uprightness of his sentiments, and the hope that, on this basis, his alliance with England cannot fail to become stronger.

"St. Petersburg, April 3 (15), 1853."

The *Times* fairly describes Count Nesselrode's "memorandum" founded on communications received from the Emperor when in England in 1844, as a declaration on the part of the two Cabinets that they were mutually convinced that it is their common interest that Turkey should retain her independence and her existing territorial possessions; that they would unite their efforts to consolidate her existence, and to avert dangers threatening to her safety; and that for this purpose it was essential to leave the Porte alone, without uselessly harassing it by diplomatic embarrassments, and without interfering, except in cases of absolute necessity, in its internal affairs.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

During the last week of October and the month of November, military operations were commenced along the Danube, and several partial engagements took place, generally resulting in the success of the Turks. The principal of them was the movement at Oltenitza, where the Russians suffered severely. An event of much greater importance occurred, however, on the last day of November at Sinope, where the Russian fleet, in force, attacked a Turkish Squadron:—

All accounts agree in stating that the Turks suffered terribly at Sinope. The town was set on fire and destroyed, and upwards of 4000 Turks perished; and 400 guns were lost to the Turkish fleet. The Turkish squadron under Osman Bey consisted of six frigates, four corvettes, and two