

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

FRANCE

Several foreign journals have announced as positive a meeting at the camp of Châlons-sur-Marne between the Emperors of France and Russia. Nothing is yet decided on the subject.

The day approaches when the suspended *Assemblée Nationale* will be allowed to re-assemble, but under a new name.

The *Debats*, in a long and interesting article, seeks to prove that the origin of the mutiny in India is to be sought neither in foreign intrigues nor in the incapacity or neglect of the officers of that army.

It is unjust to attribute the responsibility of the present evils to the officers of the Indian army: the responsibility must be placed at a far higher door.

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A handsome and well-deserved tribute. I must say that all the Frenchmen I have heard speak on the subject of the contest now waging in Bengal have expressed themselves in terms of warm, and some of them almost enthusiastic, admiration of the valor and constancy of the handful of brave men who are so valiantly struggling against the rebel forces.

The opinion is widely spread in India that the long train of powder which has exploded under the feet of the British at Teheran, Delhi, and Canton proceeds from a concerted plan prepared by Russia during the late war, and not abandoned by her after the conclusion of peace.

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Spain. It is believed that the Cortes will meet in October, in order to be in session at the period of Her Majesty's accession.

It is a melancholy fact that two crimes, formerly unknown in this country, are now of frequent recurrence—suicide, and the sacrilegious robbery of the churches.

The public are constantly assured that the negotiations concerning the "Ecclesiastical question" are in a fair way of being settled with his Holiness; but nothing positive on this subject is published in the official journal, and Senator Mori, charged with these negotiations, is expected to resume his seat as deputy in the next meeting of the Cortes.

Dispute between Naples and Sardinia.—The *Times* correspondent, speaking of the dispute about the Cagliari steamer, says: "I am assured that the King of Sardinia is disposed to carry matters to a high hand, and he is said to be determined, if Naples refuses his request, not only to withdraw his ambassador, but also to declare war. One has difficulty in believing that he would so promptly adopt so strong a measure. I need hardly point out that, if he did, the affair would be most serious, and might, very probably, be fatal to the peace of Europe."

The *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa says:—"The seizure of a quantity of arms at Naples on board two Neapolitan steamers is confirmed. The police had previously received secret information on the subject from the Austrian police. It is also stated that a small band of about fifteen men, the survivors of the Sapri expedition, are still wandering about the mountains of Calabria."

The *Cattolico* of Genoa, states that the deputation of Priests, who were to proceed to Florence to present their homage to the Pope, will not go; for reasons beyond the control of the Priesthood. The paragraph is so worded as to intimate that the government has interfered to prevent the departure of the deputation.

The *Bilancia* of Milan states that intelligence from Genoa gives reason to believe that the Mazzini or democratic party still hold their sacred meetings in that city, and that the Ministry are well aware of the fact, but that they do not think proper to hinder them.

TURKEY. Despatches from Constantinople announce the receipt, by the British and Austrian ambassadors, of the fresh instructions from their respective governments by which they are ordered to demand of the Porte, conjointly with the representatives of the other four powers, that the Moldavian elections should be annulled.

As the mutineers were driven back with the loss of their baggage, and as the attempted march to Delhi is near 400 miles over a sandy desert, and other obstructions, besides that the Punjab is not exactly the place for an outcast and destitute Hindoo to find himself at home in, we may expect some further account of these gentlemen. A rising took place at Hyderabad on the 18th, probably under similar circumstances, but was quickly suppressed.

RUSSIA. The following letter from St. Petersburg in the *Constitutionnel* refers to a singular rumour current for some time past in the German press, relative to an intention of Austria to question the right of the Emperor of Russia to the title of King of Poland.

The relations between the Courts of St. Petersburg and Vienna are very unsatisfactory, and may be judged of by the petty quibbles now indulged in by the Austrian Cabinet. Everybody is aware that the Emperor of Russia is also King of Poland, and it is very natural that he should adopt that title in official documents. This can only be objected to by those who seek a pretext for satisfying their bad feelings. Such appears to be the intention of the Vienna Cabinet, which, through its Charge d'Affaires at our Court, objects that Alexander II. should assume the title of Emperor and King, which belongs exclusively, according to that cabinet, to the Emperor of Austria.

Despatches received in Paris from Teheran to the 5th July state that when the Indian mutiny became known in Persia, several ulemas preached in favour of the Indians, and the propaganda would have assumed a serious character had it not been for the energy displayed by the government to arrest its progress. At the latest date the country was tranquil, and the new Minister of War was reorganising the army. The court had quitted Teheran for Elbruz, where it encamps every year during the hot weather. The Shah was determined to honourably execute the treaty of peace, and the best understanding existed between him and Mr. Murray, the British minister, whose health would force him shortly to quit the country. Herat was to be evacuated by the Persian troops. This would have been done sooner had it not been for a civil war that was raging among the principal tribes of Afghanistan, of which each one pretends to the possession of that important fortress. It was known at Teheran that the British troops were about to quit the Persian Gulf.

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Several massacres have taken place in the North West Provinces. The Punjab continues quiet, with the exception of a mutiny at Sealkote of the 9th Light Cavalry and 46th Native Infantry, who took the route to Delhi. They were attacked on the 12th of July by Brigadier Nicholson and were driven back, with 200 killed and wounded, leaving their baggage and plunder in our hands. Our loss was six killed and 15 wounded. A rising took place at Hyderabad on the 18th of July, but was quickly suppressed.

INDIA. The Bombay mail arrived at Suez six days after the arrival of that from Calcutta, and brings us news from Delhi down to the 14th of July. At that date, it appears, we were still waiting for reinforcements.

What a wonderful mercy the telegraph communication has been kept up in the Punjab; here is a use it was put to.—A letter was intercepted at Pindwe, which said, "Three natives of high rank (giving names) sit in council to-morrow, to decide what to do against the English." The telegraph said, "Let a spy attend, and report." This was done, and

as, owing to the extent of our own positions to be protected, no more than 2,000 Europeans could be spared for an effective attack on the city. On the scale of the calculations made in the not very different case of Sebastopol, this would not necessarily imply a less aggregate than 7,000 Europeans in the camp, the last estimate reported. The death of Sir H. Bernard took place on the 5th, so that his successor, General Reid, had been nine days in command at the last date. The garrison of Lucknow, in the words of the despatch, was "still holding out" after the loss of its lamented commandant on the 4th. The report of General Havelock's successes is confirmed: With his flying brigade of 2,000 Europeans he had achieved three brilliant victories over the rebels, and driven them away from the extensive positions they were lately occupying round Sir Hugh Wheeler at Cawnpore, capturing from them 26 guns. They are the very men who, under the miscreant Nens Sahib, perpetrated that horrible massacre of European women and children caught in their passage down the Ganges, and it is a good omen for our cause that they are the first victims of a just retribution. These successes have been obtained with little loss on our side. On the other hand, the report from Agra looks ill, though not very explicable. The garrison is said to have fought the Neemuch mutineers on the 5th of July, with the loss of 49 killed and 92 wounded, out of a total force of 500. Several massacres have taken place in the North-Western provinces. This may or may not mean more detailed accounts of the calamities already reported.

The Bombay and Madras presidencies were perfectly tranquil, and their armies remained loyal. This is now our chief hope, for so long as the mutiny is confined to its present range every day will place it more under command. The Punjab was quiet, excepting that some cavalry and infantry of the Bengal army stationed at Sealkote, on the Chenab, about sixty miles north-east of Lahore, followed the example of their comrades, and marched off towards Delhi, thinking that probably a safer course than to remain among the Sikhs. They were, however, attacked on the 12th of July by Brigadier Nicholson, and driven back with 200 killed and wounded, leaving their baggage and plunder in our hands.

As the mutineers were driven back with the loss of their baggage, and as the attempted march to Delhi is near 400 miles over a sandy desert, and other obstructions, besides that the Punjab is not exactly the place for an outcast and destitute Hindoo to find himself at home in, we may expect some further account of these gentlemen. A rising took place at Hyderabad on the 18th, probably under similar circumstances, but was quickly suppressed.

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in a few minutes after the outbreak of the plot were before Lawrence. Telegraph attend, "Hang them all three." In fifteen minutes more they were hanging. Short work.

The following is an extract from the letter of a British officer in the army before Delhi: "It shows the arduous nature of the service in which that army is engaged, and that, in fact, it is rather besieged in its camp than acting on the offensive." "On June 24th. Still before the walls of this horrible city. We have had no reinforcements yet beyond a few Sikhs belonging to the 4th Sikh Regiment; consequently we have been able to do nothing except hold our own. On the 19th they came out again, having received reinforcements, which they immediately sent out to fight us. At the same time a very large force went out on a long way and tried to get round into the rear of our camp. A large force of ours consequently went out to meet these gentlemen, and a tremendous fight was the consequence. Our arrangements were very bad in this fight—the cavalry, infantry, and Artillery all mixed up together in sad confusion; many of our men, I fear, killed by our side. The mutineers held a capital position, and their big guns did terrible execution, loaded as they were with grape-shot; unfortunately, too, evening closed in on the fight, and, instead of quietly retiring, so as to protect our camp, we were ordered to fight on, and the confusion became terrible; at last, however, the order came to retire; many of our guns were left on the ground till morning, as also our killed and wounded, but were luckily all safely brought back into camp next day. I fear our loss was nearly equal to the enemy's that day; several officers were killed and wounded—among the latter our commandant (Daly) shot through the shoulder. He is doing well, however. Kennedy, of our cavalry, too, has since been shot through the leg and stomach; he is doing well, but he had a narrow escape. On the morning after the last fight the mutineers again came out to try the same plan as the evening before; but the lesson we had made us wiser, and we marched out in capital order. The enemy, seeing this, immediately began to retire, and tried to draw us on to some broken ground. This, however, they did not succeed in; and, as they kept retreating from place to place, our Horse Artillery punished them a good deal. Finding they could do no good that day, they wisely retired, and we returned to camp. No loss on our side. Since then (the 20th), beyond a few skirmishes, nothing was attempted on either side, except our blowing up two bridges, which prevents the enemy's artillery from coming out except by a long route of some three miles to the left and right; but yesterday, the 23rd, we heard that every man in the city capable of bearing arms was coming out to make an end of us or die in the attempt. Our information was correct; at sunrise yesterday morning the whole city apparently turned out and attacked us on all sides. I was with the Guides on the right, and from sunrise to past sunset we fought altogether fifteen hours without anything to eat and only water to drink. We managed to hold our own well, nevertheless, till about one o'clock an immense reinforcement came to the assistance of the opposite party, and we had enough to do to hold our own. I twice fired away every shot we had, nearly a 100 rounds per man, and had sent back for more ammunition. The men I sent came back with the fearful news there was no more; to leave the position was contrary to all orders, so we had to do our best by pretending to fire and keeping the post with the bayonet. All this time we were under a perfect hailstorm of bullets, round shot, and shell, for the enemy had brought some of their light field guns round, and were playing with great effect on our reduced numbers. I certainly thought we should be done for, when by the greatest good luck a part of the regiment of Sikhs that had that very morning marched into camp came up with a yell of our assistance; they were fresh men, and had lots of ammunition, so we rushed on and drove the enemy back. At the same time we were ordered to advance as far as we could; this we did, and drove the enemy into the city; after which, as they did not seem inclined to come out again, we retired, it being past sunset. Just at this time my legs, stout as they are, fairly, and for the first time, refused to carry me after a little coaxing and rest, however, they condescended to carry me on a little further, and I reached our picket dead beaten. I certainly never was so fearfully and painfully tired in my life. A man named Sheebare, who is doing the second in command's work in poor Batty's place, a great, big, and very powerful-built giant, was also fearfully knocked up that he was obliged to be carried up; two of our poor men also were so fatigued that they died from exhaustion. Luckily on arrival at picket we found something to eat and drink. After a few mouthfuls I fell back on my bed fast asleep. Luckily, too, there was no alarm or attack in the night, for I feel perfectly certain that had my commission depended on it I could not have got up. A good night's sleep has set me up wonderfully, and I feel quite jolly. The mutineers have been quiet to-day also; they lost fearfully yesterday. No more for to-day, or I shall be too late for the mail."

A Clergyman at Benares writes that the gibbet is a standing institution there—

"There it stands immediately in front of the flag-staff, with three ropes always attached to it, so that three may be executed at one time. Two additional gibbets were erected, with three ropes to each, but they have been taken down. Scarcely a day passes without some poor wretches being hurled into eternity. It is horrible, very horrible! To think of it is enough to make one's blood run cold; but such is the state of things here that even feeble delicate ladies may be heard expressing their joy at the vigor with which the miscreants are dealt with. The swiftness with which crime is followed by the severest punishment strikes the people with astonishment, it is so utterly foreign to all our modes of procedure, as known to them. Hitherto the process has been very slow, encumbered with forms, and such cases have always been carried to the Supreme Court for final decision. Now, the Commissioner of Benares may give commissions to whom he chooses (the city being under martial law) to try, decide, and execute on the spot, without any delay. The other day a party were sent out to Gopiganj, some thirty miles distant, to seize a landowner who had proclaimed himself Rajah, and two men said to be his ministers. The three men were surprised and taken. They were tried on the spot by a commission composed of five military and civil officers. After a short trial, the three were condemned to be executed then and there. The Rajah and the others protested they were innocent, and appealed to the Sudder (the Supreme Court). They were told there was no appeal to the Sudder in these days. To their utter amazement and horror, preparations were made for their execution before their own door, and before the sun went down they were executed. Whatever may be thought of such doings, one thing is certain, that these executions have struck terror into the hearts of the ruffians in this district, and have done much to awe them into better conduct. Roads near us, in which people were hourly robbed a fortnight ago, are now quite safe."

The writer of the letter from which we have extracted the following was in Delhi at the time of the outbreak. The sight of an outrage on a woman roused his ire, and, having shot one of the ruffians, they attacked his house:—

"About a dozen ruffians now made an attack on my house, and began battering at the door. I called my friend who had given me the news, and giving him a revolving pistol in one hand and a sword in the other (these were the arms of poor Harry), I walked boldly down to the door and let them in. As I opened the door I retreated behind it. The blacks came rushing in pell-mell, and were rushing up the passage, when my friend and two servants came from their concealment and fired at them steadily, which brought three of them down; then club-

bing their guns, they rushed on the surprised blacks. At the moment the attack was made by my crew of men, I stepped out from my hiding-place behind the door, and shot the hindmost with my pistol, and then, with all the force of ten thousand devils, I went to work with my sword, wounding here, killing there, and shooting those that stabbed at me. At last there were but five blacks left, and they forced by me and gazed the street. I, following close behind them, shot the door violently there-by shutting them out. I went back and found that all three of my assistants were so mortally wounded that I despaired of their lives; and my fears were quickly dispelled by two of them dying shortly after in the most frightful agony; the other—my dear friend Hancock—dying shortly after. After our killing so many of their men, I knew that the house would be attacked, and no mercy shown; so I discolored my face and assumed the garb of one of the black boys, and I could speak their language I thought I should pass for a black. I got out by a back way, and began hallooing and shouting, and running and going about where the other blacks were, and so by these means avoided suspicion, incurring the greatest danger of being recognised. I met two or three times with a single black in a lonely place, and such was my hatred of them that I could not refrain myself from killing them. One time, after I had killed a black and was looking over him, a body of blacks came up, and would have struck me to the earth had I not called out fiercely in their language that I would avenge him, and suddenly starting from my standing post called out to an imaginary fellow to stop, swearing, he was the murderer. I bounded away, the others with me, but failed to catch the fellow. When the blacks made a sortie, I snuggled myself in with them, and came over to my friends, where I was warmly received. I got wounded in the engagement, but avenged myself upon them for I fought with all the desperation of madness."

The following letter is from a clergyman:—

BANARAS, July 4.—I began writing you an account by the last mail of this terrible outbreak in the Bengal Presidency, and I have determined to give you a brief outline of what further has been perpetrated, as Englishmen ought to be in possession of facts, lest there should be any squeamishness about the punishment in store for the brutal and diabolical mutineers.

"We have had an awful time of it, I can assure you, though we ourselves have been mercifully kept from alarm or danger. No words can express the feeling of horror which pervades society in India, we hear so many private accounts of the tragedy, which are so sickening to repeat.

"The cruelties committed by the wretches exceed all belief. They took 48 females, most of them girls of from 10 to 14, many delicately nurtured ladies, violated them, and kept them for the base purposes of the heads of the insurrection for a whole week. At the end of that time they made them strip themselves, and gave them up to the lowest of the people to abuse in broad daylight in the streets of Delhi. They then commenced the work of torturing them to death, cutting off their breasts, fingers, and noses, and leaving them to die. One lady was three days dying. They flayed the face of another lady and made her walk naked through the street. Poor Mrs. —, the wife of an officer of the Regiment at Meerut, was soon expecting her confinement. They violated her, then ripped her up, and, taking from her the unborn child, cast it and her into the flames. No European man, woman, or child has had the slightest mercy shown them. I do not believe that the world ever witnessed more hellish torments than have been inflicted on our poor fellow-countrywomen. At Allahabad they have rivalled the atrocities of Delhi. I really cannot tell you the fearful cruelties these demons have been guilty of—cutting off the fingers and toes of little children, joint by joint, in sight of their parents, who were reserved for similar treatment afterwards."

(FROM A CIVIL SERVANT.)

ALLAHABAD, JUNE 28.—Here I am well and safe, thanks be to God, who has mercifully preserved me and others from a cruel fate which has overtaken many of our dear friends.

"We have had a trying time of it, but as far as Allahabad is concerned, all is well, for we have a large force of European soldiers, who would fight and beat off all creation if necessary, and which is being daily increased by reinforcements coming up from Calcutta. We have been so bewildered lately that I have lost all recollection of dates and of when I last wrote to you: We were incarcerated in that horrid fort from the 6th to the 18th of this month, and a fearful time we had of it. God grant that I may never pass such a time again! Better to die by the sword fighting than to see such sights of horror and pass such a time of anxiety. I do not think that I told you in my last letter of the treachery of the 6th Native Infantry, or of the fearful night of the 6th of June. I can hardly write it, so sad and miserable is the story. God, in His infinite mercy, preserved me from a dreadful death at the hands of the bloodthirsty Sepoys. I told you in my last letter that we were apprehensive of an outbreak on the part of the city people, and that I had taken up a position at the gaol ready to make a stand; that the officers of the 6th Native Infantry had all confidence in their men, though we had not, for now no one can trust those wretched animals. Well, matters went on quietly enough till Friday, the 5th, when news of the disturbance at Benares came up, with a report that a number of the insurgents were on their way to attack this station. On the same day an order came from the Brigadier at Cawnpore to "man the fort with every available European, and make a good stand." No non-military men were instantly ordered into the fort, being formed into a militia under the orders of the officer commanding the garrison. We slept in the fort on that Friday, the 5th, doing duty upon the ramparts, and returned to the station the following morning, but only for the morning, going into the fort again in the afternoon. At this time we had in the fort about 30 invalid artillery soldiers, some few commissariat and magazine sergeants, and we volunteers mustering above 100 men. There were also 400 Sikhs, and 80 of the wretched 6th guarding the main gate! A great number of the European merchants and half-castes remained outside, believing the report to be only a cry of "Wolf," and supposing it to be a false alarm. The report of the approach of the insurgents was false; but, alas! would that the poor creatures had taken advice and joined us in the fort! Among those outside were poor Captain Birch, the Fort Adjutant, a married man, poor fellow, with a family; Innes, the executive engineer, who had the previous day resigned his appointment to the fort from ill-health, and had gone up to his banglow. My poor dear friend, Alexander, of the Invalids, was in a garden near the fort with 150 of his troopers. Two guns under Howard, of the Artillery, had been sent down to the river to guard the bridge of boats over the Ganges towards Benares. Hicks, of the 6th Native Infantry, and two little griffs were also stationed there in charge of two companies of that regiment. Well all these poor fellows were out and we were inside the fort, through the mercy of the Almighty. We were told off on our guard and had had ourselves down on our beds (those who were not on watch), when, about half-past 9, we heard firing in the station, and on the alarm bugle being sounded we ran up to the ramparts in breathless silence. The firing grew heavier, and we all thought that the insurgents had entered the station, and were being beaten off by the regiment. So steady was the musketry, regular file firing; on, on, it continued, volley after volley. "Oh," we all said, "these gallant Sepoys are beating off our men, as if they were driving a force out of the station. But before long the end truth will be known. Heard you in, bringing the tidings that the wretched Sepoys had risen, had seized his guns, and had marched them up to the station. He had escaped, and had run up to poor Alexander's camp,