

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The long protracted dry weather is causing general uneasiness for the state of the crops, the accounts however are of a nature to allay any serious apprehensions. The cholera has made its appearance at Dijon, and has carried off great numbers. The camp at Boulogne will be composed of nearly 50,000 men. The Paris correspondent of the Times writes to the effect that General Montebell, aid-de-camp to the King of Prussia, has left Berlin for St. Petersburg, leaving a note from his Government, seconding the demand lately made by Austria for the evacuation of the Principalities. The same correspondent says, that he has learnt, on good authority, that Russia has manifested a desire to conclude an arrangement which should have for its principal basis the evacuation of the principalities, and the establishment of the status quo, and that propositions have been made to Austria to that effect. Though such a move on the part of Russia would argue the consciousness of weakness, and a desire to get out of the difficult position in which she is with two great powers in arms against her by land and sea, with her seacoast rigorously blocked up, and discontent and irritation among her people, yet it is not thought that it will be accepted.

GERMAN POWERS.

At Teschen, on the borders of Saxony, a Conference has just taken place between the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia; and though the proceedings have, as usual, been enveloped in that mystery so delightful to German politicians, they are believed to have resulted in the adoption of a policy identical with that of the Western Powers. According to the most reliable speculations, Austria has already despatched her ultimatum to the Czar, insisting upon the evacuation of the Principalities; and this summons is to be supported by Baron Montebell, on the part of Prussia. Should the Czar refuse, Austria is resolved upon enforcing her ultimatum by arms; and Prussia is already preparing for the obligations of this contingency by mobilizing a portion of her troops. That this is the position of Austria, at all events, two facts seem to indicate very distinctly. 1. At a recent diplomatic banquet in Constantinople, the Austrian interuncio, "by authority," toasted the independence of the Ottoman Empire, and declared his Government ready to enforce the principles of the Quadruple Protocol. 2. Those divisions of the Russian Army which had been advancing southward to the Danube, by Moldavia, have been suddenly arrested in their march, and ordered to confront the Austrian army now concentrated at Gallacia, the Bukowina, and Transylvania; and a still larger Russian force threatens the Austrian frontier from Poland, on the north-east.—Nation.

BALTIC.

Admiral Plumridge has been punishing the Russians. He has destroyed their dockyards at Uleaborg and Brahestad, burning 10,000 barrels of tar at one place, and 18,000 at another. He has also taken several gun-boats.

The navigation of the Gulf of Finland, under the most favorable state of the weather, is attended with difficulty, especially for ships of great draught of water. At the present time it is rendered more hazardous, from the fact of the Russians having removed the various buoys and beacons which denoted the usual channels. As an instance of one of the impediments which the enemy has thrown in the way of the safe progress of the fleet up the Gulf of Finland, it may be cited that the lighthouse on the island of Hango, which is situate at the north-western entrance of the gulf, has been pulled down, and the usual marks for vessels entering the roadsteads have been removed. Throughout the whole length of the gulf similar proceedings have been adopted by the enemy, but which, however, will not have the effect intended. By sending in advance two or three small steamers to take soundings and bearings, the large ships will be able to shape a safe course to Sweaborg, and thence to the vicinity of Cronstadt.

No further bombardment of the forts commanding Hango Udd has taken place. Their speedy destruction would have been easily effected, but attended with no advantage. The fortresses of Sweaborg mount 800 guns of large calibre, one-half of which, it is stated, could be brought to bear on any ships attempting to pass through the narrow channel to the harbor of Helsingfors. In the garrison are several thousand artillerymen, and it appears to be the opinion of those who have given the subject much serious consideration that our ships, notwithstanding their powerful armament, would make but little impression on batteries of solid granite. It is not, therefore, probable that any attack on Sweaborg will be made. But admitting that the fleet succeeded in demolishing these fortresses, the possession of the locality could not be retained without a large body of troops, a supply of whom is not provided.

The following is said to be an extract of a letter from the Baltic fleet:—

"We are occupied incessantly with exercising, sounding, and improving our charts. Admiral Napier is extremely grave, and deeply impressed with the enormous responsibility that lies on him as the commander of such a vast armament. He will not be a spendthrift of his strength simply out of bravado, but when it comes to the pinch he will not shun the extremest dangers. His plans are not known to any one, but the opinion prevails throughout the fleet that its task will be divided into a vast number of portions, and each several portion be undertaken with the entire force. The reputation of a place like Cronstadt sinks extremely as soon as a single fort is destroyed, and this depends mainly on the range of the guns. The attack on Ekness was sim-

ply an experiment. There is also a conviction prevalent on board the fleet that military support on the part of Sweden may confidently be reckoned on. In a letter quoted by the Daily News, and said to be written by an officer of high rank in the Baltic fleet, dated from Barosund, some twenty miles from Helsingfors, June 6th, we read:—

"The idea of attacking the batteries of Helsingfors, Cronstadt, or Reval, appears to be quite banished. The war will, therefore, be a strict blockade. I can't see any finish to it."

The Swedish journal, the Svarske Tidningen, of the 8th, confirms the news of the arrival of Admiral Napier in the Bay of Poskala, three miles south-west of Sweaborg. From the lighthouse, a part of the Russian fleet, composed of ten line-of-battle ships, was perceived, sheltered by the fortifications. Admiral Corry was with his division before Hango Head.

WAR IN THE EAST.

Dispatches from the Danube to the 7th of June represent the siege of Silistria as "still continuing without any important result;" and as 20,000 Anglo-French soldiers arrived at Varna five days before, an engagement has probably already taken place between the Allies and the Czar. From Varna to Omar Pasha's encampment is only 50 miles; from Shumla to Turtukai 50 more; and Turtukai is only 30 miles from Silistria. But even before the Allies reach Silistria, they are certain to have an opportunity of fleshing their maiden swords, for the roads between that fortress and Shumla are now completely blocked by the Russians. Mussa Pasha's heroic resistance will thus be not only the most brilliant but the most important episode of the war. In the Black Sea, the Russians have been compelled to abandon the Redoubt Kaleh, their most important fortress on the Caucasian coast, connecting Tiflis and the interior of Georgia with the Euxine. It was on the 18th of May that the combined squadrons summoned it to surrender. No answer being returned, two war steamers bombarded and silenced the batteries, which were then gallantly seized at a battalion of Turkish artillery. With true Muscovite tactics, the Russian General retreated, leaving the commercial city in flames.

The Circassians are now masters of all the forts and fortified places which border the coast of their country. Soukum Kaleh, abandoned by the Russians, is now occupied by the Mingrelians. Schamy has lately taken possession of Usurgit, a very important fortress defended by twenty thousand Russians, who, after great loss, were obliged to abandon it with a vast amount of provisions and munitions of war. Schamy now marches with one hundred and twenty thousand men against Tiflis, and he will then not be more than 24 hours' distance from the capital of Russian Georgia.

It is erroneous to call Marshal St. Arnaud the Commander-in-Chief of the allied forces. A certain general plan of action has been agreed on between the three generals, but each has his own separate and perfectly independent command.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN GIFFARD.—We have to record the death of Captain Giffard, of H.M.S. Tiger, from the wounds he received before surrendering his ship. He lost one leg, and was badly wounded in the other. In fact, he received several wounds whilst bravely defending his charge to the last. He was buried on the 2nd of June, with military honors. The young midshipman, who also fell by his side, was not a nephew, but a more distant relative. After the funeral, the captive crew of the Tiger, who, by the intercession of the Austrian consul, have received their pay, were to proceed to Risan; the officers are to be sent to Moscow, with the exception of the first lieutenant, who is ordered to St. Petersburg, to attend the Emperor of Russia.

RUSSIAN TOLERATION OF CATHOLICITY.—The following fact will show to what extent the Russian generals carry their fanaticism in the present war. At one of the last assaults on Silistria the Russian commander ordered the Greek Chaplains to give the Sacrament to all the soldiers. This order was executed in the morning at break of day. Two non-commissioned officers, born in Poland, having declared to the Priest that, being Catholics, they could not, without committing a sacrilege, receive the Communion from his hands, were immediately tried by a council of war, and shot.—Patrie.

THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS A M'GREGOR?—John M'Gregor, of Callandar, writes to the Scotsman, claiming the Czar as a descendant of the M'Gregors. He says, "Gregor M'Gregor had a grand uncle, who, a long time ago, was a farmer and cattle-dealer at the bridge of Turk; the said grand-uncle while there having, through no fault of his, become embarrassed in circumstances, left for England, and ultimately reached London. He was not long there when fortune smiled upon him, and to his honor be it said, transmitted money to pay the full amount of principal and interest due by him to his creditors. Some time after that the Emperor Paul had been in London, and when one day driving in his carriage through Hyde-park, observed a lady, in the bloom of youth and beauty, riding past him on a Highland sheltie. He stopped his carriage, made inquiry about her, found out who she was, got introduced to her father, and to herself, paid frequent visits to her at her father's house, was so much captivated by her beauty, accomplishments, and unassuming manners, that he offered her marriage, was accepted, and after all preliminaries were settled, was some time after privately married to her, went with him to Russia, and in due time became the mother of the present Emperor of All the Russians. The reader will wonder who this lady was; in answer, I have to say that she was none other than the beautiful daughter of M'Gregor, the Highland farmer of the Bridge of Turk."

THE WAR—APPROACHING CRISIS.

(From the Tablet.)
The accounts from the Danubian provinces seem to show that the time has at last come for testing the reality of the war which the Russian Emperor affects to sustain against the allied arms of France, England, and Turkey. Hitherto the warfare, as regarded the principal belligerents, has been confined very much to paper declarations; or to what we may take leave to term *pro forma* acts of hostility. The comparatively trifling, but, for the force actually engaged, brilliant operation, which has been called the "bombardment" of Odessa, was hardly an exception to this, nor even the later successes on the coast of Circassia. The former was undertaken solely to punish the Russians for an outrage on the law of nations committed by firing on a flag of truce, and the latter as the result of a mission, whose chief object was to pave the way for an alliance with those hardy tribes of the Caucasus who have never succumbed to the power of the Russian Czar. In the Baltic the operations have been of a still more formal nature, though exactly three months have elapsed since Sir Charles Napier left the harbor of Portsmouth in command of as fine a fleet as ever sailed from the shores of England. But the rapid movement of the Anglo-French land forces towards the Danube betokens the approaching commencement of those more stern and vigorous measures which will test at once the power and the resolution of the Emperor Nicholas. It appears quite certain that some fifty thousand French and British soldiers are by this time not only landed in Bulgaria, but actually on their way to co-operate with Omar Pasha in relieving Silistria. The Turkish general can himself bring up an equal force from his camp at Shumla, while a corps of twenty thousand men, chiefly drawn from Widdin-Kalafat, has been collected at Rostchuk, and still keeps open the communications of Silistria on that, the western, side of the fortress. The greater part of the English cavalry and artillery had just reached in the nick of time, and the transports bearing them were being hurried forward with all the power of steam, and with an alacrity which showed that our generals were fully alive to the emergency, and were resolved that the honor of England should not be tarnished through the disgraceful dilatoriness of the authorities at home.

The efficiency of the Turkish artillery somewhat counterbalances the temporary weakness of the French and English in that important arm. The allied forces will be ready for the field next week or the week after at latest, and as the Russians have up to this made no impression even on the exterior defences of Silistria, that fortress may be looked on as already safe. The Russian forces will not await the simultaneous approach of three armies numbering 120,000 men, but will in part repress the Danube, and in part retire across the morasses of the Dobrudzcha.

The question then comes, what is to be done? Assuredly not to follow the Russians into their fastnesses, and to waste the lives of thousands of brave men by hardship and disease incurred in following an enemy who can retire as far as he pleases, wasting the country as goes along, and cannot, unless he chooses, be brought to a stand by any pursuit, however vigorous. Such a pursuit would evidently be playing the game of the enemy. But, as we have said more than once, if our government are sincere in their desire to humble Russia, and matters have gone so far now that any other desire on their part would be nothing short of treason to their Queen and country, let them strike at Sebastopol; that is, as we said last week, the vulnerable heel of the Russian empire. On this subject we quote the following remarks from an important article in the Times of Thursday last:—

"We hold that the taking of Sebastopol and the occupation of the Crimea are objects which would repay all the cost of the present war, and would permanently settle in our favor the principal questions now in dispute; and it is equally clear that these objects are to be accomplished by no other means for a peace which should leave Russia in possession of the same means of aggression would only enable her to recommence the war at her pleasure. The Crimea is on many accounts favorable to the operations of the allied armies, supported by the fleets. The climate of the southern coast is said to be healthy, while that of the northern portion of the peninsula is marshy and pestiferous.

"Access to every part of the coast would, of course, be easy, for the conveyance of supplies, reinforcements, and even the heavy train of the army. The Russians, on the contrary, would have to bring the whole of their troops and supplies to the seat of war across the immense steppes of the southern provinces of the empire. Nicholas and Cherson could be blockaded so as to stop all communication by water, and, if Sebastopol were invested by sea and land, Russia has no other place of strength in the country to fall back upon. The conduct of a siege is an affair of art, which must be successful in a given time, unless the enemy can relieve the place in the interval by defeating the besieging army or by compelling it to retire. From the best accounts which have been obtained of Sebastopol, there is no reason to suppose that the land defences of the place are of a very formidable character, or that much had been done to them until the present hostilities gave the Emperor reason to apprehend an attack by European armies. The position of the town upon a cliff rising from the sea, commands to a great extent the prodigious forts which have been erected for the protection of the harbor, and their fire would probably not touch operations commenced in the rear of the place, and on higher ground. We cannot, therefore, but suppose that 40,000 men of the allied armies, supported by the fleets, would be able to keep in

check any number of troops Russia can throw into the Crimea, and we are confirmed in hoping that this is the operation resolved upon by the allied Governments by the fact that very heavy battering guns have been dispatched both from the English and French arsenals. In fact, however, breaching batteries of ordnance, for above the ordinary calibre might easily be constructed from guns landed from the ships, which have an overwhelming superiority of metal, and could furnish a battering train of extraordinary power."

SECRET NEGOTIATIONS—RUMORED ARMISTICE.

(From the Press.)
The state of affairs on the Continent is critical.—The secret negotiations which, a fortnight ago, we announced were in active progress, with the view of terminating the Turkish war, and yet saving the honor of Russia, have been brought to a successful conclusion, so far as the German powers are concerned. Austria, who claims to act as principal mediator, has agreed to propose an armistice to the belligerents preliminary to a general congress which is to settle the terms of a permanent peace. Russia has admitted that, by the change which has recently taken place in the condition of the Christian subjects of the Porte, the original cause of war has been removed. A security for these Christian privileges, which will not invalidate the sovereign rights of the Sultan, will engage the solicitude of the congress.—The free navigation of the Danube is secured by the great treaties of Vienna of 1814; and if any doubts have arisen as to the interpretation of the subsequent convention between Russia and Austria respecting especially the mouths of that important watercourse, congress will give to this document that clear intention which both parties to the convention have always desired. The treaty which prevents the ships of war of foreign nations from passing the Dardanelles was not intended to give any advantage to Russia, nor is it an act between Russia and Turkey alone. All the great powers, on the contrary, are parties to it, and one of its principal objects at the time was to rescue France from the diplomatic isolation in which she had been placed by the imprudence of M. Thiers by facilitating her European co-operation, and thus formally readmitting her to the transactions of *la haute politique*.

Where general interests are so obviously concerned, if revision became necessary a congress of the high contracting parties offers a natural tribunal.—The treaty of Kainardje is a treaty between Russia and the sublime Porte alone; but if any doubts exist between the contracting parties respecting the tenor of some of its clauses, Russia, acting according to diplomatic precedent, will not decline referring those ambiguities to the solution of a properly constituted arbitration.

Russia will mature arrangements for the evacuation of the principalities the moment that Austria and Prussia make a requisition to that effect. It is stated that in according to these overtures Russia has only expressed her willingness to accomplish a purpose from the first frankly admitted. A proposition for an armistice was made by Austria at the secret suggestion of Russia so far back as the autumn of last year, before the western fleets had entered either the Black Sea or the Baltic. If the invitation by Austria to the western powers to join in this arrangement prove unsuccessful, Germany will remain neutral until the development of events indicates its line of duty.

It is considered not improbable at Vienna that if the armistice be not agreed to, and any event occurs which draws the war out of the Greek and Slavonic limit, Russia will be invited to join the alliance, offensive and defensive, which has already been formed between Austria and Russia.

THE IMPRISONMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF FREIBURG.

(From the Tablet.)
The Government of Baden have placed themselves in about as mean and disgraceful a position as enemies of the Church could well manage to do, with their means. In the extremity of their rage and disappointment, they have had the brutality, as our readers are aware, to imprison an aged Archbishop, who had resisted their injustice with that courage which appears the more beautiful when it is joined to the white hairs and trembling footsteps of extreme old age. The circumstances of the imprisonment, as will be seen from the narrative we give below, have been unusually hateful. Insult, starvation, and the misery of being watched night and day by one of the police, such were the means which the wisdom of the Baden Government suggested to tame the zeal and resolution of a Catholic Prelate. They could not seriously suppose that this would be successful. Even ordinary self-respect, if Divine grace had not been so copiously afforded him, would have taught the illustrious captive not to dishonor the closing days of a life he has spent so nobly by any act of cowardly compliance; and the merest glance at history, of which we could give a few instructive pages from the annals of our Missionary Priests in the days of Elizabeth downwards, might have taught them the same lesson. The inference is, that they simply wished to gratify their spleen and the sense of baffled hatred.

The feeling of the country has been too strong for them to persist, and after about a week's imprisonment the Archbishop has been released. It seems altogether to have been a most extraordinary exercise of arbitrary power, the Superior Court of Baden itself having, in so short an interval, pronounced that the imprisonment ordered by the Government was illegal. The facts are so scanty that it is difficult to form an opinion about it, but it is probable the Government felt themselves in a difficulty, and wished to get out of it, at whatever expense. They did not know what to do with the Archbishop, now they had him under lock and bar, so the only remedy was to release him, which they did, as may be supposed, ungraciously