

great opposition amongst the people, for it is said that he remits taxation of the lower orders entirely. In Europe we can each of us ascertain what effect would be the result of such a principle.—His banner would soon be surrounded by more than Kossuth can rally, with all his oratory. In China possibly the same result may not follow, because the taxes (as far as the imperfect knowledge relative to China would instruct us) have always been levied upon land, and thus no direct tax ever fell upon the poor, so that, though such a principle might be a good rallying cry here, it would there be the iteration of an old charter, the perpetuation of an ancient right. As to the man's character we are wholly in the dark.—Whether notice, plunder, or ambition allure him; whether he starts under private wrongs to be redressed by his own hand; or burning with a patriotic zeal, and lighted through fields of ruin and disaster by the star of hope, he seeks to regenerate his country. If it is the former, the bribe of a satchel, judiciously held out, may stop his career at least for a season. If the latter, physical force, military resources and munition, and Tartar prestige can alone, by prompt and energetic movement, deprive him of success, and tread out, by the force of numbers, the spark of enthusiasm that animates him.

Remote as the scene of action lies from us, we are vitally concerned in the issue; and, indeed, it is a matter that interests the whole world. Here is an immense flood of pent up life, a huge inhospitable corner of a vast continent teeming with the human element, hitherto inapproachable and impenetrable, except by a mendicant priest or two, whose theology turns to theocracy the moment it secures a resting place. Upon the chance of the present events seems to hang, to a great extent, the destiny of the world, whether two-fifths of its population shall still abhor all communion with the other three-fifths; or, whether the brotherhood and family of nations shall recognise the tie of birth, and renew a consanguinity broken off for four thousand years.

The Americans are busying themselves in these affairs, and hope to divert the stream of profit to their own mill, to effect which it is to be presumed they will side with the family in power, offering for privileges and consideration to prop up the Tartar throne, and establish an exceptional exclusiveness, the exception being in their own favour. British interests appear to be with the insurrectionary party, whose first act would be to overturn the institutions that have fostered such timid but rooted aversion to "barbarian" intercourse. It is a great disadvantage to England to have been engaged in hostilities with the Chinese so lately, for his defeat must still be fresh in the recollection of the Emperor, and he will be less disposed to listen to our advice, having felt our sword, than he will to the smooth words of American diplomacy. We measure miles enough, however, in British India to debar us in the name of prudence from any accession of territory, and our policy should be to sit still and watch without meddling, so that we may enbroil ourselves neither with the Emperor, the rebels, nor the Americans. Commerce had better suck her thumb than imbrue her hands in blood.

FRANCE.

M. Kisseleff, the Ambassador to France from the Czar, presented his credentials to the Emperor, addressed *Mon Ami*, instead of the more courteous and usual formula between Sovereigns, *Mon Frère*. The French Minister was indignant, but, notwithstanding the slight, the Russian envoy received an audience on the following morning. All the European governments have now sanctioned the French Empire.—The marriage of the Emperor with Mlle. de Montijo, Countess of Teba, on the 29th January, at the Tuilleries, was signalized by pardoning 4312 persons suffering imprisonment or banishment for political offences. However, those pardoned are generally obscure individuals, numbering many women and children, no person of note being found among those liberated.—The Legislative Assembly met on the 14th February, and, with the other bodies, was addressed by the Emperor in a brief but emphatic speech.—A monument is to be erected to Marshal Ney, on the spot where he was executed, at the end of the avenue of the Luxembourg.—It is pretty well ascertained that the Pope will not be present at the coronation of the Emperor, there being difficulties in the way.

AUSTRIA.

From Austria we have no particular news, except an attempt to assassinate the Emperor, and the execution of the criminal.—Hungary continues in a most unsettled state, and disturbances seem to be hydra-headed, so constantly are they arising; each fresh outbreak giving, of course, occasion for very frequent military executions.—In Lombardy the harshest measures have been resorted to, in punishment for the Milan insurrection, and a great many executions have taken place—upwards of thirty thousand confiscations have been made against residents in various foreign States.

TURKEY.

At different periods, and in the most solemn and emphatic ways, Russia, Austria, and the Montenegrins have confessed fealty to the Sultan; recently there seems to have been a desire of disowning the Turkish authority.—The Prince Bishop, Peter Petrowitch, died about a year ago, and was succeeded by his nephew, David Petrovitch, who has thrown off the Ottoman yoke, and declared his independence, and, as David I., bids the neighboring chieftains send their titles and tributes to his little treasury, rather than all the way to Constantinople.—Difficulties have arisen with Russia, threatening to be even more difficult of arrangement than the Montenegrin affair, and Prince Menschikoff's arrival at Constantinople and imperious behavior have not as yet smoothed the way for a settlement. His demands upon the Turkish Government are said to relate to the custody of the Holy places—a subject upon which all the great powers, and France in particular, are jealously interested.

MAJOR.—Now, Laird. (*Laird reads*.)

CONVERSATION OVER A DISH OF PEARS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.—Gentlemen, here is a dish of pears of which I should be glad to hear your opinion.

A. With pleasure sir; but be kind enough to