



# CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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### PERSIA.

The army of the Shah of Persia has, it appears, been experimenting in artillery practice if the following account is true, the value of Persia as an "ally" cannot be much:—

The Shah of Persia one day expressed a longing for a Krupp cannon in the presence of the Russian Minister, who at once informed the Shah of the Shah's desire. The Shah was anxious to gratify the Shah by return mail, as it were, sent one of the monster cannon—a 300-pounder—to his ally. The present was landed at Enzili, on the Caspian sea, but it took a month's labor by a regiment of the Persian army to get the cannon to Teheran. Arrived there, a day was appointed to fire it. The court and almost the entire population of the city assembled. Bang! went the cannon, away scattered half the multitude, and down tumbled the minaret of one of the city gates, near which the gun had been placed. But there was another disaster. In an hour's time a messenger arrived from a village five miles away, and reported that its inhabitants were bewailing the loss of their mosque. The cannon-ball from the cannon had struck the building and ruined it. The Shah was so dismayed by the effect that he never permitted the cannon to be fired again.

### ITALY.

When "Italy was annexed to Piedmont," all the world predicted that great benefits would accrue to Italy. How far these predictions have been realized, let the following statistics lately published by the *Fanfulla* answer:—

In 1850 only Piedmont kept a large army; Rome, Naples and the duchies enjoyed almost entire exemption from military servitude. Since then, and more especially since 1866, compulsory military service has been forced on the whole Peninsula; and in 1870 what little remained of the States of Church was also swallowed up by the Cadorna's sacrilegious act. Now let us look at the way this army is kept. In Germany, 65 soldiers die in a year out of every 10,000; in France, 85; and in the British army, with all its Indian colonial service, about 92 out of 10,000. In Italy in 1870, the number was 105; and so fatal does the possession of Rome seem to have become to the army, that this mortality has gradually risen. In 1871, it was 112, in 1873, 125, in 1874 it rose up to 127, and in 1876 it reached the figure of 132 in every 10,000, more than double what it is in the Prussian army. In the remainder of the population of Italy ranging from 20 to 25 years; with all its blind, and halt, and cripples, the number of deaths in that year was only 110 in every 10,000, or 22 less than in the army.

### THE RUSSIAN STAFF.

One of the war correspondents of the *Times* says that there is a great improvement in the Russian staff. He thinks that the:—

Effect of Prince Imretilsky's appointment as chief of the staff is already visible everywhere, from a slough of despond, has become a civilized town, where one can find what one wants without losing two days in looking for it. The staff have buckled to their work and are doing it like their chief. No more cigarettes, and fiascos, and twelve o'clock dinners, as under the old regime, but every man working full time at full steam. Let no one suppose from their past failures that the Russian army is not a vast engine of tremendous military power. What is wanted is merely to shake off the thrust of incompetent parade-ground generals, and to create a staff who shall have a practical knowledge of the details of war. The younger men are fast filling up this void and by next spring Russia will astonish some of those who deem her helpless or exhausted. It has taken ourselves twenty-two years to create a body of staff officers, and we have the unequalled advantage not only of the very best materials in the world, but of regimental service in every country and climate on the face of the earth, which is in itself the best practical training for the field.—*Times Correspondent.*

### MR. GLADSTONE IN IRELAND.

Mr. Gladstone has been presented with the freedom of the city of Dublin. There can be no doubt but that he is the first Premier of Great Britain who made an effort to understand the Irish people, and for that effort he deserves their kind consideration. He committed grave mistakes in coercion laws and by writing his "Vaticanism," but he may know the people better after his present visit is over, and he may yet have an opportunity of remedying the errors he has fallen into. The *Nation* says:—

Mr. Gladstone's visit has this week been marked by at least one important incident. In the City Hall, on Wednesday last, he was presented with the freedom of the city, and delivered, in reply to the Lord Mayor's address, a lengthy and important speech in which he reviewed the legislation for this country which is known by his name. Immediately afterwards he was entertained at luncheon in the Mansion House, where he delivered another address, and where also spoke Mr. Butt. On both occasions the ex-Premier was very cordially received by those by whom he was surrounded. For the first time since our last issue visited his Eminence Cardinal Cullen, the Artisan Industrial Schools, the Duke of Leinster's mansion at Carton, and the College of Maynooth, the Marlborough-street Schools, the Four Courts, Dublin Castle, St. Michael's church, and the North-west extension works; and on Wednesday evening he left Archbishop Trevelyan's house in Stephen's-green for the seat of Lord De Vesey at Abbey-lis.

### ENGLISH OFFICERS IN TURKEY.

It appears that the English officers are not popular with some of the Turkish commanders. Why it should be so we cannot understand. It is to the interest of Turkey to treat the English officers well, but a correspondent, writing from the seat of war, says:—

"Ugly stories have reached here respecting the treatment of Englishmen by the successor of Mehmet Ali. Since Suleiman Pasha became Serdar Ekrem the position of Europeans serving under him has changed for the worse. The General, who is not yet forty years old, is a veritable Mussulman. He speaks a few words of French, but he detests the Europeans. The moment after his arrival he gave Baker Pasha and certain other Englishmen in the Turkish service to understand that he could do very well without their assistance. Of course, these gentlemen did not wait to receive a second intimation to this effect, and I hear they have departed from Varna in an Austrian Lloyd's steamer. The new commander has pushed his hostility still further. Capt. de Torcy, the French military attaché, went to Kadikoi to present himself to the Generalissimo, and to obtain his permission to follow the operations. But it appears that Suleiman Pasha refused this authority, not only to the French, but also to the English attaché, Colonel Lennox. These two officers had, therefore, nothing to do but to return to Shumla and wait for better days. It is stated here that before the end of the month Mehmet Ali will be again invested with the chief command of the army on the Lom."

### "COMTE DE LALLY TOLLENDAL."

It is always as well to listen to both sides of a story. Last week this journal gave an account of the coroner's inquest held on the body of the Comte de Lally Tollandal, to which some reflections on the descent and the fate of the deceased were appended. We now find the following strange paragraph on the subject in the *Paris Memorial Diplomatique*:

A Frenchman, who went by the name of Le Comte Lally Tollandal, has lately died from starvation in London. M. de Lally had no right to bear this title, and our London correspondent only records the fact because English papers had on that occasion published remarks in disparagement of the French Embassy in London. This M. de Lally was, under the Empire, employed by the police as a spy (*un informateur*). His financial reports were at that time severely reprimanded both by the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne and by the Marquis de la Valette.

The *Memorial* does not give its authority for the above statement, but, if it be true, it is quite certain that the deceased cannot have been of Irish descent, for the two characters of an Irishman and a spy never did, and never do go together.

### FATHER CURCI AND THE HOLY SEE.

The *Tablet* of Saturday says:—  
The papers have been full of the separation of Father Curci from the Society of Jesus. We do not know that we can add anything to the statements. It has been a matter of notoriety that differences have existed for many years between F. Curci and his superiors on the subject of the relations between Church and State in Italy, and we believe that F. Curci was directed not to publish anything more on the subject. This injunction the reverend father obeyed; but he is stated to have written a private letter to the Holy Father, explaining and defending his peculiar views. This letter, through the indiscretion of some one else, is said to have found its way into the public journals; and the subject being thus revived, the differences culminated in the departure of F. Curci from the Society. The summary which the correspondent of the *Standard* furnishes of the paper submitted by Father Curci to his Holiness will, if it be admitted to be correct, convince most people that the reverend father's plans were chimerical, and, if the attitude of the Holy See towards the present government of Italy be considered, open to the charge of a result against its policy. The Liberal papers, however, affect to look upon them as a real danger, as tending to the advantage of the Church rather than the State. And we think that the *Standard* is right in finding the reason for this in the fact "that if a reconciled king and Pope were to summon the present electors to return a Chamber of Deputies, with the purpose of using in accord all the means at the disposal of either of them for securing the return of Catholic-minded or at least Catholic professing deputies, they would be entirely successful." The vast majority of the Italian electors are Catholics, and if they could conscientiously vote, and the relations between the Holy See and the Italian Government were friendly, there can be no doubt that a Catholic majority would be returned. But in the present state of things the basis for such friendly relations is wanting, and here is the weak point in Father Curci's scheme. A letter from Father Beckx, the Father General of the Jesuits, made public in Rome on Wednesday, accedes with grief, says the telegram, to the request of Father Curci to be removed from the Society. It is not, therefore, true, as has been stated, that the reverend father has been "expelled" from the Company.

### TRAVELLING AGENT.

Wanted an experienced travelling agent for the TRUE WITNESS. Someone who has business on the road preferred. An experienced man will be treated liberally.

### THE ROUT OF MUKHTAR PASHA.

Russ and Turk are behaving gallantly in the present war. A soldier can always admire chivalry in a foe, and both Russ and Turk should respect the heroism which each displays. From Asia we learn during the fighting last week.

The critical attack on the 15th was made by General Heilmann on the Olya or Awly Hill. Heilmann's Grenadiers lay for three hours waiting for the order to advance, while the shrapnel firing was concentrated on the Turks, when from the Aladja mountain a strong line of Turkish tirailleurs was seen advancing to the rescue of their hard-pressed comrades but before they could even cross the ravine, their advance was arrested by a Russian line which compelled them to withdraw. At the same time the three Russian columns took off for the assault on the Awly Yer, moved onward up that hill. The black grenadiers swarmed on all sides and steadily climbed towards the summit, always firing notwithstanding the desperate resistance of the Turks who disappeared in the smoke. The Russians crowded more and more together as they got up the cone, towards the enemy, while their batteries covered the top level with shells and shrapnel. Then repeated hurrahs sounded through their ranks, and the grenadiers jumped in crowds over the enemy's ditches and parapets. The gallant Turks, then relinquished all hope, ran for their lives, pursued by bullets and bayonets, and the formidable redoubt was at last taken by that gallant onslaught.

### ERZEROUH.

When the false news of the fall of Erzerouh was circulated in England it is said that it had a startling effect upon public opinion. The *London Morning Post* said:—

Erzerouh has fallen, and is occupied by the Russians. The news will make some stir, if not in England, at least on our Indian frontier. If the dull intelligence of the West fails to appreciate its significance, the quick wit of the East will seize at once upon all that this news may portend. It has been too evident of late that Mukhtar has been overwhelmed, and his forces have proved inadequate to meet the large reinforcements of which Loris Melikoff has been able to dispose. The irregulars, of which so large a portion of the Turkish Asiatic army was composed, have either dispersed or have not been able to hold their own without a large army of regulars to cling to as a rallying point. Is the Black Sea to become a Russian lake, and Armenia, Syria, and Persia Russian dependencies? The possession of Constantinople means the command of the East. Are we to allow Russia to seize the command of the East, and then, of necessity, to take Stamboul also? We say that the Northern Empire shall not seat itself on the Bosphorus, but, notwithstanding our protest, that must follow if the Czar becomes master of the Eastern world, and if he does so he need march no armies to attack us in India. The work will be done beforehand. With our prestige our empire will vanish. Intrigue will do its work against the English in India as it has done against the Ottomans in Turkey. Trouble and insurrection will be our portion until we are pushed aside to make room for the new conqueror. We refuse, however, to believe in any such gloomy prognostications. The nation will awake to its danger. Before it is too late we shall make our voice heard and our power felt, and though the cost may be great, we shall once more assert the vitality of England, and vindicate the security of the empire.

### WHY SOLDIERS ARE APT TO KILL THE WOUNDED.

A writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* attempts to account for the butchery now going on at the seat of war.

"I find floods of indignation poured upon either the brutal Turks or savage Russians for their alleged practice of stabbing the wounded. Now, sir, till you can bind over a wounded man to abstain from endeavoring to return that wound, it seems to me unreasonable to expect the wounded to refrain, by an extra prod, from making the wounded perfectly safe. I am a gallant Turkish full private, struck down by the lance of a Cossack, my first impulse, if I am not seriously injured and my rifle is still loaded, is to discharge that rifle at the Cossack as he rides on after having knocked me over. The Cossack, unless he is a particularly great fool, knows my feeling, by sympathy, and will naturally, by a second prod, outrage all the finer feelings of the whole race of special correspondents, and at the same time secure himself against my natural impulses. It is really curious to observe how shriekingly tender-hearted we have grown of late times; of course, I merely mean when our own interests are not concerned. The late Lord Macaulay was a man not devoid of kindly and hearty feelings, but what are the words he puts into the mouth of Blind-the-Kings-in-chains-and-their-nobles-in-links-of-iron-Obadiah, sergeant in Ireton's regiment?"

Hot comrades, scour the plain, And, ere ye strip the slain, First give another stab to make your search secure; Then shake from sleeves and pockets The broad pieces and lockets, The tokens of the wanton, the plunder of the poor.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

This is all very well so far as it goes, but in the present war the Turkish irregulars have mutilated the dead as well as killed the dying. If we can believe Mr. Forbes, who is perhaps one of the most reliable of war correspondents, and who is anti-Russian—the Russian troops were not nearly so bad.

### THE HOME RULE CONFEDERATION.

There are over one hundred branches of the Home Rule Organization in Great Britain. Those branches hold public meetings, give lectures, and do much to enable Englishmen to form an intelligent opinion upon the merits of the Home Rule question. When the Irish are powerful enough they exact pledges, in favour of Home Rule from the Candidates, for Parliamentary and Municipal honours. Recently in England we learn from the *Nation* that:—

The municipal elections which have just been held in England have been marked by more than one important Home Rule victory. In Leeds a Conservative, who declared for Home Rule and Amnesties, was supported by the Home Rulers against a Liberal, and triumphantly returned. In Bradford an Irishman and a Catholic, who has, we believe, held a prominent position in the local branch of the Home Rule Confederation, won easily in a populous ward. But it is in Liverpool that our exiled fellow-countrymen have raised the Irish national banner with the most conspicuous success. In three distinct wards, one of which is the largest in the borough, and possesses nearly 10,000 voters, the Home Rulers were easily returned. Nay, more, a local Tory paper goes so far as to say that wherever victories were achieved by the Liberals (with whom, as the more favourable to their demands, the Home Rulers generally coalesced), the fact is owing to the alliance of the Irish, and that most of the Tory defeats are explained by the hostility of the Irish. This is a good way to bring home to the English mind the real nature of the Irish question. For the rest, it is to be noted that the English municipal elections have, on the whole, resulted favourably for the Liberals; in Bradford, for example, the Conservatives in the Town Council having been reduced from a majority of thirty-three to a minority of twenty-three.

### HOW CHESTER CASTLE WAS SAVED.

Mr. Rutherford's book on the "Secret history of Fenianism" continues to be criticized in the English and Irish press. The following letter has appeared in the *London Standard* upon the subject:—

Sir.—Having read your notice of the work by Mr. Rutherford in your issue of the 5th instant, I am anxious to correct that portion of Mr. Rutherford's statement in which, referring to the projected "Fenian" attack on Chester Castle, in 1867, he says:—"But the Government had obtained early information, the arms were removed, and the Fenians returned whence they came." At that period I held the rank of chief superintendent in the Liverpool police force, Major Creig being the head constable. On the last Sunday evening in February, 1867, I received information that an attack was to be made on Chester Castle, the arms seized, &c., on the following day (Monday). I took down in haste such particulars as my informant was disposed to give me, and at once drove to Major Creig's residence and read to him my rough memorandum. The major, seeing the importance of the communication I had made to him, and that to be of any service to the city of Chester there was not a moment to lose, despatched me at that late hour on Sunday night to Chester, to inform the authorities there of the information that had been received. I arrived there about midnight, went to the police-office, found that the chief constable had retired for the night, went to his house, aroused him, and made him acquainted with the object of my untimely visit; he then took me to the residence of Mr. Maysmore Williams, who was acting for the mayor. I saw that gentleman, made him acquainted with what had taken place, and read to him my rough memorandum, adding the remark that Major Creig, feeling the importance of the information, had sent me specially to inform the authorities of the city, particularly as the same informant had given the police information on previous occasions, which had turned out to be true. Mr. Williams, the chief of the city police, and I then went to the barracks, saw the officer in command of the troops there (he would have been in the hunting-field early that morning) (Monday), and informed him as to what had been done. It was then deemed necessary to see the officer who had charge of the Government stores, arms, &c., in the castle. This was done; at the time there were several thousand stand of arms of different kinds. Having by this time thoroughly aroused the authorities, Maysmore Williams, who acted in the whole matter with great energy, procured a special train for me to return to Liverpool, and asked me to express his deep obligations to the Mayor for the promptitude with which he had had the information conveyed to him. While waiting for the engine at the station, looking into one of the waiting rooms, we found that the first contingent of Fenians had arrived at that early hour, about four o'clock. They were seated before a cheerful fire, one of their number (probably their captain) patrolling up and down the platform near the door. My mission having ended, I returned to Liverpool, calling on my way at the police office, Birkenhead, to give the chief constable there information of what had been done, in order that he might take such steps as he might deem necessary. I have reason to know that the timely information thus given to the authorities had been taken the most advantage of, for the whole city was saved at a very early hour, and fully prepared for any emergency. And fortunately it was so; for the early contingent of Fenians was closely followed by others, and as the morning wore on they arrived in considerable numbers, a very competent authority estimating them at one period of the day at 1,500. I need not enumerate the incidents of that eventful day, for ever to be remembered by the good citizens of the old city, when the whole of the military and local forces were marshalled at an early hour; the city council assembled,

the Government communicated with, a battalion of Guards sent down from London, and what questions were asked in both Houses of Parliament, and the answers thereto, the same evening. My object is merely to tell you and the public, and through you, Mr. Rutherford, how Chester was saved in 1867. I may add, whilst on this subject, the great secret of the success of Major Creig in coping with the Fenians at this time was that no communication, however extravagant or absurd, was published, but always acted upon; hence he had nothing to lament in the way of "painful surprises." It will be remembered that that hellish compound called "Greek fire," intended for the docks and warehouses in Liverpool, first appeared there, and large quantities of it were seized by the police, one of whom had his hand seriously burned in the affair. I may conclude my letter by stating that the Government of the late Earl of Derby, recognizing the great services rendered by Major Creig to the community, recommended him to her Majesty, who was pleased to confer upon him the Companion-ship of the Civil Division of the Order of the Bath.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
BENJAMIN RIMS, Late Chief Superintendent  
Liverpool Police.  
6 Hyde-Side-terrace Lower Edmonton.

### MACMAHON.

The *St. John's Freeman* says that:—  
The London papers and their echoes now say that MacMahon will not do what he always said he would not do, but that he will not resign the office of President, they discovered some time ago. He did not seek the position he now holds, it was almost forced upon him, but when he did accept it he promised to discharge its duties fearlessly and faithfully, and this he has so far done according to his ideas of what his duties are. The Red Republican papers have frequently of late repeated as if he constantly uttered it the saying "here I am and here I remain." Perhaps few of our readers remember that MacMahon used those memorable words when he had fought his way into the Malakoff at Sebastopol. The following description of that gallant affair we find in an exchange, taken from the *French of Paul Fatioune*:—  
The appointed hour of attack approached. The General-in-Chief had selected the Braconier redoubt as his post of observation, and around him were grouped Gen. Niel, Gen. Thierry, Gen. Martiniere, and a brilliant and numerous staff. Gen. Bosquet had taken up his position in the sixth parallel, which though greatly exposed and exceedingly dangerous, was a splendid vantage ground of observation. At the head of the first brigade and as close as possible to approach to the outworks of Malakoff, stood Gen. MacMahon. His right hand grasped his sword hilt, while in the left he held his watch, and with head bent and eyes fixed, the General calmly awaited for the final moment. The few minutes preceding the hour were most solemn. Not a sound nor a whisper disturbed the fatal silence. The troops were huddled in the trenches; and the advance guards were reclining within eight yards from the Malakoff. The Zouaves and the Legionnaires were in front, and their eyes were steadfastly fixed on their General, awaiting but his look to rush forward. The time was fixed at twelve, midnight, and for a few seconds every breath was still, and MacMahon's intensity of calmness was supreme. The General's watch was consigned to his breast-pocket, and in an instant after his eye had run along the whole line. His sword gleamed in the air, and at the same moment the bugles sounded "The charge." Every mouth cried "en avant!" and the cry was re-echoed "from rank to rank and from front to rear. The Zouaves, with MacMahon at their head, reached the fosse, and some mounting back over back and others reaching the parapet, no one knew how the French entered the fort. The Russians poured musketry shot and cannon shot into those onward rushing lines, but despite shot and repeated bayonet charges, General MacMahon held his own, and the Russians fell back before the headlong charge of Zouaves and Legionnaires. Knowing that the Malakoff was the key to Sebastopol, the Russians poured shot and shell on the devoted troops of MacMahon. Within the fort the conflict was terrible, but MacMahon was stern and his only order was "en avant!"  
Meanwhile, it was rumored that the Malakoff was mined, and Marshal Pailleur, irrespective of this rumor, felt that the odds were too great against MacMahon, and he accordingly despatched an aide-camp, begging the General to make his escape from so dangerous and so exposed a position. "I'm here and here I remain," was the dry and only answer MacMahon sent back. The Russian General determined on one more effort to regain the Malakoff. A storm of grape-shot and shell were poured in, and was succeeded by bayonet charges of the best and bravest of the Russian troops. Twenty times repulsed, twenty times did the Russians return to the charge. The bravest generals fell at the head of their columns. The Zouaves of the Imperial Guard, and the Brigade of General Douay, were sent to reinforce MacMahon. The Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard, headed by Colonel Dreyfuss, and General Wilmoffen's Brigade, were next sent to his assistance. The Russians fought with more than bravery—they fought as if they had a million men. As line after line was broken and scattered, still they came on, in black masses, and hurled themselves against the French ranks. Marshal Pailleur grew terrified and nervous as to the result, and he despatched an aide-camp after aide-camp, begging MacMahon to relinquish the dangerous post, and to save his life. Wounded with such orders, MacMahon at length replied with impatience:—"Que le diable em—! not a master of my own king!" I have taken the place, and I'll keep it!" The Malakoff was taken after a terrible loss of life, but secured the success of the war. During the hand-to-hand struggle, MacMahon was ever in the front, and he was the first to be wounded. When the assault was made, he said: "Well, now perhaps they will take it, but I'll leave it to the Fenians." The Fenians were named to the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.