

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

A curious story is communicated by the Paris correspondent of the *Times*:

"Considerable sensation has been created here by an article in the *Opinione* of Turin, under the head of Florence, April 13. Several days ago the *Opinione* alluded rather mysteriously to a letter said to have been written by the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, the Baron de Meyendorff. In the *Opinione* of the 19th there is a letter from its correspondent at Florence, in which it is stated that Prince Demidoff, who is the uncle of M. de Meyendorff, communicated to the Court of the Grand Duke, before he left Florence, the letter from his nephew. A textual copy of this letter is given, and the correspondent says that he has it from such a source as to be convinced of its authenticity. The letter (which is without date) is published in French textually by the *Opinione*. M. de Meyendorff, after saying that he can announce officially that Austria and Prussia have declared openly for Russia, adds that he fears Austria will lose Lombardy, as France will attempt to revenge herself on Austria for having refused to form an alliance with the great mountebank (le grand Saltimbanque) of Paris." After giving this precious morceau, the *Opinione* observes, that the news of M. de Meyendorff is in contradiction with the facts, but that no doubt can be entertained of the existence of the letter. If the letter of M. de Meyendorff be genuine, and what he has said of Austria and Prussia be false, the least that the Emperor of Austria can do is to insist upon the recal, by the Emperor of Russia, of an Ambassador capable at the sametime of falsehood and unpardonable insult."

GERMAN POWERS.

BERLIN, 24TH APRIL.—The resignation of M. Bunsen, appears to have been accepted, as M. Bernstorff, Prussian Envoy at Naples, is appointed his successor.

POLICY OF PRUSSIA.—The *Times* says:—"We have reason to believe the Chevalier Bunsen has conveyed to the King of Prussia his determination not to remain in the service of his Majesty on any ambiguous terms, or as an instrument at variance with the interests of Germany, and the efforts of the Western Powers. He has therefore replied to the clandestine efforts of the Russian party to obtain his recal, by placing his resignation in the hands of the King."

The treaty between Austria and Prussia has been concluded at last; and though the text of the document has not yet reached the light, it is understood to recognise the *casus belli*, as adopted by the Western Powers. Prussia, however, with characteristic inconsistency, is understood to have stipulated against any condition likely to limit the dominion or territory of the Czar.—*Nation*.

The *Times* correspondent at Vienna warns the allied government of the resources of the Czar:—

"It has more than once been hinted in my correspondence that this part of the world is astonished to see that the preparations for war are carried on slowly both in France and England. The former long waged war on a small scale in Algeria, and the latter has recently done the same in Caffraria; both Powers will do well to remember that the enemy to whom they are now opposed has at his command at least half a million of excellently drilled soldiers, well provided with the material of war, some almost impregnable fortresses, and two powerful fleets."

RUSSIA.

Decrees in the *Journal de St. Petersburg* contain a notice from the Russian Minister of Finance, allowing English and French vessels six weeks from the 19th April to escape from Russian ports in the Black Sea, and six weeks from May 7th to leave the Baltic ports. The enemies' property in neutral bottoms will be regarded as inviolable, and may be imported. Subjects of neutral powers on board the enemies' ships will not be molested.

The following extract from a Stockholm paper shows how tenderly the paternal Government of the Emperor Nicholas treats his Finnish subjects:—

"The whole town swarms with fugitives, who are pouring out of Finland. Many, too, come from Aland, in order to escape the Russian pressgangs.—The Russian fleet is in great want of seamen, and as it is preparing to take the sea as soon as the ice gives way, the authorities lay violent hands on young and old. In the night, fathers of families are hurried off without a moment's grace, and the result is that whole households fly to Sweden with bag and baggage, in order to escape such tyranny."

THE TIME FOR TAKING CRONSTADT.—The following story is told by the *Presse*:—"Some years since the Emperor Nicholas, acting himself as Cicerone, conducted an English admiral over the fortifications of Cronstadt, when the following conversation took place:—"You will admit, admiral, that this is a magnificent fortress, and as impregnable as Gibraltar?" "Oh, Sir, no fort but Gibraltar is impregnable." "What, then, is your opinion of Cronstadt?" "It is a good fortress, and one difficult to take." "Yes, doubtless, difficult." "It could not be done with fifteen ships." "Could it be done with twenty?" "Not easily." "With twenty-five?" "It would take a fortnight." "With thirty-five?" "Oh, your Majesty, fifteen hours!"

SPAIN.

The Madrid correspondent of the London *Times*, writes under date of April 12th, a letter commenting unfavorably on Mr. Soule. He says:—"To the present time, the notes exchanged between Mr. Soule and the Spanish government, are five in number.—No. one by Mr. Soule, states that the complaint and reparation he is instructed to demand, require a positive answer within 48 hours. No. two, from the

Spanish government, declares its inability to reply, until information is received from Cuba. No. three, the *Times* calls a most irate and discourteous document.

Mr. Soule taxed the Spanish government with seeking to postpone; and affirming or rather insinuating that Spain had received despatches from Cuba, but suppressed them. No. 4—from the Spanish government, was so strong that the senders thought it not unlikely that Mr. Soule would demand his passports. No. 4—from Mr. Soule, was in milder terms, but the contents had not transpired.

The letter to the *Times* goes on to be severe on Mr. Soule, and professes also to say that the Spanish look on the American claims as overbearing and exorbitant.

ITALY.

A letter from Rome in the *Univers*, says:—"It is certain that England and France have joined in giving Piedmont some wholesome advice—indeed, the only advice which can rescue that unhappy country from the revolutionary career in which it is so deplorably engaged. According to the best informed persons, these two powers have pressed the cabinet of Turin to become reconciled with the Holy See, and to remove as much as possible from the country the revolutionary emigrants and leaders, or at least to remove them from power, which they can only do by pervert to mischief by their political and religious passions. We are assured that the Piedmontese government has promised to attend to this advice, especially as regards the revolutionary leaders and emigrants; and that as relates to the religious question: that the king himself has written to the Holy Father, his letter, although it contains some conditions which the Holy See never can admit, affording, nevertheless, some ground for hope."

CONVERSION AT ROME.—Mrs. Ives, wife of Dr. Ives, late Protestant Bishop of South Carolina, was received into the Catholic Church on Good Friday last, at Rome. This lady is the daughter of one of the most eminent of the Protestant Bishops of America—the late Dr. Hobart, whose writings were hailed in this country, some twenty or thirty years ago, by that section of the English press which about that period began to advocate High Church or Puseyite principles, as something refreshing. At the time of her husband—Dr. Ives' conversion, more than a year ago, Mrs. Ives had not shown the least indication of distrust in that religious system in which she had been educated.

Cardinal Corsi, the new Archbishop of Pisa, persists in his refusal to take possession of his diocese, being determined not to apply to the Tuscan Government for the *execquatur* required by law.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

One division of British ships is in the Gulf of Bothnia, examining the coast of Finland preparatory to the blockading of the ports. Another division is in the Gulf of Finland for the same purpose. The whole French fleet has arrived at Kioge Bay. Admiral Napier has formed his fleet into three divisions, but sufficiently near to reunite them for battle. The first takes up its station near the Gulf of Livonia, the second in the same gulf, in sight of Riga Harbor, so that it can prevent all communication by sea, and the third is at the entrance of Finland, for the sake of observation, not far from Sweaborg (Helsingfors), where the Russian Baltic squadron still keeps close.

The value of the different prizes taken by our vessels already is estimated at between £70,000 and £80,000 sterling.

The statement that the Russians had evacuated Aland is untrue; on the contrary, the garrison has been reinforced by several hundred riflemen.

TURKEY.

The Russians are following up their advantages on the right bank of the Danube with steadiness and skill. Kostendje has capitulated without a blow;—the Vallum Trajani, whose fortifications were considered so impregnable, has been traversed as a bridge; the last despatches from Silistria represent the city as in flames, and on the point of yielding at discretion; Omar Pasha has been driven to his head quarters at Schumla; Prince Paskiewitch prepares to cross the Danube with an additional Muscovite army; and General Luders meditates abandoning the Dobrudja for the safe and salubrious heights of the Balkan. Concerning the brilliant exploits of the Anglo-French expedition, however, the telegraphic despatches are altogether silent. It is affirmed, indeed, and denied in the same breath, that Odessa, and several other Russian ports in the Black Sea, have been bombarded and captured by the Anglo-French fleet. What is certain is that Kostendje, a Turkish port on the extreme right of the Dobrudja, has been captured for the Czar—and the Allies appear to have treated the event which philosophic indifference.—Will the next despatches inform us that Omar Pasha has been driven from Schumla as from Trajan's Wall, and that Varna has shared the fate of Kostendje?—*Nation*.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AUXILIARY.—The General Pasquet has left for Adrianople, to establish his headquarters there. A move of troops has already commenced. One English regiment leaves Gallipoli, two thousand French and eight thousand English troops have landed. The squadron of Admiral Bruat, with six thousand men, was spoken on the 14th off Tenedos. The Himalaya has landed English troops at Constantinople, where they were heartily welcomed by the population. Prince Napoleon met with a brilliant reception at Malta on the 20th. He left on the 21st April.

The following brilliant feat has been announced:—"The British steamer *Fury*, of six guns, on the 11th April steamed under American colors within three miles of the entrance of Sebastopol, where she saw two merchantmen, two brigs, two frigates and a

steamer leaving the harbor. The *Fury* dashed in and seized one of the merchant ships and towed her off. The Russians gave chase, and the *Fury* was finally obliged to cut the prize adrift, but not until one of the frigates and the steamer came within range and exchanged shots. The *Fury*, after four hours' chase, succeeded in eluding the Russians and carried off the merchant-ship's crew as prisoners, who gave important information respecting the strength of Sebastopol.

"A bold and successful feat is also recorded of the Russians. A steamship, supposed to be a Russian despatch vessel, under British colors, boldly steamed from the Archipelago, passed the Dardanelles and batteries, and succeeded in escaping into the Black Sea."

THE GREEK INSURRECTION.—The whole of the Epirus is in arms. The town of Arta has been entirely destroyed. The Turks still hold the citadel. Fifteen thousand insurgents invest Janina. The Greeks will be expelled from Egypt on the 1st of May.

AUSTRALIA.

THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.—The revenue of the colony of Victoria in the year 1853 amounted to £3,202,249, being more than double the revenue of the previous year. The proceeds of the gold licenses rose from £399,138, in 1852, to £660,833 in 1853; the Customs duty on spirits imported, from £186,491 to £561,317; the proceeds of the sale of land, from £703,355 to £1,496,713. The population at the close of the year was estimated at 233,000.

A REPROOF TO LUKEWARM CATHOLICS.

What is it, then, for which I am pleading? Only for this: that you should not altogether cut yourselves off from the glory of God, as if it was no concern of yours, and that you and He were not in partnership. This is really all. God is going to give you His glory for your own in heaven to all eternity. Surely you cannot altogether disclaim connection with it now; surely its interests very much concern you; its success must be your success, and its failure your failure too. You cannot stand aloof from the cause of Jesus on earth, and even keep up a sort of armed neutrality with God, when you desire as soon as ever you die, without so much as tasting the sharpness of purgatory, to be locked in His closest embrace of unutterable love for evermore. Yet this is the plain English of the lives of most Catholics.—And can anything be more unreasonable, more ungenerous, more mean! And you wonder we have not converted England! Verily we do not look like a people who have come to kindle a fire upon the earth, nor to be pining because it is not kindled. Ah, Jesus! these are Thy worst wounds. I think lightly of the ruddy scars of Thy hands and feet, of the bruised knee and the galled shoulder, of the thousand-wounded head and the wide-open heart. But these wounds—the wounds of coldness, neglect, un pitying selfishness—the wounds of the few that were once fervid and now are tepid, of the multitudes that never were fervent, and so cannot even claim the odious honors of tepidity—the wounds wherewith Thou wert wounded in the house of Thy friends—these are the wounds to be wiped with our tears, and softened with the oil of our affectionate compassion. Blessed Lord! I can hardly believe Thou art what I know Thou art, when I see Thy people wound Thee thus! And my own wretched heart! It, too, lead me into sad secrets about man's capability of coldness, and his infinity of ingratitude. Alas! the concluding chapters of the four Gospels—they read like a bitter jest upon the faithful! And then, we live as if we would petulently say—"Well, we cannot help it. If Jesus chose to do and to be all this, it is His own affair; we only wanted absolution; we only wanted a machine to be saved by—a locomotive into heaven—the cheapest and roughest that would do the work, and land us at the terminus. You devout people in reality stand in the way of religion. It may be hard for us to define enthusiasm; but you surely are enthusiasts. What we mean is, you are all heart and no head. Earnestness is not theology. There are other things to be done in life besides going to mass and confession. How can we have confidence in people who let themselves be run away with by religious fervor? All this incarnation of God, this romance of a Gospel, these unnecessary sufferings, this prodigal bloodshedding, this exuberance of humiliations, this service of love, this condolence of amorous sorrow; to say the truth, it is irksome to us; we are not at home in it at all; the thing might have been done otherwise; it was a matter of debtor and creditor; every one is not a poet; every one cannot take to the romantic. Really there must be a mistake in the matter. God is very good, and His love is very well in its way. Of course He loves us, and of course we love Him. But really, by a little practical common sense, and a few wholesome reasonable precepts, and strictly conscientious discharge of our relative duties, might we not put this tremendous mythology of Christian love, with all possible respect a little on one side, and go to heaven by a plain beaten, sober, moderate path, more accordant to our character as men, and to our dignity as British subjects?—If the Anglo-Saxon race really fell in Adam, why obviously we must take the consequences. Still, let the mistake be repaired in that quiet, orderly way, and with that proper exhibition of sound sense which are so dear to English men."—*Easy Ways of Divine Love*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

OUR NAVAL RESERVE.—A full account has been given of the powerful fleets which have been designated for service in the Black Sea and the Baltic. We do not suppose it likely that they will prove inadequate for the hot work they will have to encounter;

but even if they do, and supposing both of those magnificent fleets should be destroyed, we have ample material in our home ports to supply their places. From our ships, in reserve and building, we could form a naval force far surpassing that which any other nation in the world can boast of having afloat. We have in reserve at the four ports of Portsmouth, Devonport, Chatham, and Sheerness, not less than 161 vessels of the "effective ships of the Royal navy," and these estimated to carry not less than 6,807 guns. Besides these, too, we have a goodly number of paddlewheels and other small craft. Though some of the vessels may not without considerable repairs be in a state to send to sea, yet most of them are excellent sea-going vessels—far superior, indeed, to anything Russian—and could be fitted out for service on very short notice. Then we have of vessels building—5 at Portsmouth, 7 at Devonport, 1 at Sheerness, 6 at Chatham, 11 at Pembroke, 4 at Deptford, 4 at Woolwich, and 1 at Millwall—total, 39.—*Portsmouth Guardian*.

THE BRITISH ARMY FOR THE EAST.—The following analysis of the army despatched to the seat of war will be perused with interest:—

Royal Horse Artillery.—Two troops, 366; Six companies of Artillery, 1,140; Royal Engineers, Sappers, and Miners, 325; Reserve forces of Artillery, 300; Total, 2,131. A troop of horse artillery is 180 strong, 204 horses, four howitzers (six-pounders) and two twelve-pounders. A field battery is 190 strong, 170 horses, four howitzers (nine-pounders) and two twenty-four pounders. Three companies of battering trains.

Cavalry.—8th Hussars, 2 squadrons, 250; 11th Hussars, 2 squadrons, 250; 12th Light Dragoons, 250; 13th Light Dragoons, 250; 17th Lancers 250; 4th Dragoon 250. Guards, 250; 1st Dragoons, 250; 6th Dragoons, Total, 2,000.

Infantry.—Grenadier Guards, 850; Coldstreams, 850; Scotch Fusiliers, 850—2,550. 1st, or Royals, 1st bat. 850; 4th Foot, 850; 7th Foot, 850; 19th Foot, 850; 23rd Foot, 850; 26th Foot, 850; 50th Foot, 850; 33rd Foot, 850; 35th Foot, 850; 41st Foot, 850; 42nd Ft., 850; 44th Foot, 850; 47th Foot, 850; 49th Foot, 850; 50th Foot, 850; 55th Foot, 850; 77th Foot, 850; 79th Foot, 850; 88th Foot, 850; 93rd Foot, 850; 95th Foot, 850; Rifle Brigade, 900—18,750.

Total—Royal Artillery, 2,131; Cavalry, 2,000; Foot Guards, 2,550; Infantry, 18,750. Total, 25,431.

"If any one," says the *Observer*, "should be disposed to find fault with the numerical smallness of a force of 30,000 men, he should remember that they are the picked men of perhaps the finest force in the world."

There are 3,266 married women whose husbands are in the regiments ordered on foreign service in the East; and elsewhere; 1,711 of this number have been residing with their husbands in barracks, and it may be assumed, though it is not by any means exactly accurate, that the women residing in barracks were all that were married with leave. The number of the children of these soldiers is only 4,222.

PUBLIC IMPATIENCE.—A murmur against the "slowness" of Ministers in expediting our forces and their equipments, begins to grow so loud and to assume such articulate expressions as to merit some positive attention. It is neither quite unreasonable, nor is it complete reason. There is something in the state of affairs which the public does not understand, and thinks it ought to be informed upon. Reports are frequently cast about, indicating some degree of laxity in the action of our fleets, considerable slowness in the passage of our army, and a want of *empressement* in the higher officers. It is ostentatiously reported by a St. Petersburg journal, that Russian ships have evaded our cruisers in the Buxine; few of our men have arrived in the place where they are most wanted; the Commander-in-chief of our army in Turkey is not yet at his post. The Prince who may be said in some degree to represent at once the reigning house, and the cavalry of England, has been loitering amongst festivities and sights at Paris; and those who are understood to be generally well informed, pointing to some of the highest officials in the military department in the Cabinet, say that the cause of these delays lies in ministerial military stiffness, or in a reluctance to war, which paralyzes the Government. Now, we say, these charges are in no degree proved, even *prima facie*; but appearances of defective combination, of slowness, and inefficiency somewhere, exist; and in the absence of explanations assigning the true causes, plausible conjectures are readily received by the public.—*Spectator*.

RELIGION "BY ORDER IN COUNCIL."—What strange people Protestants are! They ridicule and abuse us for obeying the Church when she orders a fast, and themselves fast when told to do so by an Order in Council? In the Catholic churches no notice was of course, taken of this Privy Council Fast. In the first place, it would be sinful according to Catholic tenets, to obey any authority but that of the Church in religious matter; and certainly, these are not times when we can swerve an iota from the strict rule, or give any countenance to the aggressive propensities of the temporal powers against the spiritual. Secondly in Paschal time, fasting is not consistent with the discipline of the Catholic Church. But in truth, in this, and we believe in the various other Dioceses of England and Wales, a special Form of Prayer has been offered up every Sunday since the beginning of Lent, for the Queen, appropriate to the present circumstances of the country. The Cardinal writing his Lenten Pastoral at Rome, did not forget that he was Archbishop of Westminster, or the honor and happiness of his country. It is also generally understood that on a future day, the heads of the Church in England will issue directions for a more solemn recognition of the exigency of the State for Divine blessing; on which occasion, the subscription of Catholics will, we hope, swell the fund for the wives and children of our gallant countrymen now perilling their lives in defence of their fatherland.—*Catholic Standard*.

EMIGRATION FROM ABERDEENSHIRE.—Upwards of 1,000 emigrants left the port of Aberdeen last week for Canada. A large number of agricultural laborers and small farmers have also gone to Australia, the total number emigrating from this country this season being above 2,000. The emigrants for the most part are young men and women, who have no hope, under the large farm system of cultivation, of bettering their condition at home.

The exportation of iron to the continent of Europe has been prohibited.

Glasgow has been declared as infected with cholera, at Lisbon and other Portuguese ports, and all vessels here are subject to quarantine. All other English ports are declared as suspected.