

issue to exist; that if we are content to depend upon the armed force instead of seeking to apply a remedy to the just causes of discontent, it is certain that a system of illiberalism for the Government and lamentable for the people will be perpetuated. He conceives that the administration of the Roman States presents inconveniences from whence dangers may arise which the Congress has the right to attempt to avert; that to neglect them would be to run the risk of labelling for the benefit of the Revolution which which all the Governments condemn and wish to prevent. The problem, which it is a matter of urgency to solve, consists, he conceives, in combining the retreat of the foreign troops with the maintenance of tranquillity, and the solution depends on the organization of an administration which, by reviving confidence, would render the Government independent of foreign support; that support never succeeding in maintaining a Government to which the public sentiment is hostile, and there would result from it, in his opinion, a part which France and Austria would not wish their armies to perform. For the well-being of the Pontifical States, as also for the interest of the sovereign authority of the Pope, it would therefore, in his opinion, be advantageous to recommend the secularisation of the government, and the organization of an administrative system in harmony with the spirit of the age, and having for its object the happiness of the people. He admits that this reform might perhaps offer in Rome itself at the present moment certain difficulties; but he thinks it might easily be accomplished in the Legations. The First Plenipotentiary of Great Britain observes that for the last eight years Bologna has been in a state of siege, and that the rural districts are harassed by brigands; it may be hoped, he thinks, that by establishing in this part of the Roman States an administrative and judicial system, at once secular and distinct, and by organising there a national armed force, security and confidence would rapidly be restored, and the Austrian troops might shortly withdraw without having to apprehend the return of fresh troubles; it is at least an experiment which, in his opinion, ought to be attempted, and this remedy proposed for indisputable evils ought to be submitted by the Congress to the serious consideration of the Pope. As regards the Neapolitan Government the First Plenipotentiary of Great Britain is desirous of imitating the example given him by Count Walewski by passing over in silence acts which have obtained such grievous notoriety. He is of opinion that it must doubtless be admitted in principle that no Government has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other States, but he considers there are cases in which the exception to this rule becomes equally a right and a duty. The Neapolitan Government seems to him to have conferred this right, and to have imposed this duty upon Europe; and as the Governments represented in the Congress are all equally desirous to support the monarchical principle and to repel revolution, it is a duty to lift up the voice against a system which keeps up revolutionary ferment among the masses instead of seeking to moderate it. 'We do not wish,' he says, 'that peace should be disturbed; and there is no peace without justice; we ought, then, to make known to the King of Naples the wish of the Congress for the amelioration of his system of government—a wish which cannot remain without effect—and require of him an amnesty in favour of the persons who have been condemned or who are imprisoned without trial for political offences.'

Count Orloff observes that the powers with which he is furnished having for their sole object the restoration of peace, he does not consider himself authorized to take part in a discussion which his instructions had not provided for.

Count Buol, Austrian Plenipotentiary states.—The instructions of the Austrian Plenipotentiaries, at all events, having defined the object of the mission which has been intrusted to them, they would not be at liberty to take part in a discussion which those instructions have not anticipated. For the same reason, Count Buol conceived that he must abstain from entering into the order of ideas availed to by the first Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, and from giving explanations upon the duration of the occupation of the Roman States by the Austrian troops, although adhering entirely and completely to the words uttered by the first Plenipotentiary of France on this subject.

Count Walewski observes that there is no question either of adopting definite resolutions or of entering into engagements, still less of interfering directly with the internal affairs of the Government represented or not represented at the Congress, but merely of consolidating, of completing the work of peace, by taking in-

to serious consideration beforehand the French complications which might arise, either from the indefinite and unjustifiable prolongation of certain foreign occupations, or from an unreasonable and impolitic system of severity, or from a turbulent licentiousness at variance with international duties.

Baron Hubner replies that the Plenipotentiaries of Austria are not authorised either to give an assurance or to express wishes; the production of the Austrian army in the Legations sufficiently shows, in his opinion, that the Imperial Cabinet intends to withdraw its troops as soon as such a measure was considered opportune.

Baron Montecassel declares that he knows enough of the intentions of the King, his august master, not to hesitate his opinion on the questions on which the Congress is engaged, although he has no instructions on the subject. As for the steps which it might be considered advantageous to take, in what relates to the state of affairs in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, Baron Montecassel observes that such steps might present various inconveniences. He says that it might be as well to ask oneself whether admonitions such as those which have been proposed would not excite in the country a spirit of opposition and revolutionary movements instead of answering to the ideas which it had been contemplated to carry out, certainly with a benevolent intention. He does not deem it proper to enter upon an examination of the actual situation of the Pontifical States. He confines himself to expressing the desire that it may be possible to place the Government in a condition which would henceforth render superfluous the occupation of foreign troops.

Count Cavour does not mean to question the right of each Plenipotentiary not to take part in the discussion of a question which is not contemplated by his instructions; it is, nevertheless, he thinks, of the utmost importance that the opinion manifested by certain Powers in regard to the occupation of the Roman States, should be recorded in the protocol. The First Plenipotentiary of Sardinia states that the occupation of the Roman States by the Austrian troops assumes every day more of a permanent character; and it has lasted seven years, and that nevertheless no indication appears which would lead to the supposition that it will cease at a more or less early period; that the causes which gave rise to it are still in existence; that the state of the country they occupy is assuredly not improved; and that in order to be satisfied of this, it is enough to remark that Austria considers herself obliged to maintain, in its utmost severity, the state of siege at Bologna, although it dates from the occupation itself. He observes that the presence of the Austrian troops in the Legations and Duchy of Parma destroys the balance of power in Italy, and constitutes a real danger for Sardinia. The Plenipotentiaries of Sardinia, he says, deem it, therefore, a duty to point out to the attention of Europe a state of things so abnormal as that which results from the indefinite occupation of a great part of Italy by Austrian troops. As regards the question of Naples, Count Cavour shares entirely the opinions expressed by Count Walewski and the Earl of Clarendon, and he conceives that it is in the highest degree important to suggest modifications which by appeasing passions, would render less difficult the regular progress of affairs in the other States of the Peninsula.

Baron Hubner, on his part, says that the first Plenipotentiary of Sardinia has spoken only of the Austrian occupation, and kept silence in regard to that of France; that, nevertheless, the two occupations took place at the same time, and with the same object; that it was impossible to admit the argument drawn by Count Cavour, from the permanency of the state of siege at Bologna; that if an exceptional state of things is still necessary in that city while it has long since ceased at Rome and Ancona, this appears at the utmost to prove that the dispositions of the people of Rome and Ancona are more satisfactory than those of the city of Bologna. He remarks that in Italy it is not only the Roman States that are occupied by foreign troops; that the communes of Menton and Roquebrune, forming part of the principality of Monaco, have been for the last eight years occupied by Sardinia, and that the only difference which exists between the two occupations is, that the Austrians and the French were invited by the Sovereign of the country, while the Sardinian troops entered the territory of the Prince of Monaco contrary to his wishes, and maintain themselves therein notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Sovereign of the country.

In reply to Baron Hubner,

Count Cavour says that he is desirous that the French occupation should cease as well as the Austrian, but that he cannot help considering the one as

being far more dangerous than the other for the independent States of Italy. He adds, that a small corps d'armee, at a great distance from France, is menacing for any one; perhaps, it is very alarming to see Austria resting on Ferrara and on Piacenza, the fortifications of which she is enlarging, contrary to the spirit, if not to the letter, of the Treaties of Vienna, and extending herself along the Adriatic as far as Ancona. As for Monaco, Count Cavour declares that Sardinia is ready to withdraw the fifty men who occupy Menton, if the Prince is in a condition to return to the country without exposing himself to the most serious dangers. Besides, he does not consider that Sardinia can be accused of having contributed to the overthrow of the ancient Government in order to occupy those States, since the Prince has not been able to maintain his authority in the single town of Monaco, which Sardinia occupied in 1848 in virtue of the treaties.

Count Walewski congratulates himself on having induced the Plenipotentiaries to interchange their ideas on the questions which have been discussed. He had supposed that it might have been possible, perhaps with advantage, to express themselves in a more complete manner on some of the subjects which have fixed the attention of the Congress. But such as it is, he says, 'the interchange of ideas which has taken place is not without advantage.' The First Plenipotentiary of France states that the result of it is, in effect—

1. That no one has contested the necessity of seriously deliberating as to the means for improving the situation of Greece, and that three protecting Courts have recognised the importance of coming to an understanding among themselves in this respect.

2. That the Plenipotentiaries of Austria have acceded to the wish expressed by the Plenipotentiaries of France for the evacuation of the Pontifical States by the French and Austrian troops, as soon as it can be effected without prejudice to the tranquillity of the country and to the consolidation of the authority of the Holy See.

3. That the greater part of the Plenipotentiaries have not questioned the good effect which would result from measures of clemency, opportunely adopted by the Governments of the Italian Peninsula, and especially by that of the Two Sicilies.

4. That all the Plenipotentiaries, and even those who considered themselves bound to reserve the principle of the liberty of the press, have not hesitated loudly to condemn the excesses in which the Belgian newspapers indulge with impunity, by recognizing the necessity of remedying the real inconveniences which result from the uncontrolled licence which is so greatly abused in Belgium.

That, finally, the reception given by all the Plenipotentiaries to the idea of closing their labours by a declaration of principles in the matter of maritime law, must give reason to hope that at the next sitting they will have received from their respective Governments authority to adhere to an act which, while completing the work of the Congress of Paris, would effect an improvement worthy of our epoch.

LONDON, April 30.

Sir B. Hall, replying to Colonel North and the Marquis of Blandford, entered into some explanations respecting the musical performances which were now taking place every Sunday in the public parks. Lord Hardinge had been consulted. The result of the experiment tried last year in Kensington-gardens had, he said, proved so satisfactory, having been attended by from 30,000 to 75,000 auditors, whose behaviour was altogether unexceptionable, that he had therefore not only renewed the performance this year in Kensington-gardens, but had given orders that bands should play also every Sunday in Regent's and Victoria parks. He intended, moreover, to pay the performers for this service, and also to augment the provision made for the supply of refreshments, consisting of tea, coffee, ice, and such intoxicating drinks, to the public who attended on the occasion, if such accommodation were found requisite.

The Royal Humane Society held its anniversary festival last week, and it was announced that in the past year assistance had been rendered to 198 persons in danger of drowning, of whom 150 have been recovered. Sir Robert Peel was present, and related the story of his escape from shipwreck in the *Endean*. A procession of persons who had been rescued from drowning was an odd feature in the proceedings of the evening, but in a pecuniary sense produced an advantage in the shape of an addition of some £500 to the funds.

About five on the morning of the 1st of May, the whole of the Box Tunnel on the Great Western Railway is lighted up with the sun's rays. As the Tunnel is about three miles in length, the effect produced by the sun's beams streaming through it is most singular, and the neighbourhood for miles around flock to see it.

The *Globe* says it has been determined to postpone the exhibition of fireworks to the 29th of May. This day having been set apart for the celebration of her Majesty's birthday, the expressions of loyalty which invariably find vent on that occasion, as well as the public gratification at the return of peace, may be most appropriately combined.

No MUSIC IN CHURCH SONGS.—At the adjourned meeting of the Presbyterian Synod at Liverpool, on Friday, a resolution was adopted, on the motion of Dr. Hamilton, declaring, with special reference to the organ, that the use of instrumental music in Church worship was not approved, and enjoining all Presbyteries to take order that no such innovation be introduced.