

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The *Constitutionnel* states that, as soon as the instructions of the Porte for its Plenipotentiary reached Paris, there appeared to be nothing to oppose the immediate assembling of the Conference. The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* still insists that something more is waited for than the Turkish instructions, and ventures to prophesy that the Conference will not take place this month.

ENGLAND AND PERSIA.—The *Debats* has an article on the present complication of England and Persia, with the object of showing how Russian influence has superseded that of England at the court of Teheran, while it clearly shows that England, has no course, if she would not lose all influence in Asia, but to adhere to her allies in Afghanistan, Cabul, and Candahar, and expel Persia from Herat.

RUSSIA AND PERSIA.—The Paris papers publish a curious plan of campaign in case of an intervention by Russia, in favor of Persia, against England. It is from a private letter, dated St. Petersburg. The war steamers on the Caspian Sea are now fully manned by the arrival of a large body of seamen from the naval ports. This squadron may at any time convey military stores to the troops stationed at Khiva, and to those at different islands in the Caspian Sea, and who are thus placed in the immediate neighborhood of the Persian port of Asterabad. It is the opinion of the Russian staff officers that the Russian column may, at the first signal, enter Persia at three points at the same time. These strategic combinations have been prepared from the first moment the information was received at St. Petersburg.

SPAIN.

Madrid news mentions the discovery of a revolutionary club.

The Ocrio has been re-established, and loan has been finally contracted with M. Miros, who remains the highest bidder, though the price which he has offered must be considered as extremely low—so little do the capitalists of Europe think that tranquillity will be preserved in Spain, or that Spain, under the present Government, will be able regularly to meet her liabilities.

ITALY.

ROME.—News has just reached Rome that the Emperor of Russia has placed Catholic Chaplains in his army on the same footing, as regards pay, pensions, and allowances, as the Priests of the Russo-Greek Church; but all foreign news is thrown into the shade by the intelligence from Spain. The new ministry, by one of their first decrees, have restored, in all its force and vigor, the Concordat of 1851, and have suspended all the legislation of the last few years in violation of it. The Bishops have again full authority over their diocesan seminaries, and unrestricted powers of ordination, and the sale of Church lands is entirely stopped.

NAPLES.—Intelligence received from Naples informs us that His Majesty was fast recovering, and that he was receiving deputations to congratulate him on his escape. Numerous bands of prisoners were arriving at Palermo every day. The Judicial authorities are actively engaged in examining into the affair. It is, however, stated that orders have been sent from Naples prohibiting any execution, the royal clemency reserving to itself every latitude for deciding on the fate of the guilty.

GERMANY.

PRUSSIA.—Prussia is preparing actively for war, and is marching 135,000 men towards the Swiss frontiers. What makes this dispute between Prussia and Switzerland more serious in its character is the fact that the Emperor of France has so unexpectedly and, as many think, unwise accorded his support to the pretensions of Prussia.

AUSTRIA.—The Emperor, who, since he has been at Venice, has frequently walked out in plain clothes with one of his aides-de-camp, was a few days ago addressed by a man, who earnestly begged that he might be entirely pardoned. On being asked by the Monarch why he had not applied in the usual way for an audience, the petitioner replied that he was a person whose political reputation had been so seriously compromised during the revolution that he had no chance of obtaining admittance to the palace. "Come tomorrow," said the Emperor, "and you shall be admitted. But wait a moment. In order that you may meet with no difficulty, here is one of my gloves, and as soon as I return orders shall be given that the bearer of it is to be permitted to enter." The man went to the Palazzo Reale on the following day, told his story to his Sovereign, and received a promise that a veil should be thrown over the past.

SWITZERLAND.

Her abandonment by France and the apparently resolute action of the King of Prussia have caused a good deal of excitement in Switzerland; but the attitude of the country is calm, decided, unanimous—even the small minority that was opposed to the course pursued by the Government has disappeared in the present threatening aspect of affairs. The Federal Council has convoked the Diet, or Federal Assembly, for 27th instant; and a levy of 20,000 men has been ordered. To cover the points most likely to be menaced, a corps of 10,000 men is to occupy Basle, and another corps of 10,000 men is to move on Schaffhausen. The Grand Council of Berne has unanimously voted an unlimited military credit, and the Swiss Government, it is said, is resolved to exhaust all its resources rather than make the least concession to pretensions which would involve the moral suicide of the confederation. The latest intelligence from Berne states that, on Saturday, M. de Salagnac Fenelon, French minister in Switzerland, announced to the president of the Federal Council the intentions of the French Government, adding that "Switzerland had only to decide on war, as Prussia was determined to enforce her rights."

Under these circumstances, the preparations for the trial of the Neuchâtel prisoners are being expedited. On the 16th the court of preliminary investigation at Berne found bills of indictment against 66 of the accused conspirators; 14 others

were placed in the second category, that of those whose cases are to be reserved; and two of them—namely, Count Pourtales, Gorgier, and Mr. Perret, the advocate, formerly president of the Stadthof of Neuchâtel—were acquitted.

One thing is certain, that if the Swiss can bide the brunt of the first onset of the Prussians, they need have no fear of a protracted war. The elements of discontent and disaffection smouldering beneath the surface of European society make all the continental Governments look forward with apprehension to a war in the very centre of Europe. These apprehensions are well founded.

If the war in Switzerland last for three months there will certainly be insurrections in Italy and Hungary, and probably disturbances, more or less serious, in Germany and France. If the Swiss are true to themselves they will find effective allies in every part of the continent—men who will distract the attention and paralyse the efforts of the invaders by cutting out work for them in other quarters. And if ever men had a cause capable of awaking all their best energies, it is that for which the Swiss are called upon to do battle. The demand of the King of Prussia, that they shall allow the conspirators of Neuchâtel to escape without trial, is simply a demand that they shall hold out to all "privity conspiracy and rebellion" the prospect of impunity in all time coming. If that demand is complied with, the maintenance of law and order will henceforth be impossible in Switzerland. —*Daily News*.

USE OF PROTESTANTISM.—We (*Weekly Register*) are perfectly ready to admit that for some centuries Protestantism has performed the office of scavenger in Germany, by draining off the poisonous humors which gather in the Church—a very serviceable gutter into which the filth runs. Persons of slender faith and immoral lives have every opportunity and inducement to rid the Church of their presence. Protestantism, in various shapes, offers them a convenient refuge from the restraint their religion imposes on them. We have been accustomed to hear, from time to time, that persons of corrupt morals, writers of obscene books, Priests who have been a scandal to their flock, had adopted a religion more congenial to their habits, and Protestants, who had any self-respect, have not usually celebrated such acquisitions. The more respectable have been inclined to complain with Swift, that when the Pope set his garden in order, he should throw the weeds over to them. Under these circumstances, we should have thought it extremely probable that Protestantism would reap from the Concordat a rich harvest of tares. The revival of religion and of Ecclesiastical discipline, must appear a serious annoyance to persons accustomed to the dissolute morals of Vienna, and it was quite conceivable that some of them might desert a Church so little suited to them. At the same time, probable or not, the assertions of the London papers are far from proving that such a thing had actually happened. The report gave us no uneasiness, but it became our duty, as Catholic journalists, to inquire whether it had any foundation. We have made accurate inquiries, and can now state, on unquestionable authority on the spot, that it is wholly and absolutely false and unfounded. Some time ago, a report of the kind was circulated in Germany with regard to Bohemia, but was discovered, and immediately admitted to be a mistake. By the time it had been forgotten in Germany, it began to find its way, with considerable alterations, into the English press. An immense and overwhelming move was going on in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. The Catholic Clergy were in despair. The Protestant Clergy, on the other hand, did not know which way to turn, so numerous were the applications they received for religious instruction. The whole thing, we repeat, is absolutely and simply without the slightest foundation.

That such is the case, is highly creditable to all parties concerned, and may, perhaps, partly be owing to the very slow and gradual manner in which the provisions of the Concordat are being carried out; but, we trust, we may safely attribute it even more to a healthy state of religion among the Clergy and people—in a word, to the general prevalence of the spirit in which the measure itself has been framed.

RUSSIA.

Letters from St. Petersburg say it is now generally believed that Russia will take an active part in the Persian war. There is, however, a strong party at Court opposed to plunging the country again into war, and especially as the enemy would be England.

The *Times* Paris correspondent states that the Russian army amounts to 40,000 men complete on the shores of Caspian, and is still in cantonments. The Russian General had, however, sent three superior officers into the nearest provinces of Persia to examine the situations of the towns and forts, and to take plans of the works, by which a passage might be made for an army.

Several letters from Vienna speak of more intimate relations existing between Russia and the Porte. M. de Boutenoff is said to have declared to the Divan that, in the question of Belgrad and the Isle of Serpents, Russia only sought to establish the principle that it belonged to all the Powers who signed the treaty of Paris, and not to one alone, to decide on questions connected with the execution of that treaty. Redschid Pasha is said to have engaged to demand from England and Austria the evacuation of the Danubian Provinces and the Black Sea within forty days after the close of the supplementary Conference. As soon as this evacuation has been accomplished, the Porte will convocate the Divan *ad hoc* for the recognition of the Principles.

THE ANGLO-PERSIAN WAR.—Advices from Constantinople to the 12th received via Trieste, states that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe's ultimatum had been transmitted to Teheran on the 8th Dec. The ultimatum, according to these advices, demands a revision of the treaties with Persia, the evacuation of Herat, authority to found factories along the Coast of the Persian Gulf, and the concession to an English Company of certain Railways to be made across the Persian Territory. Persia is supported by Russia in demanding neutrality from Turkey; but England demands permission for the passage of troops across Turkish Territory.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.—Be it known to all the "loyal" men and "honest" newspapers in Ireland, that "we are at war with Persia." Let the steam be got up at once, and let us have the usual long and loud bray, and puff, and hollow brag about "our brave troops," and "the service of their country." Let us hold over the balance of the Crimean dinner for a while, and put off the intended swipe and the projected testimonial, until the war with Persia shall have been concluded, for then, beyond a doubt, we shall have new claimants for either honour, and we shall have something new to speechify and write about.

The declaration of war, published at Calcutta on the 1st November is now before the public. Is any one able to discover in it anything more than the fact that England chooses to go to war with Persia? We commend the document to the careful perusal of our readers, and will ask them who is it that could not discover just as much reason to go to war with almost any one he knows, friend or foe. Perhaps, however, they will remark that the terms of the declaration are indistinct, and almost unintelligible, which will not much improve the matter. What, for instance, is the meaning of the following paragraph—

"By those articles the Persian government engaged not to send troops to Herat on any account, unless foreign troops—that is, troops from the direction of Cabul or Candahar or other foreign troops—should invade Herat. In the event of troops being sent, the Persian government engaged that the said troops should not enter the city of Herat, and that, on the return of the foreign troops towards their own territory, the Persian troops should be immediately withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Herat to Persian soil. The Persian government also engaged to abstain from all interference whatsoever in the internal affairs of Herat, whether in taking possession, or occupying, or assuming the sovereignty, or governing, except in so far as interference existed between the two parties during the life time of the late Yar-Mahomed. It was, at the same time, stipulated that, so long as there should be no interference of any sort whatever on the part of the British government in the affairs of Herat, the engagements contracted by the Persian government, as aforesaid, should remain in full force and effect. On the other hand, it was agreed, in the name of the British government, that, if any foreign power, such as the Afghans or others, should wish to interfere with, or to take possession of Herat, the British government, on the requisition of the Persian Ministers, would not object to restrain such foreign power by friendly advice, so that Herat might remain in its own state of independence."

Friendly advice indeed! The Lord be merciful to that people and country that hearken to the "friendly advice" of England. And who believes for a moment that England has not violated this treaty? who is dunce or fool enough to fancy that there has been "no interference of any sort whatever on the part of the British Government in the affairs of Herat"? We should say no ten men in the world who have the faintest idea of the history and character of England, who know anything of her lying and plunder in all parts of the world, but in India more particularly. The present war is simply another enormous and unscrupulous scheme of robbery—it is one moreover which is condemned even by the press of England, a press whose susceptibilities are not very easily shocked in such matters. But the war is made, and the British people will have to pay for it, and we in Ireland, having of course a great interest in the affair, ought to feel happy at being allowed to pay somewhat about twice our portion. —*Nation*.

CHINA.

MARTYRDOM OF ANOTHER PRIEST.—The *Univers* publishes a letter of September 20th, from a person belonging to the Virginic frigate, at Wor Sung, not far from Shanghai, which contains some particulars that are interesting:—

"Whilst you in France have suffered from inundations, the heavens have, as it were, to balance matters, refused to shed upon China a single drop of water. This has caused a dreadful famine, and great numbers of the inhabitants of Fo-King are dying of hunger. There is another scourge upon the land this year; I do not mean the rebels, for we are used to them, but the locusts which ravage the fields. Even on board ship we are overrun by them, but here, as they find nothing to devour, they cannot do much harm. There are scarcely any fruits or green vegetables to be had, nevertheless, our men who were suffering from scurvy, are beginning to do better."

"You are doubtless aware that the Chinese rebellion is becoming stronger and stronger, and that we shall be obliged very soon to court the alliance of our former enemies. They are now in the permanent occupation of Nankin, having repaired the damage done by themselves when the city was sacked. All the right bank of the river is in their possession, to the distance of 60 miles up from this place where we now are. Since the events which took place at Shanghai, we have had occasion to complain of the conduct of the rebels, who pay due respect to the French residents in the country, and whilst they beat the soldiers of the Son of the Moon wherever they can meet them, take care strictly to observe the treaties which exist between the Chinese government and our own. We cannot, however, say as much for the imperialist party. The French admiral, on board the *Virginie*, has just received, through M. de Courcy, our charge d'affaires, a complaint of the conduct of a mandarin in the province of Tsung-Ton, and of the cruel death which has been inflicted upon a French missionary there."

"The details of his martyrdom are indeed, most horrible. The Chinese, even after their victim was dead, persecuted his remains with a savage and unrelenting hatred. His head was stuck upon the point of a pike, and the children were encouraged to throw stones at it for several days. What is still more frightful, and will hardly be believed as a fact, is that his heart was cut in pieces, then cooked along with some pig's tripe, and eaten by the soldiers of the mandarin—tigers rather than men."

"The missionary who has thus been put to death was named Chapdelaine. We, upon arriving at Macao, shall demand satisfaction from the Viceroy at Canton. The discussions with the Chinese government, which will ensue upon this affair, are likely to be very protracted, and they will result, I have no doubt, in the executing of some criminal or other, dressed up as a mandarin, to pass for the guilty official. That is what we may call Chinese justice."

PROTESTANT "RELIGIOUS LIBERTY" IN SWEDEN.—In one of the most celebrated of Dr. Newman's lectures on the logical inconsistency of Protestants—after adverting to the religious persecutions of which every Protestant people has been guilty, he reminds us of their boast that they condemn persecution in principle, thus bringing their inconsistency to exercise their crime. They have never failed to persecute save where the power to persecute was wanting, but they have always denounced persecution. Not only have they always said one thing and done another, but they invariably justify their invariable conduct by referring to their own invariable condemnation of it. An instance of this peculiarity has just been afforded in Sweden. In a speech from the throne, the King of Sweden has denounced persecution, and de-

clared the necessity of relieving his subjects from it. Accordingly, a new law has been proposed to carry out the royal will, and, exactly as we might have expected, we find that the denunciation of the principle is made the pretext for an immediate recurrence to the practice. The conscience of the honest Swede being relieved by this verbal declaration (that the thing is wrong, and immediately proceeds to do it. By the proposed law, a Swede who wishes to separate from the Swedish Church is to be bound to submit to the rules of the Swedish Church, until the Swedish Pastor gives him a declaration. Now, this declaration the Swedish Pastor is not bound to give until he is satisfied that his exhortations and instructions cannot dissuade the convert from his project. That is not exactly the theoretical liberty of conscience which Protestants proclaim; but it is their nearest approach to it in practice, for the next clause says:—Whoever, by persuasion, menace, promise of temporal advantage, or any other illicit way, tries to procure an apostasy from the Swedish Church, shall pay from one hundred to three hundred dollars, or, in case of a second offence, be imprisoned from two months to one year."

Conversation amongst Swedes upon religious or controversial topics will be of rather a constrained kind, and a Catholic or a Baptist put upon his defence on any point of his religion will argue at some disadvantage in this truly Protestant kingdom. But the best is not yet. Children of parents belonging to the Swedish Church shall be considered as members of that Church, and must be educated in the pure Evangelical doctrine; even if the parents, after the birth of the child, shall have embraced another religion. For a law devised to secure liberty of conscience this is pretty well, but there is something better still. The churchwardens are bound to watch that such children be so educated. If the father or the mother allow themselves to inculcate to their children a religious creed not conformable to the pure Evangelical doctrine they shall be punished as above—i.e., by fine for the first offence, and by imprisonment for the second. Were we not justified in saying that, though to force a father and mother to teach their children a religion which they believed to be false was not kind, it was not the climax of Protestant consistency? But this charge to the churchwardens, this commission to play the spy in a family between parent and child, and to punish an insinuation by a year's imprisonment, leaves nothing to be added. We quoted some weeks ago in the *Tablet* the shameful words uttered by the King of Sweden in the speech to which this proposed law forms so admirable an appendix—"An enlightened toleration for the faith of others based upon the love of one's neighbor, and inspired by an indomitable conviction, constitutes the essence of the dogmas of the Protestant Church." How blunt, to ridicule, and callous to disgrace, must a man be who can introduce such a law with such a preamble. What, then, shall we say of the Protestant people who are clamoring for the rejection of the law to the old cry of "The Church in danger," because the measure is not sufficiently severe. —*Tablet*.

AMERICAN FILLIBUSTERISM IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND CUBA.—It is said that, when a certain class of gentlemen fall out, honest men get their own, and we have had a charming illustration of the proverb lately. We need not trouble our readers with a sketch of the liberality of appropriation and spontaneity of self-election with which Walker has recently been regaling the inhabitants of Nicaragua, who receive his advances much as a cat does those of a terrier; they probably have heard enough of him, and would feel relieved if the glad tidings came that Rivas had removed the uncomfortable vermin off the face of the earth, just as one is relieved when that plague of a wasp, which will keep buzzing about one, receives his coup de grace from one of the many weapons of insect war. We are getting very tired of fillibustering, which was perhaps never so well distributed in its conception, its preparation and its execution as by one of Walker's own countrymen, purporting to be a communication from a volunteer, named Birdfreedom Sawm, in the American army engaged in the Mexican War under General Cushing, and published in that most entertaining work, the *Bigelow Papers*:—

"Afore I cum away from hum I had full persuasion, that Mexicans, worn't human beans, an' ourang-outang nation; A sort o' folks a chap could kill, and never dream o' n't arter, No mo'n a feller'd dream o' pigs that he hed hed to slarter. I'd an idee that they were built arter the darkie fa-shun all; An' kikin' colored folks about, you know, 's a kind o' national; But wen I jined I worn't so wise as thet air Queen o' Shibly. For, come to look at em, they aint much diff'rent from wut we be; An' here we air a scrougin 'em out of their own dominions— A shelterin' 'em, as Caley sez, under our eagle's pinions; Wich means to take a feller up jest by the slack o' 's trousers. An' walk him Spanish clean right out o' all his homes an' houses."

Thet our nation's bigger 'n thet air, an' so its rights air bigger, An' thet its all to make 'em free that we are pulling trigger; Thet Anglo-Saxondom's idee a' breakin' 'em to pieces. An' thet idee's that every man does jest wuh't he damn pleases. Ef I don't make his meanin' clear, perhaps in some respect I can— I know thet "every man" don't mean a nigger or a Mexican. or a Nicaraguian, apparently; or a Cuban; or, in due time, a Jamaican; and we suspect it would be very long before we saw portraits of his Imperial Majesty Faustina the First divested, literally in both senses, of his externals, and appealing to us (more 1853) as "a man and a brother." —*London Post*.

WONDERFUL POWER OF FUEL.—It is well known of modern engineers that there is a virtue in a bushel of coals, properly consumed, to raise seventy millions of pounds weight a foot high. This is actually the average effect of an engine working in Cornwall; the engine at Hull Towan. Let us pause a moment and see what this is equivalent to in matters of practice. The ascent of Mont Blanc from the valley of Chamonix is considered, and with justice, the most toilsome feat that a strong man can perform in two days. The combustion of two pounds of coal would place him on the summit. The Menai Bridge, one of the most stupendous works of art that has been raised by man in modern ages, consists of a mass of iron, not less than four millions of pounds in weight, suspended at a medium height of about one hundred and twenty feet above the sea. The consumption of seven bushels of coals would suffice to raise it to the place where it hangs. The great pyramid of Egypt is composed of granite. It is seven hundred feet in the side of its base, and five hundred in perpendicular height, and stands on eleven acres of ground. Its weight is, therefore, 12,760 millions of pounds, at a medium height of one hundred and twenty-five feet; consequently it would be raised by the effort of about six hundred and thirty chaldeans of coals, a quantity consumed in some foundries in a week. The annual consumption of coal in London is estimated at 1,500,000 chaldrons. The effort of this quantity would suffice to raise a cubical block of marble two thousand two hundred feet in the side, through a space equal to its own height, or to pile one such mountain upon another. The Monte Nuovo, near Pozzuoli (which was erupted in a single night by volcanic fire), might have been raised by such an effort from a depth of forty thousand feet, or about

eight miles. It will be observed that, in the above statement, the inherent power of fuel is, of necessity, greatly underrated.

EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE.—A Western Editor on entering his office and seeing his apprentice boy cutting up some queer capers, called up to him:— "Jim, what are you lying on the floor for?" "Why, sir, I have had a shock!" "A shock?" "Yes sir." "What kind of a shock?" "Why, sir, said the lad gasping, 'one of your subscribers came in during your absence—said he owed for two years' subscription—paid it, and also paid another year in advance.'"

"In advance," gasped the editor, nearly as much overcome as his lone apprentice. "Yes, sir, and it has produced such an effect upon me, that I have been helpless ever since." "And well you may, Jim. But, get up, if you survive this you are safe, as there is little prospect of such another catastrophe in this office."

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