

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

A visit of the Emperor and the Empress Eugénie to England is still spoken of, though the *Times* hints that it will not take place before the fall of Sebastopol, and most likely not this year. The policy of Prussia is loudly condemned in Paris; and it is rumored that the French Government will, without awaiting the co-operation of the British, declare all Prussian ports in a state of blockade. From the tone of the press, it is to be expected that the year 1855, will open with a campaign on the Rhine, and close with the restoration of the Kingdom of Poland. Large reinforcements for the army in the Crimea have sailed from Marseilles, and still larger are spoken of, as about to follow.

The *Gazette de Lyon* says:—

"At the battle of the Alma Father Parabere, the head Chaplain, had his horse killed under him at the commencement of the action. General Canrobert, near whom he was at the time, was much annoyed at the misfortune, but not being able to remedy it, was on the point of saying to him *au revoir!* when the Chaplain, determined to be of the party to the end, immediately procured another mode of going, very sure, certainly, but rather hard in its action—he jumped on a gun, and it was on this that he reached the summit of the hill, and found himself in the midst of the terrible combat which took place there."

There are many amusing stories afloat about the anxieties of speculators on the *Bourse*, as to the result of the Crimea expedition. We copy some of these from the Paris correspondence of the *London Times*:—

"Bourse speculators form a race apart. Other men glory in the triumphs of the allies, or mourn over the defeats of the Russians, according as they are swayed by political feeling; but for the *boursier* there are neither allies nor Russians, there is only a rise or a fall, and the only question which interests him is that of anticipating a successful or an unfortunate issue in order to derive advantage from either. A story is told of one nervous speculator, whose existence since what may be called the first taking of Sebastopol has been one of uninterrupted torture, and the tale is not improbable under the circumstances. The person in question has speculated on a fall, and puzzled, in common with the public at large, by the extraordinary and oftentimes unintelligible accounts brought by the telegraph, he made a bold effort to arrive at the truth amid the doubt and darkness which encompassed it. With that object he went to consult one of those *clairvoyantes* who, for the small fee of a franc per consultation, will disclose all that passes at the moment they speak, from the North Pole to the Antarctic, or from Hindostan to the back woods of America. The stockjobber timidly put his questions to the sleeping sorceress:—'What are the allied armies doing at this moment?' (The consultation took place the day before yesterday.)—'They are encamped near Sebastopol.' 'What have they done?' 'They have burnt the Russian fleet—not a vessel saved; they have bombarded Sebastopol, which has surrendered; killed hundreds, and beaten the Russians in all directions.' 'Are the allies in Sebastopol?' 'No.' 'Why not?' 'Because Fort Constantine and Fort St. Nicholas are still standing, and their fire prevents them from occupying the city, which is in ruins.' 'Has Prince Menschikoff come up to the allies?' 'Yes, but he has been again beaten, and his army cut to pieces. I see, I see him followed by a few horsemen flying towards Perokop.' 'Then the Russians are beaten, and the Crimea is lost?' 'Yes!' 'No hope of their rallying?' 'None whatever.' 'Then I am—lost (the French expression employed is more emphatic), and I shall be executed next setting day?' was the wild exclamation of the *boursier* as he snatched up his hat and rushed from the apartment. Since then he has been the most miserable man in Paris, as he firmly believes in the truth of the *clairvoyante*. I am told that this is not the only person who has consulted a similar authority, and what cannot be said of Bourse speculators must be admitted in favor of the patriotism of the soothsayers—namely, that, so far as I have heard, they, to a man, or woman, announce the triumph of the English and French arms. Something has been whispered of one who has given a contrary assurance, but the *gamins* of the Faubourg St. Denis swear that she was tampered with by the Fusionists. At all events, she has disappeared in a mysterious manner. Having no other authority this day for the truth of the intelligence above quoted, and as the official organ of the Government seems to be as much puzzled as any one else, I give you the opinion of the *clairvoyante*, which you may take at its worth, and which is, at all events, almost as respectable as the private electric telegraph, considering how that conductor has behaved for the last few weeks. If the prediction be verified the credit of *clairvoyance* is established for the future.

GERMAN POWERS.

The breach between Austria and Prussia is becoming wider every day, and war seems inevitable. Austria casting in her lot with the Western Powers: Prussia and the other German States siding with Russia. The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* writes:—

"Prussia and the other German States are resolved, if possible, to prevent Austria's declaring openly against Russia, and they therefore, tell her what they will do if she remains a looker-on, but take care not to pledge themselves to render her any assistance should circumstances compel her to be the attacking party. A few words will serve to show that the Germanic Confederation is deliberately playing into the hands of Russia. The St. Petersburg Cabinet has promised the German States neither to recross the Pruth nor to advance by way of the Dobrujscha

to the Balkan, on condition that they promise to withhold their support from Austria, should she act offensively against Russia. It is obvious that under such circumstances Austria is toiling in vain to obtain a promise of assistance from her faithless confederates. This Government has already gone too far to be able to retrace its steps, and it must be obvious to every one who is capable of taking a dispassionate view of things, that it is now absolutely necessary to the future safety, and even to the existence of Austria that the omnipotence of Russia should cease to be. People have flattered themselves that the war might be postponed until the spring, but it is not improbable that a winter campaign may be necessary. According to the public papers, the Russians are in such great force in Poland that a speedy attack is likely to be made on Galicia, but this is a mistake. The troops from the West of Russia cannot be in a position in the kingdom of Poland until the end of December, so that Austria has still a couple of Months, which she will spend in fruitless negotiations, before she takes a resolve to conclude a treaty of alliance with the Western Powers. The *Wanderer* has a letter of the 8th from St. Petersburg, in which we read that, although the recall of Prince Menschikoff from Vienna is spoken of, nothing is said of any successor being appointed. The reports forwarded from the Russian Embassy here to the foreign-office in St. Petersburg are said to be extremely unfavorable.

A general meeting of the priests of the diocese of Breslau in Prussia, convened by the Prince Bishop, has just taken place, being the first synod of the Catholic Church held in that country for some hundreds of years. In no part of Protestant Germany has the Government been more opposed to such meetings of the Catholic clergy than in Prussia, and hence the late synod of Breslau is an event of so much the more importance to the Church in that country. The bishop feeling the want of such a synod and the eminent danger to which religion was exposed in the midst of a heretical country without consultation among the pastors, consulted some of his venerable colleagues, and then determined to convoke the clergy to meet him in conference on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of last month. The meeting, however, was held with all the forms, and was invested with all the importance of a provincial council. Many of the 150 priests who assembled on the occasion had never had an opportunity of seeing their bishop since their ordination, so many are the difficulties in the way of episcopal visitations in that vast diocese, which extends from the confines of Hungary to the Baltic Sea.

The Cardinal Primate of Hungary, the Cardinal Metropolitan of Bohemia, and the Archbishop of Vienna, have set out for Rome. This fact has produced considerable sensation, as under the old system of Josephism, which hung so heavily on the Church in Austria, no prelate could visit Rome without the permission of the government, which was invariably refused.

THE BALTIC.

The inglorious campaign is at an end, and the fleet is on its way to winter quarters. Sir C. Napier will not be very well received in England. We are promised great things as soon as the navigation re-opens, when Cronstadt is certainly to be attacked. The *Times* says:—"The armament building to operate against the Russians in the Baltic at the opening of the spring campaign includes thirty-five vessels, namely—five floating batteries, the decks covered with iron plates eight inches thick, and their exterior with one hundred plates four inches thick, rendering them perfectly bomb and ball proof. These vessels will carry six of the long range guns on the Lancaster principle. Ten bomb vessels to carry from two to three mortars of the most powerful description, and twenty gun-boats drawing about four feet water—the entire being specially intended for service in the river Nera.

RUSSIA.

The Czar holds out with all the obstinacy of a maniac, and will, in all probability, be soon involved in a war with Austria. He has declared—at least so his partisans say—that though the Crimea were wrested from him, though Cronstadt were fallen, though Finland were once more a Swedish province, though all his ships and fortresses were in the hands of his foes and St. Petersburg were levelled to the earth, still he will not yield. We may judge of the irritation of the Czar, from the fact of his collecting a large army in the vicinity of the Austrian territory, to co-operate with the revolutionists, whose cause he has taken up, and of his actually sending agents into Hungary to excite rebellion. This we state as a fact, upon unquestionable authority. One of the emissaries was secured and important documents were found upon him which developed the turpitude of the Czar, and led to the arrest of some of his infamous accomplices in Buda. The consequence has been, the mobilisation of the whole Austrian army, and the issue of orders to the garrison of Vienna to be ready at any moment to take the field. In this embroilment, Austria has the game in her hands. She has only to proclaim the independence of Poland, and there is an end of Russia as a great power.

EASTERN WAR.

The Allies commenced the bombardment of Sebastopol on the 16th ult., by land and sea, and the fire was briskly returned by the garrison. On the 17th the struggle was renewed with additional vigor on both sides; and even the Russians themselves acknowledge a loss of 500 killed and wounded, Admiral Koniloff commanding the fortress, being among the slain. Lord Raglan and General Canrobert, it is said, have predicted the speedy capitulation of Sebastopol; but "it is strong—very strong, and a large force inside," writes an eye-witness, equally desirous of its fall; the women and children have all taken shelter at the Northern side of the town, and every-

thing indicates the determination of Prince Menschikoff to defend it to the last extremity. The Russians have been indefatigable in throwing up batteries and having shelled our advanced posts incessantly. From the range of the guns it is supposed that they have actually got the heavy pieces which were on board the *Tyger*. One shell which fell into the camp of the 4th Division, was marked with the English broad arrow, and had the English brass-covered fusee; it did not burst. Another, fired with more fatal effect, fell right into a tent in which were several men of the 63d Regiment, exploded and killed a serjeant and two men. This was a distance of upwards of four thousand yards.

A letter from Varna dated 31st October, states that the fire of the Allied land batteries began at one o'clock against Sebastopol, at the same time the Allied fleets attacked the forts at the entry of the port. The English blew up fortifications on the left, and the French silenced the quarantine batteries on the right. The guns of the two forts were entirely dismounted. The Allies lost 105 wounded and 50 killed. The Russians confess the loss of 500 killed, including Admiral Cronel.—The letter states also that the land batteries have made a breach. The Allies are waiting the opening of a second breach to make assault.

The Russian official despatch, Oct., 18th, states that the Russians have made a successful sortie, spiked 16 French guns, and captured Lord Dunkillin, son of Lord Clanricarde.

The *Times* Constantinople correspondent writes on the 15th:—"Eupatoria had been retaken by the Russians. Captain Brock and his small garrison had retired on board ship with the loss of one gun.

THE CHANCES OF THE SIEGE.—A Constantinople correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"As to the strength of the garrison, all pretence at accurate conjecture must be vain. But the information given by deserters, as well as the observation of British officers, lead to the belief that the Russian soldiers within the town and its outworks amount to nearly 40,000 men. Besides these there are the 10,000 sailors of the fleet. Making allowance for exaggeration and for actual losses, the defensive force of Sebastopol may be taken at 45,000 men, a number about equal to the effective of the allied army. Such a force might, indeed, defend the place for months if actuated by such courage and fanaticism as inspired the Turks at Silistria. It is about thrice as great as is actually required by the extent of the fortifications, and might, perhaps, create only confusion and panic if crowded together within the limits of the town. But a third of it is probably kept on the northern shore of the bay, to be brought into use as the necessities of the defence demand.

It would be of great importance to stop this communication, but there seems to be no means of doing so from our present position. A force of 45,000 men might defend every street in the town, and the real defence of Sebastopol begin where defences commonly end, at the moment a breach is made, and the allied forces are pressing in to the assault. It is also to be remarked that the Russians have at Sebastopol an advantage similar to one which gave such aid to the Turks at Silistria. The ravines which break up the ground permitted the Russians in that memorable siege to advance only in small bodies, and caused them to be repulsed in detail. If the Russian soldier were at all worthy of his past remission, the allies might have to fear a loss which would make the campaign of the Crimea the most gloomy success recorded in our annals.

"A cause for disquietude arises from the presence in the field of a large Russian force, which will no doubt attempt to effect a diversion. The strength of the army which lies on the Chernaya, and threatens the British communications with Balaklava, is not accurately known; but the force of cavalry is said to be large, and is the more dangerous, as in that arm the allies are extremely weak. More than 200 of the horses of the heavy brigade were lost at sea. Forage also is extremely scarce, and the horses even of general officers are suffering in consequence. The Russian force, whose base of operations is Simferopol, does not probably exceed 15,000 men. But the general opinion seems to be that the enemy are advancing in considerable strength by forced marches, and it is not impossible that in three or four weeks there may be an army of 50,000 Russians in the field besides those who hold Sebastopol."

Since we landed in the Crimea as many have died of cholera as perished on the Alma. We lost 380 men killed in the action out of the 2,000 *hors de combat*. The dead from cholera now amount to nearly as many.

ATTACK ON PETROPOLWSKI BY THE ENGLISH & FRENCH FLEETS.

The authentic news of the declaration of war by France and England against Russia reached the allied squadron in Callao just after the departure of several Russian vessels from that coast. The Russian vessels went to the Sandwich Islands, and thence, as it was supposed, to Petropaulowski, or the port of Peter and Paul, Kamschatka, in latitude 53° north. Thither the allies went in search, leaving the Sandwich Islands on the 25th July. They found the northern ocean covered with heavy fogs, which compelled the vessels to sail very slowly. The fog was very often so thick that it was utterly impossible to see the signals a hundred yards off; and the *Eurydice* was parted from the other vessels in a fog, and was not seen again until they met at Petropaulowski, at the end of August. The season admitted of no delay, and the vessels prepared for immediate action. The place presented unexpected obstacles. It was supposed that the fleet would find a town with a few soldiers, and few fortifications or defences of any kind; but they found a formidable fortress, protected by 8 detached batteries, containing in all more than

120 guns, and 1,800 men. Three days after leaving the Sandwich Islands, the admirals having no thought of finding a Gibraltar at Petropaulowski, dispatched two of their squadron, the *Amphitrite* and the *Artemise*, to cruise on this coast.

Petropaulowski is at the foot of a small and narrow bay, the shores of which are protected by numerous batteries. Before the town could be reached, it would be necessary to silence three of these batteries. Nature has given the place a protection, by the erection of a mound of sand in the midst of the bay.

This mound of sand leaves to the vessels but a narrow channel, and hides the view of the principal fortress to vessels at a distance. On the 30th Aug., the six vessels of war, the *Forte*, of 60 guns, the *Eurydice*, of 28 guns, the *Obligado*, of 12 guns, the *Pique*, of 40 guns, the *President*, of 50 guns, and the *Virago*, steamer, of 6 guns, (the last three English, and the first three French), were before the place, intent upon taking it.

When the attack was about to begin, Admiral Price, in command of the English forces, shot himself through the breast with a pistol ball. The news had a very depressing effect upon the people of the fleet. Price was a brave man and much respected, and out of respect to him the attack was postponed until the next day. It was supposed by some to have been an accident, while others thought it a suicidal affair.

On the 31st August the battle began. The Russian frigates *Aurora*, of 40 guns, and the *Dwina*, of 18, were anchored behind the mound. The allied vessels, distant about a mile from the city, concentrated their fire on the three foremost forts. These were silenced after a fierce cannonade, in which 250 guns were engaged. The batteries were deserted by the Russians, the cannons were spiked, and the next day the allied vessels moved up nearer to the city.—On the 1st September an attack was made upon the Russian vessels. The *Aurora* was badly injured with a number of shot holes between wind and water, and having her main-mast shot away.

About noon a large fort had been reduced to such a condition that it was thought best to take it. A body of French soldiers were accordingly landed, and they took the fort without difficulty. The Russian officers barely had time to escape, leaving everything which they did not habitually carry on their persons. After taking this fort, it was thought advisable to send a body of men to get behind the main fort, and make a diversion in the rear while the ships were playing in front. About 600 men were sent for this purpose, and an American undertook to guide them around to the rear of the fortification, but he took them into a thick brushwood, where a large number of Russians were concealed. The Russians began a murderous fire upon the French and English, who, after a short resistance, fled with the loss of 150 men killed and wounded. They left their dead upon the field. They managed, however, to take one of the smaller redoubts, spike the cannon, and take 43 Russian prisoners.

Immediately after the return of the troops to their respective vessels, a council was held, and it was determined to leave Petropaulowski, and the purpose was soon accomplished.

The main purpose of the attack was to destroy the Russian vessels, so that they could not hereafter sail out and injure the commerce of the allies on the Pacific. It was supposed that the *Aurora* was so much injured that several months would be required to repair her; and the *Dwina*, a vessel of about 18 guns, was considerably injured. The winter, however, has now set in at Petropaulowski, and the ice will have completely closed the harbor of the Port of St. Peter and St. Paul long before this, so that no trouble to French and English commerce is to be anticipated from the *Aurora* and *Dwina* until next April at least. The frigate *Pallas* was taken up the river Amoor some distance from the mouth, and was there made fast, dismounted, and converted into a fort. The position of the *Diana* was not known, but it was supposed to be in the Sea of Ochotsk.

The assailants failed in the main object of their attack, and failed signally in their secondary object, the destruction of the fortifications at Petropaulowski. The purpose was not to take the town, which they might really have taken or destroyed without loss, on the second day. Its conquest, however, offered nothing of benefit. The loss of life in the allied fleet is differently given by those who were present. More Englishmen than Frenchmen were killed and wounded. Several unlucky balls, as they are styled, struck the English vessels killing, not solitary men, but carrying off whole files. The French vessels received no "unlucky" balls, although a number of the shot were sufficiently injurious to the vessels. The *Forte* received forty balls, and, though she was in the thickest of the fight, only six of her men were killed and ten wounded on the vessel.

The Russian prisoners express their satisfaction with the manner in which they have been treated, and it is probable that they will be permitted to come on shore on their parole. A number of them have come from St. Petersburg within the last year.

The Russians handled their guns with a skill which commanded the admiration of the allied forces. Fifteen hundred of the men in the fort were veterans from the Caucasus, sent out through Siberia and down the Amoor within a year, and 600 of the number had arrived within three months of the attack.

Among the prisoners taken were a number of persons of intelligence, including Germans, Danes and others, who had been in the Russian service. A Russian General, now on the frigate *Forte*, in this harbor, was captured in the *Sitka*. He was going to take the command of the fortifications at Petropaulowski. While the allied fleet was before that place, a Russian Admiral, formerly on the *Pallas* frigate, arrived from the Amoor off the harbor in a