

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The rumor of a visit of the Emperor of the French to England has often been circulated since the alliance between the countries, and is at last likely to be realized. The visit has been decided within the last few days, and in official quarters it is affirmed that it will take place on Easter Monday. As for the journey to the Crimea, nothing more can be said than that it is likely to depend on the turn matters take at Vienna, and if it be true that the difficulty about Sebastopol will be removed otherwise than by storming and capture, there is no reason why His Majesty should undertake so fatiguing a journey, not without risk in its execution, and far from certain in its results. A letter from Toulon states that the Imperial yacht *Reine Hortense* will not be completely fitted up before the end of the month, and it is therefore thought there that, should the Emperor proceed to the Crimea, as has been affirmed, his departure will not take place so soon as some journals have announced.—*Times Paris Cor.*

Rumors were circulated some days ago of a conspiracy having been discovered, the object of which was to assassinate the Emperor and of many arrests being made. It is true that from 50 to 60 persons have been taken into custody on such a charge. Among them are a professor of literature, two or three letter-carriers, and the rest belong to the lower class of Socialists.

The *Moniteur* announces that General Forey leaves the command he held in the army of the East, and proceeds to take the command of the Oran division in Algeria.

The same paper of Tuesday contains an article discussing the reign of the Emperor Nicholas, and the consequence of his death, which concludes in the following words:—

"A great nation, like the French, does not rejoice when death takes away an adversary, he ever so powerful, but the world will understand that God has removed from the contest a Sovereign who originated it, and has thereby put aside an obstacle to the peace of the world. The Imperial French nation does not derive confidence from the disappearance of an enemy, but, on the contrary, from the unity of the allied nations, the heroism of the troops, the success of our army, and the justice of our cause."

France really seems to have a design upon Gibraltar. It is not merely in Brulle de Girardin's pamphlet that it breaks out, but in an article of the *Moniteur*, which, we suspect, emanated from the Imperial study, and of which we quote a few extracts. The phrase that "the Mediterranean is a French lake," expresses an old Napoleonic idea. The Czar, charged with having attempted to make a Russian lake—and "advancing step by step towards the Dardanelles to make them a Gibraltar of the East against the West." By how much an easier process could the Napoleonic Idea be fulfilled just at present? There are French soldiers at Constantinople, Athens, Gallipoli, and nothing to prevent them from seizing the Dardanelles—a French army at Rome, another on the opposite side of the lake at Algiers. It only remains to master Gibraltar and hold all the keys of the grandest sea in the world.—*Nation.*

The London and Paris papers all agree that a stigma will be cast upon British arms, if peace is made without the object of the Crimean expedition being obtained. The *Daily News* says that "the more candid pro-Russian papers have commenced in anticipation those taunts which we must expect to hear from all sides if the expedition should return without having attained its object."

STARTLING DISCLOSURES.—Doctor Veron having in the last volume of his memoirs described a meeting at the house of M. Thiers in 1851, at which M. de Morny and General Changarnier were present, and the project of a royalist *coup d'etat* against the assembly discussed, a note appeared in *La Presse*, formally and explicitly denying the whole story, and treating it as a pure fabrication. To this Doctor Veron replied in the same journal, that he had not printed such statements without the best authority. M. Thiers then broke silence to give an absolute contradiction. Doctor Veron requested M. de Morny to corroborate his statements, and M. de Morny at once replied that the doctor had written nothing that was not literally correct. M. Thiers writes again, simply maintaining a flat denial: and General Changarnier, writing from Malmes, repudiates the veracity of the author of "Memoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris," and of M. Morny, and insists that only "the honorable M. Thiers" has spoken the truth.

GERMAN POWERS.

We (*Times*) have received the following telegraphic despatch from our Vienna correspondent:—

"VIENNA, THURSDAY, MARCH 29.—The Conference took the fourth point into consideration today."

"The third point is left aside for the present."

"On Monday, Prince Gortschacoff moved for the admission of Prussia."

The political horizon has again become gloomy," we are told; "for although the Western Powers do not insist on razing Sebastopol, they propose other conditions which are not agreeable to Russia;" and, of course, Alexander will "perish" rather than yield. So there lies the alternative before that Conference of bewildered Red-tapists in the Austrian capital—either to proceed "vigorously" with a suicidal war, or submit to such conditions as will satisfy the national sentiment of Russia.—*Nation.*

PRUSSIA AT THE CONGRESS.—A letter from Berlin, in the *Debats*, says:—"Although the Prussian ambassador at Vienna is not admitted to the conferences, yet he is not the less active in promoting conciliation. The Prussian Government cannot conceal from itself that matters would become very

serious if the conferences were not to end in a satisfactory result; and it therefore uses all the influence which it has with Russia to induce that Power to make concessions."

RUSSIA.

Count Nesselrode is now, in fact, the real successor to the great power which Nicholas held—of the head which now directs that dense, formidable, half-civilised mass, the population of Russia. Count Nesselrode does now, in fact, hold in his hands the solution of the great question—Shall Russia purchase peace in Europe—peace for herself—at the price of that preponderance in the Black Sea which it has cost her years to attain? He is to decide whether it will be more or less humiliating for Russia to agree to the terms proposed to her, or frankly to declare her opposition, and boldly to fight it out. This power he gains as the depository of the counsel of the dead Czar—as the natural adviser of his successor—as the ablest man in St. Petersburg.

The language of M. de Nesselrode is conciliatory. The Chancellor of the Czar defines the object of the conferences at Vienna in a manner acceptable for all the powers; and the word "transaction," which he employs to characterise the possible result of the conferences, implies on the part of the court of St. Petersburg the intention of making some concessions to the exigencies of the political equilibrium. In the meantime, we would not found any hope prematurely on the text of a diplomatic document. All the pieces which have emanated from the Russian chancery have always professed an ardent love of peace, even when they announced inadmissible pretensions. It is by its conduct in the conferences at Vienna that Russia may satisfy Europe of its moderation, and of its sincere desire to restore peace to the world.

A letter from Warsaw in the *National Gazette* of Berlin, states that in the recruitment which was effected in the night of the 12th of March, the fourth within fifteen months, not fewer than 20,000 men were taken in different parts of the kingdom of Poland, the greater part on the left bank of the Vistula. A fourth of the levy consists of married men and fathers of families. In the levy were some hundreds of men who had cut off their first finger to incapacitate them for serving; but they have gained nothing by it, as they have all been enrolled.

ITALY.

ROME.—A *Triduum*, or solemn service of three days has lately been held by the British Catholics at Rome, in honor of the "Immaculate Conception." On the first day the Most Rev. J. B. Polding, Archbishop of Sydney, N. S. Wales, officiated. On the second, His Grace the Archbishop of Halifax, N.S., and on the third day, His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, Primate of Ireland, celebrated the divine offices.

SARDINIA.—The *Opinione* of Turin, of the 18th of March, states that the committee elected by the Sardinian senate to report on the Convents' Suppression Bill is rather hostile than otherwise to the measure—three of the members being opposed, if not to the principle, at least to the details of the measure. One member is disposed to vote for it upon certain conditions, and the fifth and last alone supports the bill as it stands.

Although the whole power of the government and of the revolutionary party is exerted in favor of the measure, determined and, as some think, an effective opposition is expected. The law has been passed in the chambers by a majority of 116 votes against 36.

The Pope has put forth no excommunication as yet against the promoters of the anti-monastic law in Piedmont; indeed his attention is rather diverted by the strong proceedings of the same character in Spain, which will probably induce a suspension of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the government of that country also. The new Spanish Minister arrived here a week ago, but it is considered doubtful whether his mission will be recognised, or whether he will be received by Pio Nono in any other character than that of a sincere Catholic, to which his principles well entitle him.

WAR IN THE EAST

It is reported that the Protestant ladies who have come to attend upon the sick find their mission very difficult. Some more of them have lately left. Catholic charity is admired, but they cannot imitate it. The English have taken possession of the Sultan's palace at Therapia, and have converted it into a hospital for their marines. The Rev. Mr. Sheehan is dead.

According to a letter from Kamiesch, of the 10th March, the Russian ships then afloat in the port of Sebastopol were two three-deckers, three two-deckers, and another liner, which the Russian engineers were converting into a screw ship when the war broke out. All the others had been sunk at the mouth of the harbor. Six of them, sunk shortly after the battle of the Alma, constitute the first line of obstruction. Behind these is the stockade, forming the second line. It is parallel with the first, and constructed of masts and rafts which support the chain drawn across the channel to intercept its passage. Further on to the rear, and to the west of the Bay of the Arsenal, or military port, properly speaking, extends a third line, parallel with the two others, and composed of a frigate, a two-decker, and a three-decker lately sunk. The water there is eight fathoms deep, and the breadth of the channel is only four cables' length. The masts rise considerably above the water. According to the different official returns of the Russian navy, drawn up in 1817, 1824, 1836, and 1851, the Black Sea Squadron, exclusive of men-of-war of inferior size, never exceeded 12 or 15 ships of the line. When the allied forces appeared before Sebastopol there were only 14 liners in the port, the most remarkable of which was the three-decker *Twelve Apostles*.

Advices from Odessa of the 18th March state that the report of the death of Prince Menschikoff is false.

Powerful bodies of cavalry are on their way to the Crimea.

LETTER FROM A "CONNAUGHT RANGER."

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—My dear Mother—I received your kind letter, which gave me great pleasure. I was delighted to find that you and my sister and all friends, were well. In the letter before this, I sent you a pound; I thought I would be able to send more, but could not get it. We were served out with a new kit, which came to £2 15s, and which we ought to get for nothing—but after the war is over we will be credited with the money again. Before we got the clothes we were in a most ragged state. I am now three months without taking off my clothes, except to brush them; and eight months without sleeping in any bed; other than the cold grass. We had good times until we came to Russia, but now we are nicely situated, lying these two months in front of Sebastopol, firing day and night ever since at it, and all to no purpose, although the English papers said it would be taken in ten days by siege. Now the siege is going on these 43 days, and no sign of its being taken, and never will, except at the point of the bayonet—less which, no doubt, we will suffer a great loss—it is expected some thousands. There is double the army in Sebastopol that we have here, and one of the best fortifications in the world, except Gibraltar. There is a Russian army in the rear of us to the amount of 80,000. I fought at Alma with my regiment, and, thank God, got safe. We lost 17, between killed and wounded. In the skirmish at Glengannous Farm, we lost none. At the capture of Balaklava, we had one man wounded. In the battle of Balaklava, lost none; but in the battle of Inkermann, we lost 184 out of five companies. I cannot describe the great numbers other regiments have lost. Some regiments are losing from 5 to 12 daily with sickness, but we have lost none, thank God. The Light Division, to which I belong, is the leading division of the British army—the first in every place—even at Alma, we were the first that crossed the river, and beat back the Russians, with the assistance of the heavy division, for which we got little credit. Our regiment captured Balaklava, and no other. Even at Inkermann—the last battle—our regiment, when run short of ammunition, charged a nine-gun battery (belonging to the Russians) with fixed bayonets, what a foot regiment was never, I believe, known to do before. After taking it, the Russians took it again, and we retook it from them. The artillery captain cried out to his men, "Come, my boys, man your guns that the Connaught Rangers are after taking it for you." If an English regiment did that, all sorts of news would be in the papers about it; but you know we are an Irish and a Catholic regiment; but, thank God, our forefathers, in former days, gained credit for us, and now we have done the same, for we call ourselves God's and the Blessed Virgin's own regiment, and I am sure we are so, for it shows that she is praying to her loving Son for us. I hope, my dear mother, you are also praying for me, as all the mothers in Ireland are doing for their sons. We have the priest attached to us since we landed in Turkey; he calls our regiment his own regiment.

I remain, my dear mother, your loving son,
THOMAS SCULLY, 88th, or
Connaught Rangers.
To Mrs. Scully, widow, Bowling-green,
Galway, Ireland.

BLUE LAWS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

MORE OF THE KNOW-NOTHINGS AND PROTESTANT PARSONS WHO INVADED THE CATHOLIC LADIES' SCHOOL. WHAT THEY LOOKED INTO, AND WHAT THEY FOUND.

(From the Boston Advertiser, April 5.)

The Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Legislature are very dilatory about their work. They were appointed, if we understand rightly, to clear up certain charges and imputations against the fair fame of the State and the credit of its legislators. A *prima facie* case has been made out; and until the charges are investigated, the State and the legislators rest under ignominy. Meanwhile, with the exception of sending us the letter and receiving the answer promptly returned the same day, both of which will be found in another column, we are not aware that the Committee have done anything. There has certainly been no public session, nor had we heard of the summoning of any witnesses, [until last evening, after this article had been placed in the hands of the printer, we were ourselves cited to appear before the Committee on Saturday next, a week after their appointment.]

What the Committee are so slow to do we have ourselves undertaken, for the double purpose of justifying ourselves and of satisfying the anxiety of the public with regard to the facts. The best, we might say the only proper evidence with regard to the proceedings of the gentlemen at Roxbury, is obviously to be obtained from the inmates of the house which they visited. The evidence of these ladies is vastly more pertinent than that of the visitors, who are interested parties, and ought not in strictness to be allowed to testify, even if their own testimony was less damning against themselves than were their admissions in the debate in the Legislature, and in the columns of the organ of the dominant party, their apologist and defender. If the Committee of Inquiry really wished to know what happened, it would seem that they should ere this have sought to ascertain from the ladies at Roxbury.

This, which the Committee have not seen fit to do, we have done, although we do not possess the privilege of the plenary authority "to send for persons and papers" which the Committee enjoy. We have taken the pains to ascertain directly from these ladies—whose testimony must be regarded as conclusive—the facts; and are able to state, on their authority, that with the exception of a few unimportant details—which we shall proceed to mention—"the whole of our statement of Saturday was precisely correct."

This much with regard to the truth of the statements which we have already made; but as we intimated on Tuesday, there is a new feature in the scene, which we omitted to describe, and to which we now ask the reader's attention.

In a small chamber in the house, one of the boarders, a young lady whose parents we believe reside in the Island of Cuba, but who is herself an American by birth, speaking English perfectly—lay in her bed ill. During the day the Sister Superior had been applying leeches to this sufferer; and the disagreeable operation was scarcely concluded, when the omnibuses drove up and the numerous party alighted. The advent of this masculine band caused great terror in the school-room; the children literally screamed with fright. The Superior's first care was to pacify them and calm their fears; and next, recollecting what effect this noise and the unexpected arrival must have upon her young patient up stairs, the Superior proceeded to her chamber and bid her not be frightened; warned her that she might be disturbed, and advised her to appear to be asleep.

On receiving the party in the parlor below, the Sister-Superior informed them, that one of her pupils was ill, lying abed in her chamber, and requested them to make as little noise as possible in approaching that part of the house. We need not tell our readers how gentlemen of ordinary refinement and dignity would have behaved in such a case; our business is to tell what these visitors did. On reaching the chamber where the girl lay, the Superior stated the fact. Did the "gentlemen" shrink back? No, they pressed forward. One, it is believed, actually entered the room; and, at all events, several approached within twelve inches of the bedside. The chamber is scarcely larger than a closet; the bedstead is a small iron structure, and is placed close to the door—so that the inquisitors, without actually crossing the threshold, could carry their presence into its privacy. What were the feelings of that weak and suffering girl, as these rude men hung over her, we shall not attempt to describe. They were not content with the view obtained by the ordinary door. She saw two men's heads peering into the room by another door, which was open, at the foot of the bed. To obtain this view these two "gentlemen" must have leaned over another bed, which stands across the open doorway in an adjoining room. We trust their curiosity was gratified.

There is no doubt whatever of the facts about this matter. We heard them first, indirectly, from one of the supernumerary visitors. We have since made inquiry, and we have unquestionable and direct evidence. Further than this, we have seen the young lady herself, a girl of twelve or thirteen years of age. She has now happily recovered her health and her spirits, and we have heard from her own lips the simple story of her trial. Nobody could look in the frank, open face of that young girl, as timid and blushing, but with entire self-possession, she answered the questions put to her, and doubt one word of the story—and he must be possessed of an effrontery of which we trust the inquisitors have the monopoly in Massachusetts, not to burn with indignation to think that such things are not only told, but have actually happened. For ourselves, we confess that we were half abashed of the task we had undertaken—*infandum jubere renovare dolorem*—when we found ourselves only hearing the brief tale of what those men did.

Is there a mother in Massachusetts who can read this recital without a shudder, recollecting that the Legislature possesses precisely as much (and precisely as little) power to authorise such an invasion of her daughter's sick chamber, in any house in the State? But we are ashamed to place the disgrace of the affair to the account of want of authority. Where was the courtesy, where was the decency, where was the humanity of these men? Suppose the illness of the girl had been more critical than it was—suppose the Superior had not been able to warn her of the approach of the band of inquisitors—who will answer for the result or defend the proceeding? Truly, now at least, and in Massachusetts, "The age of chivalry is gone." A modern Burke might even utter a more bitter complaint. Chivalry has gone, and decency, and humanity.

The committee appointed by the Legislature to investigate this matter, summoned the Messrs. Hale of the *Advertiser*, and the "Sisters" who conduct the school, to give evidence:

The Lady Superior was accompanied by Samuel May, Esq., who stated that she had with her a statement of the transaction, signed by five ladies who preside over the school.

The Sergeant-at-Arms then administered an oath to the Lady Superior, after which the statement was read by the chairman of the committee.

The statement is mainly the same as that published in the *Advertiser*. The committee then proceeded to an examination of the Lady Superior, who testified as follows:—

"I should judge that the committee numbered about twenty individuals. I attended them in their examination of the house. One of the committee who gave his name as Mr. Evans, tarried after the others had left, and told me he was once a Catholic in St. Mary's church, Baltimore, and that he desired to return to the Church. He asked me if I would give him permission to visit me, saying he would like to have some pleasant conversation with me. I declined giving him permission. He asked if the bishop would object to his visiting me. I told him he would not, though we received but few visitors. He shook hands with me twice and appeared very familiar. I was much offended at his conduct then, and feel more indignant every time I think of it. I told the committee when they entered the house that a lady was sick. When the members of the committee entered her chamber I was present. They