

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

M. DE MONTALEMBERT AND THE ORLEANS CONFISCATIONS.

The legislative body sat on Friday, May 20th, M. Bilault in the chair, and resumed the discussion on the budget of 1854.

M. de Montalembert said that he had proposed to retrench from the budget a sum of 1,800,000*fr.* accruing from the sale of the domains of Neuilly and Monceaux, belonging to the Orleans family. Gentlemen, continued he, I do not come here to make a long speech, but to fulfil a duty of conscience. I will not have the courage of M. de Flaviigny, but I agree fully with him in everything he has said concerning the situation in which the legislative body is placed. I cannot consider it as one of a serious *bona fide* nature.

The President—M. de Montalembert, I cannot allow you to continue in that strain. Everything is perfectly serious in the position of the legislative body; and in attacking that position, you attack the constitution itself which you have sworn to adhere to.

M. de Montalembert—I am not speaking of the constitution. I speak only of the proposition made to us, and I cannot allow it to be supported by my silence that I approve of it. I cannot permit the proverb of "Silence gives consent" to be applied to me. I shall vote against the budget for two reasons—the first, because it gives a sanction to the *Senatus-Consultum* of December 25th, 1852, which deprived the legislative body of all control in finance matters; and the second, because it sanctions the decrees of January 22nd, which despoiled the Orleans family of their property. In fine, I shall vote against the budget, because it offers violence to the independence of a French Chamber, and so shocks our feelings as honest men. (Approbation.) Last year the budget contained nothing connected directly or indirectly with the decrees of January 22nd. At present, for the first time, we are called on to sanction them.

The President—The decrees of Jan. 22nd have no need of sanction, as by the terms of Art. 58 of the constitution they have the force of law.

M. de Montalembert—We are called on to sanction what the Republicans, what the Socialists did not venture to do in 1848, and what the Council of State—deciding as a court of law in disputed cases, and menaced in its immovability—only sanctioned by a majority of one vote. We cannot join in that decision. My amendment being rejected by the committee forces me to refuse the budget, because to support it would be to countenance the most odious confiscation. (Movement.)

The President—I cannot allow the hon. gentleman to continue. (Noise.)

A voice from the centre—Withdraw the article altogether, M. le President, if you do not wish to allow it to be discussed.

M. de Montalembert—I am much astonished to see the President, who was the law adviser of the Duke d'Aumale, coming forward at present to prevent me from speaking in the defence of an exiled family.

The President—When I was the advocate of the Orleans family it did not attack either the constitution or the laws and you are attacking both at present.

M. de Montalembert—If I cannot attack the decrees of January 22, I can at least criticise the reasons assigned for issuing them, and which affirm precisely what used to be said two or three years back by the Socialists, namely, "If we took from M. de Montalembert, or any other man of property, one half of what he possesses, would he not still live on most comfortably?" (A laugh.) When I regret all solidarity in such an act, I disown the responsibility which is thrown upon us. Gentlemen, in 1809 the Emperor Napoleon said in the Council of State, "Property is inviolability in the persons who possess it. With all my armies I could not seize on a single field without injustice." Bossuet also used to say that opposition to iniquity was an imprescriptible right. You cannot but join in these doctrines, dictated as they were by high wisdom. (Approbation.)

M. Baroche, President of the Council of State, replied that he could not admit that protest just made against the *Senatus-Consultum* and the decrees of January 22, for such a protest would be a violation of the constitution. Nor could the honorable gentleman be allowed to criticise an act which a great body of the state had in its full given its approbation to.

M. Granier de Cassagnac regretted to see so eminent a speaker as M. de Montalembert enter on a line of discussion which was, to say the least of it, useless—he who, in a note which he published, had made an *amende honorable* for having attacked the government which he now defended.

M. de Montalembert replied that if he had attacked that government, it was because its conduct of late years had done more than anything else to lead to the present government. That government (the present) had been chosen by the people because it had announced itself the protector of property.—The decrees of January 22nd were altogether contrary to the principles on which it was chosen.

The general discussion on the budget of receipts was declared to be closed.

AUSTRIA.

The congress of Sovereigns in Vienna is exciting much attention; and not the least important interest connected with this crowned conclave is the presence of the King of the Belgians and his heir apparent on the scene. The rupture of diplomatic relations between Austria and Sardinia, and between Austria and the Helvetic confederation, coupled with the

complications of the Eastern question, is well calculated to cause a panic among the stock jobbers.

The betrothal of the Archduchess Maria with the Duke of Brabant took place on the 17th May.

It would perhaps be incorrect to say that it is the intention of the German Powers to make a public and formal demonstration against France, but it does not admit of a doubt that any violation of the Belgian territory would raise a storm which Napoleon would in vain attempt to lay. A correspondent of the *Wanderer* is probably perfectly correct when he says that an excellent understanding exists just now between the Emperor of Russia and King Leopold. On the contrary, a visible coolness has arisen between the French and Russian Courts, "the French Ambassador, M. de Castelbajac, having been unable to obtain a satisfactory explanation about an article hostile to France which had been permitted to appear by the Russian censure." If appearances are not deceptive, the Emperor of the French has principally incurred the displeasure of this Government by having exhibited symptoms of a strong disinclination to permit Austria to be the sole actor in the Swiss and Sardinian dramas. Much is said here of the remarkable and admirable moderation and forbearance displayed by this Government towards its western neighbors, but it is very questionable whether these virtues would shine with such brilliancy were it not morally certain that extreme measures against Sardinia and Switzerland would lead to a counter occupation of the Savoy and Geneva.

GERMANY.

FRANKFORT, MAY 20.—The Senate of this city has submitted to the Legislative Assembly an organized law for the regulation of the rights of the Jews, who, according to this law, shall have the right of voting in the election of deputies, and be capable of serving as deputies. They are to have four deputies in the Legislative Assembly, but they are excluded from the Senate, and from certain other functions and dignities.

SWITZERLAND.

BERNE, MAY 22.—Last night the Austrian Charge d'Affaires announced to the President of the Federal Council that the Austrian Cabinet, convinced of the uselessness of further negotiations with Switzerland, and considering that his presence at Berne was for no purpose, had instructed him to leave that city for an indefinite period. The President of the Federal Council demanded to have this declaration in writing, for the purpose of submitting it to the Council. The Austrian Envoy has promised to address to the President a letter containing the above declaration.

Count Karnicki, the Austrian Charge d'Affaires at Berne, received orders on the 21st May to leave his post forthwith, and to return to Vienna as soon as he had notified the rupture of diplomatic relations between Austria and Switzerland.

ITALY.

We read the following in the *Bilancia* of Milan, under the date of Rome 2nd:—"A very painful discovery was made the other day in the Basilica of Lateran. Those who are acquainted with the locality will recollect that Pope Martin V. lies buried in the nave. The body having to be removed in consequence of certain architectural repairs in progress, the coffin was opened in the presence of the Chapter. To everybody's surprise, nothing was found but the bones of Martin V.; the rings, the gold and silver chalices, the tiara, all studded with precious stones, had disappeared. Their existence in the coffin had been verified about fifty years ago."

HOLLAND.

It is not easy to form an accurate notion of the progress of the politico-religious dispute in the Low Countries. The accounts we daily receive are neither clear nor consistent. All we know with certainty is that the ultra-Protestant fanatics have failed as signally as they did in this country last July.—Out of sixty-four elections that had taken place, the new Cabinet was able to claim only a majority of three; and as the late Minister, Thorbeck, who had negotiated with the Holy See on the question of the restoration of the Hierarchy, was elected at Breda and Maestricht, in either of which places a successor of his principles is sure to be returned, the Ministerial majority so far is reduced almost to unity. The only effect, then, of the anti-Catholic agitation in Holland, as in our own country, will be the exposure of Protestant bigotry and the disturbance and weakening of the machinery of Government. The Church—the object of so much vituperation and malignant hostility—stands unshaken and undisturbed amid the frantic paroxysms of Protestant intolerance. Cannot heresy and schism see in all this the wonderful working of the infallible promise given to that Apostle in whose chair now sits Pius IX., the restorer of the ancient Hierarchies of England and Holland?

TURKEY.

The latest intelligence from Constantinople is pregnant with grave considerations. The Sultan having resolved to reject the Russian *ultimatum*, a change of Ministers immediately ensued; and Prince Menschikoff had quitted the Turkish capital, according to the latest telegraphic despatch. The Paris Correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows:—

"The despatch from Vienna received last night, announcing the change in the Turkish Cabinet, was published in the papers of that day. But I find a difference between it and another which has been subsequently received. According to the latter, the Ministry is as follows:—Mustapha Pasha, late President of the Council, and former Governor-General of Candia, is named Grand Vizier; the ex-Grand Vizier, Mehemet Ali Pasha, is named Seraskier (Minister of War); Rifaat Pasha, ex-Minister of

Foreign Affairs, is named President of the Council of State; Reschid Pasha is named Minister for Foreign Affairs; Fethi Pasha, Minister of Commerce, Grand Master of the Artillery (Topkapi); and Namik Pasha, Minister of Commerce.

"The formation of the new Cabinet would show that no disposition exists to accept the *ultimatum*; and, in fact, nothing can be stronger than the assurances conveyed in the private letters I refer to of the determination of the Porte to resist to the last, and to brave all the anger of Russia. The Cabinet, I am enabled to assure you on good authority, has adopted the firm resolution not to yield to the demands of Russia. The presence of two such men as Mustapha Pasha (who, I believe, is the father of Veley Pasha, the Ambassador in Paris) and Reschid Pasha—both of whom have been long familiar with questions of high policy—would show its disposition. However matters may turn out, the Cabinet declares its determination to reject the *ultimatum*. The reasons it gives for its refusal are those I have already mentioned. It maintains that to do so would be to admit that it is not an independent nation—as no nation can be so who acknowledges the right of a foreign Power to intervene in its purely domestic concerns. Should it yield on the present occasion, other Governments would claim an equal right with Russia to advance the same pretensions. Russia is reproached with having deceived, not merely Turkey, but all the Cabinets of Europe in this affair. The Russian Government instructed its Ministers at foreign Courts to declare in the most solemn manner—a declaration repeated by Lord Clarendon in the House of Lords—that the only question at issue between Turkey and itself was the question of the Holy Shrines, and it gave the most positive assurances that it had no intention of attacking the integrity or independence of the Ottoman Empire.—The *ultimatum* of Prince Menschikoff proves now that these assurances were but a cloak to cover ulterior designs. The Turkish Government repeats its declaration that it will resist, at all risks, the pretensions of Russia; and if Prince Menschikoff should quit Constantinople and anything of a disagreeable nature occur in consequence of his departure—should the fleet advance to the Bosphorus, it will become evident to the world that it is not Turkey that is in fault, but that it is Russia who has sought this pretext for attacking her independence. It is again denied that the Greeks have the slightest desire to be subjected to Russian domination, and that the fact has been ascertained and admitted by the agents that Prince Menschikoff sent to various parts of the Turkish provinces for that purpose. The Porte is convinced that the other Powers, and particularly France and England, are deeply interested in taking her part on the present question."

Later accounts, the accuracy of which there seems no reason to question, assert positively that the Russian Ambassador had withdrawn, after threatening the Porte with the highest displeasure of the Czar. These menaces induced the French Minister to order the approach of the French fleet to the Dardanelles. The British fleet lay still at Malta.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The news from Burmah to the 13th of April, is unfavorable, and more troops are wanted. There is no prospect of peace short of Ava. The Burmese Commissioners had refused to sign the treaty.

The latest dates from China are to the 11th of April. The American, French, and English ships-of-war on the coasts of China have, on the urgent requisition of the Chinese authorities, consented to guard Nankin, Shanghai, and the mouths of the Great Canal, against the rebels.

AUSTRALIA.

A letter from Ballarat early in February says:—"In my letter to you lately I have given favorable reports of these diggings, and yet the escort returns have rather diminished than increased in amount. It is impossible to judge of the yield of Ballarat by the escort. The week before last I knew personally of more gold going privately than by escort. The nearness of Ballarat to Geelong, the safety of the road, and the cheap and regular conveyances, make the journey so easy and available that few lucky diggers will use the escort; and I know many who boast of never having transmitted by it. On horseback you can go to Geelong from Ballarat with ease in six hours. Before the news of the nugget they were coming up rapidly, but the rush now is immense. A new gully at Creswick's Creek, and new diggings at Wanup, were opened last week. I am told that there are nearly a thousand at the latter place already. The price of gold has risen to £3 8s 6d; some stores giving £3 9s."

On the 6th of February three diggers, named Gough, Sulley, and Bristoe, arrived in Geelong from the Ballarat diggings, bringing with them a box containing two masses of gold, one of which actually weighed 77lb. 8 oz., and the other 69lb. 6 oz., the proportion of pure gold being more than eight-ninths. They were both found at Canadian Gully, between 30 and 40 yards from the bed of the 134lb. nugget, and within some 50 feet of the surface. It is further stated that accounts had also been received of the finding of a 100lb. nugget in the same golden locality.

The fortunate finders of the immense nugget at Ballarat are four new comers, three of whom arrived in the colony in August last, per ship Lady Head, and the fourth came in the steam ship Great Britain. The three first proceeded to Bendigo diggings immediately after their landing, where they remained for some two or three months, and made nearly £1,000 worth of gold. They then joined the fourth person, and went to Ballarat diggings. Out of one hole in the Canadian Gully they obtained the large lump, weighing 134lb. 8 oz., another weighing 5lb. 5 oz., and 2lb. 4 oz. of small gold—making altogether 142lb. 5 oz. out of one hole. They then sold their claim for

£300, and went to Melbourne. They were offered £8,000 for the one piece. The *Argus* says, there is no doubt that industry and perseverance will succeed at the goldfields.

REBELLION IN CHINA.

That elucidation which time brings to most mysteries is gradually dawning upon the civil war in China. Our latest information opens one or two new points of view, and enables us to appreciate somewhat more satisfactorily the progress and prospects of the revolution. Three proclamations or manifestoes issuing from the insurgent camp have found their way, in an English version, to European settlements, and from these documents we can discern at least the general pretensions advanced by the rebels. The first of these assumes all the character of an Imperial proclamation, that is to say, it is put forth in the name of Tien-teh, the insurgent chief, as Emperor actually reigning, and it invites the support and co-operation of the people by promises of reward, and under threats of vengeance in case of refusal. The second purports to come from an independent adherent of the rebel cause, and contains a circumstantial denunciation of the Tartar dynasty. The third is the more remarkable and the most interesting of all, for, although not very clear in substance, and obscured by the usual intricacies of Eastern phraseology, it is a justification of the insurrectionary movement upon principles of religion, and the religion thus appealed to is nothing less than Christianity.

From these manifestoes, taken in combination with other intelligence, we can infer that the revolution is now mainly based upon what is assumed to be the national duty of restoring a native Chinese dynasty by the expulsion of the Tartar intruders. It will be remembered that in the first half of the 17th century, or some two centuries ago, the Manchoo Tartars succeeded in subjugating the Chinese Empire and sending a prince of their own race on the throne of Hekin, in the room of the native rulers. From that time to the present the Tartar dynasty has survived, but it never conciliated the affections of the people; it gradually declined in strength, and its ruin was precipitated by the disgraces and charges of the war maintained for a while against ourselves. The victorious insurgents now heap on the heads of the Tartars all the accusations which such circumstances would naturally suggest. They describe them as having outraged the ancient institutions of China by innovations in ceremony and apparel, as having administered the government of the country without regard to clemency or justice, as sustaining themselves by rapacity and shielding themselves by corruption, while the entire population lay prostrate and groaning under this excess of tyranny. Tien-teh, therefore, after announcing (with reference to his late victories) that he has "slaughtered ravenous officers and abandoned magistrates till he is tired of the carnage," calls upon the "scholars and people" of the country to aid him, by pecuniary contributions and personal service, in consummating the triumph of native independence and social reform. This places the political character of the rebellion beyond dispute.

The religious element of the movement is considerably less distinct, and, as the proclamation bearing upon this subject will command universal interest, we transfer it in its original phraseology to another part of our columns. It appears to be mainly addressed to the members of the Triad Society, a secret association formed among the Chinese for the express purpose of effecting the expulsion of the Tartars, something like the Tugendbund in Germany during the dominion of Napoleon, or those philosophical brotherhoods which pioneered the revolutions of 1789. The Christianity of the document is certainly not pure, but it will be seen that several scriptural truths are recited, and that the Old Testament is appealed to by name. As far, however, as its mere language or professions are concerned, there are, of course, many disciples of the Christian missions in China, competent to give as good or better accounts of their belief. The importance of the document consists in its being issued, as if with authority, from the head-quarters of the rebels, and in the introduction of such a subject into the communications of an insurgent chief with the people of the country. We learn, too, from independent sources, that certain religious views have undoubtedly been manifested in the proceedings of the insurgents. They have displayed considerable zeal in the purification of temples, and have been particularly earnest in destroying images—a resolution which is hardly traceable to any political principle, inasmuch as the idol-worship of the Chinese is not connected with the reigning dynasty, but prevailed long before the Tartar invasion. Whether these measures import merely a reformation of the national religion, or whether they really bespeak a design of substituting a purer faith for the creed of these Chinese, we cannot say. All we see is, that a successful pretender to the Imperial throne of China has actually addressed an appeal to the Chinese in the name of true religion, and has called upon them, in a proclamation reciting certain leading truths of Christianity, to "reject corrupt spirits and worship the 'True Spirit.'"

How far the revolution possessed these characteristics at its outset, or acquired them in its course, we can only conjecture; but, as we have before remarked, we are disposed to think that the most important features are accessions of a later date. It is not impossible that the original insurgents might have been as worthless a band as they were long supposed to be. For many years past the Chinese Empire has been disturbed by the ravages of organized marauders in the provinces and pirates on the coast. In these gangs of desperate men there was always the nucleus of a rebel force, and opportunity might have been easily seized of engrafting upon their successes those purposes of dynastic reformation which the existence of an association like the Triad Society proves to have been long secretly maintained. One party, in short, supplied the machinery, while the other furnished the power, and the two together have been naturally victorious against an unpopular Sovereign, supported only by an effete military caste. If the true history of the rebellion is ever known, we should not be surprised if its origin and progress were found to be of this description.—*Times*.

THE BILL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF NUNNERIES.

The following are the clauses of Mr. Chambers' Bill:—

1. That for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this act it shall be lawful for the Lord High Chancellor for the time being of England, and