

THE SIEGE OF GAETA.

(Correspondence of the Daily News.)
GAETA, Dec. 4.
The siege of the Sardinians has begun. It was on Saturday morning that Ciadini, in order to try Cavalli's new rifle guns, directed the commander of the artillery to open a fire at once from the batteries placed at the Cappucin.

THE CAPTURE OF PEKIN.

Our foreign files contain some interesting details of the recent warlike event in China. From the North China (Sanghai Herald of Oct. 20), we take the following account of the Emperor's palace and its pillage:
"On the following day, no signs of the French being visible, the English fired twenty-one guns to attract attention, and later in the morning the Commander-in-Chief learned where they were. Lord Elgin, Mr. Wade, Sir H. Grant, Sir H. Napier, and their respective staffs proceeded to the palace and found the French had been comfortably established there, and that a great portion of the more valuable moveables had already been taken away, leaving the heavy but valuable articles for the English or, at least, what things the French could not carry they left for us."

FROM CHINA.

On the afternoon of the 15th December, just as the English Cabinet was on the point of separating, they received a telegram from St. Petersburg, announcing that the Russian Government had reached the Russian Government; that peace was concluded on the 26th of October, and the ratifications exchanged; and that on the 5th of November the Allied forces evacuated Peking, and that the Emperor was expected immediately to return to his capital. The rapidly with which this news was received caused some doubts to be thrown upon its authenticity, but it is stated that the intelligence was communicated by the Russian Government to Sir John Crampton, the British Minister at St. Petersburg, who forthwith telegraphed it to London.

THE SECESSION.

The secession movement in the United States continues to be exciting, and fears are entertained that it is not confined to South Carolina but is extending itself to the other Southern States. All hope of a pacific solution of the difficulties is now at an end, and a civil war appears to be imminent. An editorial in the latest Leader informs us that the movement in the other Southern States begins to be general; and the most serious consequences are threatened. The forts at Savannah, belonging to the general Government, have been seized by the secessionists of Georgia; which amounts to an act of war against the United States. This is said to have been done at the instance of the representatives of the State of Georgia in Congress. Forts Palmetto and Jackson have been occupied by Georgian troops, at the instance of Governor Brown. Here, then, are two States in rebellion; with indications that the number will soon be increased. North Carolina contemplates a descent upon the forts in that State; and it is considered that the task of taking them will not be a difficult one. Florida, in a convention of her citizens, has resolved to secede; making three States against which force will soon have to be used by the Federal Government. Georgia will very soon be among the States that have declared for secession; a large majority of secession delegates having been elected to the convention. The seizure of a number more in which they are situated, is reported to be in contemplation. An attack upon the Federal Capital is also believed to have been planned by the secessionists; and the probability of its taking place seem to be sufficiently great to have alarmed the fears of the Federal Government. The object of the contemplated attack appears to be to prevent the inauguration of LINCOLN. Ten companies of Federal troops, it is reported, will be in readiness to protect the capital; and no doubt large numbers of Volunteers from the Northern States would be ready to join, at the shortest notice, in defence of the Federal Capital.

THE WIZARD OF THE TUILERIES.

(Correspondence of the London Times.)
The great Antoinette, according to the most recent accounts and observations, is in full feather and excellent spirits; while His Holiness the Pope divides his time between religious ceremonies and the distribution of welcomes and benedictions to refugee Majesties and Royal Highnesses. The general calm patience, and inaction springs from the conviction that the key of the position is not held at Paris. The inscrutable wizard here has 20,000 men in and near Rome; he has fortifications at Civita Vecchia that will hold 30,000; he retards the capture of Gaeta by covering it on the sea face with his ships. He alone is the obstacle to a speedy solution of the Italian question, so far at least as Rome and Gaeta are concerned. People here have given up the attempt to divide the Italian peninsula. I believe the majority of national party in Rome expect that the French troops will before long be withdrawn—perhaps when Gaeta shall have fallen—but they would probably be puzzled to assign valid reasons for that belief, which is dissented from by a weighty majority. When Francis II. leaves Gaeta it is understood that he will come here, and it may be imagined what a pretty focus of intrigue Rome is likely then to become. The continued protection afforded to Gaeta puzzles everybody, and the suspicion asks if its object be to prolong the anarchy that prevails in the kingdom of Naples, and so strengthen the

THE CHARTERED PLACE.

The Charterists, in their selfish fury, not content with making in their little way, a census belli with the United States by taking ardent possession of Forts Moultrie and Pickens, have also captured the revenue cutter Albatross which has been faithfully yielded to them by its Charlestonian commander. They have also indicated the spirit and purpose of their whole movement by raising the captain of the slave boat from the United States office into whose custody he had been remanded by a state judge. It is in favor of the demand of a people thus excited, and thus enflamed, and thus incited, that a cabinet minister should be so ready to ask that all the United States troops on a long established station shall be withdrawn. It is to smooth the ruffled pin-feathers of such ungovernable coxcombs that the same minister does not hesitate to demand, as the price of his precious presence at the highest council of the nation, that an officer of the United States army, who has only been sent to his trust and taking a step which baffles treason without the effusion of blood, shall be recalled from his post and censured! There is one gleam of spirit, one little show of firmness by the chief executive of a great nation, and Mr. FLOYD's traitorous demand is refused. He resigns, and the country is freed from his servile and servile counsel. But, alas! if the telegraph tells true, the President dare not even maintain a defence posture, and he consents to recall and reprimand Major ANDERSON and give up the forts to the insurgents, and the seceding cabinet minister is about to resign his portfolio. The reports sent to the New York press have proved exactly true in all their main features; but this is not the only news that has been fully confirmed by further advice. It is not credible, short of the most positive evidence that a President of the United States can thus play the coward and the traitor before the world and heaven. But Mr. BRUCE's course thus far lends credit to our very worst suspicions of the nation, and of the man who dishonors his flag, disgraces all the nations, and does what is in his power to degrade their faithful soldier, and sink by their curses into infamy deeper than ever plummet sounded.

QUACKERY.

We think our readers will bear witness that we have always aimed at exposing quackery and humbug of every description. The Rev. Edward A. Wilson, of Edwarsburgh, N. Y., is particularly active, just now, in circulating his advertisements, proposing to cure Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, &c.; and for a very small fee he finds many members of the press in Canada ready and willing to aid him in his nefarious employment, by circulating his circulars and puffing up his wares, thus using drugs. We observe with pleasure, that the Witness has taken up the cudgels against him; and it is to be hoped that, for the credit of our country and the good of suffering humanity, other members of the press in Canada will see the folly and wickedness of recommending to their readers the nostrums of every speculating yankee, who uses this method of extracting money from the pockets of the thoughtless and unwary. The Rev. humbug, whose name we have mentioned, pretends to be so disinterested a benefactor, that he proposes to send circulars containing the following prescription:—
"RECIPE FOR CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, SCROFULA, &c.
"Extract Blodgett's three ounces; Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda, one half ounce; Alant, (Para.) one drachm; Meconin, one half ounce; Extract Cinchon, two drachms; Loaf Sugar, one pound; Pure Port Wine, one half pint; Warm Water, one quart.
To prepare the above Recipe properly, all the powders and extracts should be thoroughly compounded and mixed well together, and placed in a vessel or bottle about a half pint of hot water, and shake well, which will form a white or light color. Let it stand a few moments, then add the other pint and a half of hot water with the sugar dissolved in it; also add the wine, (or if you have not white, run or Holland gin will do.) Shake well, when cold it is ready for use.
Dose.—one large table-spoonful four times a day."
He then adds, as the Witness says, that the other fine extracts are very costly; and any reliable druggist, to prepare the same for you, will charge at least from \$2.25 to \$3, and he can hardly do it at that price and furnish the pure and unadulterated articles, unless the demand was great, and that on the receipt of \$2 he will send the patient a package already prepared of the pure article which he imports "from no mercenary motive but simply from a sense of Christian duty to his fellow-men." The patient after applying to the Druggist finds there is no such preparation as Extract of Blodgett's as he might at first ask for. Ext. Smith or Jones, sends to his Rev. Correspondent for the pure article which he in due course receives with the advice to continue the remedy, as it will take some time for the system to be affected; consequently a customer is secured for \$10 worth of the remedy.
In order to show the philanthropy and high religious character of the Rev. Quack, accompanying every circular is the following advertisement:—
"THE PASTOR'S GIFT TO THE YOUNG CONVERT, embracing a complete outline of Christian duty; by Rev. Edward A. Wilson. A work which every new convert and all church members should possess. The above work is entirely unostentatious, and is endorsed by the most distinguished Divines. It is a handsome 64 page volume of 634 pages, beautifully illustrated with steel engravings. Johnson & Bros. are the publishers. Price \$3, handsomely bound in leather; in muslin, \$2."
We understand the Rev. Quack is receiving a rich reward for his distinguished efforts, and it is becoming as rapidly wealthy as his rival on the same line, "the Physician whose sands of life are nearly run out," who is still young and hearty, and owner of the large block of stores in Jersey City where he holds an office.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR IN CHINA.

(From the Times, December 17.)
FOUR weeks ago the Government has been in advance of the public to the knowledge of a great event. On Saturday last the Cabinet had met to discuss the intelligence contained in the despatches just received by the Overland Mail from China, and, doubtless, to decide upon the instructions to be given, the measures to be taken, and the reinforcements to be despatched to an army which was to hold the capital of China during the winter. Although we may not know, we may easily imagine, the scene which must have ensued, in the midst of these uncomf. deliberations, the Russian despatch arrived, and told that all their proposed preparations were unnecessary; that the War was at an end; that the Treaty had been ratified; and that the invading army, for whose safety every one had been a moment before so solicitous, was now but a somewhat inconvenient number of peaceful guests to the Chinese. It must have been a great surprise and an equally great relief, and we will venture to guess that never did a Cabinet Council break up with a more cheerful feeling of relief. But, meanwhile, those who were not present at this sudden revolution were in an effervescence of excitement. Never has a tale been told more harrowing to the feelings of every man who has a heart to feel than that of the torments which the Chinese Government had inflicted upon our countrymen and their friends. It is without parallel. The agony of the Black Hole at Calcutta was not commensurate; the butchery at Cawnpore was the work of rebels and mutineers; but here men were taken unresisting when engaged upon an office of peace, and tortured by the command of high officers of State, while the common people and even the inmates of the prisons stood around and contemplated, lifting their chains and starting with them their feet. The high authorities of China, the General-in-Chief, the Prisoner of War, and the "Board of Punishment" were direct authors of these atrocities; it is evident from the manner in which the sufferings of their victims were moderated according as the fears of their persecutors intensified. We have all heard the story of the old Inquisition, in which the Chief Inquisitor is declared as coming forth with placid face to detect a knee nothing of some poor wretch upon whom the rack was then doing its work in a neighboring chamber; but no tale of treachery is more horrible than that of the Prince of Kung complaining of the want of "friendliness" in the actions of the English nation, and talking credit for the good treatment of his English prisoners, while Mr. Parkes and Mr. Loch lay loaded with chains and secured to boards in loathsome dungeons, and while others through the hot days and the cold nights were famishing with thirst and hunger, and dying one after the other in agonies too terrible to be recalled. For all these things the bureaucracy of Peking is responsible. They may have had reports day by day and hour by hour of the state of the prisoners, for we can trace the changes in the treatment which occurred as man after man died, and as every act of energy by the allied army occurred.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR IN CHINA.

It has now been proved that the people of China have no sympathy with the tyrants who were guilty of such outrages and so harmed us; that they are kept down by the mere force of the Tartar army; that we should have entered Peking rather as deliverers than as enemies; and that the surrender was less the act of the Government than the command of the people. Our rage, however bad and scarcely time to foam before the cold drop fell which restrained our rising and caused it to subside. That single decisive fact which has outstripped all its attendant circumstances was then given to the public. We were then startled by the intelligence that after we had for 14 days occupied Peking the enemy had made complete submission and such preparation as can be made. We learn that Peking was already restored; the Treaty confirmed and ratified; and the allied army, after three weeks' possession of the capital of China, had departed from the city. The sudden satisfaction this news creates is so great that we check ourselves in our anger, half in surprise and half in joy. We remember that this Treaty was made while both the English and the French armies were burning with resentment at the treatment of their prisoners, and the number of their friends, and while Peking was entirely at the mercy of the allies. We cannot, therefore, doubt that the Treaty now concluded and the indemnity now exacted are of the most complete and sufficient character. As to matters of mere Court etiquette, we have always held them in small estimation. It can be of little importance now, even in the eyes of the lowest Coolie in Peking, whether Riefenstahl shall or shall not receive the Ambassador or Queen Victoria at an audience, since the whole population of Peking has seen him compelled to tolerate the presence of her army upon the walls of his capital. The essentials are those stipulations which give us free intercourse with the Chinese people, and which remove the obstacles which have so long prevented the most commercial population of the Eastern and Western world from cultivating intimate trading relations with each other. The barbarous assumptions of former days must now become ridiculous even in the eyes of the population of China; and if we treat them with sincere contempt and disdain, they will of themselves. Let us have no more disputes about such matters. By the measures we have at last taken we made it quite certain that any Government of any province, whether maritime or inland, who shall embroil his Government in any dispute at all likely to produce a repetition of the recent visit to Peking will be very unpopular, and that the various "Boards" of that capital, and that benevolent it will be no way to promotion in the Imperial service to be a "quaker of barbarians."

CAMP BEFORE PEKIN, Oct. 13, 1860.

Last evening nine o'clock the Sikh cavalry were released, and came into camp. They bring the distressing news that Capt. Anderson and Mr. DeNormann died from the effects of the brutal treatment reserved from the Tartars, the 8th and the 9th and the 11th day after they were captured. The wounds caused by the cords binding their wrists, insufficient food, and other inhuman tortures, had caused their death. One of these Sikhs, a sergeant, was bound with them. He survived, and has suffered much, and it will be long before they can return to duty. They were brought from a town some thirty or forty miles off, to which they were conveyed soon after their capture. No information has been obtained about the two other Europeans, Capt. Brazabon and Mr. Bowley, to the Times special correspondent.

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