



CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXVIII.—NO. 15. MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1877.

TERMS:—\$2 per annum in advance.

A STORY ABOUT RUSSIAN SPIES.

A gentleman, formerly in the employment of the Foreign Office writes as follows:—
I read in the papers some extraordinary stories respecting the omnipresence of Russian spies in the East, but I think I can cap them all with an anecdote from my own experience. Some fifteen or sixteen years ago I was deputed by the English Government to purchase a number of horses in Syria. When I landed at Beyrout, I engaged according to the Eastern custom, a certain number of followers and servants to accompany me throughout my trip. They were all Syrians, and consisted of six individuals—namely, a dragoman, or interpreter; a butler, or table-servant; two men to look after the tents, a cook, and a syce, or horse-keeper. They did not come to me together, nor did any one of them recommend any other, but each came, as it were, on his own account. Matters went smoothly enough until we reached Jerusalem, when a fire happened to break out in my servants' tents. A small box of manuscript papers were saved, and were put for safety in my tent, and left there for some time. One night a French gentleman was my guest. In the course of the evening I mentioned to him what had happened, and he volunteered to inspect the manuscript in the box. To make a long story short, I discovered all my box was wanted to be Russian spies, who had been ordered to watch my doings in Syria, and report them regularly to the Embassy at Constantinople. In the same box were found the most minute details of all I had said and done during the month or six weeks that these scoundrels had been in my service.

ENGLAND AND TURKEY.

It appears, says the war correspondent of the *Telegraph*:—
That a number of ridiculous rumors are current relative to the supposed finding of papers in the baggage of Mukhtar Pasha proving the participation of England in the conduct of the military operations, and also of the pecuniary assistance furnished to the Porte. These rumors which have been, as you must know, so persistent ever since the beginning of the war, and which only the other day I saw expressed by an Italian caricature in a manner more forcible than delicate, incite the *Golos* to entertain strong suspicions. "It is all very well," it argues, "to say that the English Government cannot dispose of secret funds outside the public control, but we know very well that the English Government is too prudent to allow any direct proof of its participation to come to light. The *Golos* wants particularly to know where the money came from to pay the Americans for the arms which they have furnished to the Turkish army, and brings forward what it styles as "the well-known tender relations of Lord Beaconsfield with the *corruptees* of the London Stock Exchange." Another point which troubles the peace of the *Golos* is the influence of General Campbell in the army of Mukhtar Pasha. A "strict enquiry," it concluded, must be made into the question of these documents, which if they merely proved the fact of the participation of General Campbell in the military operations in Asia, would be sufficient to show a violation of neutrality on the part of England."

THE DISTRESS OF CATHOLICS IN BOSNIA.

The Catholics of Bosnia have suffered terrible hardships during the present war. The London correspondent of the *Dublin Freeman's Journal* says:—
I am informed that Lady Georgiana Fullerton has, at the instance of two Protestant ladies, Miss Iby and Miss Johnston, who have devoted themselves for some time past to the practical relief of the unfortunate Bosnian orphans, just made an appeal to English Catholics as to the painful position of their co-religionists in Bosnia, and of the Sisters of Charity, who try in the midst of the general misery to save the poor orphans of Catholic parents. Lady Fullerton gives Miss Iby's statement, and in it she says:—In the universal disruption of social life in Bosnia the Catholic households scattered throughout the land have suffered severely, and at present no Catholic constituency exists to relieve their necessities. Those who fled across the frontier are wholly dependent on the meagre alms doled out by the charity of Austria, with a little chance assistance from private sources. The Austrian allowance amounts to one penny a day for each woman and child, and nothing is allowed for the men. Miss Iby goes on to say that what was most desired was to hand over some Catholic orphans who had been supported by Mr. Johnston and herself to "some English Catholic ladies, and at the same time additional assistance for the Sisters in the work they are still carrying on at much peril to their lives." Lady Georgiana Fullerton concludes her appeal by saying that although there was much to be done at home, she could not refuse to bring "this anguish of the Bosnian Sliver forward."

CATHOLICITY IN SCOTLAND.

Speaking of the proposed establishment of a Catholic Hierarchy in Scotland, the London *Echo* is very angry. It says:—
The enactment is so utterly opposed to the historical traditions and instincts of the great mass of the Scottish people that, at first glance, one is inclined to treat the report with incredulity, did not the encouragement the project has received by the notorious backslidings to the Church of Rome among the members of the Scottish aristocracy, and especially among the female members of it, occur to the mind. In the course of the last few years, Scotland has been much scandalized by the parvenues among others, of the Marquis of Bute and the younger brothers of the Marquis of Lothian, of the Duchess of Buccleuch, of the Dowager-Duchess of

Argyll, and of the Dowager-Marchioness of Queensberry and Lothian. In Scotland, at present, the Roman Catholic Church is governed by one archbishop and two bishops, called "Apostolic Vicars," who divide the kingdom among them into three districts—the Western, Eastern, and Northern. In June, 1876, there were 228 Roman Catholic chapels, with 248 officiating clergy, who had under their spiritual care 330,900 souls, composed chiefly of Irish, dwelling for the most part in the larger towns such as Glasgow and Dundee. The Episcopal Church only numbers 73,200 worshippers, the great majority of the population belonging to the various Presbyterian Kirk. John Knox founded Presbyterianism in Scotland in 1560, on the model of Calvinism. The General Assembly, which met at Glasgow in 1638 abolished Episcopacy, and deposed the bishops; and Presbyterianism was finally established by law in the Northern kingdom in 1689.

WONDER OF WONDERS.

The jounidity of the Irish race is marvellous. The latest sensation in that way is that Queen Victoria is made to appear an Irish-woman. Here it is as taken from an excellent Irish contemporary:—

Once more it is made to appear that Queen Victoria is an Irishwoman—a long way after, it may be added, Eva, the daughter of King Dermot, was given in marriage to Strongbow, with the whole of Leinster for her dowry. Eva and Strongbow had but one child, Isabel: she was the sole heiress of Leinster and of her father's possessions in Wales. She was given in marriage by King Richard I to William Marshal, Hereditary Earl Marshal of England. They had five sons, who all died childless, and five daughters, to each of whom was given a county for a dowry—Carlisle, Kilkenny, Queen's County, Wexford, and Kildare. Isabel, the second daughter, married the Earl of Gloucester, and her granddaughter was the mother of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland. The third daughter Eva, married Lord de Broes, and from a daughter of hers, also named Eva, descended Edward IV, King of England. Through his grand daughter, Margaret, Queen of Scotland and daughter of Henry VII, Queen Victoria claims her right to the throne: and through two lines she traces back her pedigree to Eva, the Irish princess. The wife of Robert Bruce was descended from the daughter of Roderick O'Connor, the last King of Ireland, who ended his life in the monastery of Cong, leaving no male heir. The grand-daughter of Bruce married the Lord High Steward of Scotland, and through her the Stuarts claimed the crown. Queen Victoria claims to be a Stuart, and to be the lineal representative of the royal Irish races of Eva and Roderick. It is a very pretty story; and it may account for some of the virtues of her majesty. Irish blood, even when thus mixed with baser fluid, is good blood.

POLISH WOMEN.

In view of the present unsettled condition of Poland, a description of the women of that country may not be without interest just now. The correspondent of the *Boston Journal* says:—

The Polish ladies are very beautiful, perhaps the most beautiful in the world. They retain, in middle life, the freshness of girls, and make me think of New England women (owing I scarcely know to what air of superiority and the possession of what divining instinct peculiar in greater or less degree in all women), and this in spite of the fact that New England women do lose their clear complexion and rosy cheeks, and in spite of the fact that the Polish ladies have withal a slightly Hibernian cast of countenance, including nose, the impertinent tips of which do turn up just a little. But they are evidently self-respecting, keen creatures, who know what they are about, careful to observe all the proprieties, never flitting in public if they do in private, and walking the streets in a quiet, dignified manner, as if they were disdainful, if not unconscious of their charms. They are not possessed either of dollish or masculine faces, as the English and American ladies often are; they are not voluptuous beauties or black-browed like their sisters of France and Spain, but a queenly sort of women, tall and graceful, and possessed of a colder type of beauty than blooms on the Mediterranean—a type of beauty that makes me think of marble statues, Damascus blades and aurora borealis. By the way, Bayard Taylor says he saw more handsome faces in one hour at the Warsaw races than he saw elsewhere during two years in Europe, and I do not doubt it. Moreover, I have never been in any country where the relations of the men and women of the upper classes seemed so high toned; and I am sure that a stranger entering the best society of Warsaw would have to acknowledge the most chivalrous devotion on the part of men and the most gracious yet dignified appreciation of it on the part of the woman he had ever witnessed. To acquire good manners and to see human intercourse at its best, I should rather go to Warsaw than to London, Washington or Paris.—*Cor. Boston Journal.*

A SURVIVOR OF CUSTER'S FIGHT.

AN IRISH CORPORAL MADE AN INDIAN CHIEF.
It appears that there is certainly one survivor left after the massacre of Custer and his men by Sitting Bull. This man turns out to be an Irishman named Martin Ryan, who was a corporal in the Seventh Cavalry. An *Exchange* says:—
The commission which was sent to Sitting Bull made an important discovery in the fact that the warrior has in his camp a white prisoner, captured in the Custer massacre. Before reaching Fort Walsh, rumors reached the commission that Sitting Bull held some of Custer's men as prisoners, and

after the first conference of the half-breed interpreters employed by General Terry visited the camp, and while passing through, was addressed in English by a person dressed and painted as a chief, who said that his name was Martin Ryan, who was a Corporal in Company I, Seventh Cavalry, Colonel Keogh's company, and had been taken a prisoner at the battle of the Little Big Horn with Custer. Inquiry apparently substantiated his assertion, and the following facts were ascertained: Ryan's life had been spared by Sitting Bull himself, who adopted him into his own family. Ryan made several attempts to escape, but being carefully guarded was unsuccessful, and on each occasion was severely beaten. He has now apparently accepted the situation, and Sitting Bull has made him a war chief and married Ryan to one of his own daughters. Ryan has let his hair grow long in Indian fashion, dresses as an Indian, and is known by the Sioux as the White Chief.

Upon the return of the commission to St. Paul, General Terry caused the muster-rolls of Company I, Seventh Cavalry, to be examined, and found that Martin Ryan's name is borne as corporal, and that he was present for duty when his command went into that fatal action of June 25, 1876. It was stated by the friendly Indians that there are several others of Custer's men prisoners in Sitting Bull's camp, but Ryan's case was the only one which was verified. Sitting Bull was asked the question direct by General Corbin if he took any prisoners of the Seventh Cavalry, and answered fully—"That is none of your business." Sitting Bull talked considerably about the battle with Custer, and all he said fully confirms the conclusions arrived at by General Terry last year when he examined the ground just after the battle. He said that at first he thought General Terry's whole army was upon him, and he had moved his women and children and property about four miles in retreat, when he received information from his scouts that it was only the Seventh Cavalry and Long Hair (Custer), and that they were divided, and Reno had already retreated. He says he then took 4,000 warriors, and went back and moved down on Custer in a solid mass, and ended the fight right there.

PURCHASE VALUE OF TURKISH WOMEN.

Women in the east are sometimes sold for their weight in gold. A Circassian have been known to sell as high as \$26,000. The average, however, is from \$1,000 to \$5,000. And this in Asiatic Turkey, now being desolated by war. The *American Register* in reviewing Captain Burnaby's travels says:—

One of his Turkish servants, who was given to such eccentricities in praying five times a day, and who may, therefore be regarded as a genuine type of his class, revelled in the luxury of one wife. Monogamist by force of circumstances, this Turkish servant had purchased his wife of her father for fifty dollars, and she was considered a bargain at the price, her father being an extravagant individual, over head and ears in debt to money-lenders and disposed to sacrifice his property for ready money. It now remains to be seen what the Turkish servant got for his \$50, in order that we may form a fair idea of the money value of Eastern women. The lady in question was a good cook, skilled in the art of preparing soup, and was thus possessed of a way to the heart of a man of a permanent and enduring character; she looked two ways at once, which must have enhanced her value, seeing that she had only one eye disposable at any one time for the purpose of investigating her husband's delinquencies, which were numerous, as is usually the case with mankind; and finally she weighed one hundred pounds. Women in the East are generally valuable in proportion to their weight, which is the great desideratum, other qualities being regarded as mere accessories. The wife of the Turkish servant of Capt. Burnaby must, therefore according to her weight, have been worth half a dollar per pound for such extraordinary qualifications as the arts of preparing palatable soups and savory stews, we are forced to the conclusion that the mass of ordinary Eastern women, reckoned at their current value, are not worth more than one quarter of a dollar per pound. Now this is a very low figure, and as no society can progress where women were so cheap, it would seem desirable that Russia should prevail in her struggle with Turkey if only for the purpose of giving Eastern women a higher value monetarily, as well as morally, in Eastern society.—*American Register.*

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The Suez Canal is likely to become a line of contention between Russia and England, if Russia wins in this war. In that event the chances are that Russia will take a considerable slice of Asiatic Turkey, in which case the Suez Canal will become more than ever a place to defend and to possess. A correspondent says:—

From recent English reports giving the present standing of the Suez Canal, we gather the fact that the future prosperity of the great undertaking is assured beyond reasonable doubt. The canal runs, as is known, from Port Said, on the Mediterranean, to Port Sues, on the Red Sea, a distance of about a hundred miles. Throughout its entire length zone of the predictions of its opponents have been verified. The navigation of the Red Sea has not proved dangerous. The canal has not become a stagnant ditch, a receptacle of the sand of the desert, and the alluvium of the Nile. Neither have the filter-lakes through which it passes in part become filled with silt. The supposed difference of level between the Red Sea and Mediterranean, if it exists at all, has had no appreciable effect. After the canal was completed it was found easy to keep it open to the required depth, and its excellent navigability was then the work was done the main question was "Would it pay?" Would it come the same way

of India and the parts adjacent? Would English jealousy be allayed in view of its manifest advantages, and would the policy of Egypt be liberal and impartial? As the capital expended in its construction had been double the estimate, would the tonnage dues be necessarily so high as to drive off the smaller craft? Of these questions the last was the most important. There has been some modification of the dues and some shifting about before they were adjusted. But, judging from the increase of tonnage passing through the canal, and from the fact that the shares now yield a profit, it may be assumed that the toll is satisfactory, and has been fixed for some time to come. The canal was opened to traffic in 1869. From 1870 to 1876 the net tonnage rose from 436,609 tons to 2,096,772 tons, and the receipts from two hundred thousand pounds sterling in 1870 to one million two hundred thousand pounds sterling in 1876. In 1876, after all debts were paid, a small balance of profit was left to the shareholders. The result is regarded as satisfactory in England, where a large number of shares are held, some by private parties, but the greater part by the British Government, which bought of the Khedive a considerable portion of his interest in the canal.

GERMAN CATHOLIC CONGRESS.

The German Catholic Congress has just met, for its twenty-fifth annual session, at Wurzburg. We learn from the *Catholic Review* that:—

The proceedings were opened with a solemn high mass, which was celebrated at the high altar of the cathedral by Mgr. Schreiber, Archbishop of Bamberg, the See of Wurzburg being now vacant. The result of the Congress was: 1st. The twenty-fifth Catholic Congress considers it to be its first duty to proclaim before the world the unshaken fidelity with which Catholic Germany is attached to the Holy Apostolic See. It states with a joyful satisfaction that all the artifices of cunning and brute force to which recourse has been had to shake the Catholic people of Germany in their fidelity, have been unavailing and fruitless. 2d. The Catholic Congress expresses its profound regret at the sight of so many dioceses deprived of their pastors as well as of the salutary influence of the religious orders. It bestows the highest praise on the bishops, the clergy and the communities for having so gloriously manifested their fidelity in our faith, in spite of the prosecution and severe trials of which they have been the object. 3d. The Catholic Congress acknowledges that the school question, and especially that of the primary schools is the most important of our time. It proclaims anew the inalienable right of the Church and of all Catholics to maintain the denominational schools. It protests in the name of Catholic parents against the school monopoly which the State arrogates to itself. It declares above all, first, that no teacher can give religious instruction without having previously obtained the canonical mission; secondly, that parents cannot be compelled to make their children receive religious instruction at the hands of persons who have not the canonical mission; and thirdly, that it is the duty of parents to keep their children from attending instructions in religion given by persons who have not received this mission. 4th. The Catholic Congress asks the Catholics of Germany to persevere in the struggle undertaken by the Church against the omnipotence of the State and in defence of the sacred authority which the Church ought to exercise over society by virtue of the order of its divine Founder. 5th. The Catholic Congress acknowledges in the eternal truths of our faith the first rule of all the affairs of public life. This is the work and significance of the twenty-fifth German Catholic Congress.

GERMANY.

All the nations of Europe watch Germany closely now. Perhaps some of them know what course she intends to take before the Eastern question is settled once more. It is certain that they all would like very much to know, and that not a few apprehend that when what she thinks best to protect German interests. It has been reported that she is getting her fleet ready for sea in order to bring little Nicaragua to its senses.

A somewhat alarming statement was made in the Lower House of the Prussian Diet by the Minister of War. In opposing Het Windhorst's proposal that the measure prohibiting the export of horses should be repealed, the Minister declared that the prohibition was necessary so long as mobilization, although not now expected, was a possible contingency. This is the first time that mobilization has been officially mentioned in Germany since the commencement of the war, and the mention of the subject at all, in ever so guarded a manner, will be accepted in alarmist quarters as conclusive evidence that Bismarck considers that the time is all but ripe for declaring his intentions.

The rupture in the commercial relations with Germany was discussed at a joint meeting of the Austrian and Hungarian Cabinet Ministers. It was urged by the members of the Hungarian Government that measures must be taken to prepare Austria-Hungary for the worst, as the Monarchy could not afford to submit to the dictation of Germany. Count Andrássy, however, gave what were regarded as satisfactory assurances on the subject. There was, he said no danger of a war of tariffs; as both Empires were ready to regulate their economic relations in the friendly manner that became good neighbors. As usual, Prince Bismarck gets the blame of having for sinister purposes brought about the present difficulty, and those who look at the matter in this light will no doubt be glad to smile at Count Andrássy's simplicity in believing that no ulterior danger will be revealed as the price develops.

CRIME IN IRELAND.

Dr. Hancock has once more compiled the criminal statistics of Ireland. The *Nation* says:—

"As usual, a comparison of our state with that of England or Scotland results, generally speaking, to our advantage. The excess of English crime is, for the most part, in the more serious and more heavily punished offences. This is proved in several ways, but we will take here only two tests. Firstly, the sentences of death and of penal servitude are far more numerous, proportionately, in England than in Ireland. Secondly, the number of persons bailed in Ireland is far larger than in England—the Irish figures being 36.4 per cent. in the case of men, and 19.7 in the case of women; the English only 7.8 in the case of men and 4.9 in that of women. It is charged by the authorities in Dublin Castle and by their benchmen that there is a sympathy with crime in this country which prevents many criminals from being brought to justice. What, then, will be said of England when we mention that the proportion of apprehensions to crimes in Ireland is 77 per cent. against 47 per cent. in England, and that of those discharged for want of evidence the proportion is 24 in England against 14.4 in Ireland.

HORRORS OF THE WAR.

Count Tatcheff was sent over in the afternoon with a flag of truce to endeavor to make some arrangements with a view to the interment of the Turks and the Russians who fell in the affair of the 18th of September between the hostile lines, and whose dead bodies still lie there infecting the air. The Red Cross and the Turkish substitute, the Red Crescent, were immediately run up, and the allied troops ceased firing, but the enemy pounded away as usual at the Roumanian sige-works, when two surgeons and four men with stretchers were killed while attempting to aid the wounded, who had fallen during the assault on the enemy's redoubt. As not a day passes without a skirmish of some kind between the outposts or the advanced works, a number of men are wounded, and if they are not lucky enough to be able to get out of the zone of fire with their comrades as these retire, their sufferings and fate are too dreadful to think of. Sometimes they die of thirst or of their wounds, or now of the inclemency of the weather and if they venture to make a movement at once taken as a target for Turkish bullets. I have seen several who have lain in a trench three or four days at a time, without food or drink, in the sickening expectation of assistance, which never came. Their fellow-soldiers could hear their groans and cries, but it was certain death to venture into the open, and there they were forced to remain, profiting by each moment of darkness to crawl to the next shelter, to recommence their painful journey on the succeeding night. The distance was often inconsiderable, but one man with his foot shot off, managed, after seventy-two hours of weary waiting, to crawl nearly two miles. He had been in the affair, where from want of support General Skobelev had been forced back, and was wounded early in the day. The ambulance people had not seen him, and he had been left behind, so he crept under a pile of corpses, and, knowing that the enemy cut off soldiers' legs to get their boots, had pulled off his, and so escaped observation.

ENGLAND AND THE WAR.

It is observed that the timor arising when our policy must declare itself with mainly distinctness. While we are watching how the Turks fight for Constantinople and Erzeroum the East is watching us, and the first question recently put by the Amerer of Cabul to the Turkish Envoy at his Court was—"What have the British done to help you towards getting peace and justice?" The Ottoman Ambassador, polite but puzzled, muttered something about Besika Bay and "Compassionate Fund," upon which Shera Ali and the Russian agent, it is said, laughed merrily together. The echo of that scornful laughter is ringing through Asia, and will cost us some day far more than we are economizing by holding our peace when honour and humanity bid us have our say. On the score of philanthropy alone there is a reason that a Government like ours should not wait much longer before denouncing the ceaseless flow of blood and the endless procession of agonised sufferers to the hospitals and thence to the grave. But our political influence is that which is chiefly in danger of becoming contemptible. If the Turks win, they will be justified in dispensing with any deference in future towards the Power which, as a famous author says, "observed the swimmers, and cried 'very fine!' but kept dry linen equally." For these and other considerations it appears to me, in a private way, that without any more delay the Government should now formulate a distinct resolute policy which Europe may learn, and Parliament, when it meets, discuss. It is a mistake to suppose there is one declared already.—*Daily Telegraph.*

THE DAILY NEWS ON THE WAR.

It appears to be the policy of the Russian generals to multiply attacks in all directions, and that the time for attempting to invest Bistuhuk would soon come if Plevna were taken. In the present condition of affairs, with strong entrenchments on which to fall back upon the line of the Jantza, it might be supposed that the Grand Duke Nicholas would be content to let the Czarevitch remain in a defensive position, while every Russian soldier that could be spared was sent to Plevna. The movements reported from the various armies are rendered possible by the return of a few days fine weather; but very soon the rain and snow will become continued. The interest of the campaign attaches not to offensive operations on the Lom, nor yet to fighting in the Shkipska Pass; but to the hostilities at Plevna. If the Russians can make themselves masters of the place, whether by a direct attack, or—as seems more within the limits of probability—by compelling Osman Pasha to come out and fight—the open, they may close the campaign with the hope of regaining the favourable conditions of the spring. The prospect of a prosecution of the war through Plevna could be terrible, to contemplate.—*Daily News.*