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LIBERALS FREEMASONS AND CATHOLICS.

Throughout all South America a battle is now raging between Liberalists, headed by Freemasons, and Roman Catholics.

“Liberalism waits to take our graveyards from us by means of a law which, trampling the laws of the Church under foot, seeks to banish Catholics from the temple of God and from the consecrated ground in which our godly ancestors are reposing.”

OVATION TO THE CZAR.

A St. Petersburg special, speaking of the ovation to the Emperor on his arrival there, says:—

The pupils of the Conservatoire sang a hymn of welcome and presented a crown of laurels, which was accepted with a few words of thanks.

ENGLISH INTERVENTION IN THE EAST.

The question of our intervention in the Turco-Russian war becomes graver every day. There are certain limits that England cannot allow Russia to pass without seriously jeopardizing her interests.

While Turkey yet stands, her patriotism and population are a barrier needing only the gleam of British power behind it to make the Russians eager to get home.

TURKISH MISCONCEPTIONS.

The Times never expressed a truer sentiment than that which we take from it in the following extract. England will interfere in the war only when English interests are seriously imperilled.

No doubt the Turks have fought and will fight admirably; they have gained a victory at Elena and they may win others.

and by that they mean aid from England. Indeed the Turks now passionately say that they would never have fought if they had not been assured that we should give them help.

THE RESOURCES OF TURKEY

The measures agreed upon by the Seraskierate for the augmentations of the army and the numbers computed to result from them, are respectively as follows:—

All the recruits liable by ordinary course of law to serve next year were last month summoned to service. By this measure there were raised 28,900 infantry, 4,320 field artillery, 3,980 cavalry, 4,968 fortress artillery, and 1,700 engineers—in all, about 44,000 men.

Beside this new levy the Turkish army in the field will receive a strong reinforcement in the Corps of Bagdad and Yemen, the greater part of which is already on the march to the seat of war.

The grand total of reinforcements—namely, those who have reached the front, those who are on the march thither, and those who are ready to start—amounts, according to the regulations, to about 230 battalions with 20 batteries, or nearly 250,000 men.

These measures, however, do not exhaust the military resources of the country. There is still a reserve which may be called out, and which would yield an increase of 183 battalions, or 146,000 men.

Altogether the total military force of Turkey not yet called out may be set down at 500,000 men—London Times Varna Correspondence.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE OF THE KING OF SPAIN.

The Daily Telegraph Paris correspondent, writing on Sunday night, says:—

The Marquis de Molins, the Spanish Ambassador, paid an official visit yesterday to the ex-King Don Francisco d'Assise, to congratulate him on the approaching marriage of his son with the Princess Mercedes.

I am told that not merely the most important members of the Spanish colony but a great many Frenchmen intend to make a trip to Madrid on the occasion of the marriage, which is fixed for January 23rd.

I am assured by Spaniards that the king, who won golden opinions during his short stay in Paris, has succeeded in gaining the good will of his countrymen, who fully appreciate the tact and discretion he has displayed since he has been on the throne.

A GUARDSMAN SHOT IN A SHAM FIGHT—EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR.

The 2nd Battalion of Scots Guards, stationed at Wellington Barracks, London, were on Saturday the 8th December between ten and eleven o'clock, exercised on Clapham Common.

had been previously sent forward to represent the enemy. After several rounds of supposed blank ammunition had been fired, a private of the left half battalion was observed to fall, and on the men rushing to his assistance it was discovered a bullet had penetrated his arm.

TWO RUSSIAN OFFICERS SENTENCED TO DEATH.

A HANGMAN WANTED IN RUSSIA.

The court-martial appointed to enquire into the robbery of nine guns from the fortresses of Kertch has concluded its labours by sentencing two of the offenders concerned in the matter. The evidence proved conclusively that Clairboosky and Kart, the two officers in charge of the stores, had at different times smuggled out of the batteries seven guns and two brass howitzers, which were afterwards sold to Jews for old metal.

MALTA.

The present crisis of affairs in Turkey makes the position which our naval and military forces ought to take up in the Mediterranean, “for fear of accidents,” one of much importance. The number of our troops, including artillery, now stationed in Malta, amounts to nearly 7,000 men.

THE BANK OF IRELAND AND HOME RULE.

The following letter has been addressed to the Freeman:—

The Irish Home Rule League, Office, 24 D'Olier-street, 18th Dec.

Sir—In your article of yesterday, 17th instant, on the management of the Bank of Ireland, you say:—

“Time was, and that not so long ago, when the directors of the Bank of Ireland considered a man's politics and creed, as well as his solvency, and would immediately close his account if he was not sufficiently orthodox in the two first particulars.”

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, J. P. McALISTER, Secretary.

MR. GLADSTONE ON O'CONNELL.

The Rev. Mr O'Rourke, P.P., Maynooth, has just issued a third edition of the “Centenary Life of O'Connell,” to which he has added “Recollections of the Liberator in

Parliament,” by Mr. Gladstone. Here is what the right hon gentleman says of O'Connell:—

Very shortly after I entered Parliament (in December, 1832) I remember his talking to me of the Tory members of that day, and his emphatic words about my friend the deceased Lord Lisgar:—“John Young is a sensible man.” I doubt whether he would have made a similar acknowledgment as to any other of them.

AMERICANS OTHER THAN EPISCOPALIANS WHO HAVE JOINED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

“But let us offset the blame for losing Doctors Bayley, Newman, Hecker, and others. Mr James A. McMaster, editor of that uncompromising Catholic paper, the Freeman's Journal, is a son of a Presbyterian minister. The Rev. J. W. Bakewell was a successor to the Presbyterian commentator, Matthew Henry; his son, R. N. Bakewell, became editor of the Shepherd of the Valley, a Catholic paper.

THE TURKISH DEFENCE.

About the war in Bulgaria an officer of the Russian General Staff has published in the Russki Invalid the following interesting remarks on the defensive power displayed by the Turks:—

“In the present campaign the Turks have derived great advantage from their quick firing rifles and their field fortifications. Their fire begins to take effect at 2,000 paces. It is most destructive at a distance of from 2,000 to 600 yards. When the assailants get within 600 yards it is less accurate. The more timid cease firing, and the others fire, for the most part, without exposing themselves, so that the bullets fly in masses over the heads of the assailants.”

portion of cartridges from England or America. With regard to field fortifications, it may be remarked that the Turks, as soon as they occupy a position, at once strengthen it by rifle pits or trenches. If they are left in peace, the trenches are deepened and arrangements made for sheltering the artillery; lastly, open and enclosed works with strong profiles are created.

OPENING OF THE SECOND TURKISH PARLIAMENT.

The second Turkish Parliament has commenced its sittings. It is an odd experiment. There must be a large number of Turks to whom this Parliament must be obnoxious for it is in opposition to all their traditional teachings.

The opening ceremony was fixed for 11 o'clock, but some delay was occasioned by the modification of the speech at the last moment. The ceremony attracted from the population no demonstration such as is usual in other countries, no sort of procession, nor any crowd.

A few minutes past noon the folding doors of the side entrance to the hall were thrown open by the chief master of the ceremonies, Khamil Bey, and the Sultan entered, attended by the palace officials. His entrance was announced in the usual Turkish fashion by the retainers at the further end of the hall specially employed on such occasions uttering loud cries taken from the hymn which is the Turkish equivalent for a national anthem.

This concluded the ceremony, which lasted altogether less than ten minutes. After the Sultan had retired, Said Pasha, Marshal of the Palace, advanced and courteously invited the Diplomatic Corps to examine the throne. The assembly then dispersed as quietly as it had met.