

French has just written a letter to the Emperor Alexander upon the Polish question, and it is referred to as a somewhat singular coincidence that a similar correspondence took place between Napoleon and the late Czar just before the outbreak of the Crimean war.

The reply of Prince Gortschakoff to the French note upon the Polish question was published on Wednesday. In substance it generally agrees with that addressed to England, but insists upon the importance of the moral union of the great powers in the presence of the revolutionary elements of all countries concentrated in Poland. This union, Russia contends, gives to the entire question its European character. Prince Gortschakoff also draws the attention of the French Government to the fact that Paris itself is one of the principal focuses of the agitation, by assisting the Poles with material and by propagating the conviction that active foreign intervention will take place in favour of the insurrection. He calls upon France to withhold its sympathy, for he does not believe that the Government will permit its name to be used for the advantage of the revolution in Poland and Europe. When the document was perused by the Emperor at Vichy he manifested an unusual amount of irritation and annoyance, and at the close of its perusal he is represented as exclaiming—"It is worse than infamous; it is ridiculous."

The semi-official journals of France continue to insist very forcibly upon the European character of the Polish question, and the inference drawn from this fact is that there will be no war unless England can be induced to join it. Hence it is asserted that messages have been despatched to the French and Italian ministers in London, urging them to press the subject upon the attention of Lord Palmerston, and, if possible, to induce him to declare himself dissatisfied with the Russian reply.

The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* makes the following trite observations, which, appearing in an official organ, will not be without their weight:—"The Emperor may safely allow the Russian reply to produce its natural effect upon public opinion, and when the moment for action comes he may give the war signal amid universal acclamation."

The press prosecutions in Prussia are being carried out by the Government with increased severity.

Russia relaxes nothing in her preparations for war. Indeed, to judge from the increase of her armaments, from the extent of her new fortifications, and from the enormous stores which she is concentrating in some of her strongest ports and cities, it would seem that she anticipates an immediate and a very protracted struggle.

The Russian reply to Austria invites that country to an exchange of ideas upon their common interests. The reply suggests that the matter in question affects only details of internal administration, and that the three Powers interested in the partition should at present deliberate together. The reply is silent upon the subject of an armistice. On the receipt of this reply, the Austrian cabinet placed itself in communication with France and England, and avowed its determination to maintain the good understanding between the three Courts, and not to negotiate separately with Russia. The reply has occasioned great irritation in Vienna.

In the various reports of the opinions of France upon the Polish question, there is almost a negation of the part which Austria was supposed to act amongst the intervening Powers. In fact, it has been broadly asserted that one or two of the principal failures of the insurgents are attributable to the double dealing of Austria, who, dissatisfied with the part she is playing with France and England, is desirous of exciting a Polish rising in her provinces, that she may have a pretext of breaking her Western alliance and throwing herself into the arms of Russia against the Poles. It is also thought that Austria still smarts under the recollection of Solferino and San Martino, and would be glad to effect a union with Russia to revenge upon France the punishment she there received.

The Russian reply to the note of Earl Russell is a serious, business-like document, very explicit, and characterised by the haughtiness of tone which has usually distinguished the messages proceeding from the Russian autocracy. Prince Gortschakoff represents the Polish insurrection as the work of a few foreigners, maintained against the will of the mass of the people, which it is the determination of the Russian Government to suppress. The proposal of an armistice is distinctly and decidedly rejected. The Emperor of Russia it is said owes to his faithful army, to "the peaceable majority of the Poles," and to Russia, to make energetic measures to crush the insurrection. "Desirable as it may be speedily to place a term to the effusion of blood, this object can only be attained by the insurgents throwing down their arms and surrendering themselves to the clemency of the Emperor."

Whilst the fate of Poland as a kingdom appears to hang in the balance, and the people stretch their eyes imploringly to France and England for help, they are represented as disheartened but resolute, determined to do anything but yield. It is said they have volunteers in abundance and plenty of money to meet immediate demands. Notwithstanding the heavy losses they have sustained, there are now about 120,000 Poles in arms.

The present situation of Denmark in reference to the dispute with Germany is said to be a serious one. It is universally felt that a crisis is at hand, and military and naval preparations are being actively carried out, so as to be ready for any emergency. Schleswig is the real point in dispute, and the Danes feel that Germany, by attempting to strike a blow there, has for her object the annihilation of the Danish monarchy.

The *Moniteur* publishes the despatch brought by the orderly sent by Gen. Forey from Mexico on a mission to the Emperor. This despatch confirms the news of the occupation of the city of Mexico on the 10th of June. The officer has presented to the Emperor five standards, the silver keys of the city of Mexico, surrendered by the municipality of that city, &c.

Juarez, the President of the Mexican Republic, has not submitted to France, nor abdicated his power. Till the will of the Mexican people is expressed he is still President, and with the somewhat powerful body of men who have accompanied him in his flight he will doubtless cause the French forces considerable trouble before he is captured.

The French have now established their influence in Cochin-China by a most advantageous treaty, whereby three important provinces and the island of Polo Conder are granted to the Emperor, with certain commercial advantages and the liberty to trade with several Chinese ports. In the latter advantages Spain participates, and the treaty prohibits the King of the country from conferring benefits upon any other nation which are not extended to France and Spain. The conquered King also agrees to pay France an indemnity of \$4,000,000, in ten yearly instalments of \$400,000 each, and binds himself to suppress piracy within his jurisdiction.

The Georgia Confederate steamer, has captured several American vessels sailing from Liverpool, including the *George Griswold*, which came from New York with a cargo of food for the Lancashire operatives. The vessel was released upon entering into a bond for the payment of \$100,000 ransom upon the recognition of the Southern Confederacy.

The Bombay mail has arrived with advices from Bombay to June 24 and Calcutta to June 15. Cholera in a severe form has broken out in the 3d battalion of 60th rifles at Rangoon. Captain Hazen, Surgeon Sparrow, and between 30 and 40 men had fallen victims to the disease. There had been fighting before Herat, and the Ameer was in considerable perplexity about the settlement of the Herat business. There is a rumour of a new mutiny in the north-west of India, and the Bhootias, instigated by the infamous Nana Sahib, have come down upon Assam and occasioned great mischief.