



CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXVII.—NO. 42.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1877.

TERMS: City Subscribers \$2.50 In Advance.
Country " 2.00

TRAVELING AGENT.

Mr. Maurice A. Egan, of Woodstock, is our duly authorized travelling agents in Ontario.

POPE PIUS IX. AND THE MUSICIAN.

Peregrini, an Italian composer, was a fellow-student of Mastai Ferretti, now the occupant of St. Peter's Chair. Since their quitting college Fortune abandoned the maestro, whilst she smiled upon the priest. One day Pius IX. received the following letter:—

"Most Holy Father—I know not if you recollect that I had the honor of being your fellow-student at college, and that your Holiness has often done me the honor of playing duets with me on the violin; and that the execution of them was not always irreproachable, at least on my part, which so displeased your Holiness at the time that you deigned to apply certain corrections to my fingers. I have taken the liberty of revealing myself to your recollection, and to pray you to take under your protection one who can never cease to remember the happy moments he has passed with him whose apostolic virtues have raised him to the throne of St. Peter."

The Pope replied:—"I have never forgotten your name, my son. Come to me at Rome, and we will again play duets together, and if you have not progressed in your studies, I shall know how again to correct you."

THE CAMPAIGN IN ASIA.

The Turkish army on the Asiatic side appears to have been deplorably neglected. The troops are worse disciplined, worse equipped, and provided than those on the Danube, but the nature of the warfare in Asia to some degree makes the deficiencies of the armies less vital. The New York Herald says:—

"The campaign will be one in which strategy will be of less and hard fighting of more importance. Even irregular troops may be able to do service in some positions which it is in the power of Mukhtar Pasha to defend. The Russian right wing has advanced from Ardahan via Urut to Henneck, fifteen miles north of Bardex. Of the centre we have no reliable information, but it has been reported that they have taken both Delimusa and Getchevan. According to another account these places are being attacked by detachments, while the main force is following the northern road over the Souganlu Range. At all events the right and centre are well towards positions from which attack could be made on Mukhtar Pasha; but the left wing has not yet advanced far enough to participate in a combined movement. This delay is to great extent in consequence of difficulties of the country through which the left wing is marching."

JUBILEE OFFERINGS.

It must gratify the Holy Father to see his faithful children unceasingly pouring in their offerings at his feet. We learn from Rome, in a letter dated May 2nd, that:—

A few days ago forty cases containing chalices and sacred vestments came into Rome from Germany, the gift of the Catholics from that country. Others have since arrived from nearly every country in Europe. The Exposition in which these objects will be placed will be held in the gallery of maps (della carte geografiche) in the Vatican Loggia. The Peregrinus Catholicus announces a series of gifts which are about to be sent from France to the Holy Father. L'Union de l'Œuvre des Ouvriers will send a statue of Christ at work, and a number of workmen to present it, who will bear a banner with the inscription—*In hoc signo vinces*. A valuable gift will be sent from L'Union de l'Œuvre des Cercles Catholiques. The Catholic University of Lille will send three purses well filled,—the first to aid Pius IX in assisting poor priests; the second to pay the redemption fee for young seminarians taken by conscription; and the third to purchase ecclesiastical objects. The ladies of Cambria send vestals filled with sacred objects for the use of missionaries, amongst which are portable altars and all that is necessary for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice.

RUSSIAN TROOPS ON THE MARCH.

To keep soldiers from flagging is one of the results which all commanders aim at. Some try coaxing and others try threatening. It appears that the Russians try singing. That may do for awhile, and under pleasant circumstances, but we fancy that a rough campaign—marching and counter-marches—would soon knock the desire for singing out of most men:—

Russian soldiers upon marches sing to while away tedium, and the solos, always in a minor key and monotonous, are varied by very lively bursts in the choruses. The solo singer often improvises, and is usually accompanied by a man with a fiddle, a triangle, a clarionette, or by one who whistles. The ordinary uniform of the infantry consists of a kepi, a tunic, and pantaloons of dark green cloth the latter garment being inserted in the boots. The gray overcoat is carried in a roll at the back, from the right shoulder to the left hip. Two cartridge boxes are attached to the leather belt in front. A canvas siver sack hangs at the right behind the bayonet, and the knapsack covers the back.

CANVASSERS WANTED TO CANVASS FOR THIS PAPER IN QUEBEC. A liberal commission will be given.

THE RUSSIAN CAVALRY.

It is not often in those days that we hear of a lady accompanying a regiment on the march. It appears from a correspondent with the army at Bucharest, however, that the interesting spectacle has been witnessed of late. He says:—

"Society here underwent an agreeable surprise on Saturday morning when contemplating the march through the outskirts of Bucharest of another splendid Russian cavalry brigade. A regiment of hussars was led by a young Russian lady wearing the full uniform of the regiment, and mounted on a magnificent charger. I am told it was the Princess Demidoff, daughter of the honorary colonel and proprietor of the regiment, who spends £10,000 a year upon it. No crack Russian heavy cavalry I have ever seen is so well mounted, the horses averaging 16 hands, comprising chestnuts, whites, browns and bays respectively. The squadrons have extremely powerful animals. The men are uncommonly heavy for hussars, but are a very fine regiment. The Don Cossacks made an especial impression on the fair spectators by reason of the extraordinary good looks of the men, who are mostly fair, have classically regular features, and fine athletic figures. They have the quaintest imaginable wild music, consisting only of cymbals and bird whistles, accompanying a choir of about 30 singers chanting sad, unreasonably airs, but in good tone and harmony. The Cossacks mount mere ponies, but these animals are as hard as iron, quick paced, and tame as cats, though only ridden with a single bridle. A vast wagon train followed this brigade, and we noticed several bad cases of ophthalmia. The only man saved from the Turkish turret ship was picked up by the Russians in a boat. He states that a shell struck the boilers, which exploded and fired the magazine. About two hundred men perished."

RUSSIAN PROGRESS IN ASIA.

All supplies have to be drawn from Erivan, from which place the only easy road leads through Persian territory, the other route being mountain passes. If says a contemporary:—

"The battle which is to decide the fate of Erzerum is not fought until the Erivan column has forced the Turkish positions at Toprak-Kaleh and is within supporting distance of the other columns, progress is likely to be, as heretofore, very slow. It is not impossible, however, that the right and centre, with the aid of a force from Batoum operating on the Choruk River may attack Mukhtar Pasha from the direction of Oltu and Souganli, provided Mukhtar waits to be attacked. The latest news of him, via Constantinople, represents that he was falling back from the Bardex and Erzerum positions. It is to be remarked, however, that news from Constantinople whether favorable or unfavorable to the Turks, is peculiarly untrustworthy. Thus we had last week the announcements that the Russians had occupied Van and Oltu, both of which were false, and probably the result of a panic, just as the reiterated story of the recapture of Ardahan was probably the result of blundering design on the part of the government to appease the populace of Constantinople. On the other hand, the war news made public by the Russian government is generally of no importance whatever, or several days behind time."

FRENCH GIFTS TO THE POPE.

France is proving itself not to be France of the Commune. From many parts of the country we hear of generous offerings being made to the Pope:—

The City of Tours sends a bronze statue of St. Martin, destined for the tomb of this saint. A chalice of pure gold comes from Lyons. Marseilles sends a throne made of oak valued at 56,000 francs. Amiens sends a ciborium adorned with the arms of the Pope. From Clermont Ferrand, where St. Bernard preached the Crusade, comes a book, on every leaf of which there is the *Crædo* signed by the Catholics of the diocese. From Poitiers comes a magnificent cope and stole the work of the Sisters who have charge of the deaf mutes in that city. The Commissions of the *Denter de Saint Pierre* is preparing a trophy of sacred vessels. Besancon sends a sceptre of gold. Spain will send a magnificent tiara made after a design furnished by a Commission over which the Cardinal-Archbishop of Toledo presided. All that is necessary for an altar made of solid gold, is the gift of Count de Cais, of St. Amour. This rich gift is much appreciated by Pius IX., who said he received it for the Papal Chapel, according to the intentions of the donor, with the sole reserve that he might present it to the Queen of England if she should ever be converted to Catholicity. Arras offers a large ciborium, of which the Holy Father remarked that it was fit for general Communion. Mgr. Speranza, of Bergamo, sends three MSS of St. Thomas Aquinas; the *Somma* against the Gentiles, the Commentary upon Isaiah, and the Commentary upon Doctore.

THE RESULT OF ROUMANIA AND SERVA JOINING IN THE WAR.

Austria, it appears, is prepared to act with decision. If we are to place any reliance upon correspondents, Austria is ready to enter Servia the instant that power declares war. We hear that:—

It is evident that the day Servia takes part in the war or Roumanian troops cross the Danube, Austria will occupy one or both principalities. Then the real Eastern question will commence. Certainly Russia is doing her utmost to keep Servia back. The difficulty raised as to the command of the Roumanian troops is only another effort to prevent the Roumanian army from crossing the Danube. But Russia has no longer much influence over

the Servians, whom she abandoned and humiliated. An early explosion in Servia may therefore be feared. The Czar sees this. It is said if he joins the army it will be to arrest it after the first victory, to negotiate rapidly with the Sultan and finish the war before it develops these threatened complications. The spirit of the Russian people, the influence of the Slav committees, and the enthusiasm of the Army are feared. It is asked whether the Emperor's presence will suffice to encounter this three-fold element. Some people think thecession of Batoum might satisfy every one without alarming anybody. But this opinion is not very generally held in Russia. The arrival of the Emperor amid the Army is awaited by all with anxiety. It is hoped he will act with promptitude which will prevent the complication dreaded, and that as soon as he appears disposed to terminate the war Europe will be ready to second him.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The two causes operating against the rapid progress of the war are the overflowing of the Danube and the insurrection in the Caucasus. We learn however, that:—

On the Danube the Russians have at last occupied the chief positions, and their lines extend from Galatz to Kalafat. But the formidable river bars their way, and until the stream returns to its normal summer level it will be perilous, if not physically impossible, to take the army across. It is now hardly possible that the Russians can execute this great military operation for the next three weeks. They may come to close quarters with the Turkish armies about the beginning of July, so that the campaign will probably be prosecuted under the greatest heats of summer. The region of the Lower Danube is terribly unhealthy for strangers; so it may be presumed the Russians will endeavor to traverse with all celerity the more unhealthy districts. Those troops will fare worst which have to sit down before a fortress or guard a strong place in the chain of communications, as an army in movement will generally keep health better than garrison or investing forces. The character and duration of the struggle in Bulgaria are the subject of much speculation, particularly in Germany and Austria, where every officer seems to have his own particular study of the campaign. The general tenor of these criticisms is adverse to the Turks, not from any doubt that they will make a good fight and even inflict serious repulses on their enemy, but from the prepossession that the superiority in numbers, efficiency of organization and strategical ability are on the side of the Russians.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE COSSACKS ON THE MARCH.

The Cossacks are attracting a good deal of attentions in the war. A correspondent describing them on the march says:—

The column of dust approaches, and presently the Cossack lances pierce it, glittering in the sun. Dark and colourless masses loom through it, and we become aware of a strange but stirring music. The famous horsemen are almost as usual before we see them, so neutral are their colours, and so thick the dust already. Not a sound is heard even while they pass, except that martial war song of the bards who head each sotnia, and the shrill accompaniment of whistles modulated to weird harmony. No rattle of accoutrements betrays the Cossack; his very horse seems trained to move with silent activity. With that pæan in one's ears, and the whistles screaming through it, one beholds without astonishment these warriors glide past stealthily and swift. One recognizes the surviving race of an earlier time. To the same war song, perhaps, marched the ancestors of those people when they overran Russia. The Bucharest ladies were not a little impressed and not a little frightened. They looked at each other blankly, with little shrugs of the shoulder to express amazement and distaste. One of them afterwards confessed to me that her Muscovite sympathies vanished at sight of the first Cossack, so ugly and so dirty was he. I could not agree with her. Soldiers and officers too, are dirty on campaign, and Antinous himself could not be prepossessing if black with dust and bedabbled with perspiration. But the Cossacks are by no means so ugly as is traditionally believed.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.

All accounts from China agree in picturing the famine as dreadful. The people are almost eating each other. A contemporary says that:—

Anything that will allay hunger is eagerly sought after, no matter how uninviting or unfit to be used as food. The rotten thatch of the house or dried leaves that serve generally for fuel are not now neglected as nauseous or unsatisfying, and lucky indeed is the man who can get a full supply even of these. The Government is making the semblance of an effort to relieve the widespread misery; but the means it employs are wholly inadequate. An expression of verbal sympathy, a grant of money which allows about a farthing a day for the relief of each case of distress, some well-meant but mistaken edicts, which have had the effect simply of making matters worse than before, are the measure of the assistance which the Chinese rulers can bestow. The famine proceeds in spite of them, and matters are rendered worse by the intense cold which was prevailing at the time of our correspondent's letter, and by the snow, which lay so deep as to prevent the people from picking up any of the wild produce of the soil. As summer advances and as the weeds begin to grow and the trees to be covered with foliage, there may be a change expected for the better. The total loss is not easy to estimate. We hear of villages of 500 families with 300 reported as dead from starvation. This, or something like it, appears to be the actual condition of some 8,000 villages, and there are

others besides in which the pressure is less extreme, but still terribly severe. The numbers of the dead, it is clear, must be already reckoned by millions, but we can hazard no conjecture as to the total which will have been reached before the return of summer.

BABYLON.

The magnitude of London may be guessed at by the following statistics:—

According to the Registrar-General's report, London covers 78,080 acres, or 123 square miles; it contains 1,500 miles of streets and 2,000 miles of sewers. There are 417,767 inhabited houses, in which dwelt, at the middle of 1876, 3,483,428, among whom there were more females than males by 222,986. The inclusion of fifteen miles around makes the population 4,286,607. The annual rateable value of property £23,251,702. The estimated increase of population per annum is 44,174. There are somewhat over 100,000 professional men, which includes members of Parliament, editors, artists, authors, teachers and officers; 211,000 of the commercial class, 505,000 of the great industrial class—mechanics, that is, or skilled workmen—the "labourers" (65,000) being excluded, and also 35,000 whose occupations are undefined. Of the women, 802,130 are wives who aid their husbands in business; 226,600 are domestic servants; many keep inns and lodging-houses; large numbers are shopkeepers; 5,000 book-binders; 4,000 make artificial flowers; 15,000 tailoresses; 58,000 milliners and dress-makers; 27,900 seamstresses and shirt makers 44,000 laundresses; 5,000 shoe-makers; 4,000 box and packing-case makers; 11 machinists. Only 29,000 are returned gentlemen. There are 314,000 children in the schools. More than one-sixth of the population annually die in public or charitable institutions; last year 8,174 died in work houses, 5,310 in hospitals and 441 in the lunatic asylums. The violent deaths were 2,885, of which 7 were executions, 96 homicides, 298 suicides, and the rest accidents. The most disagreeable novelty of this report is the daily average of sunshine from May 1 to December 31 of last year.

ENGLISHMEN IN RUSSIA.

Englishmen are evidently not liked in Russia. Between Russia's desire to secure Constantinople and India for herself it is no wonder that she regards England—who is the great impediment in her way—with some jealousy:—

We hear that great uneasiness prevails among the English residents in Russia in connection with the present unsettled state of political affairs. More than one person has been insulted for belonging to "the country in league with the infidel Turk," and the language used by the lower orders is so menacing that in case of hostilities few Englishmen would care to remain in Russia. During the Crimean war the Emperor Nicholas issued a ukase taking the English residents under the protection of the Government, and not a single expression of ill feeling occurred, in spite of the reverses suffered by Russia. But now, owing to the spread of education among the workmen in towns, the people are able to read the violent Anglophobic pamphlets of the Slavonic committee at Moscow, who associate England with the perpetration of the atrocities in Bulgaria, and express their opinions respecting that country in such an abusive manner that Englishmen resident twenty or thirty years in Russia are preparing to realize their property and return home directly hostilities break out. At present there are two thousand Englishmen in St. Petersburg, and three thousand scattered over the rest of the empire. English interests in the capital are very large, many of the largest manufacturers belonging to the English living there. A large number of engineers, mechanics and weavers are employed in the interior; at Cronstadt, Riga, and other ports, the sea-going trade is chiefly controlled by English merchants and agents, while in the South, near Taganrog, are several colonies of Welsh miners.

THE CASUALTIES OF WAR.

A study of the losses of recent wars prove that the percentage of men killed and wounded is not so large now as it was formerly. This is accounted for by the demoralizing rather than the destructive efforts of artillery. They frighten more than they kill:—

The official statistics as to the number of the killed and wounded in the German army during the war with France, have just been published at Berlin. The number of officers killed and wounded was 3,316, and of soldiers, 60,978. The number of officers who were either killed or died of their wounds was 1,384 and 16,877 respectively. The proportion of the killed to the wounded was one in every 3.44 for the officer, and 1 in 5 for the men. As a matter of course the great majority of the killed and wounded belonged to the infantry, which lost 57,942, as compared to 2,236 in the cavalry and 4,286 in the artillery. Only 5,984 were killed or wounded by artillery fire, as against 53,862 by musketry fire; and though artillery had never been so much employed as in the Franco-Prussian war, 21 losses out of every 23 on the German side were due to infantry fire. These figures are interesting for they seem to confirm the theory that the effect of artillery fire upon the battle field is moral rather than material—that it frightens more soldiers than it kills. Some instructive statistics are also given as to the seat of the wound inflicted, thus it appears that out of 64,897 men of all ranks killed or wounded, 12,717 were hit either upon the head or the neck, this shows that the French troops fired very high. In the Crimean war, upon the contrary, the highest percentage of wounds were in the lower part of the body—a fact which is all the more remarkable as a large number of the men killed or wounded were serving in the trenches.

THE RUSSIAN STRENGTH.

There are 240,000 Russians in position on the Danube, without counting the Roumanians or the reserves that are being brought forward, who amount to 60,000 men. There are 80,000 men east of Ibrail and 20,000, with considerable reserves at Belgrad, which is the point of support for this part of the line. A contemporary says that:—

The strength and position of the works at Reni and Ibrail indicate that they are defensive and not offensive, the precautions taken being directed against an attack by the Turkish fleet and to prevent the passage of the river by the Turks. At Ibrail there are three batteries—one west of the town, sweeping the Danube with four twelve-pounders and two guns of larger calibre up to the point formed by the Matchin channel, and two east of the town making the Matchin channel, one of which is armed with four guns of position and four howitzers, and the other with eight pieces of still larger calibre and two mortars, from which projectiles are said to have reached Matchin. There is a fourth battery of lighter guns on the island opposite Matchin. From Ibrail up to the lakes of Bucharest and Oltenuza and Bucharest and Giurgevo there are no troops, except a number requisite to guard against a possible surprise; but between Bucharest and Giurgevo the concentration is on a large scale. The forces are in three camps, each containing 30,000 men, to which must be added another 10,000 at Giurgevo. Thus there are 100,000 men now concentrated on the Bucharest and Giurgevo line along the railway who may be directed either against the line of Ruscuk and Turtukai or Ruscuk and Sistova. On the spot it is believed the latter will be chosen, and that the demonstration at Oltenuza is merely a feint.

The second concentration is on both sides of the River Aluta. East of the river are 60,000 men in two camps, both on the high road to Turmu-Magureli. West of the Aluta are four camps, representing about 80,000 men. This may be regarded as the centre of the line. Further west, on the line of Kalafat and Turnseverin, last accounts stated the number of Russians to be over 40,000.

THE POPE ON CATHOLIC PROGRESS IN ENGLAND.

The Holy Father has, of late, often expressed the happiness it has given him to know that the Church was making favourable progress in England. During the Jubilee he addressed the English pilgrims, and said:—

"It is a great consolation for me, my dear children, to see around me such a large assemblage of the sons of Albion, united in the same faith and the same charity. What splendid progress the Catholic faith has made in your country, and how it has multiplied. Prejudices have been dissipated, conversions have been made, and new churches are erected every day in the different dioceses—a palpable evidence that the Catholic religion is being rapidly propagated in the Land of Saints. However, it could not be otherwise, since you have in Heaven so many saints praying for you, who spent their lives in your country. Amongst the number is my illustrious predecessor, St. Gregory, who prays for those who do not yet belong to our faith, in order that they may return to it, and for those who have already embraced it, so that they may remain steadfast in their duty. Yes, the progress of the faith in your country is clear and evident. It is many years ago—when already, unworthy though I am, I occupied this apostolic chair—an English Catholic bishop told me of an interview he had had with an illustrious statesman, who belonged to the British Cabinet of that day. Well, that statesman said frankly to the Catholic bishop—'Do all you can, you and your priests, to make the lower classes more moral.' Now, I ask what greater progress can there be than to bear a Minister of State speak thus to a Catholic bishop. God be praised for all the mercies which he has lavished on England. There the Church is strong. It is not alone tolerated, but free; and I do not speak of the colonies where it enjoys, I may say, the protection of Government. May God be ever praised for so many mercies. I pray the Lord to bless you, and to sustain my old arms in giving you this benediction. May it produce in you the most happy results for the conversion of your brothers still wandering in the darkness, for the confirmation of peace and concord in your families, and in the secular and regular clergy. May it give you hearts strength and courage necessary to sustain your energetic fight for the rights of the Church. I bless you now so that you may be made worthy to bless God in Paradise during all eternity."

OUR HOLY FATHER.

Rome, June 3.—The Pope, to-day, at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of his elevation to the Episcopate, received thousands of pilgrims.

London, June 4.—A Rome despatch says: The Pope had to be withdrawn yesterday from an audience on account of exhaustion, and returned only after a repose. The Doctors decided that the deputations in future be consolidated, and the Pope be carried through to avoid the excitement and fatigue of receiving them in detail.

London, June 4.—The Pope's Jubilee was celebrated in Ireland with great solemnity. Religious processions passed through the streets in several cities.

LATEST NEWS.

The strike amongst the laborers employed on the Pennsylvania Railroad has become general.

A brilliant reception was held at Minister Plerre-pou's residence in London last night, in honor of General Grant.

Turkish commanders operating against the Montenegrians, claim to have gained several important successes during the past week.