

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

Marshall St. Arnaud is appointed to the command of the expeditionary army for the East. The first division of this force, which will consist in all of upwards of 90,000 men, was expected to embark at Toulon about the 20th ult. The general opinion of military men seems to be, that active operations on the Danube cannot commence before the end of the month, or, perhaps, the beginning of May.

The war is decidedly popular in France. The loan for £10,000,000 is being rapidly taken up; and the drawing of conscripts is described as a scene of general enthusiasm. The young men themselves, who traverse the streets with their hats adorned with gay ribands, appear most anxious to begin at once with the Russians, and only regret the delay that must take place before they know how to handle the muskets. They all believe, as a matter of course, that they are to be sent forthwith to the Danube.

Some attempts to excite disturbances, and disaffection amongst the troops, have been speedily repressed. On Sunday, the 12th, a good many arrests—upwards of 200—were made in Paris, chiefly from amongst the ranks of the Republicans, and the Legitimists.

In the departments, and especially in the Department du Nord, a great number of proclamations have been seized, signed by the refugees in London, and addressed to the French army, calling on the troops to revolt against the Government.

## PRUSSIA.

The attitude of this Power is doubtful, and its language vague. "For the present, neutrality; for the future, mediation," are the terms employed by the official organs, in defining the intentions of the Government: what they mean, no body knows. The Paris correspondent of the *Times*, writing upon Prince Hohenzollern's mission to the Emperor of the French, pronounces it a failure: "In other words, the explanations he was charged by the King of Prussia to give respecting his neutrality in the Eastern question, have not satisfied this government. In reply to his assurances that nothing was more ardently desired by his Prussian Majesty than the maintenance of the peace of Europe, he was informed that the best proof of the sincerity of such a declaration would be to join the powers in resistance to Russian aggression, as it would be the surest means of effecting what he most desired."

## SPAIN.

In Spain, affairs are tending rapidly to a fearful crisis. The suppression of a premature revolt on part of a regiment of the line, is not the end of the Spanish question, and a change of Ministry is very near at hand.

## AUSTRIA.

In reply to the invitation of the Western Powers to join the alliance against Russia, the cabinet of Vienna forwarded the proposition to Berlin, with the following declaration of her intentions:—

"Austria does not feel herself called on to join the Western Powers in a declaration of war against Russia, but is prepared to sign a convention for securing the integrity of Turkey in the spirit of the treaty of 1841.

"Austria will maintain peace in Servia, Montenegro, and Bosnia, leaving it to the Western Powers to care for Greece and the Greek provinces in Turkey.

## GERMANY.

## SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE EPISCOPATE AND CLERGY OF THE PROVINCE OF THE UPPER RHINE.

The subscription opened in the columns of the *Univers* for the illustrious Archbishop of Freiburg, and the other Confessors of the Faith in the Province of Upper Rhine, now amounts to over 29,338 francs (about £1,173).

It would appear that the Grand Duchy of Nassau is attempting a small imitation of the example of Baden in its attacks on the Catholic clergy. The Bishop of Limburg, Monsignor Blum, has been twice dragged before the secular tribunals, and the priests whom he has nominated to the vacant cures, not being confirmed by the Government, are deprived of all emolument. There is the greatest need of pecuniary aid, both there and in Freiburg, for the hunted and imprisoned clergy. In Freiburg seven priests are in durance, and have been so these two months—some on no other charge than the vague one of disaffection to the Government. Some of the laymen arrested on charges emanating from these troubles have been liberated, but there are still about 150 of these in confinement. The Government is perplexed to find that its severities, so far from intimidating the Catholic population, have but redoubled their attachment to their Church and pastors.

## ITALY.

**FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION.**—In the new penal code introduced into the Chamber of Deputies by the present Liberal ministry, the second article provides that—

"The Ecclesiastics who, in the exercise of their ministry, shall pronounce at a public meeting a speech containing the critique of the institutions and laws of the state, shall be punished by an imprisonment of from three months to two years. The penalty shall be increased to from six months to three years if the critique be made by publications, instructions, or any other document whatever, read at public meetings or other public places. To the penalty of imprisonment may be added a fine amounting at the maximum to 2,000 livres."

The King of Sardinia signed, on the 11th, a decree, suppressing the rich Religious Order.

## RUSSIA.

The correspondent of the *Times* writing from Paris mentions rumors of propositions for an arrangement having been made by Russia, from which it would appear that the Emperor would be satisfied if the Porte would agree to a treaty with all the powers, securing the immunities of the Christian population. Though it is very probable that matters have turned out quite contrary to what the Emperor Nicholas anticipated in the commencement of this affair, yet it is doubtful whether any propositions of the kind have been made by him; at all events, ignorance of any such is pleaded in a quarter likely to be well informed. Moreover, it is not probable that the Porte would agree to a treaty, for the same reason that it has refused the Menshikoff note—namely, that it would bring in question the independence of the Ottoman territory, for which its armies are now in the field.

The preparations made throughout Russia are described as being tremendous, and the works at Cronstadt, and at all the fortified places in the Gulfs of Finland and Riga, are being strengthened. Several new vessels of war, and among others a screw ship of 500 horse power, will be launched as soon as the ice has disappeared. The Russian newspapers contain new lists of voluntary subscriptions, and among others one of 3,000 silver roubles by an English Company at St. Petersburg, for the benefit of the wounded in the war against the Turks.

Rumors are also that the Emperor Nicholas has threatened Austria and Prussia with the revival of the kingdoms of Poland and Hungary.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* states that the instructions sent by the Government of St. Petersburg to the Commander of Sebastopol on the entry of the combined fleets into the Black Sea commence by reminding him that the maritime laws enacted by Peter the Great are still in force, and that they are founded on the principle of not risking the loss of ships of war for the empty glory obtained in an unequal battle. It declares, in consequence, that Russian admirals and captains ought not to take the initiative in an action in which their forces are not as three to two of the enemy. The instructions add that the affair of Sinope was a meritorious action, because the Russian Admiral had taken every precaution to attain the object he had in view.

The *Patrie* states that the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army in the Principalities has published a decree ordering that all the Catholic churches and chapels in them shall be closed, and declaring that no other places of Christian worship than those of the Greek faith shall be authorised. If this news of the *Patrie* be true, we may reasonably infer that the relations between Russia and Austria are on a very unfriendly footing. Nothing more offensive to Austria than such a decree could be done by Russia, for Austria regards herself as the protectress of the Catholic religion in the provinces under the suzerainty of Turkey.

## TURKEY.

The Turks are strengthening their position at Kalafat, no actions of any consequence have taken place between the hostile forces.

The most important news received from Constantinople by the mail of the 27th ult., is, that the Sultan has promised to accede to the demands of the four Powers relative to the emancipation of the Christians in Turkey. The negotiations are still pending, but the assurances of the Porte are said to be satisfactory and positive.

The insurrection in Thessaly, Epirus, and Albania is spreading; and so open is the complicity of Greece in this affair, that even Ministers of State and military commanders have put themselves at the head of the insurgents.

The allied squadrons were still lying idle at Beiker's in the Bosphorus, a few miles from the entrance into the Black Sea. The first detachment of troops for the Eastern army consisting of the Guards, and artillery had arrived at Malta in good condition on the 5th ult.

The efforts of the Czar, and the ecclesiastical authorities of Russia are directed to arousing the religious enthusiasm of the people and imparting a religious character to the war. The Czar himself is said to be laboring under violent religious excitement: looking upon himself as a chain instrument in the hands of Providence, for propagating the Russian "Orthodox" faith. A correspondent of the *London Times* writes as follows:—

The Greek Cross appears everywhere as the sanctifying symbol of the present war, and on every side we hear the words repeated of 'Orthodox faith,' 'Holy confidence,' 'Holy Russia,' &c. Texts from the Holy Scripture have come to be mingled with the jargon of the fashionable saloons. The Emperor himself adopts them in conversation of the most ordinary kind, and in all his public addresses, and he appears struck with the *monomania* of preaching and haranguing to all about him in a manner that is truly ridiculous. Very recently, and in presence of his whole Court, he delivered a sort of sermon, which terminated nearly with the following words:—'Russia, whose destinies God has especially intrusted me, is menaced. But wo, wo, wo to those who menace us. We shall know how to defend the honor of the Russian name, and the inviolability of our frontier. Following in the path of my predecessors—faithful, like them, to the Orthodox Faith—after having invoked, like them, the aid of the Almighty God—we shall await our enemies with a firm foot, from what side soever they come, persuaded that our ancient device, 'The Faith, the Czar, and the Country,' will open to us, as it has ever done, the path of victory. *Nobiscum Deus! Audite populi, et vincimini; quia nobiscum Deus!*' The Imperial Court was astounded: it never suspected that the Czar possessed this biblical erudition, and could scarcely

contain its astonishment. It never suspected that His Majesty was so profoundly versed in Scripture, or in the Latin fathers. It is certain that for some time past most people are convinced that something extraordinary in the matter with the Emperor, for while his memory appears not to have failed him, his other mental faculties appears to have been seriously affected. He has become sombre and morose to an intolerable degree. Whether it be the effect of years, or of the annoyances or embarrassments in which he sees himself placed, I know not, but such is the fact. Perhaps all combine to produce this effect. The result is a state of exasperation which he can scarcely keep within bounds, even in presence of the foreign Ministers.

## SWEDEN.

**MORE PROTESTANT INTOLERANCE AND PERSECUTION.**—We read in the *Journal des Debats*, that another attack has been made on religious liberty by the Royal Administration at Stockholm.—Seven females have been prosecuted before the High Court of Justice for the crime of being reconciled to the Catholic Church.

**THE BALTIC FLEET.**—The *Daily News* says—'Sir Charles Napier's fleet is bound first for Wingo Sound, on the coast of Sweden, where the ships will anchor for a time. In that position the fleet would guard the outlet of the Cattegat, and enjoy the advantages of being near a great town like Gottenburg, with its population of nearly 30,000 souls.'

Sir Charles Napier will have under his command a fleet of 44 ships, manned by upwards of 22,000 men, mounting about 2,200 guns, and propelled by a steam power of more than 16,000 horses. Of the ships, only six will be unaided by that new force which is manifestly destined to effect the same revolution in warlike operations as it has already accomplished in those of peace. These are the Neptune, 120, the St. George, 120, the Prince Regent, 90, the Boscawen, 70, the Monarch, 84, and the Cumberland, 70, noble vessels of the old schools, though modern invention teaches us to rely less upon them than we used to do.

**THE RUSSIAN FLEET IN THE BALTIC.**—We translate the following from a French official organ: The Russian Baltic fleet consists of 27 sail of the line, 18 frigates and 15 smaller vessels. They are at present wintering in 3 divisions in Cronstadt, Revel and Helsingfors. We are assured that of the 27 ships of the line only 18 are fit for sea; the remainder are too old and out of repair to be serviceable except as floating batteries. Independent of these ships, the Russian admiralty lists speak of a squadron of the North Sea of 18 sail of the line, 12 frigates and 10 gun-brigs; but this fleet probably exists only on paper. It is also a fact that the best crews of the Baltic fleet have been drafted to serve in the Black Sea squadron.

## THE PRESS ON THE ATTACK ON THE NUNNERIES.

(From the *Cork Examiner*.)

With no small indignation the Catholic public of Ireland will have heard even of the nominal success of the infamous scheme for the invasion of convents. We say nominal success; for our belief that the plot will ultimately be defeated is only equal to the confidence we have in the power of the most sacred right and truth, and the detestation which was expressed during the debate by every man of any dignity of character or sense of liberty of this base form of bigotry Mr. Chambers' select committee will certainly be the grave of his intolerant attempt. He may, perhaps, succeed in poisoning the public mind to some extent, and may keep the community in a state of irritation by means of offensive and malignant calumnies; but there the matter will end. If he can get a partial and bigoted committee to give a color of fact to the filthy and baseless accusation of a set of fanatics, and to make a report accordingly, the document will have no more effect than mere waste paper. We believe that not a tittle of evidence can be produced, which even the most bitterly sectarian tribunal, except it be utterly destitute of any respect for truth, can torture into a ground for interference with conventual institutions. And we believe further, if any committee should be found so abandoned and unscrupulous as to take that course, they will merely disgrace themselves but will never see any legislation as the result of their labors. Some, perhaps, voted for the motion from a mere wish to get rid of a subject which the bigoted pertinacity of an individual had made a regular bore; and some probably, too, against their conviction from a base and cowardly submission to the intolerance of their constituencies. But due allowance being made for the effect of such motives, a majority of 186 against 119 represents an amount of active bigotry which is disgraceful to the House of Commons. This is not the first occasion on which that body has acted, upon religious questions, in gross defiance of justice and fact, and of the rights of Catholics. But at all events—the persecuting project met with such decided resistance from whatever was liberal, generous, or attached to freedom in the house, that we have no fear in the world from the base crew who defame Catholic convents, and whose imputations but express the character of their own minds. Every man of any character scouted this scheme of interference, as contrary to all idea of liberty, and not having a particle of fact or truth to support it. This feeling, backed by the indignation of Catholic Ireland, will prove more than a match for the bigots. But, nevertheless, parliament must bear the blame of having, by a most unjust, aggressive, and intolerant vote, given rise to a vexatious and hateful controversy—the result of which, however, we know undoubtedly will vindicate convents from the foul aspersions of their assailants.

(From the *Freeman*.)

**AGGREGATE MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF DUBLIN.**  
The Catholics of the empire will not submit patiently to the degrading collar which Mr. Chambers and his majority would impose on their most cherished institutions. They will not suffer sanctuaries which are consecrated to the cultivation of every virtue to be dishonored by the intrusion of government inspectors.

They will offer every possible resistance within the limits of the law to any interference whatever with those pious retreats, which challenge the admiration and respect of all who are disinterested enough to judge the tree by its fruits. There will be bigots in the world to the crack of doom, but legislation is not intended to gratify their morbid hate, and no human being, except the unbending zealot, who makes a *Jelisch* of his anti-Catholic ferocity, could discover in privacy and piety of the convent, and the salutary results which overflow the populations where they are established, anything but immeasurable good.

Even during the reign of the Brunswick Clubs, and long antecedent to that turbulent period, when the penal code was in full vigor, no attempt was made to restrict the number, to inquire into the property, or submit the inmates of convents to the gaze of a gross curiosity, because they lived apart from the world, and dedicated their lives to piety, charity, and education. It is only in the day of "liberalism," when the professed equality of all religions is paraded in the constitution, that the Catholic is startled by the profane violence which parliament witnessed last week; and this is only a repetition of the wicked intrusion which was almost successful last session. In truth the convent motion is the legitimate progeny of the Titles Bill. Emboldened by the fury which agitated England on that occasion, and taking advantage of the anti-Catholic spirit which, if it did not create, it re-awakened and confirmed, Mr. Chambers and his party made an assault on convents, and they have had a temporary triumph. On the last occasion the bigots were compelled to drop their hold by their attitude of the Irish people. The tepid resistance of the government was changed into vigorous opposition, and Mr. Chambers abandoned his plot, and so did Mr. Pinn his scarcely less objectionable compromise. The aggregate meeting at the Rotunda, and the magnificent requisition that preceded it, sealed the fate of the whole tribe of resolutions, motions, and amendments.

We then thought the snake was not only scathed but killed. Yet the reptile again lifts its horned head, and unless the Catholics of Ireland remonstrate in all their strength and compel the permanent withdrawal of this measure, their religious liberties will be undermined, and every parliament will mark some retrogression from the complete freedom of the Emancipation Act, which was "guaranteed for ever!" Let them speak out, and their remonstrances will be respected. We are glad an active movement has been originated, and in a few days we expect to see hundreds of the most influential names in the kingdom appended to the following requisition to the Lord Mayor:—

"We, the undersigned, request your lordship will call a meeting of the Catholics of Dublin to adopt the best constitutional means of protecting our religious institution, and of resisting the hostile and insulting inquiry to which a branch of the legislature has given its sanction, without a shadow of evidence to justify such a proceeding. We consider such a step tends to revive the worst spirit of the penal code, and not only unjust but dangerous, being calculated to excite serious disaffection in many millions of her Majesty's loyal subjects, at a moment when the whole combined energies of the empire are required in a contest, the results of which no one can foresee."

The time chosen for such an insult is not less singular than the insult itself. We believe in no portion of the empire has there been so strong a desire manifested to support England in the conflict which she enters with all the energy and resources of the empire and all will be needed. Ireland has shown no lack of zeal to "defend the right." To her docile and martial population the government looks to repair the breaches of coming battle, and at that critical period, when not only no fresh causes of discord should be loose, but the remains of the old scars should be dried up by kindly and generous treatment, in steps Mr. Chambers and his majority of 186 to resow the seeds of disaffection, and mar that unanimity which is the first requisite for great states entering on war. If the government boldly declared their resolution to resign if the motion were carried, we may be quite sure the minority would be converted into a majority. Had Lord John Russell stated that this was no time to foster disloyalty in Ireland, and rekindle the baleful fire of persecution—that he would not be responsible to his Sovereign for the consequences if her Irish subjects were inflamed by this penal legislation—had Lord Palmerston, instead of coolly walking out of the house without voting, supported his leader with the same sentiments, there would be an end to inquiries and insults. But it is impossible to relieve ministers from the imputation of supineness at the very least. Mr. Hayter was quite busy on the spirit question. Not a sound of his whip when Exeter Hall was in motion.

(From the *London Morning Post*.)

It is both curious and painful to observe the extravagant lengths to which most persons who have cherished a morbid horror of Popery allow themselves to be driven. You cannot find a more bigoted person than an ultra-Protestant, nor one more inconsistent. Claiming for himself the right to worship his Maker and profess his faith according to his own conscience, he constitutes himself his own pope, and forbids others the liberty he himself delights in. Such persons see but one thing wherever they go—and that is, the increase of Popery—a twofold increase—an increase in the number of Papists, and an increase in the intensity of their Papistry. They live in hourly dread of the rekindling of the fires of Smithfield, the refurbishing up of the old thumb-screws in the Tower, and the public martyrdom of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Thus they fight with shadows—shadows of Monks, shadows of Friars, shadows of Jesuits, shadows of convent walls and steeples, and even, *nefas dictu*, at the shadow of the cross. They believe the most extravagant stories. Rumors that could not live an hour if uttered of others are taken up with alacrity, and circulated with a relish, if the persons implicated live in a monastic house or frequent a Romish chapel. This class of persons have quite a literature of their own. Their fictions are all of Jesuit intrigues, of Popish gormones getting into Protestant families; of Popish butlers corrupting the housekeeper's room, and Jesuit footmen carrying the accused thing into the servant's hall. Their songs, hymns, tracts, fictions, travels, histories, essays, sermons, poems, and orations, are all aimed at the æsthetics of Rome—her convents, altars, candles, music, crosses, incense, and the like—far more than at the vitals of her system. These persons work upon a principle wholly different from the Church of England. The Thirty-nine Articles, in which they