

## FOREIGN.

**ARMIES OF EUROPE.**—Germany has 1,687,000 troops of all arms and classes, with a naval force of 13,000. The Austrian army including all reserves, number 800,000 men, with about 14,500 in the navy. Italy has 750,000 men in the army, and 10,000 sailors. Greece, 40,000 land forces; Turkey can muster 510,000 fighting men; Roumania, 58,000; Serbia, 117,000; and Montenegro, 23,000.

The news from Madras Presidency gives room for hope that the threatening famine will be averted rain having fallen in time to do some good. In Bombay the prospects are still gloomy, actual famine appearing probable in two or three districts, and great distress in four or five more.

The *Vossische Zeitung* says that Protestantism is at such a low ebb in Berlin that unless a church-rate is imposed next spring, the churches will be in a state of destitution. The salaries of the clergy-men do not more than suffice to keep their families from bare want. One parish containing 90,000 Protestants has but one church and a temporary chapel of boards for their accommodation, and is served by three ministers, with now and then some temporary assistance. While the Catholic Church, persecuted and robbed, continues vigorous in Germany, Protestantism is dying of inanition.

**A FRENCH PRISONER TURNED TRAPPIST.**—The heir of one of the best names in the French nobility, M. Charles de Courteilles, Marquis de Chaverville, has just entered the Monastery of La Trappe. He was among the combatants at Reichshausen. Wounded at Monsbrun, says *Galignani*, he continued to fight, fell from his horse, and was left for dead. He was about to be buried with his unfortunate companions when the Germans perceived that he was still living. Made prisoner, he escaped, returned to take service in the Army of the Loire, and at the combat of Baume-la-Rolande was again wounded and taken prisoner. On his return to France he heard of the death of his wife, who had fallen a victim to her devotedness in tending the wounded. His father was killed at the fight of Patay.

A grand solemnity was lately witnessed at the Trappist monastery of Igny, in France. The Most Rev. Archbishop of Rheims, four Bishops, ten mitred abbots and a great many of the secular clergy and regular clergy of the different Orders did honor to the occasion. The entire assembly, clergy and laity, numbered about 6,000 persons. The Rev. Abbot and founder of the Trappist monastery at Staouelli, Procurator-General of the Olierian Order at Rome, said High Mass, and an eloquent sermon was preached by the Vicar-General, Very Rev. F. Le Tourneur. After High Mass the new church of Igny was solemnly dedicated. At 3 P.M. the translation of the remains of Blessed Gueric, Abbot of La Trappe, d'Igny, who lived about 800 years ago, took place. The crystal shrine was carried by mitred abbots. A sermon by the Most Rev. Archbishop of Rheims terminated the ceremony.

**THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND THE BISHOP OF GRENADE.**—When the Spanish pilgrims were receiving audience of the Pope, the Spanish Ambassador to Victor Emmanuel was refused admission to the reserved place, not being one of the pilgrimage. He was chagrined, and has been looking for a shabby piece of revenge. The Archbishop of Granada was at Rome on the occasion and spent several days in the city; and the Ambassador has made formal complaint to the Spanish Government that his Grace had not called upon him. His rancour is partially attributed to the Quirinal, where intense displeasure was felt at the pilgrimage. At all events, an order has been issued from Madrid suspending the return of the Archbishop, who was at Genoa when he received the extraordinary and outrageous mandate. Truly one would suppose King Alfonso had nothing to fear when he provokes criticism by taking a step of this sort, though we know that his very throne is honeycombed with the treason of the revolution.

A Geneva correspondent of the *Liberte* says that in his canton, as in Jura, the police seem to have nothing to do but attend on the schismatic priests. In the parish of Collonges, two gendarmes actually live in the presbytery, as the civil authorities, while willing to give their services, declined to pay their lodgings. The pair of guardians economize their time very well by performing useful little offices. For instance, they go out at mid-day to show their services are not wanted, and while one rings the *Angelus* bell, the other carries home a pitcher of water from the well. It is evident from this fact that though they may cook and ring efficiently, they do not add much dignity to the State.

The Mayor of Pully-Certoux, canton of Geneva, was brought before the commissary of police, charged with having thrown down a tree through a collision with one of his carts. The tribunal was satisfied, by witnesses, that he was not culpable, and not only discharged him, but apologized. Subsequently he was hauled before a judge of the peace on the same charge, and fined 10 francs, though he recalled the acquittal already rendered and asked for his witnesses to be produced. Soon afterwards meeting the judge in a public company, the mayor reproached him. "If I had known your rank and condition, it would not have been," said the judge. "Justice should know no one; it exists for all the world alike," responded the mayor. This is how the law is administered over there.

Eighteen months ago it was given out throughout Europe that as many as 50,000 Unites of the district of Chelm, in Eastern Poland, had given in their submission to the Greek Schismatic Church, after their numbers had been decimated by slaughter, and whole villages destroyed by the torch of the ruthless Cossack. By this dastardly persecution it was thought that these people would be deterred from ever worshipping God according to the rites of the Catholic Church, and what do we find now? No sooner are the ruffians withdrawn from the district when the people return to the altars which induced them to forsake for a time. The *Globe* a Russian paper, complains that

"New-born children of former Unites are baptised according to Roman Catholic rites. The parents who commit acts of this kind, which are opposed to the voluntary re-union, justify them by an erroneous interpretation of this re-union. They fancy that it had only for its object to betoken their allegiance to the Russian throne and country, and maintain that they never thought of changing their faith."

According to the same print, parents who bring up their children as Catholics under such circumstances, make themselves liable to imprisonment ranging from eight to sixteen months, and to having their children taken from them and given into the care of "Orthodox" relatives. This is nothing more nor less than kidnapping on wholesale terms, and religious coercion of the worst description, at the very moment war is being declared on Turkey in the interests of religious liberty!

**RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA.—A FLEET ON THE CASPIAN.**—The India papers report that the Russians are organizing a flotilla of 50 ships on the Caspian of 500 tons burden, each fitted for the accommodation of 2,000 soldiers. These ships are under construction by a Glasgow firm, and two of them have already been set up. Again, the same Power is accumulating a very large number of trucks at Orenburg for the transport of troops by land, after the pattern of those used by the Prussians in the Franco-German war. Russia's recent conquests in Central Asia must be costly beyond all ordinary conception if only a part of this formidable machinery of repression is to be maintained on their account. But rumor on the spot credits her with ulterior designs against China, as part of a larger scheme of aggrandizement. It is also stated to be highly probable that a regular survey of the Bolar Pass will be undertaken. The *Pall Mall Gazette* is permitted to make the following extracts from a private letter from Teheran: "The statements are those of a trustworthy and well-informed man:—'X has just returned from a most interesting journey in the Khorassan. The Russians seem to be the actual masters of the province. All merchandise is Russian. They count by Russian weight and measure, and Russian money is better known than Persian. Russian agents in every town and so on. X has inquired very particularly about the late English expedition to the Atrek frontier, and it seems that the members, better known as British officers, have received false information everywhere. In several instances it is perfectly proved: If you see any of them you had better hint to them that they ought to be very prudent as to all which they have not seen themselves. I know, for instance, that their notions about the roads from the Caspian to Mashed are quite erroneous. It is very natural that the Russians have a great influence in that part of the country, especially since they sent home the prisoners from Khiva. The whole people consider the Russians as their benefactors, and as the most powerful nation in the world.'"

**RUSSIA'S DEMANDS.**—It is thoroughly believed in Constantinople that General Ignatieff has already formulated every proposal he intends to submit to the Conference, and he knows what he will obtain and how he will obtain it. There may be some exaggeration in this, but one of the rewards of success is that it makes further successes easier by overawing opposition beforehand. The particular objects attributed to the Russian ambassador are not, however, of a kind to excite a belief that they cannot be realized. It is said that what he will contend for is as much self-government as may insure the life and property of all citizens, and as much management of the public money by their representatives as shall, after the payment, allow of the employment of the remainder for the benefit of the province. The first of these objects is one which all parties in England have resolved to make their own. Liberal and Conservatives alike have declared in favour of such a measure of protection as shall prevent any repetition of the outrages on life and property which have shocked Europe. The second object proposed by General Ignatieff, or, at least, attributed to him, is a direct deduction from the first, although it must be observed that, in practice it may mean a great deal or next to nothing, according as the reserved tribute of the Porte is light or heavy. If this be so onerous that no further revenue could be made, the application of the surplus toward provincial objects would disappear. When General Ignatieff's demands are thus examined, they cannot be denounced at once as inadmissible for consideration, and they suggest the obvious reflection of the impolicy of allowing Russia to gain the exclusive credit of bringing about changes which other nations support and desire. The ambassador of the Czar has advantages enough without our adding to his reputation by letting the world falsely suppose that he is successful in obtaining reforms which we ineffectually try to resist.—*Times*.

**THE ANDRASSY NOTE.**—The subjoined are the most important passages of the text presented to the Ottoman Government at the beginning of 1876, and destined probably to supply the details of the "administrative autonomy" accepted in principle by the Powers for the reform of the Turkish Province:—I am now about to enumerate conditions which must be applied to the insurgent Provinces, in order to arrive at a well-founded hope of pacification. They are as follows:—Full and entire religious liberty; the abolition of the farming taxes; a law that shall guarantee that the produce of direct taxation in Bosnia and the Herzegovina shall be employed in the interest of the Province itself, under control of the organs constituted by the Firman of December 12; the institution of a special commission composed of equal numbers of Mussulmans and Christians to control the execution of the reforms proposed by the Powers, as well as those that were proclaimed in the Trade of October 2, and in the Firman of December 12; and, lastly, the amelioration of the agrarian situation of the rural populations. The first of these conditions could be and should be realised immediately by the Sublime Porte; the fifth, gradually and as soon as possible. If, independently of these conditions, which appear to us to be the most essential, Bosnia and the Herzegovina obtain the following reforms—namely, a provincial council and the courts freely elected by the inhabitants; the irremovability of the judges; laical justice, individual liberty, guarantees against ill-treatment, re-organization of the police, where proceedings have caused so much complaint; the cessation of abuses, to which give place arrangements for works of public utility, a fair reduction of the tax for exemption from military service, guarantees for the protection of property—if all those reforms are carried out in the insurgent provinces—which, to judge by the text of the Firman, do not appear to be destined to be benefited at present—we might hope to see peace return to these desolated countries.

**A PEACEFUL REVOLUTION.**—The ruler of Egypt, anxious to take a step in advance, and bring his country on something like a level with European States, long sought to abolish the network of awkward and embarrassing consular jurisdiction, and institute Egyptian Courts where foreigners might be sure of even-handed justice and fair play. The difficulty was to get the Great Powers to believe all this. The means adopted to secure their confidence and consent were simple but efficacious. The new "Egyptian Courts" were to be so little Egyptian that the adjective was virtually a misnomer. They were international, and the native element was kept under to an extent sufficient to ensure trustworthiness. For the sake of appearance, the nominal head of the judiciary is an Egyptian Pasha, but he is strictly forbidden to interfere. In a similar spirit, each of the lesser tribunals has a Pasha who is a mere automaton. In the Court of Appeal there are four Egyptians faced by seven foreigners—an Englishman, an American, a German, a Frenchman, an Italian, an Austrian, and a Russian—each named by his own Government and paid by the Khedive sixteen hundred pounds a year. The Austrian Judge is now the elected President of this Court. The Tribunal of First Instance in Alexandria has fourteen Judges—six natives and eight Europeans nominated by England, Austria, Russia, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Sweden, and Holland. The two other Courts are constituted on much the same principle, with some difference as to details. The re-opening of the other day of the Appeal Court at Alexandria in a fine audience chamber larger than any court at Westminster, with an Arabic inscription in letters of gold, "Justice is the foundation of Empires," is described by a correspondent, who says:—"The eight Judges—eight constitute a quorum—sit on massive oak chairs, in a semi-circle, on a raised dais each with a desk before him. They wear a costume specially designed for the new judges, consisting of broad green scarf, gold medal, red cap, and black Stamboulina coat. Of the seventy advocates who are admitted to practice before the Court some forty were present in their black gowns, white bands, and black square caps. Behind them came the Egyptian turbans, turbans, and Eastern robes relieving the black coats of the Europeans, and the whole scene was both imposing and picturesque."—"The grandest spectacle," said an old resident in the East, "I have ever witnessed in the Ottoman Empire, when one thinks what it means and what it promises for the future of Egypt."—*London Standard*.

The Russian Government clearly does not regard the chance of peace as particularly hopeful, even if they should consider peace desirable, since the preparations for war are being proceeded with even more actively than before the signing of the armistice. A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from St. Petersburg, says:—"Were England on the eve of war, or even of undertaking a military occupation of the public, thanks to the liberty of the Press, would know almost as much about the military preparations of the country as the War Office itself. Here, unfortunately, things are very different, and were it not for the few uninteresting scraps of news which the papers are allowed to publish with regard to military matters, we should all be in the dark as to what is going on in the Russian army and navy. In these circumstances a stranger in this capital finds it extremely hard to obtain information, and his only chance is to learn the language—no easy matter—and pick up what news he can in conversation with Russians. It is thus that I have learnt what little it is in my power to convey to you of the present warlike preparations of Russia. The press no longer makes any attempt to disguise the fact that these preparations are now being made on all hands. Large commands for army clothing are being executed by the Government contractors, and it is stated that in order to do the work as rapidly as possible a great many private tailors and shoemakers have been employed; 600,000 roubles have, I understand, been granted for the completion of the Odessa fortifications, under the superintendence of General Todleben. I am told that a large force of troops belonging to the Army of the Caucasus has been collected near the Turkish frontier of Asia Minor, and that the number of these troops are so great—I am informed it amounts to 40,000 men—that they can hardly be looked upon as a corps of observation, but rather as one of offence. General Loris Melnikoff, an officer well acquainted with that country, has been appointed to command this army, and is at present at Livadia. There can be no doubt that so large a force on the Armenian frontier, capable, as it is, of immediate reinforcement to any amount from the immense army now in the Caucasus, is a strong menace to Turkey. It looks as if, in the event of war, the Russian government had the intention of following the opinion expressed some years ago by General Fadayeff, of marching to Constantinople through Asia Minor. Such a movement would have a paralyzing effect upon Turkey, for all her best recruits are obtained from that country, and she would be unable to reinforce her European troops from her Asiatic possessions.

**THE CYCLONE IN BENGAL.**—A despatch to the *Times* from Calcutta says three large islands, namely, Hattiah, Sundep, and Deccan Shahabazepore, and numerous smaller islands included in the Backergunge, Neacolly, and Chittagong districts were entirely submerged by the storm wave of Oct. 31st, as was also the mainland for five or six miles inland. These islands are all situated in or near the estuary of the River Megna. The largest, Deccan Shahabazepore, was 800 square miles in extent. It had a population of about 240,000, Hattiah and Sundep together had about 100,000 population. Up to 11 o'clock on the night of the 31st there were no signs of danger, but before midnight a wave swept over the country to a depth in many places of thirty feet, surprising the people in their beds. Dense groves of coconut and palm trees around the villages enabled many to save themselves by climbing among the branches, and some took refuge on the roofs of their houses, but the water burst their houses asunder and swept them out to sea. Some were carried thus across the channel ten miles to the Chittagong district, but a vast majority were never heard of again. The country is perfectly flat, and almost every one perished who failed to reach the trees. There is scarcely a household in the island and on the adjacent coast but lost many members. The cattle are drowned, the boats are swept away, and means of communication with other districts are destroyed. There is much distress among the survivors, whom the Government is relieving. The Government *Gazette* says:—"Wherever the storm wave passed it is believed not a third of the population survived. The islands have barely one fourth of their former inhabitants. The stench from the putrefying bodies is insufferable, and a general outbreak of cholera is hourly expected." The *Times* correspondent says:—"This fear is happily not yet realized, except in Neacolly, where the disease has appeared. News as to the famine which threatened the districts of Madras is somewhat better. Rain has come in time to do some good. In Bombay the prospects are still gloomy. Actual famine in two or three districts seems probable, and great distress in four or five more."

The Eastern Question will for a time be debated in the council chamber instead of being fought on the battle-field. The first thing to be done now is to lay down the line of demarcation between the belligerents during the armistice, which is to last till Christmas. On this very question the doctors who are now holding their consultations at Constantinople are as much divided as doctors could possibly be. Turkey, as a matter of course, and England and Austria as well, hold that the two parties ought simply to remain in possession of the ground they held at the moment the armistice was concluded; but Russia, on the contrary, demands that the line of the 17th of Oct. should be fixed on, when neither Djinis, nor Alexianatz, nor Deligrad were in Turkish hands. A middle course will probably be taken, and then comes the real tug of war, for on the main question, viz., what ought to be done in Turkey and with Turkey, the opinions of all parties concerned are hopelessly at war with one another. In the meantime the Serbian Government are doing all they can to obliterate the disgrace of the recent defeats. They are entertaining General Tchernayeff and his two hundred Russian officers at Belgrade with a sumptuous hospitality that contrasts most glaringly with the wretched condition in which the country is plunged now, and General Tchernayeff on his part has given the Serbian militia a character for good conduct, although it is in evidence that on the day of the last battle they ran away as fast as their legs would carry them.—*London Universe*.

**VERSAILLES, NOV. 24.**—The Senate to day, after several ballots, elected M. Chesnelong, Legitimist and M. Renavard, of the Left, Senators for life. In the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon the estimates for public worship were considered, and gave rise to an excited debate. Prince Napoleon, speaking for the first time since his election, denounced the dangerous encroachments of the clergy, who had exercised disastrous influence in recent French history, notably in 1870. He supported the proposition for the reduction of the estimates for public worship. The Clericalist deputies protested against the speech, which was couched in violent terms. M. Keller, Legitimist, declared that the Empire was accountable for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine, and recrimination ensued between the Clericalists and Bonapartists. Gambetta, intervening, referred to the decree abolishing the Empire. Baron de Lambert, a zealous Bonapartist, thereupon suddenly arose and shouted, "Vive l'Empereur." An indescribable uproar ensued. When order had been restored, M. de Lambert was formally censured. Another scene followed in consequence of Gambetta's reference to the "fanaticism of a Spanish woman who was made Empress." The members of the party of the Left opposed the Ministerial Bill offered in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday providing that at the funeral of members of the Legion of Honour, military honours shall only be rendered to military members dying in active service. The

*Republique Francaise* publishes an article to-day condemning influences which surround President MacMahon, and, which, it says tend to restrain the Cabinet's liberty of action.

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