VOL. XXVIII.-MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1877.

\$2 per annum TERMR .-

THE CZAR AND THE POLES.

Poland is still uneasy. The Catholics of that country cannot easily forget the terrors through which they have passed since they became a Russian province. The Standard

From Warsaw we have the news that the Government apprehends insurrectionary movements in Russian Polland since the withdrawal of the troops. The Czer has, therefore, prepared a proclamation. addressed to the Polish Nation nominally, but really to the Polish peasants, who are reminded that, being freed from serfdom by Russia, it devolves spon them to preserve order in case any disturbances are made by the nobility or the towns. The peasants are enjoined to form themselves into bodies of special constables, and to watch the houses of the nobility or the towns. They are empowered to make domiciliary visits, to arrest "suspects," and to prevent meetings. This pro-clamation is already in the hands of the local clamation is already in the mands of the local authorities, and will be formally proclaimed on the first sign of any insurrectionary movement.

MEHEMET ALI'S NARROW ESCAPE.

A French correspondent in the Turkish camp relates that, shortly before the recent battle in the neighborhood of Karahasan, the commander-in-chief of the Turkish army and and his staff very narrowly escaped being taken prisoners. He says :-

Starting from Rasgrade, Mehemet Ali advanced in the direction of Karahasan, a small village on the right bank of the river Lom, and at that time occupied by the Russians. On turning a sharp bend in the road the lances of a strong patrol of Cossacks were suddenly seen, almost in front of the general and his staff. The leader of the hostile party was apparently aware of the presence of the Turkish commander in-chief in the group advancing, for he at once launched his men against it. calling out to them not to kill any one and on no account to fire. Flight alone could save the small band of Turkish officers. A headlong chase ensued. Mehemet Ali himself and the majority of his staff, being better mounted than their pursuers, succeeded in escaping; but a colonel, two captains. and a lieutenant accompanying the commander-inshief were overtaken and captured.

OSMAN PASHA A CANADIAN.

A contemporary complains that every country has produced great men, but that it is now Canada's turn to bring out a hero. It has found out that Osman Pasha is a Canadian.

It is true he was born in the US, but to Canada, the land of his adoption, are 'to be credited his name and fame, Osman's real name is Anson Green Phelps Dodge, who was M.P., for North York during 72 73, and who was last seen in our House of Commons, whither he repaired from New York, in November, '73, to vote for the Pacific Scandal hero. He was not afterwards heard of for a couple of years. when it was discovered by a Canadian traveller in Tarkey that, overwhelmed with grief at Sir John's defeat, he entered the Turkish army in order to get distraction from his despondent woes. He was promoted rapidly owing to the Sultan having learned that he silenced Canon Ramsay in Canada and was prepared to laugh at the Russian big guns. As soon as he takes St. Petersburg, it is said to be his intention of returning to North York where he will again run a saw mill. This is the true story of Osman Pasha — Tiser.

HIGH BLANTYRE.

The details, received by the last English mail of the High Blantine explosion, are more dreadful than the bald telegraphic statement. The London Times, referring fo the scenes in the village, says :---

The most heartrending scenes were witnessed in the neighbourhood of both pits and along the row of houses situated 100 yards from No. 2 pit, for it was near these luidings that the dead bodies recovered from the pit were conveyed. There women with children in their arms, and with swollen eyes, hurrying frantically about, asking the latest news from the exploring parties. As one body after another was taken to the joiners' there was a rush of the relatives of the men, and an eagar scanning of the bodies to see whether they were those of their beloved ones. Daughters and sisters, too, of the unfortunate miners went about wringing their hands and exclaiming that they would never see their lathers or brothers more. Little children who were too young to know the loss they had sustained, gazed into the faces of their mothers or sisters, and house to console the bereaved families, but they could hold out little hope that the poor women would ever see their husbands. Indeed such a stens of domestic sorrow and despairing grief has not been witnessed in Scotland for centuries, and no disaster equal in its destructiveness to human

native opponents, in conjunction with an English force. A British officer, whose name has not transpired, was, however, killed, and six English soldiers were wounded. The latter of the two actions took place at the British camp at Ibeka, which was defended by artillery and rockets, when these weapons of civilized warfare did, we are told, "good work" upon the enemy. It was not ex-pected, however, that these repulses would finish the war. Both the British and the loyal natives were making serious preparations to encounter a third, which it was hoped would be a final, attack from Krell, and his forces. A force of regulars, several hundred strong, was being despatched by sea, in successive detachments, to the scene of conflict, and the Governor himself, Sir Bartle Frere, accompanied by General Sir A. Conynghame, the commander of her Majesty's forces in South Africa, had advanced to King William's Town, in British Kaffaria, so as to be in convenient proximity to the disturbed district. The news of this outbreak will be received with regret by those who have indulged in philanthropic visions of the early establishment of kindly relations and civilizing influences. For the present there is strife and bloodshed, and although strong hopes are entertained that the war may be localized, there is at least a risk of its spreading amongst the neighboring tribes.

THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.

A writer in Sunday at Home gives the fol. lowing interesting sketch of the Russian soldiers. There have been so many:-

As I had known the Russian army before the Crimean War, I was greatly struck with the improvements that have taken place in the appearance of the troops. Since 1874 substitution has been abolished, and all ranks must now give personal service. In Russia it is not necessary that the whole of the young men should serve, as is the case in Prussia, for then the army would be enormous Last year the number of recruits required was 180-000, and the period of active service is six years The great majority of the soldiers are able to read. It is pleasing to find, not only in Kischineff and Bessarabia, where the soldiers had spent the winter but also in Roumania, where the national feeling is very strongly opposed to the Russian, that the unanimous testimony of friend and foe was that the Russian soldiers have behaved exceedingly well; there was very little drunkenness and plundering but they paid well for all they required. Some of their bitterest enemies said, "Well, that is true; we cannot say anything against them." Those who have been in the German-French War testified that the conduct of the Russian soldiers compared very favorably with the highly educated German soldiers in France. Even the Turks acknowledged at times that there was a great contrast between the Russian soldiers and their own in favor of the former.

FRANCE.

Affairs in France are attracting much attention of late. The elections have not been in favour of MacMahon. The London Universe

"The parliamentary elections in France have so far gone in favour of the Radicals, but the majority of votes they will command in the new house is by no means equalled in proportion by the majority of votes cast by the constituencies. Apart from the sixteen seats that remain yet to be filled, and of which ten are sure to fall to the share of Monarch ists, the Radicals have secured about 320 and the Conservatives 200, being in the proportion of sixteen Radicals to ten Conservatives. Not so in the country. At the elections of Oct. 14 4,270,000 vote. were cast in favour of Radicals, 1,850,000 in favour of Bonapartists, and 1,720,000 went for all other Monarchiets; so that the parties opposed to the Radicals polled altogether 3,570,000 votes, which gives the Radicals only a majority of 700,000 votes, or makes a proportion of twelve Radicals to ten Conservatives, that is to say, twenty-five per cent. less than in the number of seats. For this reason it is not to be wondered at that Marshal MacMahon should not take the result of the last elections as definite, but rather wait for those of October 28, which are sure to strengthen the Conservative vote. Some change will of necessity have to take place, but the enemies of Marshal MacMahon are greatly mistaken if they think that they are going to have it all their own way.

DECLINE OF ENGLISH TRADE.

The World of London takes a gloomy view of the present position of English trade. It

"An English ironmaster had occasion to build a mill, for which several hundred tons of iron were required. He ascertained, on getting an estimate from Belgium, that he could buy the iron there at £4 per ton less than it would cost him to make it in his own works. He naturally went to Belgium for it." And the following fact is quoted from the at the great crowd, with feelings of wonder at the article on "Carriages and Roads" in the last numcommotion around them. The Rev. Mr. Wright, ber of the Quarterly Review:—"It was only the parish minister of Blantyre, and the Catholic other day that the member of a New York firm Clergyman of the district, went from house to passed through London on his way to centinental ber of the Quarterly Review:-"It was only the cities. He had already visited India, China, Japan, and Australia with his patterns for materials which enter into the construction of carriagessuch as spokes, hubs, bolts, leathers, &c.; so that we have in competition with us not only the New York carriage-builder, but the manufacturer of

mistaken for the mere addition of garish and expensive metals, let us add, in all fairness to the American, that the principle of these mountings involved the manufacture of the neatest as well as the most durable harness, for the metallic parts, that we have yet seen, inasmuch as all metal was covered by a durable rubber coating, and neatness and solidity were obtained far beyond anything yet presented in this kingdom of good harness-work."

SWISS PERSECUTION.

Switzerland continues to rival Prussia in persecuting the priests and Catholic people who live within its border. The Catholic Times says that :--

Each week we are enabled to bring forward some fresh case of injustice, and our belief is that the list will terminate only when persecution ceases to have any more work to do. The latest instance of direct repression comes from the cauton of Argan. By a new regulation no Catholic priest can hold an ecclesiastical office until he has passed an examination before a committee appointed by the civil power. Here is the composition of the committee in question :- M. Keller, chief of the Old Catholics ; M. Schroter, schismatic priest of Rheinfelden; M. Fischer, schismatic priest of Aaran; M. Kellers-berger, schismatic advocate of Lasfen Burg; and M. Muller, Catholic priest of Wittnau. Four schismatics and an othodox priest. But why Father Muller? Que vient ill faire dans cette galere? His presence wants explaining, if he were a consenting party, which we take leave to doubt. The virtual result of the regulation will be the exclusion of the priests altogether. Think of a cure submitting to a catechism at the bands of four persons who have seceded from the faith, and propound nothing in particular. Think of a cure going through any such form at all. The authorities knew, in devising this scheme, that they were a stling the question to their own satisfaction, but they could have done the thing as well by a simple order of total prohibition. No one can be deceived in an arrangement so flagrantly objectionable to those at whom it is aimed, and the Catholics of the canton will readily understand the position their rulers intend them to hold in the future.

A COMPARISON.

One of the contemporaries of the London Times writing from the seat of war draws a comparison between Plevna and Richmond:-

Now will be the time to see whether, in addition to the dash he showed beyond the Balkans, General Gourko really understands the use of a large mass of rifle-armed cavalry, such as was practised so successfully in the late American war. The situation in a few weeks, or it may be days, will be precisely that in which Sheridan ("Fighting Phil") won such renown before Richmond and Petersburgh in the first week of April 1866, and which, as the final blow, broke up the Confederacy and forced General Lee—a somewhat greater man than Osmau, I think—to surrender at Appomattox Court House on the 9th of that month. I have not my references by me, but, as I once wrote au account of that brief but successful burst, I think I am right in saying that Sheridan had not more than eighteen regiments, or about 10,000 similar mounted infantry with bim. General Gourko's twenty-four regiments must number, at least, 13,000, if not more, for most of them are of full strength, as regards both horses and men. In other respects, too, the position is almost identical. We find an army entrenched over a considerable circle -say about 65,000 men, I do not think Osman has more-retained by another army, also entrenched, of course, on a better circle, of about 150,000 men, including the cavalry and artillery. Again the similarity increases in each case. Now, as before Richmond, the right is the strong point of attack. In each case there are two lines of retreat open or partially open-one to the north, and one to the north-west-and in each there is the mass of good rifle cavalry, able, if they know how, either to stop the gap when the moment for flight comes or to turn retreat into a forced surrender.

MILITARY ACTIVITY AT CONSTAN-TINOPLE,

According to a correspondent of the New York Tribune, the Turks work with great secrecy. He says:-

The Government is preparing for a winter campaign. It does not intend its armies to lie idle untill spring, if delay can be avoided. I am satisfied that every means is being used to put great rein-forcements into the field, and to preserve the greatest secrecy in regard to it. Commonly the movement of troops occurs by night. Trains depart hour after hour when the city is asleep. Steamers appear in the harbour loaded with troops, and lie moored all day without sign of movement, and the next morning they have mysteriously disappeared The troops which come are of all degrees of efficiency. Many of the soldiers seem to have been selected without reference to the time-honoured tests of strength and stature. No Turkish child is allowed to know precisely his birth-day, fearing that astrologers might make bad use of the know-ledge Hence the military officers determine for themselves. They measure the youth's neck with a string. If the circumference is more than the length of the face, he is deemed old enough for the army. If, however, the circumference of the neck is less. If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has ever occured in this part of the empire.

If has a counter of the empire.

If has no desired to out the more of this part of the occure of the occured in the occured in the occu than the length of the face, the boy is considered to

THE COST OF THE COMMUNE.

While Frenchmen were butchering each other to make a German holiday, there was at the moment, little thought of the pecuniary loss it would be to the nation. The expense of that mad outbreak may be interesting just now when Radicalism appears to be coming to the front again. A contemporary reminds us

During the period of its existence as a power, it expended 52,000,000 francs of public money, besides inflicting a loss on business to the extent of four times that sum. The Hotel de Ville suffered damage amounting to 35,000,000 francs, the Tuilleries to 35,000,000 fmncs, the Ministry of Finance to 15,000,000 francs, and the Council of State to 11,000,000 francs. Fire was the cause of injury to the buildings, and the flames spread to private residences, till 79,000,000 francs worth of this property was destroyed. Wanton wrecking and shell fire entailed damage to houses valued at 34,000,000 francs. The theatres cost 7,000,000 francs to restore, the railways 10,000,000 francs, the churches 1,000,000 francs, the streets 2,500,000 francs, the surrounding villages 70,000,000 francs, and the barracks 1,000,000 francs. The war undertaken for the reduction of the Commune swallowed up 200,000,000 francs. We have omitted a great many items based on estimated injuries to public buildings in all parts of the city, and public monuments defaced or destroyed through the mania for ruin which prevalled during the second and more deplorable slege of the city. Altogether, the bill foots up to the enormovs total of 807,500,000 francs, or about £33,000,000. Paris still cherishes the memorics of that fatal time, and honours the deeds of the flends who wrought so much mischief and crime. The provincial cities are deeply suffused with Parisian political sentiment. What a prospect for France if the President should give way or be dethroned.

IF RUSSIA WINS.

The London World thinks that Russia will not look for European annexation in the event of her succeeding in the war, but that she will recompense herself by taking Turkey in Asia. It asks:---

"And if Russia is victorious in the contest, if in succeeds in forcing the Porte to make terms, what will she demand in return for her sacrifices in the war? It is not evident that the longer the war lasts, the heavier the lossess it entails upon the nation, the greater will be the demands for com-pensation? Most certainly whatever Russia means to gain by this war, that and more she will demand if the struggle be protracted. On the day on which war was declared, we wrote thus in these columns in an article called 'A Forecast: —' We go back to first principles. It is impossible that Austria can allow Russia to hold the Danube. It is certain that England will not allow her to take Constantinople. Any forecast of events must take as its basis these two facts:—Austria's vital interests are at stake on the Danube; our imperial existence is at stake at Constantinople. • • • In Europe, Russia can gain no reward for her costly preparations, for the losses in blood and money that war will yet entail. It is in Asia that she will seek this. It is in the rich provinces of Armenia that she will find some compensation : and when once she has crossed the frontier, she will make no peace till she has taken not only Kars, but Erzeroum, not only Batoum, but Trebizond: till she has thus secured for herself the outlets of the Persian trade, and sesports upon the eastern coast of the Black Sea; till the valley of the Euphrates is in her hands, and that route to India for ever shut to England, her jealous foe.' All this Russia will still demand in her day of victory; but she will demand even more. She will claim for herself the right of passage of her war-ships through the Bosphorus. She will claim, in fact, that which will convert the Black Sea into a Russian lake, the Bosphorus into a Russian canal, Constantinople into a Russian city. At least one fact has been made plain by the events of this summer, that for the protection of English interests we must look to ourselves alone; that neither Austria nor Italy nor Germany will stir a finger to help us to retain supemacy in the Mediterranean."

COLLAPSE OF THE COSSACKS.

According to some of the correspondents at the seat of the war the Cossack has been a failure. Writing from Bucharest special correspondent of the Standard says:

Months ago I described the war as a Cossack war. Cossacks were everywhere and doing everywhere and doing everything. They swept the country like locusts; they raised batteries at Turnu Magurelli, and defended the intrenchments. The Cossack was the hero of all-who served with that handlest, coolest, and most independent of soldiers took all

ly on his own horse, with his own saddle or sword. When the service to be performed is the scouring of an enemy's country—or, for that matter of a friend's—he will do it with intelligence and conscience. The irregular, as I have pointed out, is now educated beyond the point at which his fore-fathers stood—at which his fellows still remain. He does not love war or hate the enemy; and so all his thoughts concentrate upon the risk to "property," and he shrinks. He will not push a reconnaissance home, nor engage the fee in the face if he can help it. Another essential part of the system tends to lessen his fighting value. It is barely just that a man who risks his own horse and equipments in battle should have a right to take those of the enemy. This is recognized, and the Cossack may seize anything of that sort which falls in his way.

THE PROSPECT FOR TURKEY.

The Constantinople correspondent of the Daily News sends the following remarkable letter to that paper:-

It is not merely that the Christians of the capital Greeks, Armenians, and Bulgarians alike, have no stomach for the war; that was to be expected; nor is it only that the stoppage of commerce with Russia has put an end to the Black Sea trade, upon which a considerable portion of the population of the capital lives; that the increased taxes upon an impoverished people have brought thousands to the verge of starvation; that the large mass of Government officials-most of whom are Turkshave been unpaid for months, and have had all of them to submit to very large reductions in their salaries; that the issue of caisme, or paper money, has reduced the earnings of boatmen, porters, and day labourers generally to nearly half what it was before the war; and that native merchants as well as foreigners can get po money out of the Government for goods which they have supplied. One of the most thoughtful among the Turks said a few days ago —"We know that Europe will never al-low us to increase our territory, no matter what our success. Servia, Roumania, Montenegro, and Greece can never again be added to Turkey, be our success what it may. The struggle, too, is between us and the rest of the inhabitants of the Empire. We have to supply all the fighting men, and the thousands who have already been killed are a terrible drain on the fighting population of the Empire. Let me say also, in passing, as I have often said be-fore, that none of the inhabitants of European Turkey with to call Russia Master. The argument the course of one or even two more campaigns, she I have often used from the analogy of the hatred of Greece towards Russia is sound—that if the Christians of the Empire were decently governed or better still governed themselves, they would be hostile to Russia too, If the war is to be conducted through one, or two, or three more campaigns, such as that which is now drawing to a close, while the drain of men upon Russia will be terrible it will be proportionately very much greater upon the Turks. Russia bankrupt, will even then only be in the condition in which Turkey has been for the last two years. Unless, therefore, Europe interferes the endurance of Russia is likely to be far greater than that of Turkey, and the terms which will be exacted by her heavier than those which she would have required had the war finished this autumn.

WILY THE TURKS ADOPTED THE SIGN OF THE CRESCENT.

It is usual, among recent writers, to name 'The Cross" and "Crescent" to distinguish the respective creeds in the present Turko-Russian war. In fact, these several symbols plainly mark the Christian and the Ottoman faiths. The question when and why the Ottomans adopted the Crescent has been much discussed before now:-

It was alleged that Mahommed broke the disc of of the moon and caught half of it falling from heaven in his sleeve—this is stated in the Koran and seems to indicate that Mahommed made the young moon a sign of his divine authority. The crescent or half moon, with the horns turned upwards, was a religious symbol however long before the Turkish Empire began. It was reported that Sultan Othman, founder of the empire, A.D. 1299. dreamed that he saw a crescent moon waxed until its splendoor illuminated the whole world from east to west; that he adopted the crescent and emblazoned it on his standard, with the motto, Donce Repleat Orbem, or "Until it fills the world." Fit the orescent moon had been a symbol well known to the worshippers of Diana in the ancient mythology of Greece and Rome. There are old statues of her with the up-pointed crescent

over her brow.

Another account is that Philip of Macedon,
Father of Alexander the great, was engaged one
dark day in indermining the walls of Byzantium which he was besieging, and his operations were discovered by those within in a sudden appearance of a young moon, and that in gratitude for this timely light the Byzantines commemorated the coolest, and most independent of soldiers took all good qualities for granted on observing so much to approve. But after a time come whispers from the front that our Cossacks are not everything desirable; then that they are partly humbugs and partly knaves. The Razans and the Rubans still keep partly knaves. The Razans and the Rubans still keep their ancient reputation; the Owrals are useful though degenerate; but of the Dons the immense majority are declared to have fallen out of a knowledge.

Our idea of the lamous irregular is quite inexact. Whatever he may have been in former times the Don Cossack is now tho wealthiest and most civillage is the only one attended regularly throughpreviously resented Lord Nelson with a crescent of previously resented Lord Nelson with a crescent of previously resented Lord Nelson with a crescent of previously resented Lord Nelson with a crescent of the superior times the lamous irregular is quite inexact. The school in his civillage is the only one attended regularly through-