

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE FRENCH EMPEROR.—The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Herald*, writing on Sunday evening, May 6, gives the following particulars of the recent attempt to assassinate Napoleon III.:

His Majesty was riding up the Champs Elysees last evening, at a slow walking pace, close to the foot pavement, when a well-dressed man advanced and fired two pistol shots in succession, and was about to discharge a third, when a police agent, happily standing near, stabbed the miscreant in the side, which made him drop the pistol. One of the balls is said to have passed close to his Majesty's head. The Emperor displayed the most perfect self-possession, taking off his hat in acknowledgment of the thrilling cheers with which a crowd, assembled as if by magic, testified their joy at his escape. His Majesty continued his ride at the same walking pace, and proceeded to join the Empress, who was at the moment taking an airing in the Bois de Boulogne. The assassin was conducted at once to the guardhouse at the Barriere de l'Etoile, only a few yards from the spot where the attempt was made. He, without hesitation, gave his name Liverandi, a Roman, declaring that since the suppression of the Roman republic by French bayonets, he in common with others, harbored the design of killing the Emperor. On his person were found 100*l.* in gold pieces, and he exhibited no appearance of want. It is more than suspected that his accomplices, if not himself, were watching the Emperor while in London; and while all voices are heard offering thanks to Heaven that the wretch is not a Frenchman, Englishmen will rejoice that their soil had not been stained by a like attempt.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on Monday evening, May 7th, says:—

"The real name of the assassin is not Liverani, but Pianori. He had produced a passport in a false name. Pianori is suspected of being the agent of influential parties in England; and he is known to be a disciple of the amiable Signor Gavazzi, having formally renounced Catholicism, and declaimed at Evangelical meetings in Exeter Hall. He is to be tried as an ordinary criminal in the courts of France."

The Emperor made the following remarkable reply to the congratulations presented by the Senate:—"I thank the Senate for the sentiments it has just expressed to me. I fear nothing from the attempts of assassins; there are existences which are the instruments of the decrees of Providence. As long as I shall not have fulfilled my mission I run no danger."

PARIS, MAY 8.—The *Constitutionnel* to-day contains the important announcement that the military convention between France and Austria had been signed; it is stated in well-informed quarters that the fact will be officially made known by to-morrow's *Moniteur*, and in that case Austria will probably take the field earlier than was expected—i.e., about the beginning of June.

The probability of General Canrobert being recalled and taking the office of Minister of War was currently reported in Paris on Wednesday, May 9. In London, a singular rumor prevails concerning the recall of Lord Raglan.

A decree in the *Moniteur* adjourns the opening of the Universal Exhibition from the 1st to the 15th of May.

Queen Victoria's visit to Paris this year will take place, it is said, on St. Napoleon's day—the 15th of August. Superb fetes are in contemplation. *Galignani* says—"The Empress has benefitted considerably in health by her recent visit to England."

GERMANY.

The *Daily News* of Thursday, May 10, says:—"We have advices from Vienna of yesterday by telegraph of propositions of a mediatory nature, which Austria has made with the support of Prussia, and which the belligerent powers, it is said, are expected to embrace. According to this plan Russia would be entitled to restore her Black Sea fleet to its former strength. Each of the allies to maintain half as many ships there as Russia."

An imperial decree is expected, calling out 80,000 men. This has already been talked of. An ordinance has been made public, recalling to their colors all soldiers absent on furlough.

The account given in some German papers of the signature of a military convention between Austria and the Allies had not been confirmed.

"A Caledonian Celt," resident of late in Prussia, assures us (*Nation*) that within the last few months a feeling of almost absolute hostility to England has gradually developed itself in that region. The paramount reason of antipathy is alleged to be, the fact that England, being a Protestant Power, instead of uniting herself with the neutral policy of Prussia and Protestant Germany, has been cultivating an unnatural and irreligious alliance with Catholic France and Catholic Austria.

ITALY.

CHURCH ROBBERY IN PIEMONTE.—Circumstances, indeed, but too well known, in the personal conduct of the King have alienated him from the Church and the Clergy; yet a man who yields to temptations which deprive him of the blessings which the Church dispenses, is not always willing to load himself with the gift of sacrilege; and the domestic afflictions which have lately been accumulated on the Royal house of Savoy might well stagger him. It is well known that the Queen Mother was deeply wounded at the assault committed, in the name of her son, upon the Religious Orders. Two convents, towards which she entertained an especial devotion, were seized by the Government, upon frivolous pretences, almost immediately before her last sudden illness; and

she is said to have spoken upon this subject to her son with deep emotion a little before her death. The sudden death of his Queen immediately followed; then that of his brother, the Duke of Genoa. It is not surprising if such repeated strokes made the King hesitate to proceed with the part of a Henry VIII. **ROME.**—The 21st Regiment left Rome on the 11th March for Civita Vecchia, where the vessels which were to transport them to the Crimea were waiting. We learn by subsequent accounts that this and the 14th Regiment, after having been desired to hold themselves in readiness to depart, remained for several weeks stationary, all the preparations for departure being suspended. The same thing occurred with several other detachments.

If these counter-orders are confirmed, it would seem that the reduction of the army of Italy to 3,500 men, agreed upon between the Pontifical Government and France, is postponed for the present. The uncertainty in which our soldiers are, and the prospect of sooner or later being sent to share the labors of the campaign in the Crimea and the dangers of the war, have produced a salutary impression on their spiritual state. As soon as the 21st received the order to depart, a great anxiety was expressed to have recourse to the Sacraments, not only amongst common soldiers, but also by many of the officers. During the two or three days preceding their departure confessors could hardly be found to suffice for their wants. Every one was desirous of putting his conscience in order before he embarked.

SPAIN.

MADRID, APRIL 24.—At the Cortes to-day the report on the bill brought forward by the government relative to the creation of Protestant cemeteries was presented and read. It is favorable to the measure. The Minister of Finance has stated in the Cortes that the government had not received any protest from the Pope against the sale of the property belonging to the clergy.

Political affairs grow from bad to worse. The telegraph informs us that the project of a law has been presented by the Minister of the Interior, to prevent the national militia from interfering, as an armed force, in politics. This project, or rather discussion, has produced a violent agitation, and by the last despatches there seem to have been several attempts at insurrection. In the sitting of 4th April, the Congress rejected, by 168 voices against 50, a private vote of M. Vargas Alcade opposed to the plan of the Government. On Thursday the sitting was suspended; the deputies fearing a hostile manifestation amidst the four or five thousand persons surrounding the place of the Cortes, deserted their chamber.

Commerce is more and more depressed; persons of fortune leave the capital, which is likely to become a dangerous residence, and misery increases. There is nothing new from the provinces, only constant complaints of great distress.—*Univers.*

TURKEY.

THE SULTAN, AND THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.—The *Annales du Bien* relates the following trait, transmitted by the Sisters of St. Vincent at Constantinople to the Sisters of their Congregation at Paris:

"A Mussulman of the lower class had been condemned to death for a crime which to us would seem of little importance, but which the summary justice of Turkey visits with capital punishment. The unfortunate man was the father of eight children. The Sisters heard of his sentence. 'This man must not perish; he must be saved; we must save him,' cried they with one accord. But how? A direct application to the Sultan seemed the shortest and surest way. 'We must ask an audience,' said they; 'there is nothing else to be done;' and two Sisters went straight to the palace, where their presence might well be considered somewhat strange. The request for admission met with various difficulties, over which their perseverance at last triumphed. The Sisters were ushered into the presence of the Sultan, whom they found smoking after the Turkish fashion.

"Abdul Medjid is a man of elevated mind and graceful and dignified bearing. He received the Religious graciously; they explained their petition, to which he listened with an affable and kindly smile.

"I grant the petition," said he; "can I refuse anything to the sacred zeal which inspires such conduct? That religion, holy ladies, is beautiful which gives birth to devotion like yours. You make me love and bless your generous France. Be pleased to follow that officer; he will take you to the prison. You shall have the pleasure of delivering your protégé with your own hands, and restoring him to his family." And as they retired in deep emotion, trying to thank him, he added: "Do not forget the way to this palace. Whenever you have anything to ask of me, fear not to come; the doors shall be always open to you as the *Angels of Mercy*."

THE LATEST ACQUISITION OF RUSSIA.

A late number of "Tait's Magazine," under this heading devotes an interesting article to the successful perseverance with which Russia has sought to obtain possession of the river Amoor, in Asia, and its tributary waters. We abridge from it the following leading facts:—

"A chain of posts have been gradually established on the islands, formerly belonging to Japan, which divide the Sea of Okotsk from the ocean. The harbor at the mouth of the Amoor or Sagalin River is already being fortified, and threatens to equal in strength either Cronstadt or Sebastopol, with incalculable superiority in position, soil, and climate, over each of those strongholds. A river, the name of which is scarcely ever heard in Europe is already navigated by steamboats, and fortifications are springing up at various points upon its banks, under a flag which is neither that of China nor Japan, while ships of war are gradually assembling in a noble harbor at its mouth, to which European geographers have not even vouchsafed a name!

"We have been accustomed to smile with pity and contempt at the costly but apparently useless and insignificant settlements of Russia in Kamtschatka and North America, and to most of us it had never occurred that by a single step in advance, taken at an opportune moment, these distant and puny possessions would be converted into a source of enormous strength to Russia, and of incalculable danger to England first, and afterwards to the United States. The reception of the English and French squadrons at Petropaulovski may serve to convince us that these settlements have been brought within easy reach of the arsenals of Russia, and may also suggest to us the difficulties to be encountered at the mouth of the Amoor, where, in addition to the fortifications, we shall find ships of war from the Baltic, which have been repaired and strengthened in the English dockyards, and large and well armed steamers built for Russia in the harbors of the United States.

"The time has at length arrived when the great States of Europe and America must either cripple the strength and annihilate the fleets of Russia, or suffer her to become a first-rate power on the ocean as well as on the continent; for her ships in the Sea of Okotsk are shut in by no portals which can be closed at the will of a hostile neighbor, and she has there a position which will secure for her the lion's share in any future spoliation of the Chinese and Japanese Empires, and will enable her to threaten not only the commerce of the East, but also the Indian and Australian possessions of Great Britain.

"It is evident that the present great rebellion in China owes much of its importance and success to some foreign agency, but it is not yet certain whether that agency is Russian or American, or both combined. One thing however is clear, namely—that Russia is the only power which has yet known how to profit by it; for since its commencement she has obtained, from the embarrassment of the Court of Peking, a treaty yielding to her the navigation of the Amoor, and she has already converted that permission into absolute possession of the whole course of the river and an enormous tract of country, above 1,000 miles in length and in some parts as much as 500 in breadth. But, in addition to the mere extension of territory, she has acquired the exclusive ownership of the Yablounoi Mountains, from which her subjects have already procured large quantities of gold and silver by the rudest methods, and which are said to surpass in mineral wealth anything that has yet been discovered in California or Australia. And, what is to her of far greater importance, she has gained access to the Pacific Ocean in a temperate climate.

"The Amoor, which has a course of 2,240 miles, is formed by the junction of two rivers, one of which rises in Mongolia and the other has its source in the Siberian province of Irkutsk, at no great distance from the Lake of Baikal, the waters of which flow by the Yenisei, into the Frozen Ocean. The most important of its tributaries in the Songari, which rises in the mountains to the north Corea and is almost as noble a river as itself. Cannon and stores are already carried down the Amoor by steamboats, and sent from its mouth to the Russian possession in America; and it may, at no distant day, be one of the great channels of European and Asiatic commerce, for the water communication between the Baltic and the Caspian has long been complete, and, according to Cottrelle, only 400 versis, or 260 miles of additional canal, will be required to connect the Pacific with the Caspian.

"It is a marvel even in the history of Russian diplomacy and Russian success, that at a moment when she is an object of jealousy and a cause of alarm to every European and Asiatic people, and is actually at war with three great empires, she should have been able to secure such an acquisition as the Amoor, and at the same time so nearly to complete a gigantic system of inland communication, 8000 miles in length, without more than a vague rumor of her design having reached the enlightened and farseeing nations of the West. Should they suffer her to consolidate this her latest conquest, they will soon discover that the course of commerce has been changed, the balance of power altered, and that the giant, whom they vainly imagined to be still fettered by the Sound and the Bosphorus, has shaken off his chains, and can defy with impunity the natives of England, France and the United States."

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN THE BRITISH ARMY.—The walls of our towns are thickly and repeatedly plastered with flaunting placards, eloquently inviting the natives of Ireland to enter the army of England. Now, the men thus addressed are, for the most part, Catholics; and how can they be expected to enter the British army when the swarming Catholics already in her Majesty's service, bearing arms at Sebastopol, have but one Catholic Chaplain among them all? When the terrible ball whisks off a precious limb, and hurls the Catholic warrior, writhing, howling, and weltering on the ground which he immediately crisscrosses with floods of gore, in that moment of agony and horror what satanic malevolence, what heathenish barbarity is it not to deprive this pale and tortured soldier of the religious consolation which the soothing accents of a Priest alone can impart? The condition of this mutilated sufferer is enough to wring tears from the blackest tyrant in Pagant Africa, but the stony-hearted bigotry of that Britain for which he perishes has no compassion for him—it sternly withholds the spiritual solace for which in his dying hour he longs and yearns with unspeakable anxiety. We have heard a great deal of the "cruelty of Nicholas;" but is Russian cruelty worse than this? This cruelty, this barbarity, explains the necessity of a foreign legion. It is this cruelty which causes our sergeant Kites to break American laws, in the vain hope of crippling the fugitive victims of Irish landlordism, of luring Irish valor with British gold out of its chosen and distant asylum. But those whom their justice might so easily have retained, all their proffered bribes cannot recover. The disgraceful failure of our crimps in America proves that man is better than money—a lesson which English avarice we fear is too late, as it is always reluctant, in learning. This impossible legion, which no amount of money can raise, is rendered necessary by the natural reluctance of the Catholic Clergy to encourage Irish youths to enter an army in which spiritual consolation is denied to Catholics, and which Catholics can only enter at the risk of their immortal souls. This reluctance of the Clergy every imaginable means is taken to augment. The Protestant press has often exaggerated the influence of the Catholic Clergy, but were that power a title of what is described the Priests would be the best recruiting agents in the empire. Englishmen disgust the Clergy with calumny and insult, and then

busily canvass for recruits among a Catholic people—a process very like blundering. The Irish soldier does not fear cold, hunger, danger, death itself. He is ready to brave them all, as he has done a thousand times at Sebastopol. He willingly risks his body, but naturally shudders at risking his immortal soul, as he must do when death approaches while spiritual succor is distant. Thousands of our brethren have died—a prey to that mental agony which harrows the mind of the Catholic who, looking round on his death-bed, sees himself bereaved of that spiritual aid which would make his departure peaceful and happy. While the opportunity of preparing himself to die is afforded to the French soldier, and while similar advantages are presented to the English Protestant, the Irish Catholic alone on the terrible eve of a great achievement is denied the privilege of preparing himself to face his Creator—not that he fights less bravely, but that his fellow-countrymen are apathetic to his eternal interests, and the empire he serves is brutally bigoted. He is obliged to enter the presence of the terrible Judge "unhouselled, unanointed, unannealed." A single Chaplain, though he were gifted with the wings and the energy of an Angel, could not visit every bloody fair on which a soldier lies gasping in a camp or leaguer, spreading over miles of rock and ravine, hill and vale. The English Protestants profess to have great commiseration for the physical misery of negro slaves, but they have none whatever—they profess to have none—for the mental agony, the distressing anxiety of the gallant Irish soldier who falls in a distant land fighting for British interests. Every village, every hamlet in Ireland has sent forth some tall and generous stripling to swell the ranks or man the vessels of Britain. The Protestant soldier is treated as an immortal being—the Catholic warrior experiences the indifference and neglect of the beast that perishes. Yet, if their valor be the same, why should not their privileges be similar? Who will say that a people so ungenerous as the Protestants of England do not richly deserve to have their crimps hurried, like common thieves, into American galls, or hounded from the soil of Germany with all the odium and the ignominy of African slave dealers? It would assuredly cost less to appoint Catholic Chaplains than to salary discreditable crimps, and it might be more—it could scarcely be less—profitable. What an amazing difference subsists between Catholics and Protestants. While they sternly and stingily refuse to salary a few Catholic Chaplains, we lavishly, unthinkingly contribute to salary Protestant Bishops, Protestant Deacons, Protestant Rectors, Protestant Curates, and Protestant sextons. Their name is legion. In every village you will see some towering edifice which Catholic funds have largely contributed to construct. The very pews and pulpit are lined at the expense of Catholics. But though Protestant Clergymen are supported in many parts of Ireland exclusively on Catholic money, we do not require that Catholic Chaplains abroad should be supported exclusively from Protestant resources. Catholics are visited by the taxman and mulcted to the excise, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has no sectarian antipathy to the money of Catholics. The Treasury is a common fund, from which Catholic Chaplains have quite as good a right as Protestant Chaplains to be supported. But although we did not thus contribute to the subsistence of Protestant Chaplains at Sebastopol, we think that it would be only just, it would be a very small return for the swarm of Protestant dignitaries, Bishops, Deans, and Prebendaries, whom we support in Ireland, if our Protestant Government should subsidize a few Catholic Chaplains in the Crimea.—*Tablet.*

(From the London Press.)

OUR MILITARY STATE.—The military position of England at this time is a subject for serious consideration. Our forces are manifestly inadequate to the struggle in which we have engaged. We have gone to war with Russia, the greatest military power in the world, in order to prevent her from becoming greater; because her further increase would be fatal to the liberties of Europe. She threatens to absorb Turkey, to encircle Austria, to reduce to vassalage Denmark, Sweden, and Prussia, and to force the Continent to a league against England and France. In the East she menaces Persia, aims at the occupation of Asia Minor, and looks forward to the attack of our Indian Empire. It is necessary to check her encroachments and reduce her strength. We have undertaken her humiliation. We have pledged ourselves to destroy her fleets, to raze her fortresses, to diminish her resources, to render her harmless for the future. It was a fearful task at the commencement of war; it is more so now. The peace establishment of Russia was 600,000 men, while we had only 102,000 men. The disproportion has immensely increased. Levy after levy has been made until her army has almost doubled its numbers. Since the death of Nicholas she has called into existence a fresh force of 150,000 men. Every day she adds to her strength, expands her dimensions, and becomes more colossal. What have we done? Diminutive as our forces were, are they not less diminutive in comparison now? Have we made up for our previous apathy by our present exertions? Have we compensated for the smallness of our permanent establishment by the vastness of our additions? Have we raised fresh armies for the field, and organized an immense reserve at home? Have we held out inducements to procure an unlimited supply of recruits, and to attract the flower of the population to our ranks? We fear not. Our energy has been so small, our augmentations so ill-conceived and so miserably carried out that we almost seem to have stood still. We fixed our standard low, but even of it we have miserably fallen short. We asked last spring for an increase of 40,000 men, and this year we demanded 36,000 more. Together we ought to have had 76,000 additional British troops. We have obtained only 49,000. And these are not mature and hardy men, but boys who have not attained their full strength, and are quite unfit for the hardships of a campaign. Little as we have effected, we have already exhausted our resources. Nor is the militia in a better state. Instead of 122,000 rank and file, it scarcely numbers 50,000. Instead of well-disciplined men, ready to volunteers and capable of the duties of active service, it is composed of raw recruits. All the best men have been sent home, and the regiments are in a state of disorganization. We cannot maintain our expeditionary army at its full strength, and Lord Raglan is crippled by want of men. It is true that we have an ally whose resources have been developed with greater energy. But we are to rely for victory on him? Shall we not take our due share in the conflict?—How will it consort with the dignity of England to bear an insignificant part in the conduct of the war, attendants of triumphs not our own? Will