

Armed Peace in Europe.

Plots and Counterplots of the Powers
—Greece Preparing to Claim her
Provinces—Germany Desirous
of more Allies—The Forti-
fications of Paris—The
Russian and Chi-
nese Armies.

PARIS, Nov. 12.—Those who are behind the curtain assert that February will not pass without bloodshed on an extensive scale in Epirus and Thessaly. There was every reason to anticipate this bloodshed six months ago, and yet there was none, because diplomacy hoped to frighten the Sultan by threats which diplomats assured him privately should not be executed, and I would be inclined to think that nothing more serious need be feared for 1881 if it were not for two circumstances: First—The Greeks have managed to raise a loan of sixty millions, which they are spending entirely upon the armament and mobilization of their national forces. Second—Although the Sublime Porte pays none of its creditors either at home or abroad,

"THE PALACE FLOATS IN GOLD,"

to quote literally the expression of an Oriental banker to me last evening. That this money should have been furnished to the Greek and Turkish Governments, both notoriously insolvent, is a symptom of trouble ahead, and, if my information correct, the subsidies can be traced to Berlin on the one hand and to London and St. Petersburg on the other. The catastrophe is certain; when it will come depends entirely upon the good pleasure of Prince von Bismarck, which in its turn depends upon the success of his present intrigues to draw France into the Austro-German orbit. Monstrous as this alliance would be, it is not at all an impossible eventuality. Just now such a compact would overthrow any Government by which it might be proposed, but the mere circumstance that some very respectable men have begun to discuss its possibility, to estimate the nature and extent of the *quid pro quo* to be demanded, is evidence of a wish to feel the public pulse. That the maintenance of quasi-cordial relations between

RUSSIA AND GERMANY

depends entirely upon the existence of their sovereigns is generally admitted, and the news concerning the Czar's health is of a nature to cause legitimate apprehensions. The official reports, of course, represent it to be blooming, but private letters speak quite in another way, and it is certain that the most eminent physicians of St. Petersburg were telegraphed for last week to consult with his majesty's ordinary medical attendants at Livadia. The report is that dynamite and revolvers having proved of no avail, arsenic has now been resorted to, the utmost secrecy is prescribed to the press, but the correspondents of foreign journals tell queer stories of perquisitions made in the imperial kitchens and of the arrests of several of the imperial cooks. Something of the sort must have been the cause of the precipitation with which themorganatic marriage with

PRINCESS DOLGOROUKI

was celebrated. I have already noticed this affair, and I think, stated how there was even question, at one moment, of having a right-handed instead of a left handed ceremony, for which there was a precedent in the case of Peter the Great. Mme. Dolgorouki had quite enough influence over her august lover to obtain this had she elected to wait awhile, but, being a clever woman, she appreciated that delays may be dangerous, and so preferred the lesser honor by which her children are legitimated and her own very equivocal position as favorite rendered respectable. Although I wrote about this marriage more than a month ago, the French newspapers have only just published it as a fact, and have only just begun to make their commentaries, while but three days ago did even the Cologne Gazette obtain full details. The ceremony was performed on the 1st of last August in a chapel of the Palace, in the presence of a very few witnesses, among whom were the Grand Duke Nicholas, who will now, as a reward for his condescension, be probably restored to favor, and the Minister of War, Gen. Miljutine. All the imperial family except Nicholas testified their disapproval by their absence. The Czar, with went away to Hapsal, the Grand Dukes Constantine and Vladimir came to Paris, the latter accompanied by the Grand

Duchess, the former with the mission to bring home the yacht Livadia.

Now, being posted better than even the Russians themselves on these

IMPERIAL FAMILY JARS,

knowing the intense hatred of the Russian Crown Prince for everything German, whether on the right or the left bank of Vistula, and feeling that the precarious state of the Emperor's health offers little assurance of any long duration to the *Statu quo*, Prince von Bismarck casts about him for another alliance. He has no great confidence in the value of the Austrian Army, and he is very much afraid of the French Army, which, if very deficient in many respects, has immensely improved in quality since 1871. He does not propose any compensation as the price of a French alliance, he has no intention over to propose any compromise, but follows up his old game which was so successful with that imbecile, Napoleon III., in 1866. Meanwhile, he hunts to the German people that the French clamor for reprisals is undisturbed—this in order to make a war with France, if needs be, popular in Fatherland—and he lets the French know that he is in possession of all the details of their offensive resources.

An article, published some months ago, anonymously, and which I then translated told the French and the Germans what both might expect in the matter of field operations. An article in a recent number of the *Berliner Tagblatt* shows the opinion of German strategists concerning those fortifications which our people fondly hoped would render Paris impregnable. The fortified enceinte embraces an extent of about 116 square miles; this is judged to be too great to allow reciprocal support between the detached forts, and to organize a solid defence of the intermediate ground where there must be necessarily a great many sectors without fire, through which attacking columns may penetrate and take the positions in rear.

THESE VULNERABLE POINTS

have an average breadth of about five miles, and being in covered ground, they are especially favourable to the assailant. Such, for example, is the ground between the railway lines of Lille and the Sisson, and on the south, between Paloiseau and Villeneuve. As to the guarantees offered by the new works against the investment of the capital, I must agree with the *Tagblatt* that they are totally insufficient. The last siege proved that to isolate the capital entirely was impossible; by means of carrier pigeons and balloons communication could always be kept up with the Provinces, but the alimentation of the town is no easier now with the new system than it was in 1870-71. A zone of 116 miles can only be provisioned by means of railways, and the first operation of an enemy must naturally be the destruction of this means of communication. In 1870-71 neither the French nor the German Armies, with very rare exceptions, destroyed either the turnpikes or the viaducts; in the next war both will act differently, and if, from time to time, a few wagon-loads of flour and a few droves of oxen can be introduced, neither will be in sufficient quantities to relieve the wants of the garrison and the population of the beleaguered city. Besides these objections, on which the German newspaper lays great stress, there is another, equally important, but of which, strangely enough, it makes no mention, the great development of the line of defense will subtract a considerable proportion from the troops, which otherwise might be employed in offensive operations. I do not believe that

ANOTHER SIEGE OF PARIS

is probable in our time, but if it should come off, and France rely for her salvation upon the assistance of her capital, the finale will be the same as nine years ago. The only difference will be a prolongation of her agony. Not that I believe France to be foredoomed to defeat in her next struggle with Germany. The French Army is second to none in the military education of its rank and file. Up to the grade of General of Division its officers are excellent; but I cannot see where the country is to look for a chief capable of directing the ensemble of operations. The manoeuvres have formed the soldiers, but the absence of all initiation from the operations of brigade and division commanders which is enforced by the programmes of these manoeuvres leaves everything, as it used to be, in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, who may be another Bonaparte, but who may be a fool. Red tape is the curse of the French Army just as much now as it was ten years ago, and if red tape, routine, and tradition be not demolished when this

Army next takes the field, the results will be as disastrous as they were when it was last called upon. If they be swept away, the capture of Berlin and not the capture of Paris will be the crowning glory of the war. Which of the two courses may be followed no living man can tell.

Meanwhile

RUSSIA IS ARMED QUIETLY,

and although her pretended object is the subjection of the Turcomans and the defense of her Kuldja frontier against the Chinese, it is not possible to admit that either of these enemies can cause her any grave anxiety. The late Russo-Turkish war was an admirable school for her officers; they made grievous mistakes there, but they learned some very wholesome lessons, and when we look at the development of her Army during the last quarter of a century, we must admit that those who affect to despise her military strength are woefully blind. On the 1st of January, 1883, the Russian Army was composed of 27,716 officers, 908,382 men inclusive of the reserve, the Militia, and the auxiliary troops, and 78,144 Cossacks. During the Crimean war these forces were considerably increased, and according to official data, amounted, on the 1st of January, 1856, to 41,817 officers and 2,275,454 rank and file. This strength was, however, only nominal; on paper, the effective was: Active Army, 24,654 officers and 1,170,184 soldiers; reserve, 7,876 officers and 572,158 soldiers; irregular troops, 3,640 officers and 168,691 soldiers; Militia, 5,647 officers and 304,421 soldiers; Cossacks, 3,441 officers and 156,726 soldiers. For service, subtraction must be made of about one-half of these figures, as in 1863, for example, according to the Ministerial report, the Russian Army only counted 858,997 regular troops, and a conscientious examination of the muster rolls a few months later showed that the genuine effective of the Army did not exceed the approximate figure of 385,000. Since then, however, the military administration of the Empire has been thoroughly reformed, the

ARMY APPROPRIATIONS

have been increased, and there is every reason to suppose that the estimates made on the 25th of November, 1879, are not very far from being accurate. These estimates give, as ready for immediate mobilization, 908 Generals, 31,414 officers, and 865,425 men of the regular Army, 742,144 reserve, 1,972 officers and 51,359 men belonging to the Cossacks, 105,946 irregulars. That Russia can keep up such an establishment as this for any length of time is not to be expected, as it is not to be expected that she destines its employment solely in Central and Eastern Asia, where 30,000 men are spoken of as the maximum of both arms of operations, of which about one-third are thought sufficient for the first operation against the Celestials. Possibly Russia may make a mistake in that quarter, where a declaration of war will immediately follow the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

It is hard for any one to think of

JOHN CHINAMAN AS A FORMIDABLE ENEMY.

What warriors could be thought formidable dressed in petticoats? Yet the heathen are extraordinarily brave, or rather, they have a contempt of death and danger which, as they can readily bring a million of men into the field, might make them exceedingly dangerous if they were disciplined and commanded by intelligent officers. Fortunately for Russia, they are not, but, unfortunately for that power, they have been deserted by that "big medicine man," Gordon, who, on leaving the flowery land, has bequeathed them a series of military precepts, *vide* his book, which would insure the discomfiture of any army and the conquest of any nation with whose military direction he may ever be connected. From this warlike missionary's exit from China, I presume that he and the Mandarins did not pull together, wherefore they will probably be deaf to his sermons, all the more that a goodly number of German officers have gone to take his place. If they had a year or two in which to work, these gentlemen would doubtless accomplish something; but they have barely time to overcome the two great defects of the Chinese Army, the absence of all unity and centralization. With the exception of the Guard, which is under the command of the Minister of War, all the troops depend upon the Provincial Governors, by whom they are organized, armed, equipped, and drilled according to the instructions of a special Ministry. This is the cause of the first of these two defects; the second is the result of their organization, which is local. Each soldier must provide for his personal wants and for those

of his family, and consequently hires himself out as a day laborer.

HE IS DRILLED OCCASIONALLY,

but so rarely that his military education never gets beyond the most elementary rudiments. As to his armament it is heterolite; bows and arrows in some place, matchlocks in others, and nowhere dangerous for European troops. Their officers have no idea of the art of war, and are ignorant even of the disposal of their troops for an engagement; the examination which they pass must demonstrate only their ability to use the bow on horseback and to play like jugglers with weighing 50 pounds each. 1878 China attempted the introduction of European reforms into her Army. She purchased 275 heavy guns and 250 field pieces from Krupp's foundry, but no teams were procured either then or since, and her artillery corps has not yet been organized. Perhaps it was not on this account that Col. Gordon advised his friends "Not to bother themselves with cannon which make more noise than they do harm, but to put their faith in rockets." (!) In short, the Chinese Army can scarcely be said even to exist on paper. It is a horde of individuals, cruel and sanguinary bandits, who will burn and massacre, but are incapable of opposing any serious resistance to the Russian forces. I need not tell of the worthlessness of the Celestial Navy, which is only worthy of a place by the side of the Celestial land forces, and yet if China should ever resolutely undertake the military organization of her immense population what a redoubtable enemy she might become. Luckily for Russia and her neighbors, such is not the situation.

GENERAL.

TRANSLATIONS of Mill, Spencer, and Darwin are common in Japan, where the "Origin of Species" has a large sale.

Moody and Sankey spent eighteen days in Salt Lake City, on their way to San Francisco, holding crowded meetings daily.

A brother and sister have become husband and wife, at Youngstown, Ohio. Learning that they were to be prosecuted, they have fled together.

So many persons have committed suicide by jumping off the three bridges across the Tiber at Rome that a philanthropic society keeps boatmen at each bridge in order to rescue the unfortunate.

The people of Chicago handled and packed 2,875,000 hogs during the summer salting season, from the 1st of last March to the 1st of this month, and yet found leisure for literature and arts. Now they are immersed in their winter packing, and still easily combine pork with politics and poetry.

In France many professors of the art of cooking feed a family for so much a day and an additional sum for each guest. They bring the provisions, submit a menu, which may be changed, and send a cook to live in the house. At a dinner party they or their aide superintend. They are answerable for the cook.

JAPANESE paper air cushions are said to have some advantage over those made of rubber. They may be rolled into a package of smaller dimension, when not in use; they will not stick to other as rubber does after it is wet, and for pillows they are better because they have no odor. Their strength is marvellous; a man weighing 160 pounds may stand upon one without bursting it. They are said to be waterproof, and to make excellent life preservers.

The Earl and Countess of Fitzwilliam are passing the winter in Ireland at their beautiful seat Coolatin, in the romantic county of Wicklow, among a tenantry by whom he is much beloved. His tenants are in a most prosperous condition, and the maxim that property has its duties as well as rights is fully carried out. Mr. Parnell's property is close by, and though not at all liberally managed, his tenants are not all in the same prosperous condition.

When Napoleon formed the Legion of Honor there was much discussion as to the colour of the ribbon. Napoleon was for white, probably because on state occasions he loved to dress in scarlet, and saw how happy the colour contrast would be. It was represented that white was preeminently the colour of the exiled house. He then suggested red, and was met with the objection that red was the revolutionary colour. But remembering that blue was the colour of most of the uniforms in the army, and that red would answer as a contrast, he said, "Let it be red."