

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

It is said that Colonel Fleury has submitted to the Emperor, and with the approbation of two of the best Generals, a plan of campaign, according to which the first great blow will be by land and sea against Sebastopol. That place, and the Russian ships of war destroyed, the Black Sea fleets, leaving to the Turks the police of the Black Sea, would proceed to the Baltic, and joining the Baltic fleets, and with a large force of land troops, would there continue the work of destruction. Such is the rumor in circulation.

The expeditionary force (says the *Presse*), consisting of twelve thousand French troops and five thousand English, has been ordered for the Baltic; it is assumed that they are to co-operate with the Swedes in the impending event of a declaration by that state of alliance with the Western Powers.

## GERMANY.

The Ministers of Austria and Prussia have presented to the German Diet the joint declaration of Austria and Prussia, announcing the continued cordiality of the Four Powers, and declaring that the prolongation of the struggle between Russia and Turkey constitutes a danger for Germany, and that the integrity of Turkey must be maintained. After this declaration five protocols of the proceedings of the Vienna Conference were laid before the Diet, the fact of the Austro-Prussian Treaty was notified to that assembly, and the other German States were invited to adhere to it.

## BADEN.

Riots have taken place at Brezingen. News from Freiburg states that the Archbishop is under close arrest and confined to his apartments. The people had to be dispersed by the military. The Clergy have interdicted the use of church bells; they no longer celebrate High Mass nor chant, nor permit music in the churches. The local authorities interfered about the bells and ordered them to be used as usual, and on this point the Clergy have submitted.—*Daily News*.

## ITALY.

A letter from Naples states, that on the 14th ult., M. J. Delius, of Bremen, having ascended Mount Vesuvius with a party of his countrymen, went too near the edge of the crater, and the ground giving way under him, he fell into the abyss. His groans were heard from the bottom, but when some persons descended by means of ropes he was dead.

## RUSSIA.

THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL.—The Vienna *Presse* has a letter from St. Petersburg, which contains some interesting information. The Neva was perfectly free from ice on the 2d ult., but the river has since risen so rapidly that an inundation is feared. Recent events have produced a deep impression on the Emperor, who is represented as being in "consternation" (*besturzt*). The news of the bombardment of Odessa has much shaken the confidence of the people, "and the severity of the police has not succeeded in improving the public feeling, as the preparation for the defence of the capital plainly show that the fall of Cronstadt is not considered beyond the bonds of possibility.

## THE BALTIC.

DESTRUCTION OF HANGO FORTS.—The *Monitor* publishes a telegraphic despatch, dated, Copenhagen, Sunday evening, the 28th ult., from which it appears that three steam frigates have destroyed the detached forts at Hango, with a loss of three English killed and a few wounded. The loss of the Russians was considerable. On the 23d Admiral Napier was off Hango, and about to attack the principal Fort.

GALLANT EXPLOIT OF THE ARROGANT AND HECLA.—The Arrogant has been detached from the fleet for a considerable time, employed in reconnoitering the enemy's posts and shores about Hango Bay. While so employed, the Hecla, commanded by Capt. Hall, whose service in the China war are so well known, joined her. Both ships planned a little expedition of their own, which has turned out quite a gallant manœuvre.

The two ships proceeded up a narrow river, and on anchoring on the evening of the 19th ult., the enemy, from behind a high sand bank, in a thickly wooded place, fired upon one of the boats which was at that time pulling at a distance of from six to eight hundred yards from the shore, round shot, also striking the Hecla. Both ships beat to quarters, cast loose their guns, loaded with shot and shell, which they poured into the wood and against the sand barricade, whence the enemy was quickly dislodged. The vessels were not further molested that evening—the anchorage was shifted for the night, and all made snug, with watches posted.

At two in the morning both ships again weighed, the Hecla leading both ships' companies standing by their guns. After about three hours' quietly feeling their way along the intricate navigation of the river, both ships came suddenly within range of an enemy's battery. The Hecla opened fire, which was quickly answered from the fort; the promontory upon which stood the battery was crowded with soldiers, fine stalwart looking fellows, with long grey coats, and spiked steel helmets glittering in the sun. While the battery was firing upon the Hecla, the Arrogant let fly a whole broadside amongst the soldiery. A troop of horse artillery, when the smoke cleared off, was observed scampering away. A prolonged and heavy fire of musketry now ensued from the wood, and Minié balls fell thick on board both ships. The Arrogant now got aground within twenty yards of the battery. However, before attempting to haul the ship off, the enemy's guns were dismounted by a

broadside, and the ship was then got off with safety. On passing the fort where the guns had been dismounted, a terrible sight was witnessed—gun-carriages blown to fragments, guns dismounted, helmets and knapsacks strewn about without owners.

The town of Eckness now opened, and there lay the ships, the objects of this expedition. The Arrogant was obliged to anchor here, as the water was shallow; the Hecla proceeded on, but another battery now opened fire upon her. The Arrogant, swung broadside on, kept up a cannonade, while the Hecla passed, firing shells on the enemy as she did so, ran up alongside of a barque, took her in tow, and steamed away with her, to the horror of the inhabitants. When this little expeditionary force was returning they were joined by the Dauntless, she having been sent on by the commander-in-chief to ascertain the cause and source of the firing, which was distinctly audible as the squadron steamed into Hango roads. The Hecla had several shots through her funnel, steam pipe, one shot passing through the ship's side. The round-shot and shell went over the Arrogant. Both ships were studded with Minié balls. The Arrogant had one man shot through the heart, and a man wounded by a bullet in the navel, which ball went through his intestines, and passed out at his back. He lived until yesterday. Both were very good men. The Hecla had one man shot or drowned while wounded.

Captain Hall was resolved not to leave without carrying back some military trophy. He gallantly landed with his marines, threw them out at skirmishers while himself and a party of men hoisted one gun (an iron one) into his boat, and placed it on board the Hecla.

The Arrogant and Hecla, with their prize in tow, joined the fleet on the 21st ult. The Commander-in-Chief hoisted the signal "Well done Arrogant and Hecla." The flag-ship manned the rigging; her example was followed by several other ships—all of which gave the heroes three hearty cheers.

CRONSTADT NOT IMPREGNABLE.—The following extract of a letter from the Baltic fleet, dated May 15, is not without interest:—"I suppose our friends in England, 'who live at home at ease,' are much dissatisfied with us for not having achieved anything further than the capture of a few merchant ships. However, I can assure you that the Admiral is not to blame, as the ice has not yet disappeared from the upper part of the gulf; but, if it had, I cannot see that we can commence operations upon Cronstadt until the fleet at Helsingfors is either destroyed or disabled, otherwise we should have it harassing our rear, and placing us between two fires. Again, we must wait until gunboats arrive from England. These must be of a very light draught of water; and we require also some large flat-bottomed boats, besides at least 2,000 soldiers, as we cannot spare 200 men to form a landing-party. Many persons consider Cronstadt to be impregnable. This, however, is far from being the case, and I think it might be taken with a comparatively trifling loss. However, I am neither captain nor admiral, but had I a voice in the matter, I would say, by all means silence Alexander Fort, on the north-east part of the island, and simultaneously land a large body of troops in the flat-bottomed boats, covered by the fire from the gunboats and those vessels that can venture close enough; and I believe Cronstadt is not so well garrisoned as to spare many men to oppose the landing. Some of the forts and batteries for the protection of the channel are, I understand, open on the land side, so that, while the fleet bombarded the forts in detail, the troops on shore would keep up a galling fire from the heights upon the gunners. There are certainly two or three redoubts which must be bombarded by the gunboats and carried at the point of the bayonet. The only difficulty that I apprehend is, that the Admiralty will send us gunboats totally unfitted for the service, as they ought not to draw more than six feet of water, and should be built of sufficient scantling to bear the concussion of heavy artillery."

The Island of Aland, in the Baltic Sea, is situated about twelve leagues from the coast of Sweden, between that country and Russia; and, so important did Peter the Great deem the possession of it, in his struggles with the Swedes during the life of Charles the Twelfth, that he resolved to make himself master of it, at all hazards, and, though obliged to pass full in view of the enemy's fleet, yet he succeeded in effecting this bold undertaking; and, as the coast around Aland is almost surrounded with rocks, the Czar Peter caused eighty small galleys to be transported by men over a point of land, and launched into the sea, at a place called Hango Point, another spot to which public attention is directed in connection with the achievements of the present Baltic fleet. Historians inform us, that this affair of the Island of Aland, was, next to the battle of Pultowa, the most glorious that had ever befallen the successful arms of Peter the Great.

## TURKEY AND THE SEAT OF WAR.

THE EASTERN SCHISM.—We find the following important announcement in the *Paris Constitutionnel*:—"The last news from Constantinople is exceedingly important. Our correspondent informs us that Prince Leon, of Armenia, is expected at Rome, where he is to negotiate with the Pope the reconciliation of the Eastern church with that of Rome. This affair, conducted by one of the principal personages of the Eastern Church, cannot but have, we are told, a favorable result in present circumstances. Our correspondent adds, that Prince Leon, lawful heir and direct descendant of the reigning families of Armenia, is young and ardent, a man of talent and spirit; and he has no doubt that the Prince will easily remove any difficulties which might stand in the way of the union of the two Churches, already so little separated from each other. Their amalgamation, eminently useful to the interests of the Christians of

the East in a religious point of view, would be, besides, one of the most important events of the present period.

THE DELAY OF THE ALLIES.—An eye-witness describes the impression produced on the Turks by the dilatory conduct of their Christian Allies:—

"The Turks anxiously look for the arrival of the allies at Schumla; they cannot understand what the delay can be about. Twelve thousand British infantry at Scutari, without a sabre or gun—the whole of the French-African cavalry at Gallipoli, having left their horses behind them—are these the troops of the great Western Powers who are going to get us out of our difficulties? Such questions are not unfrequently asked by the Turks, and are rather difficult to reply to by an Englishman or a Frenchman."

Letters from Constantinople of the 22d ult., announce, that in the council of war held at Varna between the generals in chief, it had been decided that the allied troops should proceed to Adrianople.

OUR OVERLOADED SOLDIERS.—A rather smart parade of the light division took place at Scutari about a week since; the day was very hot, the men were, as usual, in heavy marching order, and the drill was continued for a couple of hours. All the men seemed much exhausted, and two of them, a private of the 47th and one of the 49th (I believe), never recovered it, but sank and died within 24 hours afterwards. If such awful examples as these will not convince the authorities that the men are too heavily equipped, nothing will.—*Letter from Constantinople*.

THE HALF BOMBARDMENT AND THE LOST "TIGER."—According to a new account of the capture of the Tiger by the Russians, that exploit appears to have been accompanied by the true features of barbaric warfare. After the ship was helplessly aground, it is said that her flag was hauled down, yet that the Russians nevertheless, still poured into her hull a shower of red-hot shot. They wished to destroy at once as many of their assailants as possible and did not stand nice about the rules of civilized warfare. To revenge this barbarity, we are told, by the same authority that a naval force, English and French, again took up a position before Odessa, and again bombarded that town. If then, this should prove to be true, common-sense people will at once say—Why do we still "play at soldiers" with a savage like Czar Nicholas? Since we are at war, why not make war in earnest? When Odessa was first bombarded, if all the forts had been destroyed, neither the Tiger nor any other English ship could have been afterwards riddled by red-hot shot there. But the fleets "played at soldiers" only; knocked down a battery or two, and sailed away, leaving the Russians all the tools requisite for destroying H. M. S. Tiger, or any other vessel that might fall in their way. If all the forts of Odessa had been dealt with *a la Nelson*, the unfortunate Captain Giffard would not now be a crippled prisoner, with his crew in limbo, and his ship sunk.—*Daily News*.

THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN IN SCUTARI.—The following statement appears in the Eastern correspondence of the *Morning Herald*. The writer, in describing the state of affairs at Scutari, observes:—"The members of the Catholic church attended their own service in a large shed or stable outside the Scutari barracks, where the Rev. Mr. Sheehan (who has been sent out here by the government) celebrated mass. As there are, officers and soldiers, about 8,000 Catholics here, it may easily be imagined that their clergyman has enough to do to look after them all—especially, as I am informed, he has about 100 sick also in hospital."

The Greek pirates in the Mediterranean are daily becoming more audacious.

King Otho already experiences the result of his infatuated attachment to the Czar. While he was still meditating the probability of evading the ultimatum presented by England and France, eight thousand French soldiers arrived in the Piræus: he still continued to hesitate, and the historic porticoes of Athens were occupied by the army of Napoleon III.; his ministry forthwith resigned *en masse*; and he himself has since probably departed from the capital. It had been previously rumored, indeed, that Otho was resolved upon accepting the conditions of the Western Powers if they abandoned their idea of a military occupation; but that, if on the other hand, they persisted in entering the Piræus, he would retire from his dominions under protest. In this, as in every other important juncture of the war, it may be observed that France has seized the post of national honor—to the ill-disguised chagrin of her British ally. Just as a French garrison, under command of the Emperor's nephew, has been allotted to Constantinople, another section of the Imperial army bivouacs in the capital of Greece. It happens, by a curious coincidence, grows the *Times*, that although the present head of the French Empire has not sought to extend his influence by conquest—(of course he has not)—French troops form at this moment, the larger portion of the garrison of Athens, Constantinople, and Rome—the three great capitals of the ancient world.—*Nation*.

TACTICS OF THE ALLIES IN THE EAST.—It is said that the Turkish fortresses on the Danube are capable of very considerable resistance, and that the Russians at the campaign are losing prodigious numbers of men in attacking them. The attempt to carry Silistria, by a *coup de main* not having succeeded, if the siege is to be opened by regular approaches the operation is not likely to be a short one. The place is well garrisoned, well commanded, and, according to the last accounts, completely prepared for a siege of some duration; we venture, therefore, to speak of the probability of its resistance with greater confidence than we felt a few days back. Rutschuk and Russowa, about and below Silistria, are still in the hands of the Turks; and although they would

probably not hold out very long after the fall of the greater fortress, they have not yet been regularly attacked. But, though we do not underrate the importance of these positions, and we know that their garrisons are rendering incalculable services to the common cause by their resistance to the enemy these fortified places are in reality the outworks of the Turkish position, and do not constitute its principal strength. Bulgaria is defended by the line of the river, and by the line of the Balkan; but the latter is the real bulwark of the Ottoman empire, and it can profit the Russians nothing to carry the outer-line of circumvallation with a heavy loss, if fresh obstacles of incalculably greater magnitude rise up before them as they proceed. The further they advance within this region north of Balkan, the worse their position becomes. The bulk of their army is exposed to the pestilential miasms of the Danube during the heats of summer, while the allied forces occupy the heights. At this season of the year abundant pasturage may be found for the horses and oxen of the army, but in a few weeks hence it will be consumed and burnt up. The invading army exhausts its strength against the fortified places on the river and the scattered detachments of the enemy; but in the meantime, the forces in defence of the main position remain comparatively fresh and unbroken. Behind the lines of the Balkan a European army is preparing to advance at the proper time with irresistible force, and the concluding months of the campaign ought to effect the annihilation of the enemy. If such be the plan of the allied Generals, they would, in fact, apply to the strategical arrangements of the campaign the same principles which regulates the tactics of a great battle—to hold the defensive in advantageous position as long as possible, and then at the turn of the day to assume the offensive and route the assailants. We speak, of course, hypothetically, for whatever be the plan formed in Varna or Schumla, it can only be known by its results. But we are confirmed in the opinion we have hinted at by the fact that a very considerable portion of the expeditionary force remains at Gallipoli, whence it will probably advance by way of Adrianople to the rear of the Balkan, a distance not exceeding 160 miles; while the troops already at Constantinople may proceed by sea either to Bourgas Bay or to Varna. The last intelligence received from Constantinople, and dated the 22d of May, expressly states that Adrianople is to become the head-quarters of the allied armies; and this decision concurs with the information which had reached us as to the general plan of the campaign.—*Times*.

## AUSTRALIA.

Few, comparatively, are aware of the enormous increase of our export trade with the Australian settlements. In 1851 produce and manufactures of this kingdom of the value of 2,807,356*l.* were exported to those settlements; the value of our exports thither in 1853 was no less than 14,506,532*l.* Among the exports of last year were—apparel, 3,633,908*l.*; woolen manufactures, 1,355,755*l.*; cotton manufactures, 1,032,303*l.*; linen manufactures, 317,348*l.*; silk manufactures, 438,430*l.*; plate and watches, 313,997*l.*; hardware and cutlery, 634,667*l.*; iron and steel, 704,291*l.*; leather, 851,560*l.*; butter and cheese, 207,094*l.* These thirsty settlers also took of us last year 206,348 barrels of beer, and 536,772 gallons of British spirits; while among our exports to them of foreign and colonial merchandise in that year (not included in the 14,506,532*l.*) were—1,876,438 gallons (proof) of brandy, 846,107 gallons of rum, 88,853 gallons of Geneva, and 1,335,056 gallons of wine. We imported from Australia last year 47,075,963*lb.* of wool (an increase of one-eighth over the import of 1851), 125,206 cwt. of tallow, 41,987 cwt. of hides (not tanned). In 1851 272 ships cleared from this kingdom for Australia; in 1853 1,201.

The following notice of Catholic Missions and Missionaries in China is from a Protestant work—"The Cross and the Dragon":—

## "THE CATHOLIC MISSION IN CHINA.

"In 1848, the Catholic mission in China counted 315,000 Chinese Christians, 84 European Missionaries, 135 Chinese Priests, 14 seminaries and colleges, 326 chapels and churches. Sisters of Charity have recently been sent out to complete the mission.

"France, more than any other country, has reason to be proud of this mission. To her of right it belongs, and her Clergy have made the greatest sacrifices of body and blood in its service. Within a few years seventy of her sons suffered martyrdom. Among others, the venerable Pierre Tuy was executed in 1833; and in 1837 suffered Isidore Gagein. In a letter which he addressed to his parents on the eve of his execution, he writes:—

"My blood has already streamed, and must stream again under torture before my four limbs and head are cut off. The thought of the pain you will feel in reading these details already makes me shed tears. But, at the same time, the thought consoles me that I shall be in Heaven interceding for you when you read this letter. Mourn not the day of my death; it will be the happiest of my life, because it will put an end to my sufferings and make the beginning of my happiness. My torments have not been absolutely insupportable; they do not scourge my loins until the former wounds are healed up. I shall not be drawn nor torn like M. Marchand; and, supposing that they quarter me, four men will do it at once, and a fifth will cut off my head. I shall not, therefore, have much to suffer; so be consoled. My sufferings will soon be over, and I shall be waiting for you in Heaven."

"Gagein was not quartered, however, but was strangled. The Marchand mentioned in the letter suffered a horrible death. He was condemned to receive a hundred wounds, and expired under the forty-fifth—that is to say, under the forty-fifth rag of flesh torn from his body with pincers. Bories, Bishop of Acantha, was executed in 1838. He refused to give his executioner some alms which he had reserved for the poor, and, in consequence, was subjected to the cruellest agonies, by blows from a blunt hatchet. Du Cornay died with such heroic endurance that his executioners drank his blood and ate his heart, believing, as they said, that his blood and his heart would inspire them with his courage. In 1851, the venerable Schaeffer submitted to a cruel death, and in the