

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE. An order has been issued by the French Government for six new screw frigates, of 900 horse power each, to be built at Rochefort, two at Toulon, and two at other ports, each to be of the type of Curassoe, as the term now goes, with plates of polished steel, each weighing twenty-two cwt., five feet in length, two and a half feet in breadth, at a cost of £57 each plate; these plates are to be inserted between the planks of every part of the frigates above high water mark, and will render them impervious to shot and shell. The iron hulls will be poured down on them in vain, impavidum jacantur. Steel shot has been fired at the plates from short and long ranges in the Polygon at Vincennes, and they have sustained less injury than Ichabod Crane when the ghost threw his head at him in Sleepy Hollow.

PARISIAN GOSSIP.—A Paris letter in the Nord of Brussels has the following:—"Lord Palmerston, during the last days of his residence at Paris, saw more than once Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Lord Cowley, Lord Howden, Baron de Rothschild, and M. Thiers. M. Thiers came up from his retreat at Franconville, where he is completing the last two volumes of his History of the Empire, to see the ex-Minister. At one of their meetings at the Hotel Bristol Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was present, and the conversation having turned on the state of Turkey, M. Thiers asked Lord Palmerston if he thought the 'sick man' was about to die? The English statesman replied, according to his custom, by pleasantry:—"I was one day walking in the streets of London," said he, "when a person told me that my pocket-handkerchief was hanging out of my pocket, and that I should lose it. Thank you, Sir, I answered, but I believe that unless some one pulls it out it will not fall! Well, Turkey is in the same position; if she be not thrown down she will, I am convinced, maintain herself perfectly."

In the Nord, just received from Brussels, there is a lively and sparkling contribution from the pen of Henry de la Pene, lately run twice through the body at St. Germain, but whom the baths of Naubem and the sympathies of all Europe have restored to vigor. He writes as if he breathed laughing gas. The article begins with the well known line about a poet who died in hospital—

'La fain mit au tombeau Malflatre ignore'

from which he takes occasion to praise the conduct of the apothecary at St. Germain, M. Malflatre, in whose shop he received the first essential aid. This gentleman bids fair to rival the renown of Surgeon McCann, Parliament street, having since been prominent in saving the lives of many victims of the late railway catastrophe on the same spot. De Pene says that worthy Esculapius would scarce recognise in the blooming youth the slaughterer of babes and the rigorous horseman, that shattered victim of sub-lieutenants whom he picked up from the crinoline sward. Altogether the light hearted writer of Fagan seems to soar aloft with renewed buoyancy of spirits.

ITALY.

The Italian journals publish a letter addressed by the Controller of the Customs at Palermo to the Director of the Customs at Catania, in Sicily, informing him that the Government had received information that a quantity of fulminating grenades, having the form of fruit, and packed up in boxes as preserved fruit, had been sent to Malta, and that they were to be introduced into the Neapolitan States, "to accomplish grave attempts against public order." The letter therefore recommends the Director to be on the watch, and endeavor to seize these dangerous missiles.

A letter from Naples, in the Bilancia of Milan, says:—"The marriage of the Duke de Calabria, Hereditary Prince, and the Princess Mary of Bavaria, younger sister of the Empress of Austria, no longer admits of doubt. On the occasion of the King will, it is said, accord a complete amnesty to some political offenders, and commute the imprisonment of others to confinement in the island of Procida."

A letter from Rome, in the Univers, says:—"The Pope, accompanied by Cardinals Barberini and Bonifazi, went on the 10th to the church of Santa Maria del Popolo, to be present at the Mass of the Nativity of the Virgin, celebrated by Cardinal Reischach. His Holiness was received by the Cardinal Vicar, and after the ceremony admitted the Rev. Augustian Fathers attached to the church to kiss his slipper. The affair of the advocate Bonnacoli, of Ferrara, who, at his death, bequeathed all his fortune to his own soul, to the prejudice of his brother, has just been terminated. The Pope, who had recommended the injured party to trust in his paternal equity, has decided that a sum of 350,000fr. shall be taken from the property left by the testator, and handed over to the brother."

THE POPE'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM.—A correspondent of Le Nord at Paris points to the extreme impossibility of the Pope's visit to Jerusalem owing to the conflicts between the Catholics and the Patriarch at Jerusalem, and would find it difficult to maintain his position in the city.

THE PORT OF VILLAFRANCA.—The Piedmontese Gazette, says a telegraphic despatch from Turin, "declares that the pretended sale said to have been made to Russia of the port of Villafranca consists in the simple gratuitous concession of an old abandoned establishment for convicts, which is to be transformed into a depot of coals and stores."

BELGIUM.

The Journal de Bruxelles points out a singular fact, which it states, is now taking place in Belgium. According to it, a French company is buying up all the Belgian journals that can be purchased, and has already become the proprietors of the Observateur, the Journal de la Belgique, the Telegraph, &c. The company appears to have made an offer for the Presse of Antwerp, which resisted the temptation. But the Journal de la Belgique remarks that if the Antwerp paper has not given itself up to the French company, it does not the less reckon among the members of its committee of surveillance the gentleman who has purchased the other journals. "There is a

mystery in all this," says the Journal de Bruxelles, "which the Belgian press has not been able to penetrate."

PRUSSIA.

Advisers from Berlin, of the 13th inst., announce the return of Baron Manteuffel, President of the Council, to the Prussian capital, from his tour in Silesia. It is reported that the Chambers will be convoked in a few days, and the Regency of the Prince of Prussia declared. This done, there will be a dissolution and general elections. It is said that an interview which Dr. Boeger, the King's physician, had with the Prince of Prussia has hastened the decision. Dr. Boeger frankly declared that there was no hope of the King's complete restoration to health.

Professor Danner, of the Grand Duchy of Hesse, has within the last few days passed over to the Catholic Church. He stands at the head of the philosophical school of Germany.—Weekly Register.

RUSSIA.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of what has just taken place between Russia and the government at Turin. All the complimentary interchanges of diplomatic and courtly demonstrations have ended in a solid substantial fact. Russia has got a lease for twenty-two years to come, at the fixed rate of four millions of francs annual payment into the Sardinian Exchequer, of all that capital message called the town of Villafranca, with water privileges, comprising a capacious and well sheltered harbour, capable of accommodating thirty ships of the line—within ten miles of France, two miles from Nice, and in the most favourable position for becoming a small Sebastopol in the heart of the Mediterranean. General La Marmora has just notified to the Piedmontese troops occupying the barracks round that harbour that they must forthwith evacuate same and retire on Nice; which town taking alarm lest quarantine or lazaretto establishment should be set up at Villafranca so near their watering place, the worthy general tranquillized them by announcing officially, "that the seaport of Villafranca is now part and portion of all the Russians and that the new proprietors are the steam company for trade by steamers to and from Odessa."

The residence and the repeated visits of the Grand Duchess Helena are now intelligible. The people of Nice are delighted at the chance of being a permanent Russian Brighton; the Sardinians chuckle at the idea of a permanent Russian fleet being always at hand to protect them against Austria, or any other troublesome neighbour; and above all, the Kremlin is, through all its domes and turrets, rejoicing in high jubilee at having got as good footing as even Constantinople for future operations in Syria, Greece, and the Levant, all the while that Europe is squabbling about the paltry Principalities, and Montenegro and other tomfooleries.—Nation.

TURKEY.

The Vienna journals state that the Turkish Government has announced officially in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the levying of the tithes will henceforth be left to the Commune. By this concession one of the principal grievances of the Christians is removed.

INDIA.

ALARMING STATE OF THE PUNJAB.—CALCUTTA, Aug. 7.—Information has been received from the Punjab of a somewhat gloomy character. The following account of the evidence elicited at a Court of Inquiry at Dera Ismail Khan, is, I fear, only too accurate.

"On July 19 the 18th Punjab Infantry mutinied at Dera Ismail Khan; and a Court of Inquiry, which was sitting three days later, elicited several important circumstances, which we will now mention altogether, as they had been known on the night in question.

"A portion, then, of the 18th Punjab Infantry had been told off for the murder of all the officers, after which the fort was to be seized, and the 39th, which our readers will remember was disarmed some time back, was to be re-armed out of its magazines and stores. Taking with them the guns and treasure the mutineers were then to embark in boats for Dera Ghazee Khan, on the Indus, where they expected to be joined by the troops of the place, they were to cross the Indus and hasten to Mooltan, and the two regiments there, and march upon Lahore. No doubt is entertained that the 6th Police Battalion and the Punjab Battery were in the plot; and, moreover, the conspirators reckoned upon being joined by Benny's Regiment, the 3rd Sikhs from Bunnoo, the regiment from which the mutineers originally came. Providentially, information was given to Major Gardiner, 16th Native Infantry, before the scheme was ripe for execution. He instantly went down to the lines, so late as ten o'clock at night, and sent for the ringleaders. One, a Sepoy, came first. He was ordered at once to be confined, but no sooner heard the order than he turned round and bolted, pursued by some of the guard. Just as the guard had overtaken and was laying hold of him, a Jemadar—the other of those for whom Major Gardiner had sent—rushed out, cut down one of the guard, and wounded the Subadar of it. The two ringleaders then ran, and nothing more was heard of them till the 22nd, when news came to one of the outposts that the Sepoy was caught, and that the Jemadar was being hotly chased. The ulterior designs, had the plan remained six hours longer undiscovered, came out before the Court of Inquiry which we have mentioned. It appears that the authors of the plot belong to the Mabwa Sikhs, of whom about 130 were interspersed among the ranks which they sought to rouse and arm against us."—New Era, August 7.

On the 20th, Major Singh came into General Grant's camp at Fyzabad, and whatever reason we may have to doubt the sincerity of this man's late and vacillating professions, his final detachment from the rebel cause is undoubtedly an advantage of importance. The effect of this movement is the perfect re-establishment of order at Fyzabad. The inhabitants are returning to their homes, and the shops being opened, and trade resumed as if nothing whatever had transpired.

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The following is the letter of the British Commissioner to the Chinese Commissioner, dated June 26, 1858, at Tientsin. The British Commissioner, Mr. Wade, had the honor to receive from the Chinese Commissioner, Mr. Kwei-liang, a letter of the 20th inst., in which the latter expressed his regret that the British Commissioner had not been able to visit him at Tientsin, and that he had been obliged to leave the city on the 19th inst. The British Commissioner, in reply, expressed his regret that he had not been able to visit the Chinese Commissioner, and that he had been obliged to leave the city on the 19th inst. The Chinese Commissioner, in reply, expressed his regret that he had not been able to visit the British Commissioner, and that he had been obliged to leave the city on the 19th inst. The British Commissioner, in reply, expressed his regret that he had not been able to visit the Chinese Commissioner, and that he had been obliged to leave the city on the 19th inst. The Chinese Commissioner, in reply, expressed his regret that he had not been able to visit the British Commissioner, and that he had been obliged to leave the city on the 19th inst.

THE COST OF THE INDIAN WAR, AND THE FINANCES OF INDIA.—"The deficit, says the correspondent of the Times, up to May, 1857, was £200,000. It is calculated that by the close of the mutiny we shall have added £40,000,000 to our debt in India and England; in other words, the deficit will have increased to £2,000,000 sterling a year. The native army has been actually increased by the recent enormous levies of Sikhs, Punjabs, and Pathans, till all idea of saving in that quarter has disappeared. We have forty-five battalions of additional Europeans, costing in transport, horses, commissariat, pay, allowances, &c., nearly £6,000,000. This raises the deficit to £7,000,000 a year. Against this we have to set the surplus revenue of Oude and of the lapsed and confiscated jaghires, the whole of which, reduced as they are by immense gifts to the faithful chiefs, will not exceed £1,000,000. We have, therefore, to provide for a deficit of £6,000,000 sterling."

CHINA.

THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF TIEN-SIN.—Tientsin, River Peiho, China, June 26.—Prior to the day on which it had been arranged that the ceremony should take place, a gunboat had been considerably despatched from Tientsin to bring up from the squadron, anchored seven miles outside the Peiho river any officers who might desire to be present; and on the 23rd of June she returned, attesting by a huge freight of some 70 officers, with 70 full-dress cases and 70 cocked hats, the readiness with which the invitation had been accepted.

On the same evening sinister rumors were whispered about Tientsin of an Imperial decree having just arrived forbidding the Chinese commissioners to concede some very important demands, and that the treaty was postponed. At a later hour these tales were traced to the yamuns, in which dwell the Russian and American Plenipotentiaries—"les neutres" as our witty allies term them,—and all anxiety was at once dispelled. The 26th of June came in, as every day has done since we have been in Tientsin, with bright sunlight and a cloudless sky overhead and a hard-baked earth underfoot, through a deep crack in which rolled on to the sea the muddy waters of the Pei-ho. Tientsin city, with its mud-built houses, looked as mean and uninteresting as ever, but for the swarms of respectfully clad Chinese who at an early hour in the afternoon thronged the thoroughfare by which the procession was to pass it would have been hard to say that Tientsin cared whether peace or war was to be the issue.

Within the British Ambassador's yamun, in and out of which naval officers were all the day strolling, the various secretaries and attaches were busily copying and preparing the articles of the treaty, while Lord Elgin was everywhere, proving that up to the very last minute, his labors had in no way abated. Amusing bulletins were hourly flying about the squadron, and rumors without number. About noon some wise-acre declared he had seen the French Admiral, and that our treaty would not be signed. Against this appalling intelligence some sanguine visitor to the British yamun would roundly assert that the Secretary of Legation had been seen calmly smoking a cheeroot, or that Lord Elgin laughed heartily and rubbed his hands at 4 p.m.—two most convincing proofs of all being well. Then a stream of sedan-chairs poured from the city into the yamun, and the Chinese secretaries, Mr. Wade and Mr. Lay, could be seen in their floating residence busily comparing their manuscript-treaty with officials deputed for that purpose by the Imperial Commissioners. Lastly, at six o'clock in the evening, just as the sun began to throw strong shadows athwart the narrow streets, and the hot day was succeeded by the delicious evening of this latitude, the military guard of honor fell in on the bank of the Pei-ho, just above the point where the Great Canal joins the stream.—The Royal Engineers, under Captain Lambert, R.E., the Royal Marine Artillery of the Sampson and Furious, under Lieutenant Nott, and the marines of the squadron, commanded by Major Boyle of the Calcutta, constituting a force of 400 men, were divided into two bodies, and preceded by a band of music; and in the intervening space was arranged a long stream of 30 sedan chairs, and a large body of naval officers in full dress. A little later the French and English squadron of gunboats, 13 in number, simultaneously dressed with flags and masted yards,—a holiday scene which called forth shouts of applause from swarms of Chinese, whose shining polls and jet-black tails thronged the banks as far as eye could reach. Directly the sedan chair in which the Ambassador was seated made its appearance the procession started. The French sailors cheered, the English hurraed in that deep bass which makes a British band so different to that of all other nations, and the glorious strains of "God save the Queen" by the united bands of the allies, pealed over the waters of the Pei-ho, and Great Canal, and re-echoed from the timeworn battlements of this ancient city as if its old walls rejoiced in the glad tidings of the better and more active future about to dawn upon China. Marching down the bank of the canal, the procession crossed by a bridge of boats to the side on which the city stands, and then passed along the river bank, until the open plain was reached beyond the southern wall. Englishmen, it is very seldom, were never attended to be carried about in sedan chairs; any one doubting such an axiom had merely to look on the hot and uncomfortable-looking mortals boxed up in the wake of our ambassador—it was unnecessary to ask them, for all looked and felt as if they would give the world to be allowed to get out and walk, could such a proceeding have been consistent with the dignity becoming such an occasion. The only people who did not appear inclined to suffer martyrdom on behalf of the dignity necessary in full-dressed officials were

those young naval officers who had to walk for lack of sedan chairs, and who, during our countrymen to conform to the rigid formalities laid down by the Board of Barges, might be considered that the British officers were "catching" puerile Chinaman in the wind, or, as our midshipmen or engineers, of gunboats, would say, "it will give the presence of the representatives of Her Majesty's fleet, of the British flag, and of the British name, to the Chinese people." Passing over a mile of plain, which was as level as a table, and bounded only by the horizon, the procession proceeded to an isolated yamun, or joss-house, which had been visited by Lord Elgin on the day negotiations commenced (June 4). The crowds of Chinese thronged off as the distance from the city increased, and those who were present divided their attention between curiosity to see the barbarians and catching locusts for their next day's meal. During the last fortnight all Tientsin have been eating locusts in a roasted state; baskets full of them are seen, at every corner; itinerant vendors shout "Locusts, fine fresh locusts!" all day long; every bird (and sparrows are as impertinent here as elsewhere) may be seen with a locust in its mouth. Gunboats report acres of drowned locusts having been seen floating in the river, yet there is no diminution of them, and with all this prodigious number of insects, sweeping herbage and crops off the face of the province of Chihli the natives do not complain, as if it was an unusual visitation. The sun went down as the procession swept to the tune of "Bonnie Dundee" round the angle of the Temple of the "Glory of the Ocean" and entered its southern portal. Like the major portion of such edifices in this neighborhood the Temple stands on an artificial mound of earth raised some 15 feet above the level of the adjacent plain, as if to avoid inundations. Four walls, facing most accurately to the four cardinal points of the compass, enclosed and hid from view an acre of ground, covered with a series of temples and porches rich with ornament and elaborate painting, tastefully interspersed with open courts containing fine trees, one of the few natural productions the Chinese have good taste enough to properly appreciate. The grand entrance faced to the south, and at it a number of mandarins and a Chinese band received the procession, and conducted it through the building until the most northern court was reached. There the Sappers, Marine Artillery, and Marines formed round three sides of it, fronting a raised place of audience evidently constructed for public ceremonies. On the centre of the said platform, which was most tastefully arranged, three tables and chairs were placed. In the left-hand one facing our guard sat the Mantchoo "Kwei-liang," Senior Commissioner and Chief Secretary of State; on the right was the Mongol "Hwasana," Second Commissioner and President of the Civil Board, while the vacant seat and table between them was for the British Ambassador. On either side from this centre a row of chairs had been placed for the officers of the suite, &c., and when the Imperial Commissioners had, in conformance to Chinese etiquette, handed Lord Elgin from his sedan-chair to his seat in the centre, and all had taken their respective places, the coup d'œil was most striking. The ambassadors of the high contracting Powers were not in full dress, but behind them and on either hand stood fully a hundred officers of the two nations glittering in gold and gay colours, the rich silks and embroidery of the Chinese contrasting pleasingly with the lace and broadcloth of the English and French. In one respect there was a striking difference; it was in the English portion of the audience being all armed; each one carried either musket or sword, whereas a fan was the most formidable weapon worn by bold mandarins who, from the number of peacocks' feathers attached to their caps, must have been perfectly Oids in a fray. Whenever the eyes lighted upon a space free from groups of men or officers, the background was found to be elaborately filled up with ornaments very characteristic of the land we were in.

Highly peaked and fretted roofs, turned up according to Chinese rules, supported huge mouthed demons, griffins or dragons, and screened from the weather, elegant panels, rich in scrollwork, or over-loaded with elaborate carvings of pomegranate, lotus, and citron. Among the red coats came out in strong relief a most awe-inspiring lion, chiselled quaintly out of stone; such teeth, such claws, such a tuft to the tail and Calmuck-like expression of countenance as only a Chinese artist could have conceived. Curious paintings hung from the walls, and handsome scarlet cloth screens, most elaborately embroidered in floss silk of brilliant colors, covered every chair, table, or otherwise bare space of woodwork, and over all the light of the moon and a small number of pretty little lanterns shed a richly picturesque effect. In this picture, of which I can only convey a very feeble impression, sat the three Commissioners in strong relief; and as we looked upon them, and the eye glanced from Kwei-liang to Lord Elgin, the idea involuntarily arose that, after all, a civilisation which only dated from the year 500 B.C., when that much to be lauded standard bearer of the Tenth Legion struggled with a set of naked savages on Deal beach, decidedly carried off the palm against one which went back beyond the deluge—aye, half-a-dozen deluges—for the intellect and vigor stamped upon every look, word, and action of the Scottish Earl formed a fine contrast to the highly polished surface which ill concealed the subtle cunning of the Pekinese official.

Kwei-liang, now 74 years of age, has fine features, with a generally pleasing expression of countenance. Polished in address, and with a high reputation for intelligence, there is still something wanting to convince one of his sincerity, in which respect the Mongol Hwasana has considerably the advantage of him. He, Hwasana, the Second Commissioner, is a stout, thick-set man, in age a little over 50 years.—His countenance is coarse, but betokens far more character than is usually met with in the stolid features of the sons of Ham. Hwasana's nose has been unanimously declared to be a facsimile of that of the Protector Cromwell; those who believe in noses may at once put him down as a Republican, regicide, and fanatic. I should merely think him a man of strong will, with some honesty, counteracted by sensuality, and a fear of the sword his Imperial master keeps hanging over all his servants. Grouped around these two high functionaries stood a number of inferior mandarins rejoicing in decorations of peacock's feathers and squirrel's tails, attached with the colored ball distinctive of their rank to the crown of their conical summer hats. Of these alone deserving notice was Pien, the private secretary of Kwei-liang, a very clever young mandarin, on whom has fallen all the detail and labor of the negotiations, and who appeared to have great influence with his superiors; the other was a general, attached to Hwasana, whom our Transatlantic friends had made so much of, in consequence of the discovery that he was a "viscount" by birth, that he at one time, in the early stage of the negotiations, became intolerably saucy, and had to be taken down a whole flight of steps by one of the able sinologists attached to the British Embassy. By the side of Lord Elgin stood his two Chinese secretaries, Mr. Wade and Mr. N. Lay; they were intrusted with the Chinese version of the treaty, and the English version was under the care of Mr. D. Cameron, senior Attache. To the left of Kwei-liang—the left being the seat of honor in China—sat Admiral Sir Michael Seymour and the Hon. Mr. Bruce, Secretary of Legation; the names or places of the rest baffles all power of description beyond that I saw Captain Sir F. Nicolson, W. K. Hall, S. Osborn, and Rodrick Dew, together with Messrs. L. Oliphant, H. B. Lock, Geo. Fitzroy, Dr. Saunders, and an artist named, we believe, Morrison, all of Lord Elgin's Staff, making a gallant struggle for places with a crowd of lieutenants, midshipmen, engineers, and domestics, who were evidently bent on proving to the Imperial Commissioners how "ferocious and uncontrollable" was the natural disposition of that Western tribe the "Ying-kei-lee." Without, however, waiting for any order to be

established, or, may be despairing of it, the highest Powers at once proceeded to business, after a short opening in which the most tender inquiries as to the state of health of the two plenipotentiaries, as to missions, were gone through, and the most gracious Majesty and the Emperor Hienfung, were likewise both reported to be as well as could be expected. Lord Elgin then suggested that he would sign and seal the English copy of the Treaty while the Chinese plenipotentiaries did as much to the Chinese version. This was assented to, and the work proceeded rapidly; they to the pressure of business, Mr. Wade had, been obliged to complete the final copy of the Treaty in Chinese with much haste, a haste which added in no small degree to that industrious sinologist's anxiety that his document should be a perfect one, and bear the test of Chinese and European criticism. One article, relating to the indemnity for losses at Canton, and the expenses of the war, was separate from the Treaty. After Kwei-liang had attached his signature to the articles which were filed together, Mr. Lay placed the indemnity one before him. "China-man! he, at once, saw a possibility of escaping from even one little part of his contract, and immediately made an attempt to do so. "What is this?" said he, looking the picture of innocence at Mr. Lay. "What's this?" "Never mind it; I don't know anything about it," he gently pushed it aside. "It is one of the articles," said Mr. Lay, "and here, pointing at a particular spot, 'You must sign it.'" The faithful "Pien" now came to his master's assistance. "What is it?" appealed Kwei-liang to his secretary; "am I to sign it? Do you know what it is?" "No, I know nothing about it," said the polished Pien in his most silvery tone. "Au, au," smiled Kwei-liang faintly, "never mind it, never mind it," and again the article was gently pushed aside, to be again brought up by Mr. Lay, who, calm and untrifled, still pointed perseveringly at the blank spot at the foot of the sheet of paper, and reiterated in still more silvery Pekinese, "It is the article touching the indemnity, and you must sign here, Sir." Pien was quicker than his superior in seeing that the barbarian was not to be outmaneuvered, and in a moment understood all about the article in dispute. "Oh, yes, it is all right," said he to Kwei-liang. The old man quietly drew the paper towards him, and at once attached his signature. The respective Secretaries now advanced to a small table, and then the great seal, especially struck for this occasion, the sole credential indeed of the Imperial Commissioners, was stamped in vermilion on every copy of the Treaty, and then Mr. Wade officially reported to His Lordship that the Treaty of Tientsin was duly signed and sealed.

A vast deal more satisfaction was expressed in the contentment of the British Ambassador at this announcement than could be detected in those of the Imperial Commissioners, yet they looked like anything but men who had made a disgraceful treaty. Indeed, in spite of all the undoubtedly great concessions made by them on the present occasion, it is very certain that the Treaty of Nankin struck more directly to the fundamental laws of this empire, and that too at a time when the power of Western nations was far less known and feared than at present.—Keying then ceded not only Hongkong in perpetuity, but acknowledged our right to Chusan so long as the treaty was not fulfilled, an alienation of the territory of the central nation which caused his impeachment, and, as we are still writing, his death. He was who first acknowledged the perfect equality of all nations, and that there more sons of Heaven than he of Pekin. Those principles have now received a very great development; it is true, but it would be unfair to say that we have been oppressive in our demands, or obtained that from China which we will not cheerfully reciprocate.

Lord Elgin expressed his fervent hope that the peace just concluded might be a lasting one and beneficial to both nations, while the Commissioners appeared cordially to echo; and then, after some poetical allusions to the moon, which was smiling upon them from the blue vault overhead, the attendants were desired to bring in some slight refreshments. His Lordship and the Commissioners respectively proposed the health of each other's Sovereign, and at last, with many expressions of mutual esteem, the Ambassador of England rose to take his leave. Again the Marines presented arms, again the air of "God save the Queen" rolled through the many courts of the Temple of the Glory of the Sea; scarlet bands from their quiet corners, and birds in numbers from tree and roof; again the Goolies shouldered their sedan-chairs, and away we all went at a killing pace over the moon-lit plain, jostling now through narrow streets redolent of everything that is foul on God's earth, with a strong smack of opium and garlic in addition, now skirting the grey walls of the city, and frightening from heaps of offal numbers of yelping dogs, which added their cries to the shouts of the bearers, warning their countrymen to clear the road for the "ferce and intractable ones"—indeed from the scampering away from our front and slamming of doors we feel firmly convinced that the bearers shudder. "That the devils were coming" is, although complimentary, it decidedly proved highly efficacious in rendering our route unimpeded through a densely-populated suburb. A whiff of pure air this we had reached the water at the bridge over the great canal, and in a few minutes we again stood on the steps of the yamun of the British Embassy.

P. S.—I open my letter to add that this day, July 4, 1858, a decree has been received from the Emperor, in which he not only says that he has seen the Treaty of Tientsin, but agrees to ratify it. The American and Russian Ministers being exceedingly credulous, simple-minded individuals—of course we must give them credit for being sincere—were at one time very well satisfied with a simple acknowledgment of the Treaty by His Imperial Majesty Hienfung, and wished the Chinese to infer Lord Elgin was very exacting in requiring a ratification on the spot. You at home will, of course, think with us, that His Lordship did perfectly well in obtaining every guarantee from the Court of Pekin. Lord Elgin and suite embarked on the 6th of July at board Her Majesty's ship Furious, and proceeded to Shanghai, en route for Japan.—Cor. of Times.

In these treaties obtained by England and France for conceding freedom of religious preaching and worship in China, we recognise the granting of the request contained in the dying prayer of the great Saint Francis Xavier, "O that these everlasting gates of rock would open!" The walls of Catholic exclusiveness are now broken down; and Catholic Missionaries from all ends of the earth will hasten to labour in a field large enough for three times the number that can be spared to occupy it. The Protestant Missionary Societies will be sending out their cargoes of tracts, but in the East nothing is to be feared from their opposition. They cannot convert the heathen. Dr. Morrison the celebrated Chinese scholar and Protestant Missionary, was at work seven years before he succeeded in baptising his first neophyte, and then only by performing the rite "by the wayside, and far from human observation." In the ports opened for British trade, the Protestant Missionaries are likely to succeed in securing the attendance at their preaching of such Chinese as are in the employment of Protestant merchants; but, like the super system in Ireland, the period of apparent conversion will be regulated by the standard of wages. The Chinese will not profess Protestantism on any day after they cease to be paid for doing so. As for Bibles, as we stated on a former occasion, the Chinese will rejoice to be supplied with millions of them—not to read, but to employ in the manufacture of the soles of those high-shoes worn by the Mandarins and the gentry. What the Chinese prize the sacred volume for is the quantity of fine paper contained in it.—Weekly Register.

Bachelors are not entirely lost to the refinement of sentiment, for the following toast was given by one of them at a celebration:—"The ladies, sweet brides in the garden of life."