

a plain disadvantage in the Church of England as compared with the Romanist or Dissenting services. And the result is, that while a feeling of duty draws many of the higher and middle classes, and a value for the preaching attracts others, the service, to the working man, is not sufficiently popular. He does not understand or appreciate it.

We are not indulging in any peculiar fancies of our own. We may show this by quoting from a High Church newspaper, the *English Churchman*, of February 10, the following remarks:

"While in one class of churches the services are brought as nearly as possible to the standard of a Puritan conventicle, and in another class are as dull, dead and cold as a mere perfunctory duet between the parson and the parish clerk can make them; in a third class there is so much excess of form and ceremony, and so much music and singing, not to say noise, that sober church people often feel that they have been to an exhibition rather than to a church: especially if, as is frequently the case, the service has been hurried through, so indistinctly, unintelligibly, and monotonously, that it was impossible to follow or feel what was said or read. We do hope that both clergy and laity, who feel any deep, earnest desire to promote uniformity and improvement in our public worship will at once commence their most necessary task. If not one or two things will be done. People will more than ever absent themselves from their parish church, or they will be forced to carry their complaints to their Bishops."

News Department.

From Papers by the R. M. S. Niagara, June 11

PEACE OR WAR.—The aspect of affairs retains its dark and gloomy appearance in the East of Europe. The rupture of Russia with Turkey appears to be complete. All diplomatic relations between the two countries have ceased; and it only remains for the Czar to determine whether he will hazard a war or not. All Europe is exhausting itself in conjectures as to the result of the Imperial barbarian's will; and everybody feels that upon his sole and arbitrary fiat flow rests the question of whether many countries and many races of men shall or shall not be plunged into all the miseries and horrors of a bloody and perhaps protracted war. It is in such moments as these that we realize the awful responsibility resting upon those who are vested with undivided, unlimited, and despotical power. The peace of a whole quarter of the globe is at this instant wholly dependent upon one man's humour, one man's caprice, one man's temper, or one man's pride. If the Czar, in the blindness of passion, or the madness of ambition, says—"I will take from Turkey by force that which she has denied to me by negotiation," all Europe must instantly arm, and the flame of war, at first kindled in the East, may not improbably extend itself by anything but slow degrees into many of the fairest and most flourishing countries of the West.

In this formidable crisis it is gratifying to be assured that all the great Powers of Europe are of one mind as to the utter unreasonableness and insolence of the demands which the Northern bully has made upon the Porte; and that they will unite heart and hand to oppose him, if he should dare to put his pretensions to the arbitrament of the sword.

As to Turkey itself, we are told that the old Moslem spirit has been fairly roused in every province of the country, and that the population, headed by their local chiefs, are eagerly coming forward to defend the Sultan from the indignity and wrong which the Russian despot would put upon him. The Sultan, in putting his signature to the answer rejecting the propositions of Prince Menschikoff, is reported to have said, "I really cannot understand what it is attempted to exact from me. I desire only the happiness of all my subjects, without distinction of religious creed, and have shown this desire with more ardour than any of my predecessors, and yet the more I display this feeling the less gratitude do I find on the part of the Christian princes who are my neighbours." The Sultan then signed in a bold hand. His language has since spread everywhere through his dominions, and is said to have produced an electrical effect. His conduct, indeed, throughout the whole of the trying circumstances in which the arrogant demands of Russia have recently placed him has been such as to secure to him the unbounded admiration and love of the whole of his subjects. The enthusiasm of the Turks is represented as being at its height; and, in the estimation of some by no means incompetent judges, it is exceedingly doubtful whether, in the conflict which impends, Turkey alone would not be found to be more than a match, in the field, for the Northern hordes which the Czar would oppose to her. This may, probably, be too sanguine an opinion, but it is certain that the Turkish spirit is completely up, and that the number and character of the troops which the Sultan can

oppose to the march of an invader are by no means to be despised.

It is to be hoped, however, that the Czar will not allow the ruffled feelings, consequent upon the defeat of his insidious designs at Constantinople, to prompt him to the extremity of war. Should he do so, he may rest assured that the humiliation he has already sustained in the defeat of his policy will be as nothing compared with the utter rack and ruin which will befall his arms.

THE NAVY.—SCARCITY OF ABLE SEAMEN FOR THE NAVY.—The recruiting quartermasters from the Crocodile receiving-ship, lying off the Tower, are extremely active in the vicinity of the docks, Tower-hill, Ratchiff-highway and the other resorts of merchant seamen, beating up recruits to complete the crews of her Majesty's ships Wellington, London, Amphion, Comus, Barracouta, and Brisk. Numbers of ordinary seamen and boys have offered, but of able seamen few presented themselves. Not only do the ships above named require men, but we may add to them almost every ship in Rear Admiral Corry's squadron, and every other ship fitting out at the ports. If their lordships do not speedily devise some better means of procuring seamen for the navy than they have in force at present, they will be in about the same predicament as the Whig Admiralty were in 1838-9, when the affairs of the navy were in such a critical state as to be the subject of jokes and sneers by foreign powers. It seems to be almost impossible to beat into their sapient Lordships heads that seamen of the present day are different to that class of men who mutinied in some of their Lordships' frigates. They are not mere machines, but are men of intelligence, and have no notion of serving in the navy (where a petty officer of 17 years' good service is now and then illegally flogged) for one third-less pay than they can obtain in other services.

REMOVAL OF TROOPS FROM THE CAPE.—Lieut. General Cathcart, commanding the forces at the Cape of Good Hope, has communicated to the authorities at home that he can now spare the 12th Lancers and three regiments of infantry. It is not yet decided whether two of the latter shall proceed to India.

FRANCE.

THE EMPEROR BONAPARTE'S LESSON TO THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS.—The following article in the semi-official journal is attributed to the French Government:—"The Government of Napoleon III. has not committed the fault of the Government of Louis Philippe. It has not sought in the Eastern question for an occasion of revolutionary tumult on the drum of propagandism, it has not isolated France from Europe. No: it has placed itself with dignity, firmness, and calm in the right of Europe. It is for that that it negotiates; it is for that that it would fight, if necessary, not alone, but with all, and for all. France ought not to be and cannot be alone in the question of the East. The simple supposition of her isolation is a folly of so monstrous a character that it is impossible to think of it for an instant. France is with England, with Austria, with Prussia, and she will be also, we hope, with Russia. There exists between the five great Powers, as between them and all the others of Europe, a common interest, more intimate for some of them, more distant for us, but obligatory for all. If Russia were to disregard that fact through pride or ambition, it is with France alone that she would have to do? Would France alone take fire for an interest more European than French? Could she, from the extremity of the west, separated from Russia by Germany, and from Turkey by the Mediterranean, the Archipelago, and the Dardanelles, have to fire the first shot for a cause which is hers only because it is that of every one? Honour would not commend so much precipitation, nor would sound policy recommend it. What she ought to have done, she has done. At the first signal of the complications she sent her fleet, took up a position near the theatre of events, and was ready for every eventuality. But in displaying her flag in face of the Dardanelles, France showed her right to all Europe; and her right is the right of all—that which she could not defend single-handed without temerity, and which the Governments could not abandon without weakness, and without relinquishing their proper interest and honour. We cannot imagine a nobler situation for France. We know of none more honourable for her Government, and which more markedly contradicts the sentiments of distrust which had greeted its accession. Napoleon III. has too much prudence, patriotism, and political genius, to play with that terrible word 'war.' That word which is a part of his glory, has not dazzled him. Twice only has he announced it since he has governed—three years back

as a reparation towards the head of Christendom, the illustrious Pius IX., replaced in the chair of St. Peter by a French army; and now as a precaution against the fear of an encroachment and of a violation of treaties. The foreign policy is sufficiently characterised by this explanation. After having had the honour of saving religion amidst the applause of Europe, he now defends the right of Europe, respect for treaties, order, peace, and equity. The conqueror who was feared is not he. The people which trembles for its repose is not that which adjoins our frontier. No, he renders impossible any coalition against France; and he also renders impossible the partition of another Poland, as well as the conspiracy or the treason of another treaty of Pilsnitz; and he is ready to take his place in the great European coalition, to cause the integrity of a people and the inviolability of a right to be respected. Besides, this point must not be lost sight of, that war, not probable but possible, would not resemble in anything what has been hitherto seen. It would not be the frontier uncovered, nor the nationality engaged. The Rhine, that national barrier, would not be menaced by an enemy; and it is not at our doors that the quarrel will be settled. At the utmost, on a distant scene France would have to appear, not to defend herself nor to attack, but to cause treaties to be respected. Such is her armed mission. She would have behind her flag the armies and fleets which could not make default to the cause of the right of all against the ambition of one. War on these conditions would undoubtedly be a misfortune, but it would never be a peril or a convulsion. Consequently, whether France combats or negotiates her situation is as glorious as it is strong, for war would only be an act of common European defence, and peace a treaty of alliance, the indissolubility of which would have for sanction the permanent interest of all the States."

Russia, after having placed herself in the strongest contrast to the late convulsive changes of the French nation, has suddenly reversed the scene, and assumed that part which she would have been the first to resist if Louis Napoleon had adopted it; while Louis Napoleon declares that "he is ready to take his place in the great European coalition to cause the integrity of an empire and the inviolability of a law to be respected." We confess we are amused to see the Emperor Nicholas receive a lesson in good faith and moderation from a Bonaparte, while the fleets of revolutionary France are sent to protect the rights and treaties of other nations against the oppressive demands of the Sovereign who has so long claimed to be the champion of legal authority and conservative power.

TURKEY.

ANOTHER DEMAND UPON TURKEY.—We have received a telegraphic message from Berlin, stating that intelligence had reached that capital from St. Petersburg, in which it is announced that the Emperor of Russia had despatched a courier to Constantinople, with a demand that Prince Menschikoff's last proposal should be accepted by the Porte within eight days. There was some question of the Sultan naming his brother-in-law (and former minister), Halil Pasha, Ambassador Extraordinary to St. Petersburg. The fleet under the orders of Achmed Pasha had arrived at Constantinople, and that of Abbas Pasha was expected from day to day. From 25,000 to 30,000 was about the military force expected to be furnished by the Pasha of Egypt. On the 22d, 4,000 barrels of powder were taken out of the magazine and prepared for immediate use if necessary. The letters add that the greatest excitement prevailed at Constantinople, and that the Sultan had gained much in popularity in consequence of his firm and dignified bearing throughout the crisis.

THE SULTAN'S OFFER TO THE CZAR.—An opportunity is given to Russia of escaping with honour from the difficult position in which it has been placed by the violence of Prince Menschikoff. The Porte has drawn up a note, in which it pledges itself to grant to the Greeks, and all other Mussulmans, such spiritual and temporal privileges as may be deemed necessary by the European Powers, under whose joint protection they shall be placed. In a word, the Sultan consents to the reasonable demands of Russia. To the unreasonable ones, concerning the exclusive Protectorate over 12,000,000 of his Greek subjects, "the Sultan neither can nor will listen." The above-mentioned note was submitted to the representatives of the four great Powers, and, "they having examined and approved of it, a minister Extraordinary was despatched with it to St. Petersburg."

THE TURKISH FORCES.—The *Impartial of Smyrna* calculates the Turkish forces at 430,000 fighting men. Their navy consists of 16 men-of-war, of which three