

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON'S VISIT TO THE CRIMEA.—A letter received from Paris, speaking on this subject, says:—"The project, however unlikely it may appear, was actually discussed in the Council of Ministers; and Admiral Hamelin was consulted as to the time the voyage out and back would occupy. It appears that even now it is not certain that Louis Napoleon will not persist in his idea; for, although the Ministers have unanimously disapproved of it, the Emperor has not yet intimated that he has abandoned his determination."

Another letter says:—"The rumor which has taken every one by surprise, which has disconcerted most of those who have heard it, and which has produced so great a fall in the public securities, is still persisted in. I allude to the departure of the Emperor to the Crimea. It continues to be the topic of conversation, and though there are a few who still disbelieve it, yet several who were yesterday and the day before among the most incredulous now begin to give way. They call to mind that the Emperor is a sort of fatalist, that he is firmly persuaded that he has a mission to fulfil, that no dangers, no difficulties, are great enough to prevent that fulfilment, that he is destined to restore the glory of his name and the nation he rules over, and that the capture of Sebastopol under his own eye, and perhaps under his command would give his reign a prestige far beyond that of Algiers, and nearly equal to that of his great uncle."

It is currently reported in Paris that the Emperor will pay his long expected visit to London, at the end of February or the beginning of March.—*Globe*.

Every one now feels that we must make up our minds to a long, an obstinate, and a bloody war (says the *Chronicle* Paris correspondent.) The accounts which reach us from Germany show less and less confidence in the conclusion of peace. Not only do the German papers begin to doubt the sincerity of the propositions made in the name of the Czar, but some of them go so far as to say that Prince Gortschakoff did not give in his adhesion without an amount of reserve which renders whatever he has done worthless.

THE FRENCH "ARMY OF THE RHINE."—The camp of Boulogne, or, as it now begins to be called, the "army of the Rhine," is now completely organized, and prepared to take the field at a very short notice. It is said that it is to be raised to 200,000 men, and to be divided into four corps d'armée. The Emperor himself will be the commander-in-chief, with General Schramm as second in command. All the officers have received orders to be in readiness to march at short notice, and no congés are now given.

CONVERSION.—The Count de Stolberg (grandson of the celebrated historian of that name, who was converted to the Catholic faith in 1808) has followed the example of his grandfather, and returned to the bosom of the Catholic Church at Kaltern, Tyrol.—*Univers*.

The *Univers* of the 30th Jan. states that Mr. Robert Belaney, formerly member of the University of Cambridge, and Anglican Minister, entered about four months since l'Ecole des Carmes to study theology and prepare for the Priesthood. His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman, who placed him there, visited the house on Saturday, celebrated the Holy Mass, and conferred Minor Orders on Mr. Belaney.

The *Messenger de la Charité* gives the following interesting letter from a French chaplain at the seat of war:—"The spirit of our army is admirable.—We are between two fires, from the walls of Sebastopol, and from the Russian army in the field. Amidst all our perils the camp is pervaded by a spirit of calmness, tranquillity, joy, and devotion, which makes it a very school of French magnanimity and honor. The most cruel sufferings cannot damp the ardor of our soldiers. One of them came the other day to the ambulance, carrying the half of his arm which had just been shot off, in his hand. While the surgeons were dressing this frightful wound, two men fell struck by a bullet. 'They are worse than I am, go to them,' and he escaped from the hands of the surgeons to force them to attend to his comrades. It is needless to add that these acts of virtue and devotion spring from the spirit of Christianity. 'Oh! M. l'Abbé,' cried the soldiers, 'come to us.' We have neither father nor mother, we are far away from our own country, but you are the representative of God, you will be to us in the stead of all others. 'M. l'Abbé,' said a captain, with whose name I am unacquainted, who accosted me as I passed through the camp. 'You are one of us, may God bless you, the cross and the sword are inseparably united, come with us, bless us, help us to do our duty, and prepare us for death, we can brave all; and we fear not for the future.' 'M. l'Abbé, come to us,' cried a party of officers, whom I saluted, taking their supper in the open air, 'come to us that we may become acquainted with you, you will tell us that you are one of us, and you will accompany us to the field of battle, and we shall do our duty, because the mercy of God is with you. It must be owned, M. l'Abbé, that the Russians are better than we are, they are more religious, and yet they are not like us Catholics. It is a disgrace to us Frenchmen. 'There must be an end of this,' said a Soubien, with an open countenance and a noble soul, who had just left the hospital to return to his battalion and encounter fresh dangers. In very original and picturesque terms, which I am unable to translate, he informed me how human respect had been the scourge of the enemy, and how it was rapidly disappearing from the army of the East. Certainly, their united testimony is very satisfactory and encouraging amid all the good which is being so noiselessly accomplished. I am fortunate in being a priest among the flower of the children of France, and in offering my life to take part in a providential movement towards those religious ideas, which can

alone be the salvation of society. I have been received with the most touching kindness by officers of every rank, perfect harmony reigns throughout the camp, all are drawn together in closer union on this foreign soil, and the bond is strengthened by fellowship in suffering and the absence of all comfort. The courtesy of the French and English officers recalls the best days of chivalry, and the care lavished on the Russian prisoners and wounded reminds us of the brightest days of Christianity."

THE BROTHERS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE.—The government of the Brothers of Christian Doctrine is at present divided into twenty provinces, of which ten are for France, Algeria, and the colonies; the ten others for Belgium, Prussia, Switzerland, Savoy, Piedmont, the Pontifical States, the Levant, Canada, the United States, and Malasia. At this moment England is being organized as a province.—The General, Father Philippe, resides at Passy.—There are in these twenty provinces, 750 establishments, 1,353 schools, 4,126 classes, and 275,000 pupils.—*Journal de Bruxelles*.

The Father General of the Society of Jesus has addressed the following paper to the Provincial:—

"My Rev. Father—The public and the public press have been saying much, and in different tones, of the doctrines and line of conduct adopted by the Society of Jesus on the subject of different forms of political government. In consequence of this, I feel obliged by duty to my charge to remind the provincial Fathers of what are the principles of the Society on this subject. The Society of Jesus being a religious Order has no other doctrine or rule of conduct but that of the Holy Church, as my predecessor, Rev. Father Roothaan, was called on to declare publicly in 1847:—

"The greatest glory of God and the salvation of souls—is this our true and only end, to which we tend by the apostolic labors which belong to the Institute of St. Ignatius. In fact, as in right, the Society of Jesus is, and declares itself to be, exterior to all political parties whatsoever. In all countries and under all forms of government, it confines itself exclusively to the exercise of its ministry, having its one end only in view, which is raised far above all interests of human."

"Always and in all places, the Religious of the Society acquit themselves faithfully of the duties of good citizens and loyal subjects of the ruling authority of the country. Always, and everywhere, it teaches by word and deed, 'Render to Cæsar that which belongs to Cæsar, and to God that which belongs to God.'"

"These are the principles which the Society of Jesus has always professed, and from which it will never depart. In the present circumstances, as Superior of the Society of Jesus, I feel bound to renew this declaration, which alone is to be received as authoritative, in order to silence and correct all contrary assertions as to the doctrine of the Society, or its chief theologians, as to the form of its interior government, or as to the education given to its young religious, whatever may have been the source of those assertions. Notwithstanding my extreme repugnance to see my name mixed up in the newspaper discussions, I can perceive, Rev. Father, that your situation may become such as to make it possible for you to refuse permission to make such use of this letter as circumstances may demand."

"I recommend myself to your, &c.—Your servant in Jesus Christ, PIERRE BECCO. Rome, Jan. 10, 1855.—*Univers*.

GERMANY.

The Cabinet of Vienna has forwarded to the Prussian Government another note, under date of January 24th, urging its former arguments in favor of a mobilization on the part of Prussia, her obligations to which it endeavors still to educe out of the treaty of April 20. In this last attempt it has been no more successful than on former occasions, and Prussia has replied to it by another despatch, under date of January 31, adducing the same grounds as before for not complying with the application. The said treaty is shown to have been a defensive treaty, of which the possible offensive character turns on a contingency that has not yet supervened. Should it subsequently supervene, Prussia is ready and willing to march instantly to Austria's assistance. She refuses, however, to call out troops for the mere purpose of making an offensive demonstration against Russia in whose assurance she trusts, that no attack will be made on Austria. Within the last week or ten days, the representations of the latter Power have lost much of their weight on this subject, seeing that the resolution for putting the entire Federal contingents on the war footing has been adopted in the committees of the Bund, and that Russia has considerably drawn back her forces in Poland from their former threatened position.

Prussia has been for several months past perfecting all her preparations for an eventual mobilization, so that whenever the word of command is given, a large force, in addition to the regiments already on foot, will be collected around the standards with such a rapidity as to produce the amount of dramatic effect that is so much valued in high places here. But the rapid movements of Generals to and from the capital just now must not be misunderstood to imply immediate mobilization; their business is to help to constitute the Fire-arms Committee which I lately mentioned as sitting here under the Presidency of the Prince of Prussia. The object of General Willisen's visit to Carlsruhe has also been the examination of certain improvements lately introduced into the fire-arms of the Baden troops. General von Willisen and Lt.-Colonel von Schlegel have the management of the Royal Prussian fire-arms' manufactory at Suhl.

Very extensive preparations are being made for war in Bavaria, but, as in the case here, everything

is done as quietly as possible. The Artillery department is extremely active; the furloughmen are about to be called in, and the recruits of this year are to be drilled without delay.

SWITZERLAND.

THE CURSE ON CHURCH ROBBERY.—The political situation of the country offers no novelty; but, at the present moment, when the threatened suppression of religious corporations in Sardinia, excites so much attention, it may be of interest to review the results which a similar revolutionary measure has produced in Switzerland. Since 1840, the Progressionist Cantons have successively taken possession of the wealth of the richest convents, and have, by this means, poured many millions of francs into the cantonal treasuries, and what good has come of it? The budgets of these church-robbing cantons present, at this very time; enormous deficits, and the misery of the people is greater than ever. Lucerne, for example, has a deficit this year of 211,592 francs; Fribourg of 205,600 francs; St. Gall of 341,000 francs; and we do not speak of Argau, the Valais, and the Tessin, all whose finances are in a most deplorable condition. Thus the State has gained nothing by the spoliation of the convents; but the people have lost much—pauperism is making fearful progress in these countries. At Lucerne, the pauper tax has risen in some communes, to 20 to 50 per cent. And the canton actually expends nearly a million francs for the relief of the poor. In Argau, there are some communes where two-thirds of the population are in receipt of pauper relief. At Fribourg, the pauper rates absorb an immense sum, and so of all the rest. In all the cantons in which the convents have been suppressed, we observe two clear results: 1st. The budgets of those cantons, which were formerly in a flourishing condition, are now burdened with debts. 2nd. That the misery of the people, and the number of the poor is greatly augmented in proportion to the pauper-tax, where formerly there existed no pauperism, it has now assumed very alarming proportions. Thus the suppression of the convents, so far from enriching the Swiss government, has rendered the people much more miserable. In its political aspect, the suppression of the religious corporations has not in any way answered the intentions of the party of progress; they hoped to strengthen their cause and to strike a mortal blow at the religious inclinations of the people, to place themselves in the van of public opinion, and to silence the "Ultramontane" opposition. In all these points they have failed, for the suppression of the convents has so irritated the people, that many times since 1840 they have taken up arms to restore the convents, and drive away the government robbers, as at Fribourg, Argau, Tessin, &c. If a civil war should ever again arise in Switzerland, the suppression of the convents will have been one of its principal causes. Instead of overcoming the opposition, it has only strengthened it, and thus this measure of the Progressionists has been not only a crime but a blunder. Will the experiment be more successful in Sardinia.—*Univers*.

ITALY.

REVOLUTIONARY SYMPTOMS IN ITALY.—There are two great events taking place in Italy at this moment—France and Austria are withdrawing their troops, and symptoms of revolution are appearing in the Roman States and in Tuscany. Meanwhile the Italian Princes (especially Naples) are recruiting largely in Switzerland at a ruinous cost. As matters now stand the telegraph may any day tell us that a rising has taken place in the Roman States, in Tuscany, or in Naples.—*Morning Post Correspondent*.

The Holy Father declares null and void all the laws and ordinances made by the Sardinian Government against the rights and authority of the Church, and of the Holy See as well as that law proposed for the destruction of the religious houses.

DEATH OF ANOTHER CARDINAL.—The *Univers* of Friday announces from the *Roman Journal* the demise, which has just taken place, of His Eminence Cardinal Giovanni Serafini. The "Catholic Almanack" gives as the date of his birth October 15, 1786, and of his elevation to the purple February 12, 1843. This makes the fourth death amongst the members of the Sacred College since the commencement of the present year.

SPAIN.

It would appear that the present Spanish government is determined on the confiscation of the entire property of the Clergy. We translate the following on this subject from the *Univers* commenting on the speech of the new Minister of Finance, M. Pascal Flores, who is stated to have said:—"As to the goods of the Clergy, they will be sold immediately, without asking authority from any one. We will then see appear in a few days the decree of spoliation in the official gazette, and a new inquiry will be consummated, notwithstanding a recent treaty, the Concordat of 1851, which the Spanish government guaranteed to the Clergy the property of which it now despoils them. How are the revenues derived from the property of the Clergy appropriated? To support poor families who could not, since the spoliation of the property of the Religious Orders obtain elsewhere the bread of charity; to maintain some necessary Priests exclusively of those to whom the state gives or rather promises such limited support. These revenues serve also to maintain the churches which, if depending solely on the government funds, would be in the most wretched condition. This is the use which the Clergy made of the revenues arising out of this property."

RUSSIA.

Some of the semi-official organs of Russia in Germany, have recently informed us that the Czar now has 685,000 men in the field, and that within six months a reserve army of 200,000 men will be organized. There is no reason to suppose that this is

an exaggeration, but it must not be forgotten that the Russian line of operation extends from the Baltic Sea to the Caspian.

RUSSIAN REVENGE AT BOMARSUND.—It is reported from Bomarsund that the Russian Government is taking strict measures against those who are in the slightest degree suspected of having rendered assistance to the allies. Between seventy and eighty inhabitants have already been punished.

EXPULSION OF ENGLISH MISSIONARIES FROM RUSSIA.—A Königsberg paper has received information from a private source that all English missionaries in Russia have been commanded by Imperial ukase to quit the country within fourteen days.

RUSSIAN PRISONERS—THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.—The *St. Petersburg Journal* publishes the following:—"We experience real satisfaction in informing the public that the wounded Russians conveyed to Constantinople receive in the French hospitals the most tender care on the part of the Sisters of Charity. Faithful to their holy vocation, these Nuns manifest a solicitude eminently Christian while succouring human sufferings, without making any distinction as to the nationality or religion of the sufferers. We know, moreover, that in their beneficence they have bought and supplied our prisoners with the most indispensable articles of apparel. They have shown themselves worthy of all admiration in compassionate and tending our poor wounded men precisely the same as if they had been Frenchmen. May the homage of our sincere gratitude find its way to those worthy Nuns, whom God can alone reward according to their deserts for the mission of charity they so sublimely fulfil in this world."

WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The accounts from Sebastopol contain unmistakable evidence that, in the midst of sickness and sufferings of our troops, the operations of the siege have gradually assumed a more decisive character, and the attack upon the town is likely to be soon commenced. The operations so resolutely pursued, have now assumed an aspect of some promise. Our allies have exerted themselves with incredible energy, determination, and dexterity. Notwithstanding the unremitting fire and ceaseless attacks of the enemy, they have carried on approaches of a scientific character up to the very walls of the place. The extent and importance of their works may be judged from the fact that they cover a space of two miles in depth by five or six miles in length, and, having thus established themselves in a commanding position, they will be ready, it is said, to renew the experiment on the 17th of October, with chances more favorable than before. On our own side we have also accomplished much. We have got our batteries in very good order, and three nights, it was said, would be sufficient to arm them. When all the preparations have been completed, it is supposed that the strength of the enemy will again be tested by a repetition of the regular attack.

Hitherto it has been all artillery work, and the siege guns of the allies, brought up with difficulty from the shore to the heights, and supplied with ammunition by the same laborious process, have proved no match for the countless cannon of the enemy, drawn from the stores of a prodigious arsenal in their rear, served by the thousand gunners of a disabled fleet, and worked with a vigor and even a wantonness showing the most lavish profusion of all the munitions of war.—What is now desired is to bring, if possible, another weapon into operation, and to clear the way for these daring hands and that resistless steel, which defended the gorges of Inkermann against legions after legions of fanatics, and carried the colors of France and England in glorious triumph up the heights of Alma.—*Times*.

A military writer in the *Frankfurter Postzeitung* says that the Piedmontese troops will probably land at Kassa, a point of great strategical importance. This place, as everybody knows is situated on the south-east coast of the Crimea. It was originally a Genoese port, and a harbor in the neighborhood is to this day called Porto Genovese. The fortress of Kassa has been razed. The writer remarks that Kassa commands the road to Bakschi-serai and Simpheropol; and an army stationed at this point would not only cut off the communication between Sebastopol and the Russians, but would threaten them in the rear."

SALE OF PLACES.

(From the *Tablet*.)

In the columns of the London newspapers a puzzling variety of reasons are paraded for the calamities of the Crimea. The public are bewildered by a perplexing profusion of alternate and contradictory charges of Ministerial corruption and military ignorance—official incapacity and aristocratic imbecility. But it is not in the leading columns—it is in the advertising pages that the readers of those newspapers will find a solution of the enigma. There they will see infamous advertisements like these—"Two hundred pounds will be paid at once to any lady or gentleman who will legally procure for advertiser a permanent Government situation;" or "a bonus of £500 cash will be given to any person procuring for a gentleman a permanent public appointment;" (or) "An appointment of £100 per annum will be procured by the advertiser, &c."

We think these advertisements throw on the incompetence and blundering which procrastinates the fall of Sebastopol more light than all the leading articles which are written to explain our calamities. Will any man (can Ministers expect it) who is solely indebted to his pocket for his place, perform any duties in the Crimea or elsewhere which can be avoided? Does he owe any duty to the Government who is advanced by his own coin? On the contrary, when such a person evades his duty he betters his bargain; and, in his own belief, when his salary is pocketed his duties are accomplished. It was for this he paid money not to serve the public. The strength of Russia is the veracity of Protestant Britain. The advertisements of the *Times* account for the disasters of this war, and it is useless to swap and alter the Ministers until such