

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* contains an article on the internal condition of France, signed by M. Gravier de Cassagnac. "French society," says that writer, "that is, that portion of the society which does not comprise the friends and supporters of government and order, is divided into two classes—disappointed ambition and a freemasonry of brigands, who dream of conspiracy and attempt to pillage, rape, and assassination." The *Constitutionnel* then compares the political conspirators abroad to the well-born companions of Cataline, who formed the senseless project of burning and sacking Rome, with the assistance of all the bandits of Italy. It reproaches the members of past governments for not lending their assistance to the country in the present arduous times.

A rumor was afloat last night that another attempt had been made on the Emperor's life. There was, however, no truth in it. The incident which gave rise to the report is the following:—About 5 o'clock last evening one of the carriages of the Court proceeded to the Lyons Railway terminus to meet the Emperor on his return from Fontainebleau. The carriage was preceded by an outrider, or piqueur. On passing through the Faubourg St. Antoine, the horse he rode began suddenly to rear, and at the moment a pistol dropped from one of the holsters; it exploded as it fell on the pavement, and the bullet wounded in the arm a man who was standing near. The moment the Emperor arrived he was informed of the accident, and without loss of time sent his chief surgeon, who extracted the ball, and who gave the wounded man 200*fr.* for his immediate wants, independent of further assistance which will be given him. The Emperor felt much affected at the unfortunate accident, which gave rise to the rumor I have noticed, and which circulated in the neighborhood. This, I am assured, is the real fact of the matter.—*Cor. of the London Times, Nov. 6.*

FRENCH SPECULATIONS ON THE WINTER CAMPAIGN.—Will the Russians evacuate the Crimea before the winter?—that is the great question of the day. Colonel St. Ange, in the *Journal des Debats*, answers it in the negative. The only means of compelling them to do so would be to remove the whole of the allied army to Eupatoria, and the difficulties of doing this at the present season of the year, renders it next to impossible to take such a step. The presence of from thirty to forty thousand men at Eupatoria, and their forays across the country, will not, according to the gallant writer, prevent supplies reaching the Russian army from Perekop. A few days will show how far his hypothesis is borne out by facts. At the same time, although Colonel St. Ange's opinion is entitled to every respect, it is difficult not to apply to his own case the strictures he passes on other journalists for passing opinions upon future events, and drawing plans of campaigns when, at best, they can only be in possession of a very limited portion of the circumstances which may guide the conduct of the generals. Galignani very sensibly remarks on this subject:—"We venture to question the ability possessed by journalists, unacquainted with the scene of action, and the circumstances which daily change the features of the campaign, to record any opinion of value on so responsible a subject. Even the *Debats*, which denounces the shortcomings of others, is far from being infallible, for the conclusion of the article to which we refer assumes the allies to be busy hutting themselves, and otherwise preparing to meet the rigours of winter in the positions of Ozenbak, Tani-Sala, and Forti-Sala, on the high Belbek, whilst the latest official accounts from the seat of war announce that the allies have returned to their former quarters on the Tchernaiia, and in the plains of Balaklava and Baidar."

THE FRENCH FLOATING BATTERIES.—A letter from Sebastopol says that the new French floating batteries are entirely built of iron, and covered with a shell of the same metal, under which the chimney is lowered and concealed during an action. Trials have been made against this shell with 64-pounders, but they only produced a slight dent, the projectiles themselves rebounding far away. When shut, the batteries look like a tortoise, broader in front than behind. The front battery is armed with thirty guns of the heaviest calibre. The portholes are in their turn closed by lids, that open of themselves at the moment the gun is fired, and then shut instantly. A small orifice in the lid enables the gunner to take aim.

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, Oct. 31.—For some time past the Constantinople and Bucharest correspondents of the Austrian papers have affirmed that preparations were about to be made in the Danubian Principalities for the reception of Anglo-French troops; but the intelligence appeared so improbable that no notice was ever taken of it in my letters. For the moment the allied forces have sufficient occupation in the Crimea, but perfectly reliable information has been given me that the representatives of the Western Powers have informed the Porte that circumstances may render the march of French and English troops into the Principalities necessary. The communication alluded to has since led to a lively and somewhat unpleasant diplomatic correspondence between this Government and the Porte.—*Times Correspondent.*

ITALY.

The correspondent of the Dublin *Weekly Telegraph* writes that there are at present thirteen vacancies in the episcopate of Piedmont, none of which can be filled up in the existing relations betwixt that unhappy country, and the Holy See. The cost of making Protestants is set down at 300 francs per head.

A correspondent from Savoy, writing to the Ga-

zette de Lyon, says that of 121,000 inhabitants of Sassari 10,500 have fallen victims to cholera. Whole families have been swept off, and thirty-seven priests of the monastic orders have fallen victims to their devotion in attending the sick and dying.

Letters from Rome state that Cardinal Wiseman has been recalled from his Metropolitan Church of Westminster, where he is to be succeeded by Monsignor Talbot, who must have already arrived in England. The Cardinal is coming to replace, in the Prefecture of the Vatican library, the learned Cardinal Mai, to whom the literary world is indebted for the publication of the treatise of Cicero *De Republica*.

The Holy Father, whose nature is goodness and charity, has just been doing one of those good deeds for which he is so celebrated, and which have so much endeared him to all upright men in and around the Eternal City. On the 25th ult., when no one expected him, he slipped quietly, smilingly, and almost alone into the new prisons, to visit personally, and see with his own eyes how things are managed there, and how the prisoners are treated. He went first into the church and sacristy, then into the sick wards, the kitchen, pantry, and common rooms. He tasted the meat, the soup, the bread, the wine, to see that all was good. He spoke words of consolation to the sick; he even caused the cells of those who were in solitary confinement to be opened to him, and had some kind words to say to all. On leaving, he was graciously pleased to release some of those whose offences were of a more venial nature.

Much has been said in England about the Roman prisons, and the alleged cruelties practised within their walls. Could Englishmen see, as the Pope saw, on the 25th of October last, these prisons with his own eyes, and were they permitted to witness the system of discipline adopted there, they would, notwithstanding their cherished prejudices, be obliged to admit that the Roman prisons are, in every point of view, better managed than those of England. Instead of cold, careless, and callous hired servants that do duty in English gaols, those angelic beings, the Sisters of Providence, minister to the unfortunate inmates of the Roman prisons. Full of charity and compassionate regard for the prisoners, they treat them as erring brethren with kindness and consideration. Often before the period of penal servitude has elapsed, the guilty are led to repentance and an amendment of life, and leave the house of correction new men, to become good members of society. The Sisters have done their work so well in Rome, at Rimini, and Perousa, where they have been employed for some years, that the Holy Father has made up his mind to give them the charge of all the prisons in the Roman States as soon as he can find a sufficient number of Sisters to take charge of these establishments.

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN SICILY.—The *Post*, in a second edition, publishes a letter from Naples, dated Oct. 30th, which states there is no longer any doubt concerning the existence of a revolutionary movement in Sicily. Some men have been taken by the royal troops and shot. The Neapolitan authorities, however, assert the movement is not political.

NORTHERN POWERS.

DENMARK AND THE UNITED STATES.—There is some reason to believe that, after all, Russia has accepted the office of mediator, between Denmark and the United States, and proposed, as an adjustment of the difficulties, that Denmark shall cede her island of St. Thomas to the United States for the sum of five millions of dollars, and total exemption of American ships and cargo from the future payment of the Sound dues. Although the colony is one of no value to Denmark in a pecuniary point of view, rather causing an expense than bringing in a surplus, yet Denmark is said to have declined the proposal, out of consideration to the Western Powers, to whom such an acquisition of territory on the part of the Americans, so close to their own West India possessions, cannot be desirable.—*Letter from Hamburg, (Nov. 3.)*

There is a rumor at Warsaw that the Emperor intends having, either in that city or on some other point of the frontier, an interview with several foreign sovereigns, for the purpose of making a last attempt to restore peace. Destitution is at its climax in Poland, and the dearth of provisions so great that the poor can hardly find the bare means of existence. Prince Paskiewitch has opened the public granaries at Warsaw, and given orders for baking every day, at the expense of the State, large quantities of bread, which will be given to the destitute at half the regular price. The fresh conscription has not commenced yet, but this is solely on account of the difficulty of feeding; it is probable that recruiting will proceed during the winter. The news respecting the successes of the allies has produced great excitement in Poland.—*Letter from Posen.*

There is little doubt now as to the nature of General Canrobert's mission. It is to induce Sweden to join the alliance next spring, and to try to effect a junction between her and Denmark; and it is added that the restoration of Finland would not be refused to the former if made a condition of her compliance.—*Cor. Times.*

From the Baltic we have no news of moment. The correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing at Kiel, on the 31st Oct., says:—

"The homeward-bound ships of the fleet are now making their appearance here. The Ajax, Captain Warden, and the Hogue, Captain Ramsay, anchored in the bay this morning. Their crews are reported to be in a healthy state, but the ships appear to have suffered from a series of gales which they have latterly encountered, and if their services are required in the Atlantic or the Mediterranean, they will need a considerable overhaul at the dockyards

before they can be rendered available. Altogether, the fleet appears to have met with more accidents this year than they did last. Sir Charles Napier, with apparent justice, boasted that none of the ships met with any damage while they were under his immediate command, and that it was only after they left him that any casualty occurred. Admiral Dundas cannot make the same declaration, for at the very outset the Duke of Wellington was run foul of and had to return to England, and there are several others which on their arrival at home will be found to have sustained much injury. There appears to be only one opinion in the fleet as to the attack on Sweaborg, for all agree in saying that if the bombardment by the small craft had been followed up by an immediate attack by the large ships, the destruction of that fortress as well as of Helsingfors would have been inevitable."

HAMBURG, Nov. 5.—An order has been received at Kiel for all English line-of-battle ships in the Baltic fleet to return to England. Four have already quitted Kiel.

WAR IN THE EAST.

An English steamer had advanced high enough up the Bug to reconnoitre Nicolaieff. She states that there were numerous vessels in the port, and that it was strongly fortified. Odessa is still blockaded by the allied steamers. The bad weather interrupts important operations in the Crimea. Fort Constantine continues to fire on any groups of curious persons in the southern part of Sebastopol. The fire of the Russians nearly set fire to the French line-of-battle ship *Ulm*, but she received timely assistance from the Admiral's ship. The allies are increasing the vigor of their fire in order to silence Fort Constantine. Omar Pasha, from the last accounts received, was still at Souchum Kaleh; he was preparing to march on to Koutais. His operations have been impeded by the sickness which had broken out among the Tunisian troops which form part of his army. Kars is still closely hemmed in, but was expected to be soon re-occupied. General Williams has made every preparation for an obstinate defence.

NICOLAIEFF BOMBARDED.—VIENNA, Nov. 3.—Despatches have been received at the Turkish Embassy stating that the bombardment of Nicolaieff had commenced on the 29th of October, and was continued the whole of the following day. The result was not known. It is added that the Emperor had been induced to leave the place before the bombardment began, but that the Grand Duke Constantine would not be prevailed upon to quit the town.

KHERSON AND NICOLAIEFF.—The Gulf of Kherston is a vast basin, with shores lined with sandbanks, which advance far into the sea, and restrict exceedingly the navigable portion. This basin is terminated on the east by a bay, somewhat like that of Sebastopol, and which is nothing else than the mouth of the Dnieper. It is at the bottom of this bay that lies the town of Kherston. On the northern shore, in turning towards Otchakoff, is the mouth of the Bug. It is by that river, which is very wide and very deep at its mouth, that vessels go up between precipitous banks to the point at which Ingul joins it, and where Nicolaieff is built. A tolerably just and correct idea of the situation of the port of Nicolaieff on the Bug may be formed by considering how London is placed on the Thames, far up in the interior of the country. The position of Nicolaieff, it will thus be seen, is a formidable one. Being placed about 20 miles from the sea, on the right bank of the Bug, Nicolaieff is, since the capture of Sebastopol, the most powerful arsenal of Russia in the south. The Russian Government has expended there upwards of 1500 millions of francs to realise the idea of Prince Potemkin, whose strong desire it was to establish there the real maritime citadel of Russia in the Black Sea.

Nicolaieff possesses twelve dockyards, six for ships of the line and six for smaller vessels; also immense arsenals, and almost exhaustless materials for shipbuilding. It employs 600 workmen in ordinary times, and 12,000 on occasions of emergency. At present the number, according to German accounts, is not less than 21,000.—*Journal de Constantinople.*

A CRUCIFIXION IN CHINA.—An American, writing from China to the *New York Times*, after giving an account of the numerous executions of the rebels, says:—"Two weeks since, to vary the scene, they had a crucifixion. A woman was sentenced to be crucified for the crime of having given birth to one of the rebel chiefs. If a father is a rebel, his family is considered the same, and the whole family, from the old man of four score to the child of four years, share the same fate. The poor woman was nailed to the cross while living, a gash made across the forehead to the bone, and the skin peeled down so as to hang over the eyes; after which the breasts were cut off; they then proceeded to break every bone in her body; a large knife was next thrust into the throat and passed downward, cutting the chest open. The executioner then thrust in his hand, and grasping the heart, tore it from its socket, and laid it beating and reeking before the judge."

THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(From Times Correspondent.)

FOURTH DIVISION CAMP, Oct. 22.—Is the British army in the Crimea to become, or rather to continue, a model of drunkenness for all nations? I certainly am not giving too much importance to this question by insisting upon it very strongly. Yesterday was Sunday. I rode into Balaklava at 1 p.m., through Kadikoi Major, and returned, towards dusk, through Kadikoi Minor. The sights I saw, both going and returning, were enough to make an Englishman despair of his countrymen. All along the road were men—not only privates, but non-commissioned officers—in every stage of drunkenness. Sobriety was really the exception, intoxication the rule. Noisy groups, flushed and unsteady with drink, were interspersed

with staggering sets who could not keep on their legs. Two Highlanders, one of them on the ground, the other making violent and fruitless efforts to get his comrade to stand up, were affording, at 2 in the afternoon, great amusement to a number of French road-makers. Sunday is not a day of rest for the French working parties. Three hours after I passed a group of three non-commissioned officers of some line regiment. The centre man was kept from falling only by the support of the two others, themselves far from sober, and the trio made the most of the road after the most approved fashion. Numbers of officers must have met this group, and the natural and proper course would have been to take their names and send them at once to their quarters under arrest, but drunkenness here has reached such a pitch that it would be an endless task to do this. The tavern booths of the Old Kadikoi were crowded with drinkers, and rang with oaths, obscenity, and brawls. Notwithstanding the closing of many of the establishments there, the place is still a scene of life and bustle, while Little Kadikoi, hard by the Guards' Camp, has not, upon week days, the appearance of doing much business. But in the evening, when the working parties come off duty, and on Sundays, when they have none to do, it is as much thronged as the booths on a racecourse or at a fair, or as the back stums of a seaport town when half-a-dozen men-of-war have just been paid off. Drink, of course, is nearly the sole object of its frequenters; and drink, not in moderation, but to the most beastly excess. Yesterday, towards nightfall, it was more than several officers, non-commissioned officers, and patrols could do to maintain something like order, and master the insubordinate and refractory drunkards. Do not suppose that I am coloring the picture too highly; it is out of my power to do so. There are plenty of witnesses here to testify to the correctness of the statement. The drunkenness and insubordination of this army is here matter of common conversation and lament. The oldest officers declare that in all their experience they never saw anything to equal it. It will be asked why, then, do not the officers, having a keen sense of the evil, take measures to put a stop to it? Simply because it is not in their power. I believe they do what they can, in the ordinary routine; there are plenty of flogging parades, plenty of men set to pick up and carry stones, and you cannot ride through the camp without seeing plenty of men drilling in heavy marching order for punishment. But cat and stone-gathering, and drill are alike ineffectual to check the horrible vice which is degrading our army, and which must, if means be not found to stop it, ultimately impair its efficiency and fill the hospitals. Officers commanding regiments witness this state of things with grief, and would, I am sure, gladly adopt any practical means that might be ordered or suggested to alter it. Such measures should proceed from head-quarters, or from the War-office. One rather odd idea was hit upon the other day by the colonel of a regiment in the Third Division, who sent his adjutant to the Commissary-General to request he would have plum puddings made to sell to the men, in order that they might thereby expend their money otherwise than in drink; for the abundance of money is the root of the evil. The good qualities of the British soldiers have been often proved and extolled, and are admitted by all, but sobriety is certainly not one of his virtues; he will drink if you give him money, and drink, as he does here, until he brings himself to a level with the beast.

Mr. Doyne, the indefatigable superintendent of the Army Works Corps, proceeds vigorously with his labors. Roads are opening in all directions. There are about 20 miles in progress. The pains that are taken with their construction and its excellence appeared almost superfluous to some of the military bigwigs here, but before we have got through our four months' winter they will probably change their opinion on that head. The number of men employed is very considerable. To-morrow 8,600 soldiers go on work, besides 1,000 Croats and the Army Works Corps, which, notwithstanding its losses from sickness, is still 1,000 or 1,100 strong, and expects to be reinforced from England to the extent of some hundred more. The want of proper system and organization which has been so often and deplorably exposed during this war and in this army, is here again visible. With different arrangements half the men, perhaps a quarter of them, could do the work of the whole 10,000, and probably do it better, because they would be less crowded. The men employed to work should be camped near their work till it is completed, instead of having to march long distances to it. Thus, for instance, a regiment of the Third Division, at the furthest extremity of the camp, marches down daily to work at Balaklava, returning, at night, thus daily performing a distance of nearly 15 miles. Of course, this is just so much power of work taken out of the men, and the army is now full of boys, whose immature strength is not equal to a good hard day's work, which, in fact, is not to be got out of them, even though they had not to walk long distances to it.

As regards military operations there is literally nothing worth recording since my last letter. The Russians remain very quiet, and so do we. There is not much firing from the north side; now and then some artillery officer, as if suddenly exasperated, jumps up in a fury, and fires half a dozen mortars at once; but, as far as I can see, the French continue, not caring, and scarcely take the trouble to reply. In the cavalry plain on Saturday afternoon our allies treated the Russians to a fine view of the Imperial Guard. General McMahon, having assumed command of the corps d'armee de reserve, passed it in review. I rode down there, after sending off my despatch, and the sight was certainly very fine, and highly creditable in every way to the French army. Grenadiers, Chasseurs, Zouaves, Engineers, and Artillery of the Guard, were drawn up across the plain in a long line, up and down which the General rode, followed by a numerous staff, to which Sir Colin Campbell and a large number of English officers had temporarily attached themselves. The Grenadiers looked martial and imposing in their long blue coats and lofty bearskins, the Chasseurs smart and active in their most excellent and service-like costume, the Zouaves, as usual, picturesque and effective. These two corps, the Chasseurs and Zouaves, excite the warm admiration of our officers, and are probably the most perfect soldiers in the world—I do not mean in respect of fighting, although they are no fools at that, but considering them with respect to all their military qualities and accomplishments, as well as to their dress and equipment, their powers of marching and endurance—everything, in short, that constitutes perfection in a soldier. They really looked magnificent on Saturday—an honor to their service and a credit to the system and officers by which such soldiers are made. The