

perfect. It seemed as gentle as a piece of good black tin. In the words of the workman conducting the operation, "it was as tough as leather." The box was completed and the burnishing tool applied, when a polish was produced that, if the process had been continued a little while longer, would have equalled the polish of steel. A better bit of iron, the operator said, "I never worked."

Russia.—The *Star* gives the following as the complete text of the Russian circular addressed by Prince Gortschakoff to all the representatives of Russia at foreign Courts, translated from the *Collegue Gazette* on Saturday last, at the same time taking "particular pains to caution the public—to use a mild term—against the incomplete translations which have been published by a perfect misapplication of the confidence which the public are accustomed to put in the press. Documents of this kind ought neither to be shortened, nor their purportology altered under the influence of political bias or transitory party and personal interests." The circular is dated Moscow, the 2nd of September.

The Treaty signed at Paris on the 30th March, in putting an end to a struggle the proportions of which threatened to extend still further, and the final issue of which was beyond human calculations, was designed to establish the normal state of the international relations in Europe. The Powers who had coalesced against us had taken as their motto—"Respect for the right and independence of Governments." We do not pretend to enter into an historical examination of the question how far the proceedings of Russia would have endangered the one or the other of these principles. It is not our intention to raise a sterile discussion. What we want is to arrive at the practical application of two same principles which the great powers of Europe themselves proclaimed, when they directly or indirectly came forth as our adversaries, and we all the more think fit to recall these principles to recollection, as we ourselves never have ceased to observe them.

We do not do any of those Powers the injustice to suppose that at that time nothing else was their question, as to comply with the necessity for some watchword, useful under the circumstances of the time (*mot d'ordre de circonstance*), and that now that the struggle is over each one considers himself authorised to follow a line of conduct suited to his own particular interests. We accuse no one of merely having made use of big words as a necessary weapon for the purpose of being enabled to extend the theatre of the war. On the contrary, we like to feel convinced that all the Powers which professed these principles have had the sincere intentions to act according to them, and have made that profession in a perfectly legal and *bona fide* way. Taking this for granted, we must suppose that it is the intention of all the Powers who took part in the late war, as it is that of the Emperor, our august master, to make the general peace the starting point for the reestablishment of relations based on a respect for the right and independence of Governments.—Has this hope been realised? Are the international relations reestablished?

Without entering into details about some secondary questions, we are compelled to state, with regret, that there are two countries forming part of the European family where in one a regular state of things does not yet exist, and in the other it is threatened to be compromised. We allude to Greece and to the kingdom of Naples. The occupation of the Hellonic territory by a foreign force, against the will of the sovereign and the feelings of the nation, is now without any just reason. Political motives might, to a certain point, explain the violence done to the sovereign of the country, and necessities of war, more or less demonstrated, might be alleged to clothe this infraction with the authority of a right cause; but now, when neither of these causes can any longer be alleged, it appears to us impossible to justify at the tribunal of equity the continued presence of a foreign force on the soil of Greece. Thus, the first words pronounced by our august master when the reestablishment of peace had enabled the Emperor to raise his voice, were clear and precise on that point. We have never dissembled our opinion in the councils of the Cabinets, and we shall not cease to hold it.

We, nevertheless, consider it our duty to add, that, although the results have not yet answered our expectations, we retain a hope that we shall not remain isolated on a ground where right and justice are evidently in favor of the cause which we support.

As to the kingdom of Naples, if the question is not to find a remedy, it appears to us to be feared that it is high time to seek a means of prevention.—The King of Naples is the object of a pressure, not because his Majesty may have transgressed any one

of the engagements imposed on him by treaties with foreign Courts, but because, in the exercise of his incontestable rights of sovereignty, he governs his subjects as he thinks proper.

We can understand, that, in consequence of a friendly predisposition, one Government might offer to another advice inspired by kind interest, and that this advice might even assume the character of exhortation, but we think that this is the extreme limit to which it ought to extend. Less than ever is it now permitted in Europe to forget that sovereigns are equal among themselves, and that it is not extent of territory, but the sanctity of the rights of each, which regulates the relations which exist between them. To wish to obtain from the King of Naples concessions as to the internal regime of his states by the way of menace, and by threatening demonstrations, is to substitute by violent means foreign rule to his authority, is to wish to govern in his place, and to proclaim the right of the strong over the weak.

It is needless for us to point out what opinion our august master would express on such pretensions. His Majesty entertains a hope that they will not be put in practice. He is the more strongly imbued with this hope, as it is also the doctrine that the States which range themselves as the leaders of civilization, where the principles of political liberty are the more fully developed, have always advanced as their own profession of faith to the point of attempting to apply them, where the circumstances did not permit to do so, except by a dint of a strained interpretation.

You will be careful, whenever the two questions above alluded to are stated at your place of residence, to allow of no doubt being entertained as to the opinion of our august master on the subject. This frankness naturally proceeds from the system which the Emperor has adopted from the moment he ascended the throne, and this system is not unknown to you.

The Emperor wishes to live in good harmony with all Governments, and his Majesty thinks that the best means of attaining that object is not to conceal his ideas on any question connected with public European right. The combination (*faisceau*) of those who, for long years, have supported with us the principles to which Europe owes more than a quarter of a century of peace no longer exists in its ancient integrity. The will of our august master is foreign to this result. Circumstances have restored to us our full liberty of action. The Emperor has decided to devote by preference all his solicitude to the welfare of his subjects, and to concentrate on the development of the internal resources of the country an activity which will not be diverted by things abroad, unless when the positive interests of Russia shall absolutely demand it.

Russia is reproached with isolating herself, and keeping silent in presence of facts which do not accord with either law or equity, and it is said that Russia sulks. Russia does not sulk—she takes breath. As to the silence of which we are accused, we may call to mind that a short time ago an artificial agitation was organized against us, because our voice was heard whenever we thought it necessary to support right. This action, tutelary for many governments, and from which Russia herself derives no benefit, has been laid hold of to accuse us of tending to know not what universal domination. We can shelter our silence under the impression of this recollection. We do not, however, think that such is the attitude which belongs to a Power to which Providence has assigned the position, in Europe, which Russia occupies.

This acquiescence proves to you that our august master does not confine himself to this character when he thinks it his duty to pronounce his opinion. It will be the same whenever the voice of Russia may be useful to the cause of right, or when it will be for the dignity of the Emperor to let the world not remain in ignorance of his views and opinions. As to the employment of our material forces, the Emperor reserves to himself his free judgment.

The policy of our august master is a national one; it is not egotistical; and if his Majesty makes the interest of his people paramount, he does not admit that the advancement of those interests can excuse the violation of the rights of others.—You are authorised, &c.,

"GORTSCHAKOFF."

An amusing incident at Lady Granville's ball, on the 17th ult., is described by the *Daily News* correspondent:—

"Mr. Allister was in attendance in the ante-room in full uniform, kilt, and philibeg, it being the intention of the noble host that in some interval of the dance the Russian guests should be made acquainted with the peculiar characteristics of Highland

music. But the bardic soul of Mr. Allister was impatient of restraint. For some moments he remained standing in the ante room beating time to an imaginary reel, and clamping like a warhorse impudent of the bit, until at last, what with the strains of aural music from the band, the insinuating influence of a clear and was light reflected from the porcelain walls, and the bright forms of beauty that flitted to and fro before the gaze of the bewildered Highlander, flesh and blood could hold out no longer: the inspired Gaul shouldered his pipes, and, striking up a pibroch that would awaken the dead, marched, with measured tread, as if at the head of his clan, into the centre of the brilliant ring round which Grand-Dukes and Duchesses ere at that moment dancing the polonaise. Loud above the puny attempts of catgut and brass rose the wild martial notes of the bagpipes. The musicians threw down their instruments in despair, the company ceased dancing, and Mr. Allister was in a moment the centre of an admiring circle, completely absorbed in his pibroch, and beating time with as much accuracy and *sang froid* as if unconscious of the presence of the foremost of the world's elite. I watched the effect of this strange music on the unaccustomed ears of the Russians with great interest. They were at first evidently startled, the officers putting their hands to their ears, and the ladies crossing their hands and gazing on the kilted *Eolus* in mute surprise. But soon it became evident that there was a sympathy between the warlike race on the one side and the warlike race on the other. Both ladies and gentlemen chatted, smiled, and listened; and when, shortly after, the Grand-Duchess Constantine, one of the most beautiful women in Russia, retired to another apartment, she sent for Mr. Allister, who played 'The White Cockade' in a manner that elicited her Imperial Highness's gracious commendation. From that moment he became the fashion, and several times in the course of the evening he played again to admiring audiences. I may mention before parting with our musical friend, that since his arrival he has been quite a lion amongst the Russians, who follow him in crowds through the streets. There is much speculation amongst the mujiks as to his real character and functions; but the most prevailing impression is, that he is the chief of all the foreign Ambassadors, and that, with a fastidious refinement of *hauteur*, he prefers walking, on the ground that none of the carriages are grand enough for his notions of personal dignity."

TURKEY.—It is reported at Constantinople that a French squadron is on its way to the Black Sea, having been ordered thither in consequence of the question of the Isle of Serpents not being yet settled. Some sensation has been created by Prince Daniel of Montenegro having addressed a protest or declaration to the Western Powers, in which he requires, first, that the State of Montenegro shall be recognized as purely sovereign and independent; secondly, an extension of the Montenegrin territory on the side of Albania and the Herzegovine; and he finally insists that one of the maritime ports on the Adriatic coast shall be restored to the State of Montenegro.

We are told that, with a view of pandering to national and Mohammedan prejudice, an act of savage barbarity has been recently and officially perpetrated against a Christian criminal at Beyrout:—

Two Maronites broke into a house at night for the purpose of robbery, and were confronted by two women, one of whom was killed, and the other ran away. The robbers were taken and imprisoned.—The most guilty, the actual murderer, bribed the gaolers and made his escape, leaving his less guilty and less fortunate companion to be condemned to death. Suddenly, and without any preparation, he was called upon to undergo his sentence. Dragged by force from his place of confinement, he begged for momentary mercy and for a Catholic priest. He was denied this act of grace. Persevering in his refusal to kneel in a proper position for the convenience of the executioner, he shrieked an appeal to the crowd to rescue him or to subscribe the stipulated sum for his liberation. Then he petitioned for the protection of the French Consul, or the interference of the Pacha. At last one of the executioners, after having stabbed him with his yataghan, caught him by the ears; another held him by the legs, until a third, after repeated blows, and amidst a deluge of blood, severed his head from the body. This barbaric cruelty was permitted and applauded by the Mussulman crowd, because the sufferer was a Christian. Some English who were examining the Mosque of Oshân, at Constantinople, were loaded with reproaches as Giaours, and were stoned and nearly massacred by the inhabitants of the neighborhood.—They barely escaped with their lives."