

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOREIGN.

PARIS, 3.—General Wimpffen, who signed the capitulation of Sedan, during the Franco-German war, has written a letter approving the conduct of Major Labordere, who was dismissed from the French army by Minister of War Borel, for insubordination in connection with the Limoges affair during the late crisis. The General further expresses the hope that Major Labordere will be reinstated with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The *Moniteur* states that General Borel contemplates resigning the ministry of war, and intends proposing General Berthand as his successor. Borel would then become governor of Paris vice General L'Admirault.

It is stated that M. Faye has been definitely appointed director of the Paris Observatory.

LONDON, 3.—A special from Vienna points out that by admitting that Russia may negotiate separately, the powers recognize the privileged position she has so long claimed in the settlement of the eastern question, and to cancel which was one of the main objects, if not the chief one of the treaty of Paris. By allowing Russia to take upon herself the enforcement of certain things upon Turkey, the powers indeed have already taken a great step in this direction, but so long as Europe upheld the principle that no negotiation could be carried on between the belligerents themselves, this privileged position assumed by Russia would cease the moment the negotiations began. If, on the contrary, the principle of separate negotiation is admitted, an exceptional position is thereby sanctioned, and it becomes only a question of how far this exceptional position is to extend. The firm ground is abandoned, and, in spite of all reservation, the powers have given up their right of participating in the settlement of the question. The disinclination shown by the British government to encourage separate negotiations is an indication that it was aware of the importance of the principle at stake. Still, as the principle, which is a European one, and could only acquire validity by the joint will of all, or, at least, most of the powers, has been abandoned by all except England, there remains but the alternative for England either to dispute single-handed the claim of Russia, or follow the example of the other powers and make the reservations on paper, or secure guarantees. We hear from St. Petersburg that the intercourse between Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian foreign secretary, and Lord Loftus, British ambassador, on this matter, has been of the most friendly character, and the telegraphic reply sent from St. Petersburg was drawn up jointly by them. As for all the reports that the Porte has already come to a resolution of accepting an armistice, in principle they seem to be premature. It is not likely that anything decisive will be done until Russia's reply has been officially communicated by England.

The opening of communications between the Servians and the Russian army of the Vid is very important, as the latter can draw supplies from the former when required. The Danube has not yet frozen over, and the flow of ice is intermittent. Communication is carried on in a desultory way by means of flat-bottomed boats, transporting wagons and several horses or bullocks.

A special from Bucharest states that a short time ago, the Turks attempted to open confidential negotiations with the Russian headquarters for an armistice. The attempt was unsuccessful, as the Russians considered they ought to receive an equivalent for the advantages which the Porte would derive from being able to organize its forces during the armistice.

Suleiman Pasha telegraphs that the army from Kamarli arrived safely at Slatitz.

Baker Pasha, with six battalions and four guns, covered its retreat, sustaining throughout Tuesday attacks from thirty battalions of Russians with ten guns, on whom he inflicted a heavy loss. Baker Pasha lost 600 killed.

The Russians continue concentrating troops on the plain of Erzerum. Movements on the Deved Boyun heights are visible from the Turkish fortifications.

Four Russian infantry battalions and a regiment of dragoons occu-

pled the village of Ozon, near the road to Trebizonde. Every preparation has been made here for a prolonged siege.

Austrian subjects in Roumania, liable to military service, have been ordered to return home within 10 days.

LONDON, 4.—The Queen will not open parliament in person.

The *Standard* says: The public will scarcely be surprised to learn that government is unable to coincide in the opinion that no material change has occurred in the situation. England cannot, with due regard to our interests, accept the position claimed by Russia that the terms of peace must be settled between the latter and Turkey, subject to ratification by Europe. The *Standard* argues that if this claim is allowed, we may be debarred from interfering in the defence of our legitimate interests except under very serious disadvantages.

From letters written by Lady Strangford, superintending the hospitals at Sofia, it would appear that the Turks had attempted not to hold the place. Lady Strangford writes that she will remain, and believes she will be able to continue her duties without interruption or annoyance. The Turkish nurses have agreed to stay. What was feared was disorder in the town, but the Turks have gone away quietly, and there is not the slightest panic or trouble. The town will be taken without resistance. This coincides with information from the Turkish side about the movements of their forces. All the garrisons in exposed positions beyond Sofia have been gradually withdrawn, and concentrated at Ikhtiman. The forces at Kamarli have been surprised and endangered by a Russian flank movement upon Tushesen, but succeeded in escaping to Slatitz after a hard fight, from which place they can reach Ikhtiman by Toporitz valley. It is not believed that General Gourko has sufficient force to storm Ikhtiman de file, or that such force could be supplied in the present state of Russian communication.

The Turks still occupy the line of the Kara Lom River, and carefully guard its bridges on the roads to Shumlar. Heavy ice continues in the Danube.

A telegram from Rome says Cardinal Manning has submitted to College of Cardinals a proposal that on the death of Pius IX. the conclave assemble at Malta. The Sacred College is divided in opinion on the matter. The Italian cardinals are indisposed to accept the proposal.

ST. PETERSBURG, 4.—The semi-official *Russian Agency*, says the reply to the British inquiry on behalf of the Porte stated that the decisions and acts of the imperial policy are still guided by two paramount considerations of putting an end to the constantly recurring disturbances, and avoiding complications by respecting the interests of third parties. Assurances satisfactory to the British government and people were given concerning England's interests immediately they were made known. These interests are no more menaced now than then, although Russia then reserved the contingency of being compelled by military necessities to obtain peace under the walls of Constantinople. It depends upon England to avert this contingency by investing the Porte of any illusion respecting English supporters. It is evident that if the Porte has ground to hope that the entry of the Russians into Constantinople would cause England to intervene, it would do everything to bring about that contingency by refusing any conditions of peace.

LONDON, 4.—A dispatch from Syra says: M. Friceupis, Greek minister of foreign affairs, has demanded of the powers the admission of Greece to a congress preliminary to the conclusion of peace.

It is said that Lord Derby has recognized as just Greece's claim to admission, if the secondary States are admitted.

Italy has likewise replied favorably.

Server Pasha, Turkish minister of foreign affairs, has sent a note to London, protesting against the participation of Greece.

The *Advertiser* hears, on reliable authority, that official information has been received in St. Petersburg, that the Chinese have massacred 15,000 men, women and children, at the Kashgarian town of Manas, committing most frightful atrocities.

The *Daily Telegraph*, *Pall Mall Gazette*, and other anti-Russian

newspapers, take the same view of the Earl of Carnarvon's speech as did the *Standard* this morning. The *Standard* stated that England cannot, with due regard to English interests, accept the position; that Russia and Turkey can settle the terms of peace subject only to Europe's ratification. If this claim was allowed, England would be debarred, except under serious disadvantages, of interfering in the defence of her legitimate interests. The Earl of Carnarvon's speech, it now seems, was delivered on Wednesday, before a cabinet council, which had to consider the Russian answer to England's note relative to the peace negotiations.

MANCHESTER, 4.—A *Guardian's* London dispatch says the supporters of Lord Beaconsfield's policy contend that Earl Carnarvon's speech was intended not to expound, but to influence the cabinet's views. There is some justification for this judgment. It is no secret that the Earl of Derby's November speech was a surprise to the premier and also a source of intense annoyance, but it is likewise well known that the premier has been giving instruction to Layard, the ambassador at Constantinople, over the head of the foreign secretary. If Earl Derby attempted to force the hand of one section of the cabinet in November, it is equally probable that the Earl of Carnarvon may be resorting to a similar expedient, now the dangers of the situation have become definite. Such are the views of those who believe that the Earl of Carnarvon's speech expressed no more than his personal opinion. The correspondent says: "I am bound to say they are in the minority. Some of Earl Carnarvon's colleagues may differ from him on such questions as the justice or wisdom of the Crimean war, but they are perfectly unanimous as to the necessity of this country having a voice in the final settlement." On Wednesday and Thursday the cabinet are understood to have addressed themselves to some of the difficulties involved in the means for bringing the unanimity to a successful issue. The terms of peace are not now unknown to them, and, as represented here, they are much more moderate than was expected. According to one account, which is accepted in well-informed quarters, the neutralization of the Dardanelles is not even mentioned, but there is a cession of territory in Bessarabia to the old frontier. The correspondent further says: "I suppose the independence of Servia, and Roumania's accession of territory to Montenegro, and the cession of Batoum and Kars are a part of the scheme. With the new light thus thrown upon the situation it would not be surprising if our government advised the Sultan to make a direct appeal to Russia."

The *Times*, referring to these conflicting interpretations, says: "There ought to be an end to the mystery and ambiguity which have of late shaken every interest in the country. The time has more than come when government should cease, whether at home or abroad, to have two voices. The public have no wish to inquire too curiously into the idiosyncrasies of individuals or the secrets of cabinets, but the serious and vital interests of the country would be imperilled by any prolongation of this ambiguity, and the public would justly resent any fresh encouragement to the recent agitation. The policy upon which the country is resolved, and to which the ministry are pledged, is one recommended, not only by expediency, but by justice and honor, and any menace or deviation from it can no longer be endured."

EDINBURGH, 4.—The *Scotsman's* London correspondent understands that Lord Derby will inform Prince Gortschakoff that the British government is decidedly opposed to Russia making peace without the conditions being first communicated to England and the other great powers.

ST. PETERSBURG, 4.—A private dispatch received here announces that only 70,000 Turks have retired in Roumelia, the remainder of the Ottoman forces, numbering 70,000, remaining north of the Balkans, are distributed among the fortresses of the quadrilateral.

Osman Pasha will shortly be conveyed to the town of Riacan, where he will pass the captivity.

BUCHAREST, 4.—The army which was to cross the Schipka Pass and co-operate with General Gourko in the movement against Adrianople gives no sign of activity, and while

the present weather continues such operations would be impossible. The deep snow offers an almost insurmountable obstacle to wagons, and the Russians have no sledges. An order has been issued for a supply of sledges, but by the time they are ready the snow will probably have disappeared and the road will be impassable from mud and water. It is improbable that the Russians can reach Adrianople before May next.

BERLIN, 4.—The supplementary estimates have been laid before the Federal Council for the next year's budget, swelling probably the deficit to 35,000,000 marks.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 4.—The Turkish chamber of deputies has adopted an amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne at the opening of parliament, relating to the government military policy. The ministers of war, marine, and foreign affairs are invited to explain why the government has demanded a vote of 5,000,000 Turkish pounds for the requirements of the army.

LONDON, 5.—A Constantinople special reports that Sophia is completely evacuated.

The claim of Greece to be represented in any European conference really point to the acquisition of Thessaly and Epirus, and possibly Crete. The Porte will strongly urge on the powers the danger of allowing the question to be brought forward, as it is calculated to create fresh complications fatal to peace.

A Vienna special from Tiflis says: The Russians have occupied Ildja. If this is true, communication with Erzerum is cut on all sides.

A Paris telegram, received here, reports an amendment to the address which was adopted by the Turkish chamber of deputies, declaring that the ministers have not done their duty, either in a military or political point of view.

There is talk in some quarters of a dissolution of parliament in consequence of the hopeless divisions in the cabinet. The anti-war agitation throughout the country is on the increase, but it seems confined pretty closely within party lines.

The *Gazette* announces the creation of an imperial order of the crown of India for ladies only. The order has been conferred on all the princesses, eight Indian highnesses, and eighteen other persons of distinction.

The Marquis of Wilopolski, the distinguished statesman, is dead.

A letter from Col. T. W. Knox, dated Singapore, Dec. 6th, says: The Siamese are putting their forts, ships and army in fighting condition, in anticipation of trouble with China. A large force of men is working on the forts at the mouth of the Meinam River.

A dispatch from Constantinople states: If Russia rejects mediation, Turkey will await the meeting of the British Parliament before making direct overtures to Russia.

BERLIN, 5.—The weekly statement of the Imperial Bank of Germany shows a decrease in specie of 24,700,000 marks.

PARIS, 5.—The *Republique Francaise*, Gambetta's organ, calls on the government to remove the present commanders of the several army corps. Most of these generals are Bonapartists; none are republicans.

LONDON, 5.—The Russians have taken Sofia. Details are wanting. Troops are constantly passing through Galatz. This is understood to mean serious operations against the quadrilateral.

The Vienna *Political Correspondence* says: The ice in the Danube at Galatz will probably be strong enough in two days to permit the crossing of troops. The Russians intend to occupy Salina.

PANAMA, Dec. 25.—Concerning the wreck of the *Atacama*, the following particulars are interesting:

The ship was on her trip from Valparaiso to Callao. She struck at 8 p.m., when a majority of the passengers were below, and so instantaneous was the breaking up of the ship that no time was given to gain the deck. The cargo lost was not of great value, and the passengers, mostly Chileans, were journeying between the ports. Mr. Kennedy, agent for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, at Chanaral, was returning from Valparaiso on his wedding trip. He managed to fasten a life belt on his bride and threw himself with her into the water, but before they could extricate themselves from the floating debris, a spar fell, striking the lady on the neck, causing instant death. Her husband

afterwards reached the shore and the body of the bride was washed up on the beach. The bodies of Captain Lambert and of the purser were recovered.

Later information says the passengers number 54 and the crew 70. It appears that the shock burst certain steam pipes connected with the boiler, and the escape of steam, mixed with cinders, prevented anybody getting on deck to lower the boats, with the aid of which and the life buoys all on board might have been saved. The total number saved is 80.

HALIFAX, 5.—The severest storm experienced here for a year began, last night, and continued until 9 a.m., to-day. The wharves were slightly damaged. No serious disasters to shipping are reported yet.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Dec. 27.—A number of American citizens from Baltimore, who have taken forcible possession of Morant Keys, a dependency of Jamaica, and who have established a Baltimore Guano company, and have been shipping guano despite the warnings of the United States consul here and the government of Jamaica, have been driven off the Keys by Her Majesty's steamer *Blanche* and brought to Kingston. A Captain Jennet claims to have discovered the Keys and to have taken possession of them in the name of the United States, and protests against the conduct of the Jamaican authorities.

A Cuban, who was charged with having willfully set fire to the International Hotel, in Port au Prince has been tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. The Spanish consul has interfered, also the commander of a Spanish frigate. The Haytian government is, nevertheless, firm in its resolution to carry out the sentence, and has now been notified by the Spanish representative that if it does, the Spanish fleet will bombard Port au Prince in retaliation. Preparations for this contingency are being made. A man-of-war has been dispatched from Jamaica to watch British interests in Hayti.

HAVANA, 5.—Gen. Carona, the Mexican minister at Madrid, has signed a treaty by which the naturalization of Spanish subjects as Mexican citizens, since 1875, is declared void.

ALEXANDRIA, 6.—Five thousand more troops have sailed from Egypt for Turkey. A further reinforcement is preparing.

ROME, 6.—The King on Saturday was attacked with a violent fever, which produced pleurisy in the right lung. His symptoms cause apprehension and it may prove a complicated case of miasmatic fever.

The *Observer* publishes the following, officially: "We have reason to believe that France, within the last few days, has requested information from the British foreign office as to whether England contemplates any action respecting Egypt, and that assurances have been given in reply that none was contemplated."

The British Government embargoed 2,000 cases of cartridges on board a steamer at Cardiff, destined for Constantinople.

A Berlin correspondent states that the prospect of an amicable settlement of the dispute between Germany and Nicaragua has improved. The Prince of Montenegro has reassumed command of his army in Albania.

Antivari still holds out, although it has been burning in several places since Friday. It is reported to be provisioned for another month. The Turks are marching from Karitza to endeavor to succor besieged Turkish ironclads and bombard the works of the Montenegrins.

The Russian infantry and cavalry, who advanced to Ildja to destroy the telegraph lines, have been totally routed after a desperate engagement.

A St. Petersburg official telegram shows that Sofia was entered on the 3d inst. after a skirmish, in which the Russians lost only 24 men.

A telegram from Gen. Gourko announces that a desperate engagement occurred on January 2d, near Bogrov. The Turks attempted to surround five battalions of Russian infantry and a brigade of cavalry, but were defeated, leaving 1,000 dead on the field. The Russians lost 200.

The Russian detachment, under General Dandeville, which supported General Gourko in his movement over the Balkans, had 53 men