

## RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

From Bell's Weekly Messenger.

Though there is scarcely more political intelligence than in the papers of the preceding week, there are one or two articles in the foreign journals, which are not without some interest, as regards their possible consequences. One of these is the concurrent report in all the German papers, that hostilities have actually commenced between Russia and Persia,—that Persia has conceived the absurd purpose of re-conquering her lost provinces, and with that purpose has made a sudden invasion upon the Russian territory. It is added, that a Russian General, General Yermaloff, is already upon the Persian frontier, with an army of eighty thousand men,—that he is eager to advance, and is suspected of having precipitated the Persian invasion, by some intrigues, in order that he and his army may have the glory of conquering Persia. We do not think this statement to be improbable; Russia has an army which is anxious for employment, and has an Emperor at that period of human life, in which ambition seldom holds forth its splendid temptations in vain. Now, it would be extraordinary, if the general peace should eventually be interrupted, and broken up, in this quarter, after the allied powers have succeeded in warding off this danger with respect to Turkey.

We believe the true state of the case to be, that it is almost impossible that Russia should long remain in her present condition. Sooner or later, and probably very soon, her vast empire must fall to pieces under its own incumbering mass; it has no safety but in some project which may direct all its force to some common object, and satisfy soldiers and generals by active service.—From some cause or other, the present imperial family is scarcely considered as belonging to the ancient stock of Russian princes, and their hereditary rights have not been consolidated by the late irregular succession. We do not intend any inference or insinuation against the absolute necessity, and therefore the sound and good reasons, for setting aside the Archduke Constantine; the conventional rights of individuals must give way to the public good, and there can be no question that any nation is well justified in changing the order of succession, or putting it aside altogether, where the general interests require it. It is wise, indeed, to adhere to the rule, or to seem to adhere to it, for the sake of the manifest utility of precluding anarchy and disorder by the inviolable observance of a fixed principle, and therefore our own ancestors acted wisely when, upon the accession of William and Mary, they endeavoured to rest the rights of the new Princes upon the abdication, rather than upon the defeasance of right by King James. In fact and common sense, it is impossible to mistake the true character and true principles of that change in our own hereditary succession. The plain fact was, that the succession was changed, because the religion of the country was in danger. And the principle is, that the rule of hereditary succession should be maintained sacredly and inviolably, for the common interest of prince and people, except where the safety of the religion or laws of the country render it necessary to revert to first principles, and to set aside an arbitrary rule, under reasons equally imperious as those for which it was at first constituted.

There is another article in these papers, by which it appears, that the German States are putting forth all their efforts to rival the English manufactures, and, if we may believe these statements, they begin to have some success. So much, we believe to be true,—that the rate of wages, and the price of provisions in England before Christmas last, had begun to encourage the competition

of foreigners, and to affect our supply of the Continental markets. It is impossible to deny that a very unusual portion of cotton yarn and twist (cotton in the first state of its manufacture only,) had been imported from England—indeed, we believe, continues to be imported. Now this can only happen from the circumstance, that foreigners find they can manufacture this yarn into cloth at a cheaper rate than they can purchase it from England, and therefore they take the twist and the yarn, and thence make the goods. We believe this to be the case, and as we see no remedy, we can only regret it.

Since writing the above, our attention has been drawn to several sales in the city of articles of foreign produce purchased for the German market. It is satisfactory to see goods moving off in any direction, but we confess ourselves much surprised by the great and increasing demand for indigo for the manufacturers of the Rhine and the Netherlands, and the grand centre of the continental commerce of northern Europe, Hamburg. At the East India House sales, on Friday, the demand for cotton was very great. Of twelve thousand bales, actually sold, one-third was taken for exportation; another third by the regular trade; and the remainder for speculation. All this looks like the resumption of an active trade abroad, and confirms us in an opinion, that the continental merchants of Europe are making great efforts to break through the monopoly of Great Britain in our staple articles of manufacture. We believe that they are in earnest to do it; and we believe, likewise, that they are not inclined to give in to our liberal system of trade, or to cooperate with the policy and views of Mr. Huskisson. But we are fully convinced that their efforts will be in vain—and that the capital, energy, machinery, and industry of the country, are beyond all danger from competition and rivalry. The more general the taste and passion for cotton goods excited abroad, the greater and more active will the trade of Manchester and Glasgow become. These symptoms of reviving foreign demand are the best indications of an active home market.

But whilst such efforts are making on the continent, it is truly melancholy to see how much crippled the circulation of the country is by the late measures of Ministers relating to our currency. They have been prevailed upon by political economists to push their system to an extent which has actually deranged all trade whatever. The Scotch have contrived to get their necks out of the noose, but, in every county in England, the bankers are acting as under the influence of panic, and are very shy in affording the ordinary accommodation to trade.

It was expected that the Bank of England, would before this, have reduced their discounts from five per cent. to four. But it now appears that they have no such intention. Surely trade requires this relief; a larger circulation is manifestly wanted in town and country, and there is no appearance, from the present price of bullion, that the Bank can suffer any injury, though they should increase their issues by two millions or more.

LONDON, Oct. 7.

Extract of a private letter, dated Ostend, Sept. 22. "In addition to the horrid details of the 19th inst. contained in my letter of yesterday's date, I have now to acquaint you that the amiable wife of the Chevalier de Bossay, accompanied by her two daughters, accomplished ladies of about 18 and 19 years of age) were driving in their cabriolet, within half a mile of the arsenal at the moment of the explosion, when Madam Bossay was violently struck on the right temple with a large piece of timber, suppo-

sed to be part of the ruins of the powder magazine, and killed instantaneously.—The noise of the explosion set off the horse, a fine spirited animal, at full speed down the hill of Fermeis. Dragging the vehicle against a heap of rubbish by the road side, the two ladies were dashed out with considerable violence, and the footman who was riding behind, was thrown under a diligence passing at the time, by the wheels of which he had both his legs broken, and was otherwise considerably injured. On the Mademoiselles Bossay being taken up, in the youngest life was found to be entirely extinct, and the arm of the other was broken in two places, besides being dreadfully bruised, particularly about the head, so as to render her recovery extremely doubtful. On the news of this dreadful occurrence reaching the ears of a young student, who had arrived at Ostend on the evening before from Frankfort, and was just on the eve of leading to the altar, the youngest daughter of this ill-fated family, he rushed to his apartments at the hotel, and blew out his brains with one of his travelling pistols. On his toilet was found the following, written on the back of a letter received from his betrothed wife:—"I cannot survive this dreadful event; I go to meet my Rosabella in the realms of bliss.—Adieu, adieu, my friends, I cannot live without my adored.—This melancholy circumstance has created the most intense interest throughout this unfortunate town."

A TALE OF MISERY.—An inquisition was taken before Thomas Higgs Esq. at the Green Man, in Westminster, to enquire into the death of Ellen Briggs, commonly known as "Fair Ellen," an unfortunate female apparently about eighteen or nineteen years of age, who once possessed very attractive features; indeed the remains of beauty appeared evident to the jury on viewing the body.

Elizabeth Wetherall deposed—"I knew the deceased, but had not seen her lately until last Wednesday morning, when I found her sitting on the step of a door; she was miserably clad, and looked greatly emaciated. She told me in a very faint voice, that she had not tasted food for three days, that she had been turned out of her lodgings kept by a man of the name of Wilson; and that she had ever since wandered about the streets, sleeping at night at the steps of doors. I could not bear to see her starving situation, and invited her to go to my lodgings. I assisted her to walk there as she appeared scarcely able to support herself; and furnished her with breakfast which she partook of eagerly. I then asked her to lie down in my bed; she replied, Indeed I will and thank you too;" and I helped her into bed. Thinking she required more nourishing food I pledged my shawl and stockings, to procure her some broth and port wine, which seemed to revive her.

[The witness from the first, appeared to be labouring under some agitation, fearing she would be blamed by the parish; but the coroner and jury kindly assured her, that she need not be in the least apprehensive of getting into trouble, for every one must admire her generous conduct to the forlorn and unfortunate girl.]

"She was with me three days and nights;—I wished her to go to the workhouse where she could be more properly attended to, and I offered to go for a chair to take her there; but she said, Do let me have another day, and then begged to have a Bible brought her. She pointed out a chapter, and asked me to read it to her, which I did. The deceased entreated me to come to bed and lie by her side, which I was about to do when she expired. I had not the least suspicion she was near dying. There were some marks on the body caused by her lying on the steps."

The Coroner here observed to witness, that her disinterested conduct reflected the highest honour upon her, and the Jury instantly subscribed a sum of money for the girl, which was presented to her by the Coroner. The mother of the unfortunate girl at that very instant arrived from Manchester to see her daughter, quite unconscious of her illness. The fatigue of travelling so far, joined with the sudden shock her feelings received on hearing of the lamentable event, so far overpowered her that she rushed into the room, threw herself down in a paroxysm of grief, and implored the Coroner to let her see her dear Ellen. The scene then became so distressing, that she was obliged to be carried out of the room. Several witnesses now corroborated the statement of the first witness,—and the Jury returned a verdict of—"Died by the visitation of God."

OCTOBER 14.

Extract of a letter from Hamburg:—According to authentic reports from Cassel, some serious differences have occurred between the Elector and his son, the Electoral Prince, in consequence of which the latter deemed it necessary to leave that city and to take refuge at Berlin, where he is arrived.

OCTOBER 16.

The Hamburg steam-boat, which is just arrived, brings the Declaration of War of Russia against Persia; it is dated St. Petersburg, 28th ult. It is of great length. An engagement is said to have taken place near Elizabethpool; the latter was taken possession of by the Russians. One thousand men have been killed.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 27.—His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine is expected in this capital about the middle of next month, and as soon as the Emperor returns from Moscow, he will accompany His Majesty to Warsaw, where his coronation as King of Poland will take place. We expect in a few days the positive answer required by our Court respecting the hostile invasion of our territory by Persian marauders, who, as we hear, continue to advance.

OCTOBER 18.

We have received further details of the frightful situation of Batavia. The dates are to the 25th June. The following are extracts of letters. We must observe that they differ materially from the accounts of a somewhat less recent date, which have been given in the Dutch Papers:

Batavia, June 16.—The Dutch are still at war with the natives, and are making very slow progress in its termination. You will be surprised to hear, that from the climate, and the actions in the interior, the Dutch troops only muster 500 men. The natives are in great force, and getting more formidable every day. A military man of eminence told me that it was impossible to hold the island with less than 10,000 troops, and the few soldiers now remaining are sickly. Death has made sad havoc, particularly among the officers; the contending with a powerful enemy, and a dreadful climate, is too much for a European. Every person on the island is now obliged to perform military duty, which is any thing but pleasant after a hard day's work in town.

Extract of a letter from Ancona:—The steam boat which now performs the voyage from Corfu to Ancona in 52 hours, has brought the confirmation of the deliverance of Athens, on the 24th of August. Redoubt Pacha was on the point of being cut by Panorias, and was attacked and forced to retreat by the Greeks under Karaïskaki."

The Paris papers state that large reinforcements of troops have been ordered from Russia to the Persian frontiers.