

quarters in an elevated situation, from which they could pop their cannon balls into any part of the Plaza.

Neither party were well provided with artillery. They had each three or four guns, twelve and twenty-four pounders, with which they blazed away at each other for nearly a year, and between them managed to lay about the re-fortifications of the city in ruins.

The city was never completely invested, and occasional skirmishes between small parties of the opposing forces took place outside the town, but nothing worthy the name of an assault was ever attempted. The Democrats soon became masters of the entire country, with the exception of the besieged portion of the city of Granada occupied by Chamorro and his party, the Legitimists, as they called themselves.

When a small detachment of the Democratic army marched upon Rivas, the only town of importance in the part of the country through which the Transist road passes, the inhabitants, being mostly in favour of the Chamorro government, fled en masse, taking with them all their valuable and moveable property, to the neighbouring state of Costa Rica the frontier of which is within twenty miles.

The few who had the courage to remain were not molested, but the Democrats appropriated to their own use as barracks, &c., whatever private houses suited their convenience, and commenced levying contributions on the inhabitants; but as they had fled, and were not present to respond to the call, their property was advertised for sale, their stores broken open, their goods sold, and sundry other forcible measures taken to raise funds.

The mode of financing in time of revolution is equally simple with that of recruiting.

When a contribution, as they call it, is levied on a town, the principal inhabitants are assessed arbitrarily by the officers in command for as much as each is supposed to be able to pay. The unfortunate victims have then to fork out the dollars; there is no help for them. If they refuse, or plead poverty, they are perhaps imprisoned and kept on low diet; a few days of this treatment has a wonderful effect on the memory, and frequently enables a man to remember where he has buried his cash, or to discover some means of raising the needful, to be handed over for the support of the party, to which probably he may be opposed. When his own party come into power again, they will make him disgorge to double the amount by way of punishment. For these forced loans he may get some sort of debenture, worth about as much as the paper it is written on. In such times the people are afraid to let it be supposed that they have money at all; they feign poverty, burying their money secretly, and the houses of foreign residents are lumbered up with all sorts of chests and boxes, sent there stealthily by the unfortunate natives, in order to keep them safe from the rapacity of their countryman.

(To be Concluded.)

WHAT THEY ARE DOING IN AUSTRALIA.—The Sydney Empire, of the 21st December last, contains a report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, which throws considerable light on the doings at the remote diggings in the Murrumbidgee district. In 1854 the licenses granted were 378; in 1855 the number was 750. At the request of the diggers the Commissioner does not give the amount of gold sent forward, lest the statement might incite to robbery; but he states a fact which indicates its largeness, when he says the average earnings of the diggers are £15 or £16 a week. "The mining," he says, "on the Goberagandera, judging from six months experience, seems to be highly remunerative to any one who will steadily persevere. Even during the short days of winter, it was usual for men to obtain half-an-ounce per man, on such days as they could or would work. Many such claims are now lying vacant, hardly touched; and it is to be hoped and expected that they will shortly be reoccupied by a more prudent and steady set of miners. Several persons have left the Goberagandera with considerable proceeds; and there are about thirty men left on the creek, whose claims are paying them very fairly—about £15 to £20 per man weekly." "If," he continues, "a large extent of auriferous country, with a healthy climate, cheap provisions, and a certainty of a fair return for labor, are inducements for steady men to locate themselves in a gold field, we may expect a large population to be gradually attracted to this and other creeks in the vicinity. It will be necessary, however, that these persons should have some little capital—say £20 per man. Very few indeed of the persons who came to this creek were possessed of as many shillings. There seems amongst this section of the community to be a most remarkable want of prudence and foresight."

Among the diggers there has been much disorder, and this is to be lamented, for the reward of

labor is immense. "There has been," says the Commissioner, "a very great degree of exaggeration in the reports current as to the richness of the Tamberumba. I should expect the richest claims not to exceed £20 per man weekly, and the average will be greatly lessened." But he concludes; In my previous report I mentioned that the head of the Tercutta was auriferous, and that there were several parties at work upon it.

I have now to report that there are about fifty men there. The American discoverers inform me that there is room for a thousand men; the average gain, 25s. per man daily.

This creek is about half-way to the Tamberumba from the Adelung. It is my intention to station the sergeant from Goberagandera there placing the station at Tamberumba, eight miles away under his orders. I have not yet personally inspected his locality.

On the whole, I say, that the gold-fields of this district are being developed in a very satisfactory manner. The increase to the population is gradual, admitting of the wants of the miners being met by the labor of the agricultural population. There is a healthy, and not a feverish stimulus applied to the community. There has been no clashing between the mining and squatting interests. There is a sufficient body of police to protect the weak and to encourage the well doing; but not in such numbers as to offend the prejudices of any. The staff of police and constabulary can be at any time increased, to meet necessities. The seasons have been abundant; and, altogether, notwithstanding the slight drawbacks alluded to, the district is in a happy and healthy state. The contrast between 1855 and 1850 must convince the most sceptical of the guiding hand of Providence.

PEACE.

It appears that it was not until 1 o'clock on Sunday March 30th, instead of Saturday night, that the treaty was signed, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, upon which a signal was immediately given to the artillery on the esplanade of the Invalides, and the discharge of cannon announced the event before the Plenipotentiaries had quitted the hall. A salvo of 101 guns was fired. The news was thereupon disseminated in various modes to all parts of France and of Europe. It was received in London by telegraph, and at 10 o'clock at night was announced by a royal salute, at the Horse Guards, and at the Tower. On Monday it was officially proclaimed, in the manner mentioned in yesterday's paper, and it was also announced in a London Gazette Extraordinary, on the authority of a despatch from Lord Clarendon. A supplement to the Gazette announced the arrival of the Hon. Spencer Ponsonby at the Foreign office, with the treaty which had been signed on the preceding day.

It was natural to expect some particulars of the successful negotiation thus announced, unaccompanied as it was by any hint of the nature of the treaty concluded, through the First Minister of the Crown, in the House of Commons, which assembled at 4 o'clock on Monday. Lord Palmerston was accidentally detained for a few minutes beyond the half hour usually devoted to notices of motions, and the House, before his arrival, went into committee of the whole on the supplies, in which they proceeded for a considerable length of time. At length the House becoming impatient for the expected communication, the following proceedings took place:—

Mr. F. French said, it was without precedent that the war should be concluded without Her Majesty's Ministers condescending to inform the House of the fact. It was true that the noble lord at the head of the government had entered the house after the House had gone into Committee of Supply, but if the noble lord did not think it worth while to make the announcement of the treaty of peace after the house had gone into Committee of Supply, it would only have been decent and respectful to the House if his colleagues had waited a few minutes until the noble lord arrived. In order to give the noble lord an opportunity of declaring what had taken place, he would move that the chairman report progress. He might be told that the signing of the treaty of peace had been announced by firing the guns, but the House would remember that the same guns had fired for Sebastopol when it had not been taken. (A laugh) A communication was made to the House when the war commenced, and the government were, he thought bound to make a similar communication to the House if peace were concluded. (Hear, hear.)

Lord Palmerston.—Sir, I was in the House not three minutes after the half-hour, which is usually the time for notices of motion being given and questions being put. There were notices of motion previous to going into committee of supply, and there were also notices of questions, and I was as much surprised as any other member could be to

find the House in committee of supply at so unusually early an hour. (Hear.) If I had come down to the house three minutes sooner I should have made a statement which I am quite prepared now to make. (Hear.) It is a very short one, and will convey no information to the honorable member beyond that which he already possesses.—(A laugh) If it be any satisfaction, however, to my honorable friend to be informed officially of that which he already knows individually, I shall have very great pleasure in enlightening his mind. (A laugh.) The House is perfectly aware from the Gazette that yesterday, at 2 o'clock, a treaty of peace was signed at Paris. (Cheers) The house will have seen by the announcement in the Gazette that it was determined by the Congress that the particular conditions of the treaty should not be made public until the ratifications had been exchanged. And that, indeed, is the usual course, for it is a mark of obvious deference to the powers who are parties to the treaty. At the same time without going into any details of the conditions, the main substance of which is already known to all the world, because it has been embodied in protocols and published in every country in Europe, I may say at least that my conviction is, that the treaty of peace will be deemed satisfactory by this country and by Europe. (Cheers.) Sir, it will be found that the objects for which the war was undertaken have been fully accomplished. It will be found that by the stipulations of that treaty the integrity and independence of the Turkish empire will be secured, as far as human arrangements can effect that purpose. (Cheers.) It will be found that that treaty is honorable to all the contracting parties to it, and I trust, while, on the one hand, it has put an end to a war which every friend to humanity must naturally have wished to see concluded, on the other hand it will lay the foundation of a peace which I trust, so far at least as regards the circumstances out of which the war began, will be lasting and enduring. (Hear, hear.) Sir, during the negotiations which have led to this peace I am happy to say that the same cordiality which has prevailed among the allies in carrying on the war has also mainly contributed to the conclusion of peace, and that we shall leave off at the conclusion of this war in a stricter and closer alliance with them—and in a more extended alliance—than existed during the continuance of the war; and, that therefore, the future permanence not only of a good understanding but of an intimate connection between the great powers of Europe will have been cemented and strengthened by the communications that have taken place during the negotiations. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I have nothing more to say, than it must be gratifying to the country to know that nothing could exceed the ability with which the British negotiators have performed their arduous and difficult task during the negotiation (cheers), and that Lord Clarendon and Lord Cowley have not only maintained the honor, dignity, and interests of the country they represented, but by their conciliatory conduct have secured for themselves and their country the respect, esteem, and goodwill of those with whom they had to do. (Cheers.) The ratifications are to be exchanged as soon as they can be received at Constantinople and St. Petersburg. The limitation of time has been four weeks, but I should hope that at least within three weeks the ratification will be exchanged at Paris. (Cheers.)

The following extract from the correspondence of the London Times, bearing date on the day of the signature of the treaty, will interest the reader, in two or three particulars. The coincidence of the date of the signature of the treaty with the anniversary of the battle of Paris, 42 years ago, which was followed by the immediate entry of the Russian army into that capital, is very striking.—The account given of the discussion said to have been raised by the Sardinian plenipotentiaries on the subject of the affairs of Italy, whether authentic or not, shows the strong probability, that if the present negotiations had not terminated in a peace the Turkish question would, by the end of another campaign, have ceased to be the only, or even the most difficult question to be settled.

After speaking of the bulletin posted up on the walls of Paris, signed by the Prefect, and of the announcement in the Supplement to the Moniteur, the letter says:—

The effect produced is of course all that could be imagined, and the feeling would very probably have been much more strongly expressed, had it not been that for two or three days past the conclusion was confidently expected for this day.—The weather is fine, the sky serene, the sun warm and undimmed, and all the thoroughfares thronged with people.—Already preparations are made for the illuminations of to-night, which, it is expected, will rival the display on the birth of the Imperial Prince. I should not omit the coincidence that Countess

Walewski, wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Congress, was delivered of a girl this morning at 9 o'clock, only three or four hours before her husband affixed his signature to the treaty of peace.

The Plenipotentiaries will continue to meet during the present week, as before, for the settlement of other matters, not of a light or unimportant character, which have not yet been settled. They and the resident members of the diplomatic corps dine, in full uniform, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to-morrow. The treaty will not be made public until the exchange of the ratifications, and, as Constantinople and St. Petersburg are distant from Paris, the Plenipotentiaries remain still bound by their obligation of silence for two or three weeks to come.

The so-much discussed treaty of peace, then, is signed at last, and signed on the anniversary of a great day. On this day 42 years ago was fought the battle of Paris, the last act of the great drama of which Europe was the theatre; and on the following day the Russians entered the capital, and dictated terms of peace where now their Ambassadors have come to ask for it. On the following day, which many still remember as cold, sombre, and cheerless, the Allies entered Paris. That France is now able, in concert with her allies, to dictate peace to Russia may be considered as full satisfaction for the past, and I am not quite sure that it was without design that the 30th of March was selected for the occasion.

Orders have been sent to the transport squadron at Toulon to be ready to proceed to the Black Sea, to bring home the troops.

At the review which is to be held on Tuesday, places will be reserved for such of the diplomatic corps as do not wish to follow the emperor on horseback.

I alluded some time since to an idea long familiar to the Emperor, of a Congress in Paris on the general state of Europe, with a view to certain modifications. The real object, perhaps, is to efface in some measure, the Congress of Vienna. I believe it has been communicated to the English Government, but has been coldly received. The Emperor's tenacity in such matters is well known, and, though the plan may be postponed, I doubt whether it is entirely abandoned. Another Congress is spoken of with another object, but on this I must not say anything at present; all will come in good time.

I mentioned in a recent letter that among other facts reported to me relative to the proceedings of the Congress, a clause favourable to Sardinia was, or would be inserted in the protocols. This clause, if I may credit my informant, has reference to the commercial interests of Piedmont in connection with the Danube. Count Cavour is said to have explained, in an animated and forcible address, the claims of his government to participate in the advantages accruing from the throwing open the mouths and freeing the navigation of that river.—He demanded, it is said, that Sardinian vessels should, on entering or quitting, on ascending or descending, the Danube suffer no impediments of any kind. Count Buol is described as having offered some opposition to the demand of the Sardinian Government for these immunities, which were also supported by the Marquis de Villa Marina, the resident Sardinian Minister in Paris. They were favorably viewed by England and France, and even by Russia, who does not omit any opportunity of showing her resentment to her former friend. The conclusion of the discussion was therefore favorable to Sardinia.

This, I believe, occurred at the close of the last or the beginning of the present week. But another and more serious topic was, I am told, subsequently brought forward by the Sardinian plenipotentiary, namely, the state of Italy. M. Cavour drew the attention of the Congress to the present condition of that country. He entered into details dwelt on the danger of leaving so important a question undecided, and declared that the Congress ought not to separate without coming to some decision on the question. Count Buol expressed his surprise that such a subject should be brought before plenipotentiaries assembled in congress on the Eastern, and not the Italian question, and maintained that it was not within their functions.—Count Cavour disputed that opinion; he denied that the question was less Italian than European, and maintained that, as they were there met on matters relating to the general interest and welfare of Europe at large, Italy was a perfectly legitimate subject for their consideration. He declared that, if something were not now done, another Congress would have to assemble soon again.

Count Buol disputed the right of Count Cavour to speak in the name of Italy; he (Count Cavour) was in Paris simply as the plenipotentiary of the Piedmontese government, and he had no authority to speak in the name of the Pope, the King of Naples, or the Grand Duke of Tuscany. Count Cavour replied, that he was there as an Italian, and that his right to speak for Italy was not less than that assumed by Count Buol, who spoke throughout in the name of Germany, whereas Austria was but a single member of the Confederation. Count Buol denied the analogy sought to be established between the two countries; the States of Italy had