

his remains. We have now only to add, that Captain Broke was very deservedly rewarded with a Baronetcy, and other honours; that two of his lieutenants was made commanders; and that two of his midshipmen, who had peculiarly distinguished themselves, were promoted to the rank of lieutenants. Take it for all in all, the duel of the Shannon and Chesapeake is one of the most extraordinary on record.

From Shilp's Journal.

GLANCE AT THE SERVIANS.

BY MISS A. M. BIRKBECK.

THE experience of a constitutional existence soon convinced at least the more intelligent amongst them, that their interests were closely connected with those of the other races in Hungary, and that by promoting the welfare of the latter they would advance their own.—Time went on, and at length the memorable year 1849 arrived. In the first glow of enthusiasm, the aristocratic Diet, with one single stroke, razed to the ground all the feudal barriers, that were represented as obstructive of general prosperity and civilization; abolishing the tithes and all seigniorial rights; introducing a uniform taxation, trials by Jury, &c.

The dynasty, terrified at the sight of such radical reforms and anxious and determined not to allow their firm establishment, threw the apple of discord amongst the various races, by persuading them, and more particularly the Servian priesthood and several of their leaders that the moment for realizing their favorite project, of forming an independent Servian state, had at length arrived. The populace, easily misled and fanaticised, gathered in large meetings and demanded, together with the Croats, an entire separation from Hungary, alleging that the Magyars wanted to suppress their religion and language. The remonstrances of the Hungarian ministry were of no avail; on the contrary rather hastened the outbreak of the crisis. On Easter Monday, 1848, a Servian mob unfurled the flag of rebellion against the constitution, and commenced a civil war by exacting a division of property on communistical principles, and then by the slaughter of the Hungarian and German magistrates and the nobles. The fire, long and cleverly kindled, spread rapidly over several of the southern counties and the borders. With the tacit consent of Austria, whole battalions of borderers as well as bands of freebooters from Servia Proper, swelled the number of the rebels, and the southern boundary of Hungary by degrees became the arena of the most fearful carnage and depredation, carried almost impunity; owing to the secret understanding of the Austrian generals, who at the commencement commanded the Honveds and National Guard sent against the rebels. Hence the Servians were enabled to convert their villages into entrenched camps, from whence they carried a desolatory warfare, raising their armed force to 40,000, commanded by their national generals Theodorovics and Kaicsanin.

At the end of the war the Servians, expecting an adequate reward for their enormous sacrifices in aiding to preserve the dynasty solicited the fulfilment of the promises made to them by the latter. Great must their mortification and rage have been on finding they were paid precisely in the same manner and with the same coin as were their ancestors. As when they began to press their claim, their leaders, who have worked the most zealously for the Hapsburgs, were arrested, and either thrown into prison or executed. Then the district was placed under martial law; the Servian colors, white and red, prohibited; and in their public transactions, as well as in their village schools, the German language introduced. Nay, Austria, as if in mockery, united the three counties where the Servians are most numerous, into a district, calling it the Vojvodina, and appointing a general at the head, with the full power of administering martial law,—instead of the repudiated constitution of 1848.

From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.

CHOLERA AT GENOA.

ON the morning of the 22d of July, a whisper ran through the town murmured from blanched lips and listened to with awe-stricken faces: the cholera—the cholera! It is come—it is come! Some suspicious cases of this dreadful epidemic had occurred in the arsenal among the galley-slaves at the beginning of the week, but had been sedulously hushed up, in the hope the malady would spread no further; now however, it had burst forth with sudden virulence, and attacked the military who were stationed there. The panic was extraordinary. Before noon the evil intelligence had spread from palace to hovel, from prince to beggar; and in the streets that evening, instead of the customary gay sauntering promenaders, I saw nothing but anxious-looking groups, discussing the all-engrossing tidings, the word cholera! cholera! audible above the rest.

The next morning rose brilliant, glowing with the magic colouring of sea and sky I had so admired, and found the worst fears of the previous day confirmed. In several parts of the town the malady had simultaneously declared itself. Its existence was now a recognized fact, and the municipality were hastily taking those sanitary measures which an injudicious fear of prematurely exciting the public alarm had hitherto saved them to delay. Temporary hospitals

were prepared; commissions of medical men organized; dispensaries, where the most necessitous might be supplied with medicines and ice gratis, appointed in every quarter of the town; and orders given too late, alas! to be effectual for the removal of an accumulation of stagnant water—a vast deposit of filth and impurities—in the vicinity of the arsenal.

On the morrow, a great increase in the number of the cases was known to have taken place, while the popular exaggeration, cowardice, and ignorance, trebled the existing evils. From an early hour, a remarkable movement in the direction of the railway station was to be witnessed augmenting as the day wore on to a dense mass of citizenship, omnibuses, private carriages, and trucks and carts, laden with baggage. The flight, of which most of the leading Genoese nobility were first to give the example, had commenced and continued unabated for the next three days. It was a regular *saute qui peut*; merchants left their business, lawyers their clients, teachers their pupils. Out of a population of 120,000, at least 40,000 hastened away, many almost frantic with terror, scarcely knowing whether they were bound, only eager to be gone, rushing as if from inevitable destruction. The quantity of plate and gold ornaments, besides household linen and wearing-apparel pledged during this period at the *Monte di Pietà*, is said to have been extraordinary—the nature of the property thus placed in pawn under the government security, shewing how great was the eagerness to obtain the means for immediate departure. I saw many poor creatures setting forth on foot, children clinging to their mothers' skirts, the youngest crying in her arms, the father carrying a few bundles—melancholy groups enough, not destined even to escape the death they fled from at such sacrifice, for all the surrounding villages and mountain hamlets where this class of fugitives took refuge, were speedily visited by the pestilence with even greater intensity than the town.

Generally considered however, this exodus was composed of the more affluent classes, whose absence had the immediate effect of reducing thousands of artisans, porters, workwomen, and others similarly dependant upon daily employment for their maintenance, to the verge of destitution. All commerce seemed at an end. The theatres abruptly ceased their representations; the university and schools were closed; even the numerous buildings in process of construction were suspended, and a large number of masons, starving and disheartened, thrown out of work.

The people watched each departing carriage with folded arms and a look of sullen dogged defiance; the few ladies who remained, whenever they ventured abroad, were gazed on with wonder, and followed by remarks of: 'So you are not gone yet! Are you not afraid to remain here with only the poor?'

The town, lately so joyous, seemed under the evil influence of a spell. By far the greater part of the shops were shut; gaunt, famine-stricken figures replaced the graceful form which so lately swept along in all the pride of wealth and consciousness of beauty; and the groans and execrations of the discontented rabble were alone heard, where, a few nights before, the stirring music of the band filled the air. The only sights which varied the monotony of the deserted streets by day, were litters and sedan-chairs conveying the sick to the hospitals, or priests bearing the host beneath a silken canopy to some death-bed, but without the bell or torches customary at other seasons, these being wisely ordered to be laid aside for the moment, not to increase the universal feeling of depression. By night none will readily forget how the silence was broken by the rumbling of the horrible death-cart, which began its loathsome rounds long ere midnight, stopping successively before the narrow alleys to receive its fearful burden, which the *becchini*, charged with this duty, had brought thither to await its coming. Those hideous *becchini*, their very name causes one to shudder! Sometimes, half stupefied with wine, they would forget which were the houses whither they had been summoned to repair, and knocking at every successive door in the neighbourhood, with cries of 'Bring out your dead, if you have any; bring out your dead!' And then the livid remains of one, who perhaps had felt no symptom of disease six or seven hours before, were consigned to their rude hands; and borne to the appointed spot, flung carelessly on the pavement, while they departed in search of other corpses, to be as irreverently dealt with in their turn; after which, heaping one dead body upon the other, sitting upon them even, awaiting the approach of the cart, they smoked and yelled forth their drunken songs, or proffered their ribald jests. Men of strange, uncouth appearance, half-naked, with matted hair and untrimmed beards, hidden away in foul haunts in ordinary times, never seen but in moments of popular commotion and evil, like bird of prey hastening to the field of blood, from the first manifestation of the cholera, or rather of the panic by which it was immediately succeeded, they had appeared upon the scene, insolent in their demands and unscrupulous in their menaces. The municipality, anxious to propitiate them, had retained their services at high rates of payment for these and similar duties—dire results of the prevailing epidemic; and thus having secured their co-operations, devoted themselves to the other ex-

igencies of the moment—providing food for the most needy, and work for the unemployed.—To give the civic authorities their due, whatever tardiness there might have been in taking preventive measures, nothing could now be more praiseworthy than their efforts to arouse the courage and alleviate the extraordinary misery of the population. Besides supplying the sick with medicines and ice, as already stated, the finest white bread was daily distributed, to the amount of 1600 francs, equal to £64. This expenditure upon one item per diem continued for upwards of forty days unchanged, and indeed but little diminished at the period at which I write, now the middle of September, may furnish some idea of the sum disbursed.

Besides this broth was provided for the convalescent, and furniture and linen lent to those whose household property after the death of some member of the family, had been taken away by order of the authorities to undergo the process of fumigation; and in those districts where the pestilence was most deadly, where the squalid and crowded dwellings rival all we hear of the purities of St. Giles, the inhabitants were removed, much to their own dissatisfaction to healthier quarters, in large convents temporarily ceded for that purpose—not always with the best grace, it must be owned on the part of their reverend occupants. In one instance, a few old nuns, who were mouldering away in a convent large enough for a barrack, strongly resisted the invitation to transfer themselves, for [the time being, to another sisterhood; at last threats of force became necessary to induce them to comply, when escorted by gendarmes, they were conveyed in close carriages through the town to their new abode—martyrs to the utilitarian spirit of the day!

In measures of cleanliness, the municipality were also indefatigable. Every lane and portico. And stair-case over which they held any jurisdiction, being forthwith diligently white-washed; in addition to which, the walls in the principal thoroughfares were covered with manifestoes and addresses, recalling the absentees to a sense of their duties towards their suffering fellow citizens, exhorting the feeble-hearted promising to provide for all children rendered orphans by this visitation, and striving to combat the gross and fatal prejudices of the populace.

Those who have only seen the cholera as it is in England, can form no conception of the features it presented here, where, in addition to the infinitely greater number of its victims, the fear which paralysed so vast a proportion of the community, and the besotted ignorance of the lower order, added to the horrors of the period. It was, indeed the pestilence that walketh in darkness—a moral darkness, more appalling than the deepest shades of night; the description of the plagues of middle ages, with their popular commotions and denunciations of poisoners and witchcraft, being renewed almost to the letter.

From its first appearance, the cry was raised by the disaffected to the Piedmontese sway, that the epidemic was the result of an organized plot a deliberate course taken by the government to spread a poison among the people, which, by diminishing their numbers, would render them less formidable, less capable of revolt. The propagation of the miasma was said to be affected by poisoned rockets, charged with a mephitic preparation, which were let off from the mountain-forts at night and dropped their fatal contents into the devoted city! I have been gravely assured of this as a positive fact by natives, whose position as clerks and shopkeepers, implying a certain amount of education and responsibility, ought to have rendered them superior to such absurdities; but the blind hatred to Piedmont, which lurks at the heart of every thorough Genoese, made any attempt to reason with them hopeless. As their only extenuation, it is stated that rockets were seen at night, at intervals, during the first period of the cholera, sent up, it is supposed; by some of these individuals who love to fish in troubled waters, and calculated, by imposing on public credulity, to commence an insurrectionary or reactionary movement: for, strange to say, the two ultra factions of Rossi and Codini are equally suspected of originating this and similar delusions.

Another view of the question—to which, however, the retrograde party can lay undisputed claim—recognised the cholera as a manifest judgment of Heaven upon the liberal institutions the freedom of the press, and religious toleration, established since the constitution of 1848, while above all, the parochial clergy took advantage of the moment to ascribe the evils that had come upon Genoa to the spread of the Valdesian heresy, converts to which—or, as it is equally termed, the Italian Reformed church—within the last twelvemonth have become exceedingly numerous.

(To be continued)

SCRAPS.

A CARPET OF IVORY.—Amongst the curiosities to be transmitted from India to the Great Exhibition in Paris next year, is a carpet of Ivory. It is 20 feet long by 6 feet broad, and made of long strips of Ivory, plaited like matting. The price fixed upon it is £300, and it may yet become the fashion. Such a carpet would be nearly indestructible, but we fear it will have the inconvenience of being slippery.

The Politician.

LAMARTINE ON THE RUSSIAN DANGER.

In the preface to his forthcoming "History of Turkey," just given to the *Constitutionnel*, M. de Lamartine thus pronounces his opinion on the Eastern question:—

"Russia, which extends from Poland to Persia and China, already weighs infinitely too much on the globe. If to such weight be added that of the 100,000 square leagues of the Ottoman empire in Asia and Europe, all balance of forces in the world is at an end. We should have to enter a whole hemisphere, and on the half another, the famous *finis Polonia*, applied not merely to Sarmatia, but to all Europe.

It is known that Napoleon was accustomed to say whatever he thought in his familiar conversation with his friends. Count de Rambuteau, then Chamberlain, and afterwards Prefect of Paris, was present at the Tuilleries at one of these grand improvisations; in January 1813, a period when fortune had already removed many an illusion. Marshal Davoust and the Count de Lobau, as well as M. Rambuteau listened with a respectful interest to the affecting anecdotes of the retreat from Russia; Napoleon all at once interrupted himself in the recital of his reverses and said:—"Alas, how the best calculated plans may be thwarted by the most unforeseen circumstances. Placed in 1812 at the head of Europe and disposing of all the forces of the west, I thought the moment was come to invade Russia. I wanted to raise up against her a barrier which she could never pass. I hoped, at least, to retard for a hundred years that power, and in reality I have advanced her a century. If ever she siezes on Constantinople, she will place Europe and Asia under the same yoke. Ah! if I had known sooner the importance of the Turkish counterpoise at Constantinople." And in fact let any one represent to himself a Czar, who recruits his armies amongst sixty-five millions of men—men whose sole duty is to die for their master: let any one in his mind add to that formidable recruitment the forty millions of Ottoman subjects, Turks, Greeks, Abasians, Armenians, Circassians, Druses, and Maronites; and then add to that the twenty-five millions of Persians, who already tremble before the advanced posts of Russia! and there will be 130 millions of men in one despotic hand to oppose 120 millions of others! What becomes of the Black Sea that lake of Europe and of Asia? It becomes the great dock of Russia, in which her fleets will be constructed in silence until such time as this innumerable sails will debouch by the Dardanelles into the Mediterranean, saying to the winds, like the barbarians:—"Blow where you will, wherever you carry us the land is ours!"

What will become of the Danube, which, after having been flowed along freely for 600 leagues across Germany, will be enchained at its mouth, and will find the Muscovite blockade at its junction with the sea, in which it went to seek for the sum and wealth of the East? What will become of the Adriatic, in which Austria was commencing to exercise herself by navigation and commerce by Trieste and Venice, and which Dalmatia, Epirus, and Albania, henceforward Russian, will close up like a second Black Sea to the Austrian flag? What becomes of Constantinople, that hanseatic capital, situated on two continents; on the shore of three seas, and of two straits, common doors, of which the keys ought to be in neutral, friendly, or independent hand? Constantinople becomes a Moscow of the Bosphorus, of which the Kremlin, built on the place of the gardens of the seraglio, will cause the ships of war of Europe to pass under its cannon like slaves.

What becomes of the Mediterranean? It becomes either a Russian lake or a battle-field of a century between the Russian fleets and the English fleets, holding the commerce of Europe between two fires. What becomes of maritime France on that sea, where she possesses neither Malta, Gibraltar, nor Corfu? Maritime France becomes the subaltern vessel of the naval power preponderating in these seas, England; or she becomes the butt of the insults of Russia even in her ports. When Russia is in the Dardanelles the Russian frontier is at Marseilles and Toulon. What becomes of Germany? Already borne down for the last thirty years by Russian diplomacy or intervention, which she could still restrain as long as the Czar felt behind him the counterpoise of Turkey, Germany becomes Russia. The confederation of the Rhine, thought of by Bonaparte, becomes a verity after the annihilation of Constantinople by the Czar; Germany, great and small, becomes a confederation of the Danube against France. At that price Russia preserves a slice of Poland, and the Rhenish provinces; at that price Austria preserves Italy, and if Italy palpitates at the voice of France, a new Suwarow descends from Illyria into her plains with 200,000 Russians the aid of 200,000 Germans. Continental France cannot make a movement on her frontiers without meeting Germany, the advance guard of Russia, or without coming into collision with Russia, the reserve of Germany. The treaties of 1815 are curtailed, against us, of all that remained unconquered in the East, independent of Germany, and living in Italy. It is no longer the accide-