

Europe.

LONDON, Nov. 18.

Death of the Dowager Empress of Russia.—The Petersburg papers of the 5th instant, contain an account of the death of the Dowager Empress of Russia, mother of the Emperor Nicholas. Her Imperial Majesty expired on the morning of that day, of fever, after an illness of ten days. She was a German Princess, and without possessing the ability of her mother-in-law, Catharine, exercised, during the latter part of her life, a great deal of influence in the Empire. During the reign of Catharine, she lived as much as possible in a kind of seclusion, and had a difficult part to play between an Empress, jealous of her power, and a husband naturally brutal and exasperated by the ill treatment of the court. The accession of her husband to the Throne rendered her situation more distressing, as converted his rudeness into absolute insanity. It would be needless to say that his death inspired little regret, and that his widow urged no measures of severity against his assassins. Whatever may have been the conduct or feelings of Alexander on that occasion towards his father, his filial tenderness towards his mother constituted a striking feature of his character. To the latest hour of his life he treated her not only with kind regard, but with affectionate reverence; and she could not be an ordinary person, whose opinion the Emperor thought it useful to consult in the most trying circumstances. The arrangements which were carried into effect after Alexander's death, by his youngest brother ascending the Throne, were known to be the work of this intrepid Princess.

December 2.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.—German papers of the 24th of November, which were received on Monday, state that the Russians, after making themselves masters of the important position of Kalesat, had also occupied an island in the Danube from which Widdin can be reached with artillery. They had commenced the bombardment of the town, causing the greatest terror amongst the inhabitants. On the second and third of November two mosques, with the fish-market and the adjoining houses, were set on fire and burned down. No regular siege had been commenced. The siege of Silistria was hardly pressed. It is considered as certain that the Russians will continue to occupy, during the winter, a line beyond the Danube, from Varna to Silistria.

The Russian Admiral in the Mediterranean has formally announced to the commanders of the ships of war of the Allied Powers in the Levant, that the Dardanelles and Constantinople are in a state of blockade. The blockade is to be enforced against vessels laden with military stores or grain. It does not appear that any other articles are included in the orders addressed to the Russian naval commander by the Emperor.

The Paris papers of Saturday, contain intelligence from Constantinople of the 29th of October, which states that the Sultan was so exasperated on learning the fall of Varna, as to disgrace the Grand Vizier for not having acted with sufficient energy, in his efforts to relieve the place. The deposed Vizier has been banished to Galipoli. The Captain Pacha, who refused to surrender at Varna, has been appointed to the office of Grand Vizier, and has received the Treasury jewels and field equipage of his predecessor. Jussuf Pacha, who surrendered Varna to the Russians has been declared to be suspected of disaffection, and his property has been confiscated.

Since the fall of Varna, the military armaments at Constantinople have been carried on with increasing activity. Ammunition and artillery were continually sent to the army. Troops from Asia, especially cavalry, arrived daily, and after halting a short time, marched for the seat of war.

GREECE.—The Hamburg papers state, the Sultan having definitively refused to treat with the Allied Ambassadors, on the affairs of Greece, it has been resolved to mark out the future boundaries of Greece, and to force the Turkish Troops to retire beyond them. In consequence, a division of the French army in the Morea had commenced their march for Athens.

December 4.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 25.—The capital has re-

covered from the despondency which the first news of the loss of Varna occasioned. 30,000 men levied in the capital and environs are to reinforce the army on the Balkan, and the troops collected in Albania are to be ordered to remain where they are, and not to proceed to the Danube as was before intended. Here it is thought the Porte intends not only to act with vigour against the Russians, but also to assert its rights over Greece, though the Egyptian troops have evacuated the Morea. This resolution, if the French troops should remain long in Greece, may cause the most dangerous political embarrassments, and we have only to hope that the unremitted endeavours of the Austrian and Netherlands Ambassadors may induce the Porte to adopt a more conciliatory system. Hitherto the capital enjoys perfect tranquility, and no want of provisions is felt; but the blockade of the Dardanelles, and the shipping of supplies, may easily produce a scarcity. In this case the numerous poor classes might be more readily be impelled to the greatest excesses, as the Government is destitute of pecuniary resources, and the treasury is exhausted.—*Allgemeine Zeitung*, Nov. 26.

The Gazette of Lyons states, that Jussef Pacha received 200,000 ducats, and an asylum in Russia, as the price of his treason. The same paper also adds, that the situation of the Emperor of Russia was critical, as a secret society in the army was discovered, which had for its object to put Constantine on the throne.

Of this plot we have heard before; but it is generally understood that the Grand Duke is totally averse to it. The Poles, however, are discontented, and it is probable that a conspiracy of some kind is hatching in Poland. We are much mistaken if the Emperor of Russia will not, ere long, have something else to attend to besides enlarging his dominions.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Extract of a private letter from Birmingham, dated December 1:—"A shocking catastrophe took place here yesterday, of which the following are the particulars:—Edward Roach was a whip-maker, residing in Ellis-street, and until lately had borne a good character. A short time since, however, he formed an imprudent connexion, which soured his temper, embittered his prospects, and destroyed his domestic happiness for ever. On the evening of the day in question he returned home, and was naturally enough reproached by his wife for his irregularities; a violent recrimination ensued, during which a thrilling scream of 'murder' was heard, accompanied soon after by the discharge of a pistol. The neighbours heard the report; but being unable themselves to get into the house, in consequence of the door being fast locked, they sent for an officer, who instantly proceeded to break open the fastenings. On going up stairs, after he had unsuccessfully examined the lower rooms, a most sickening spectacle presented itself. Alone, on the floor, and close beside the staircase, lay the body of Roach's wife; her face hacked and stabbed in various places, her neck pierced through and through, and her arm nearly severed from her body, which was done no doubt while she was in the act of lifting the latch of the door. Round the corpse was a dark pool of blood. In another part of the house Roach himself was discovered stretched dead upon a bed, with his brains scattered thickly over his shoulders. On his left arm lay a poor little infant (his youngest child) awake, and near him the pistol with which he had effected his destruction. His two other children were fast asleep in bed. The circumstances of this tragedy have occasioned a great sensation in the neighbourhood."

December 6.

PARIS, Dec. 3.—Our correspondent at Constantinople informs us that the Minister of the Netherlands had received, on the 25th of October, an English courier, despatched by the English Ambassador at Vienna, with the declaration of the British Government, dated September 30, relative to the blockade of the Dardanelles. M. de Zuilen communicated this document to the Reis Effendi, who received the news with composure, and only answered that Divine Providence would not withdraw its protection on this occasion from the Ottoman Empire. It was hoped that, before the blockade was carried into effect, the convoys from Egypt would arrive at Constantinople, which would suffice for the consumption of the capital for six months.

It has been reported for the last two days that the new Grand Vizier had concluded with the Russians an armistice for three months.

Letters from Barcelona give details of an execu-

tion *en masse*, of which happily history presents few examples, except in countries in a state of open revolution. Thirteen Spanish subjects, charged, with having made an attempt against the legitimate rights of Ferdinand VII. by endeavouring to re-establish the government of 1820, were shot on the 1st inst., in the citadel of Barcelona. After their execution, their bodies were thrown from the ramparts into the ditches of the citadel, where galley slaves picked them up, and hung them on gibbets erected for that purpose. The latter part of the execution was announced to the inhabitants by the discharge of two pieces of cannon.

United States.

CONGRESS.

FRAUDS UPON THE REVENUE.

Message from the President of the United States, transmitting the information required by a Resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 18th ultimo, in relation to intended frauds on the Revenue, which has rendered it necessary to station additional troops on the Niagara frontier.

JANUARY 2, 1829.

Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

WASHINGTON, January 1, 1829.

In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 18th ult, I communicate to the House a report from the Secretary of War, containing information in relation to the intended fraud upon the revenue, which has rendered expedient the stationing additional troops on the Niagara frontier. The other evidence embraced by the resolution, and in possession of Government, does not, in my judgment, at present render any further employment of a regular force, for the enforcement of the revenue laws, necessary.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Department of War, December 26, 1828.

Sir.—In compliance with the Resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 18th instant, requesting the President of the United States "to communicate, if it be not in his judgment incompatible with public interests, the information in relation to intended frauds upon the revenue, which has rendered necessary the stationing additional troops on the Niagara frontier; and also any other evidence in possession of the Government, which may make the employment of a regular armed force necessary for the enforcement of the revenue laws," I have the honor to submit the following report:—

The evidence in possession of the Department, of contemplated frauds on the revenue, along the Niagara frontier, is, as the nature of the subject necessarily supposes, circumstantial and presumptive: for it is not to be expected that persons intending to commit clandestine violations of the laws will make their intentions public, much less point out the time, place, and manner, in which they propose to effect them. The belief that the fraudulent designs, were and still are, entertained, is formed on the following prominent facts, which, with others of minor importance, all leading to the same conclusion, have been communicated to the Department by gentlemen of the first respectability who are personally known to them, and who have recently visited the seat of Government, and some of whom are still here, but whose names it is not deemed necessary or expedient to mention at this time.

The prominent facts alluded to are, that, within a few months past, not less than five or six very extensive mercantile establishments have been formed and located at different points along the British shore of the Niagara: and that there is already collected in the stores and warehouses belonging to these establishments, whose professed object is to vend, by wholesale, an amount of European goods, (principally British) exceeding by many times, in quantity, and varying in quality, from what would be necessary or proper to satisfy any imaginable demand for the population of Canada, or for the Indian trade.

The inference, therefore, that most of these goods are intended for the United States market, is unavoidable; and the further inference that they are intended to be smuggled in, is equally irresistible in the minds of those who are acquainted with the geography of the country, and the course of its commercial operations: for, supposing like duties to be paid by both, it would be utterly impossible for the English merchant, who transports his goods from Europe to Niagara, by the hazardous and expen-