

## EUROPE.

### ENGLAND.

The English people are by no means satisfied with the measures of the Government respecting Holland. A large meeting of the merchants and bankers of London had been held, to take the subject of those measures into consideration at which Sir Thomas Baring and Mr. Thomas Wilson, were prominent speakers. The following address to the King was read and adopted with great applause.

"We the undersigned Merchants, Bankers, Shipowners, and others of the Port of London, humbly approach your Majesty with unabated feelings of loyalty, and renewed assurances of attachment to your royal person.

"We have seen with deep concern and alarm the appointment of a squadron of the British men of war avowedly intended to co-operate with a French force against Holland, and the issuing of an Order in Council to detain in port and at sea all ships belonging to subjects of his Majesty the King of the Netherlands.

"The hostilities threatened do not appear to have been provoked by any injury inflicted on British interests, or by any insult offered to British honor, and we deprecate the commencement of a war, the termination of which no human sagacity can foresee, and for which in the absence of all Parliamentary information, we are unable to ascertain any sufficient motive.

"We earnestly entreat your Majesty to withhold your consent to any exercise of coercive influence, until the wishes and feelings of the nation be unequivocally declared."

The dissatisfaction is not confined to the merchants and bankers of London.

**Church Reform.**—The Standard paper states that at a Reform dinner last week, the Hon. C. A. Pelham, one of the members for the county, spoke as follows:

"I have had the satisfaction of informing you, upon excellent authority, what are the measures which it is the intention of His Majesty's Ministers to introduce in the next session of Parliament. The Bill for Reform of the Church I know is already prepared."

London Paper.

Extract of a letter dated Oporto, 25th Nov.—"Yesterday the *Raven*, King's Cutter was fired from attempting to come in. She put about immediately, notwithstanding which the fire continued, whilst she was kept near by a flow of wind, and followed her after she was fairly outside and putting all sail away. She was ignorant of the blockade—tacked the moment the notice was given by a twenty four pound shot—yet they attempted to sink her. I have lived to see a strange event! This morning about 300 shells and balls, cold and hot, were thrown into the City in the course of an hour, and in some measures he not taken Oporto will be a heap of ruins. The stock of provisions on hand is, in my opinion, very small."

A long correspondence ensued between Viscount Santarem and the British Consul, and Commodore Glascock, who protested against the act, which was justified by Santarem, on the ground that the *Raven* had attempted to infringe the blockade.

We find no other account of the most recent affair between the rival brothers, than the following:

**Portsmouth, Nov. 29.**—The Royal Adelaide transport, which attempted to take out 40 horses for Don Pedro to Oporto, returned this morning with the loss of nearly or quite half of them, not having been able to get into Oporto in consequence of the fire of the battery Miguel has erected on the point at the south entrance of the river.

The Adelaide arrived off the port on the 15th and left it on the 22d, during the whole of which time she had no communication with the city nor any of Don Pedro's Officers; she attempted to enter the river on the 19th, with the raven man-of-war cutter, and two cutters laden with stores and recruits for Don Pedro, but 26 well directed shot from Miguel's battery, and at the same time a cross fire from a battery on the point, which they could not tell whether it belonged to Pedro or Miguel, warned them all to return, and no other opportunity offered for their going in. Nothing was seen of Sartorius's squadron, or of the English squadron.

The Adelaide heard from a Portuguese pilot, whom they were obliged to run away with, that Pedro had made a sortie on the 17th, which was crowned with brilliant success; but, brilliant as it may be, it had not opened the entrance of the Douro; or raised its blockade five days afterwards—in fact, he must be in a bad plight.

**Falmouth, Friday, Nov. 30.** His Majesty's steamer *Confiance*, Lieut. Belson, has arrived here to-day from Lisbon, whence she sailed on the 25th, and from Oporto on the 26th. The extremely boisterous weather prevented her having any communication with the authorities on shore at the latter place. They spoke a small cutter off the bar, who reported that a sortie had again been made by the Pedroites, with a view to the destruction of the batteries, and cannon erected on the Villa Nova side, and that after some severe fighting they succeeded in accomplishing their object; it is also reported that during the attempt the Miguelite army lost about 600 killed and wounded; and the Pedroites' loss was only fifty killed and wounded; but as the latter statement is not yet borne out by any official accounts from thence, its accuracy cannot be altogether depended on.

At the Hague a Decree was published on the 18th in consequence of the embargo laid in England and France on Dutch vessels, ordering all English and French vessels to leave the ports of the Netherlands in three days, and all that should subsequently arrive to be immediately sent back. A bill was about to be laid before the States General for raising the Landstrum.

The course which Prussia would pursue was not very clearly indicated. Large bodies of Prussian troops were collecting on the Belgian frontier. At Cologne 15,000 to 20,000 men were to be stationed, and between that town and Treves 80,000.

In the French army which had already entered Belgium were 58,000 men and 16,000 horses. It was composed of four divisions of Infantry, of 9,600 to 10,000 men each, 4000 artillerymen and engineers, 10,000 cavalry and 5000 men for the baggage and workmen.

London, Dec. 3, evening.—We have received by express, the Paris papers of Friday and Saturday. The proceedings of the Legislature seem entirely to engross public attention at Paris. The debate on the Address in answer to the King's speech was still going on in the Chamber of Deputies. On Friday one of the amendments proposed, implying a vote of censure on ministers for having counselled the Proclamation of martial law in Paris, on the 7th of June, was rejected by a large majority, at the end of an extremely animated debate. Count d'Offalia, the Spanish Ambassador in Paris, has been called to Madrid to fill the office of Minister of the Interior, with that of Prime Minister. M. Calmonade, his predecessor in the ministry, has arrived in France in a state of utter desolation. According to our correspondent's letter, the Austrian Ambassador in Paris was still in hopes of bringing about a settlement of the Belgian question without the shedding of much blood, and was using active exertions for the purpose.

The account brought from Holland, dated Saturday, by the Attwood steam-boat, arrived in the river this afternoon, contain nothing beyond the announcement of the bombardment of the citadel of Antwerp by the French. That the hostilities will be protracted to a much greater length of time than was at first imagined, no doubt is entertained. The orders given to the Dutch Commandant from the Hague on the arrival of the French army were, that he should hold out to the last under the hope that something might turn up to give a new face to affairs. Probably King William still anticipated an interference in his favor on the part of the Prussians; but they are as yet tardy in their movement; and in the latest journals from Berlin, and likewise the private advices by the continental mails of to-day, it does not appear that the army of observation on the frontiers of Belgium has materially altered its position. In the letters, politics in general are avoided from motives of prudence.

From Amsterdam the letters speak openly of the pecuniary wants of the Dutch Government. More money, it is said, must be raised, but the patriotism of the capitalists in Holland has rather cooled since the last war with the Belgians. Nothing further is mentioned of voluntary loans; and should the Dutch Monarch continue to press his demand for new loans, his obnoxiousness is likely to become unpopular, even with those who were most eager to support him.

FRANCE.

LONDON, NOV. 22.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPRESS FROM PARIS.

Opening of the Chambers.

We have received the Paris morning papers of Monday, 19th, and the *Nouvelles* of Monday evening. We give from the latter an account of the opening of the Legislative Session, together with the speech delivered by the King on that occasion:

**SPEECH OF THE FRENCH KING.**

GENTLEMEN,—I am glad, after a long separation to have recourse to your wisdom and support. In the interval my government has been exposed to serious trials. It has overcome them by its own strength; it has triumphed over factions.

Deceived by the generosity of our institutions, by our respect for the guarantees of public rights, they have miscalculated the strength of a legal and moderate policy. In Paris, in the name of the republic—in the west, in the name of the counter-revolution—they have attacked by the force of arms the established order.

The attempts at republicanism, as well as counter-revolution have been foiled.

The days of the 5th and 6th of June have manifested the perversity and imbecility of the friends of anarchy. They have made clear the danger of a policy which would temporize with the passions instead of crushing them in their birth. Constitutional monarchy has recognized its true friends and its true defenders in that generous population of Paris, in that intrepid national guard, in that brave and faithful army who have so energetically repulsed such attempts.

I have been very happy that my presence, by encouraging good citizens, has hastened to put down sedition.

It has been seen what force a constitutional King may find in the support of the nation when compelled to have recourse to arms to defend the crown which he has been called on to wear, and the institutions which he has sworn to maintain.

We have had to deplore in the west insurrections and odious crimes. The mass of the population have not taken any part in it; and wherever the rebellion has broken out, it has been speedily extinguished. Let, therefore, the culpable authors of civil war, who have so many times devastated those districts, lose all hope of a counter-revolution, as impossible in my eyes as in theirs for they find us unanimous to suppress it, always faithful to our oaths, and ready to unite our destinies with those of the country.

A recent event, and decisive for the public peace, will destroy the last illusions of this party.

Gentlemen, at Paris, as in the west, my Government has been able to borrow from the existing laws all the energy compatible with justice. For like crimes like repression is necessary. In these critical days, it was necessary that the defenders of public order and of public liberty should find in the firm resolution of the governing power the support which they demanded.

It will be your task to examine whether our legislative provisions do not require, in this respect, to be revised and completed, and by what measures the safety of the state and the integrity of the subject may at once be guaranteed.

It is by persevering in this course of moderation and justice that we shall show ourselves faithful to the principles of our glorious revolution. This is the system which you have strengthened by your concurrence, and which has been sustained with so great constancy by the able and courageous Minister whose loss we deplore. Already the happy effects of this system are everywhere felt.

Within confidence revived, commerce and industry have resumed their course; Providence has spread its treasures over our fields; the scourge which so cruelly desolated us has gone from us; and every thing promises us the prompt reparation of the evils by which we were afflicted.

You will have to deliberate on the responsibility of Ministers on the departmental and municipal administration, on the organization of public instruction, and on the condition of public officers. Several other laws of less political importance, but of great interest to the affairs of the country, will be also presented to you.

I regret that I am not able at present to propose to you any reduction of the public charges; our duty towards France, and the circumstances in which we are placed, impose on us still heavy sacrifices; but the general position of Europe permits us to anticipate their conclusion. The future appears to us under favorable auspices; credit is strengthened, and indubitable signs attest the progress of national wealth.

A few efforts more, and the last traces of the anxieties inseparable from a great revolution will disappear. The feelings of stability will return to all minds; France will assume an entire confidence in the future; and then will be realized the most cherished of my wishes, that of seeing my country raise itself to the height of prosperity to which it has a right to aspire, and of my being able to say that my efforts have not been useless in the fulfilment of its destinies.

THE ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE KING OF THE FRENCH.

From Galignani's Messenger.

We briefly stated yesterday that an assassin had fired at his Majesty on his turning from the Pont Royal to the Quai d'Orsay, and that the ball happily missed its object. From the loudness of the report it would seem that it was highly charged, and this circumstance probably contributed to save his Majesty's life. One of the Aides-de-Camp immediately exclaimed:—"Sire, a musket has just been fired at you!"

"No," replied the King, with the utmost sang-froid, "it was a pistol; I saw it clearly." M. Gabriel Delessart leaped from his horse, and picked up the pistol which the assassin had thrown to the ground; and General Pajol rode out to the procession, and ordered the arrest of eight or ten persons who were nearest the point from which the report proceeded. The eyes of the multitude were instantly turned upon his Majesty, who taking of his hat, exclaimed, "I am not hurt," upon which he was cheered with unanimous shouts of "Vive le Roi!"

Notwithstanding the denseness of the crowd no one was wounded. The miscreant, who made the attempt, is said to be among the persons arrested, having been identified by several individuals who were near him at the moment. He wore a blue coat buttoned up close to the neck. The audacity of this infamous attempt on his Majesty's life excited the strongest indignation among the assembled crowds, and during the remainder of the way cries of "Vive le Roi!" were repeated from every side with the greatest enthusiasm.

The King, who had displayed the utmost coolness when the assassin fired, seemed touched by these marks of attachment, which he repeatedly acknowledged. On his return from the Chambers the news of the attempt having by that time spread in all directions, the crowds had much accumulated, and the cheers and shouts of "Vive le Roi!" were loud and incessant.

The intelligence of the attempt had not reached the Chambers before the arrival of the procession, but something unusual, indicative of agitation, was remarked in the manner of General Pajol and other officers who preceded his Majesty into the hall. At this time the account evidently began to be circulated, as a general movement and whispering immediately took place on the benches of the Members of both Chambers, which was followed by a general burst of "Vive le Roi!" on the King's appearance in the Chamber.

As soon as his Majesty had withdrawn, the Members of the Grand Deputations, who had learned from the King himself the diabolical attempt, communicated to their colleagues, upon which an unanimous cry arose, "they would assassinate the King—Let us go to the Tuilleries; our duty is to go to the Tuilleries."

A great part of the members of the two Chambers, preceded by the President and Quarters of the Chamber of Deputies, then set out on foot, and proceeded to the palace by the Pont de la Concorde and the garden.

The King, surrounded by the Queen, Madame Adelaide, and the Royal Family, who appeared deeply affected, received them in the throne room. The President, in the name of his colleagues, expressed the horror and indignation which they felt upon learning the crime that had been attempted, and expressed their warmest congratulations upon his Majesty's fortunate escape from assassination.

Last night the whole of the Municipal body, the Officers of the National Guard, and a great number of persons of distinction, also eagerly pressed to the Tuilleries to congratulate the King on his escape.

HOLLAND AND BELGIUM.

ANTWERP, Nov. 30, 2 o'clock.

The summons were sent to the citadel this morning; a French officer of the staff, with two trumpets sent to deliver it at day-break. The officer presented himself with a flag of truce, at that point leading to the citadel from the burial ground, and bearing a despatch for General Chasse.

He was refused admittance, but his despatch was taken to the General, and he was promised an answer. The following is a copy of the summons:

"SUMMONS

"Made in the name of France and England, by Marshal Gerard, Commander-in-Chief of the French Army.

"To General Chasse, Commandant of the Citadel of Antwerp.

HEAD QUARTERS, Bouterbant, Before Antwerp, Nov. 30.

"General—I have arrived before the citadel of Antwerp, at the head of a French army, commissioned by my Government to demand the execution of the treaty of the 15th of November, 1831, which guarantees to the King of the Belgians the possession of that Fortress, and also that of those forts dependent upon it at both sides of the Scheldt. I hope you are disposed to admit the justice of this demand. If it should be otherwise, I am commanded to acquaint you that I shall employ the means which are at my disposal to get possession of the citadel of Antwerp.

"The operations of the siege shall be directed against the external sides of the citadel; and not first, as you might think, against the fortress on the side of the city, and the shelter of the houses offer me great advantages of attacking that side, I shall not avail myself of them; I have, therefore, a right to hope that, conformably to the laws of war, and the usages generally observed, you will abstain from every kind of hostility against the city. I am now in the occupation of a part of it, with the sole object of preventing that

which might expose it to the fire of your artillery. A bombardment [of it] will be an act of useless barbarity, and a calamity to the commerce of all nations.

"If, notwithstanding these considerations, you fire on the city, France and England will exact an indemnity equivalent to the damage which may be done by the fire from the citadel, from the forts, and also from the vessels of war. It is impossible that you yourself should not be aware, that in that case you will be personally responsible for the breach of a usage respected by all civilized people, and for the evils consequent thereupon. I wait your answer, and I expect you will agree immediately to enter into negotiations with me for delivering up to me the citadel of Antwerp, and the forts dependent on it. Accept the assurance of my consideration.

"The Marshal Commander-in-Chief of the army of the North.

Count GERARD."

The answer of General Chasse was, that he would defend his position to the last extremity. Gen. Chasse declared, that if the French continued their work after twelve o'clock he would fire.

At twelve the first gun was heard in the city of Antwerp; alarm and agitation soon appeared on all sides. This being market day, the country people fled as fast as possible, fearful of a bombardment of the town.

As soon as the answer of Baron Chasse was received, Marshal Gerard sent in another flag of truce, requiring a more direct explanation of the intentions of Chasse with respect to the neutrality of the city. The answer had not transpired when the last accounts left.

ANTWERP, Nov. 30, 2 o'clock.—The French have at work all night 7000 men, have opened the trenches around Fort Laurent, and on towards Kiel. They have already cut a considerable distance. At 10 o'clock, it is said, 500 French metres were opened. Some military men have expressed their astonishment that General Chasse could have suffered the French to work so much during the night, and as it seems under his nose.

Some of the curious who went this morning to visit the trenches were present when the first shot was fired from Montebello fort. Some French soldiers were laughing, and stating that the Dutch would not fire. "Take care," said an officer "the cannoniers in the citadel have their torches lighted." An instant after a grape shot laid several in the dust.

During the night the French soldiers occupied all the posts round the citadel; 400 men have also entered the city, and taken the posts along the esplanade. I walked along there at eleven o'clock, and saw the French sentinels in the former positions of the Belgians. The fifth Belgian regiment has left the town by the road for Mechlin and Brussels.

The cannon continues to roar at intervals from the citadel, or rather from Fort St. Laurent; as several minutes elapse between each sound, it is presumed that the shots are directed at the soldiers who show themselves in the trenches. The works, therefore, continue, but the men do not show themselves.

Colonel Corados has sent off an estafette with the intelligence to Sir Robert Adair, the British Minister at Brussels.

I have not yet been able to learn the nature of the negotiations stated to exist relative to the city, but all is expectation. The merchants assemble on Change, and without doing business, calculate the charges of each shot, and what is the nature of the propositions respecting the town.

Half past one o'clock.

The division on the left bank of the river under General Sebastiani maintains its communication with Marshal Gerard by a bridge of pontoons at the village of Kulbeck, a little in advance of Hemixen.

The object of this division being to clear the left bank, is likely to be delayed from the want of a flotilla. It can be soon united with the chief corps of the army, in case the Prince of Orange moves forward.

The question relative to the neutrality of the town has not yet been decided, but if Chasse leave it alone until to-morrow the French expect to employ his attention so as to force his fire in another direction, and to silence it before he can do much mischief.

The firing from the citadel still continues, and but occasionally. It is directed chiefly against the battery forming to enfilade the face of the Lunette.

2 o'clock.

The Dutch have made a sortie of two or three companies by the gate of Kiel, and advanced towards the trenches, which were instantly manned. They pushed forward a few men to see what the French sapurs were doing, and then, having burned two houses which obstructed their view from the citadel, withdrew.

The ten French batteries will be completed with guns, &c. to-night, and are expected to open on the citadel to-morrow.

There is a great apprehension that the firing from the fort Montebello will produce a bombardment of the town.

King Leopold left Brussels at one o'clock on Friday the 30th, for the Head quarters of the Belgian army at Lierre, but on his way thither, he received at Malines an account of the commencement of hostilities, and as his Majesty had formerly declared his intention of repairing to Antwerp as soon as hostilities should assume a certain serious character, it was believed he would proceed thither.

Half past 2 o'clock.

Some persons imagine that the question respecting the town is to be decided by the firing from Montebello fort, which the French hold and cannot relinquish, as it is their best position. This is doubted by the best informed. The firing continued of the new batteries which the French are

forming. It will require, it is said, 36 hours before these batteries will be ready, and as the Dutch fire on them, more time will be necessary. The Dutch are said to fire now in order to know the range.

To-morrow evening all, it is expected, will be in order on the French side for carrying on the siege with effect.

BRUSSELS, SATURDAY, DEC. 1.—It appears we have not got sufficient Frenchmen in Belgium yet; eighty thousand men are too few to take possession of the country, and some twenty-five thousand men were ordered to pass the frontiers without further delay. The accounts from Lillo state that the 56th regiment of the line was to enter Belgium on Sunday or Monday next.

A rencontre with the Dutch is considered inevitable, and all the disposable troops are ordered to the frontiers. Two battalions of the 1st regiment of the line leaves this day for Lierre, and two squadrons of the guards march to-morrow.

We are still beating up for a Ministry but without success. M. Fallien refuses, and it is more than probable the old ones will be compelled to remain as *interim* Ministers.

The Military school is gone to Antwerp, to watch the progress of the storming of the citadel.

SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING.—Eight thousand Frenchmen of the army of reserve have entered Mons; they will reach Brussels on Monday.

Contracts have been signed for the provisioning of the army of reserve. There are nearly 160,000 Frenchmen now in Belgium.

Nothing decisive is known about the city of Antwerp; but the general impression is, that not a gun will be fired upon it. Indeed independent of the wanton barbarity of the act, Chasse would thus diminish his power of defence, and so place himself between two fires, which would not fail to crush him beneath the ruins of the Citadel within three or four days.

BRUSSELS, DEC. 1, 6 P. M.—It was Lt. Col. Aubray, of Marshal Gerard's staff, who bore the summons to Chasse, accompanied by a single trumpeter. His reception was cold, but civil, and the answer in the negative. "Tell the Marshal," said he, "I shall bury myself under the ruins of the citadel. As to the neutrality of the city, I promise nothing, that will be regulated by circumstances and events."

THE HAGUE, Nov. 10.—A very important meeting took place in Amsterdam a few days ago between the King and four gentlemen of the great body of merchants assembling in the Hotel of the Society *Felix Meritis*, to deliberate on what steps were to be taken in the important and critical situation which their country was placed in, and to thank the King for his firmness and perseverance in defending and maintaining the rights of the nation against the demands of rebellion, and the tyrannical pretensions of France and England.

Such proceedings are said to have been frequent in old and trying times. The King received the deputations and the address of the commission was concluded as follows:

"Sire, receive from us the assurance that your Majesty may depend, to the very utmost extremity, on the energetic support of the city of Amsterdam, as on that of the whole nation."

AFRICA.

NEW AFRICAN EXPEDITION.

(From the *United Service Journal*.)

The most interesting armament ever despatched from the shores of Britain has just been equipped at the expense of a few princely merchants of Liverpool. Its objects are to explore and to open a commercial intercourse with the heart of Africa, by means of the mighty waters of the Niger, a river which has occasioned the loss of more ink, and of more lives, to ascertain its course, than any stream that geographers have attempted to delineate. Richard Lander, however, an unlettered merchant, at length discovered the Niger to have its termination by several mouths in the Atlantic! This most important discovery has, "at one fell swoop," with pitiless certitude, annihilated a thousand elaborate theories.

It has already been observed that Richard Lander, an obscure and uneducated, but enterprising and intelligent, Cornish servant of Captain Clapperton, at length ascertained that the Niger below Bousa, after wandering for four or five hundred miles through the heart of western Africa, and receiving the contributions of many navigable streams, empties itself into the ocean, by several embouchures, in that immense bay of the Atlantic called the Gulf of Guinea. The Nun river, by which Lander and his brother descended to the sea, disembogues its waters near Cape Formosa, a promontory separating the Bight of Biafra from the Bight of Benue. From our settlement at Fernando Po, to the Nun river, does not exceed one hundred and fifty miles, so that the importance of our maintaining a footing upon that island is manifest; for in all probability, the Nun is the principal embouchure of the Niger, though this point is not yet decided. This much, however, appears certain, that entering by this channel, the Niger is navigable for the whole, or five hundred miles, between Bousa and the sea; that though, above Bousa, the channel is obstructed by a barrier of rocks, yet little doubts exist of its having a communication with Timbuctoo; and, which is of greater consequence in a commercial point of view, that throughout its whole majestic course, the Niger rolls through a fruitful, cultivated, and thickly populated country, studded with towns and villages, hitherto unvisited by European nations, and having together trade with civilized nations than such imperfect barter as could be carried on across burning deserts, by the agency of slave dealers and periodical caravans. What a field is here displayed for mercantile adventure! What an opening for extending the trade of Britain! What a market for our languishing manufactures! What a means of striking at the heart of the slave trade, by introducing civilization and industry across the very route of the principal *Cadillas*! What a harvest of geographical and other science, in exploring the Niger and its many tributary streams! What an opportunity for our missionaries, to spread the light of the gospel in the forests of idolatry and superstition! What a glorious chance of converting myriads of heathen nations, and substituting for ignorance, cruelty, and barbarism, the blessed doctrines of peace, good will, and eternal salvation!

It was with prospects like these, and with a view to secure the advantages in question for our own country, that proposals were made to our Majesty's Government to take immediate possession of Lander's newly discovered river. Why this project was not eagerly adopted it is difficult to determine. Is it that our nation, now ruled by that miserable kind of economy, which places a guinea at each eye is prevented from seeing a guinea at a distance? Be this

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