

LATEST CABLE NEWS.

Misadventures of the British Forces in Afghanistan.

ENGLAND SENDS REINFORCEMENTS

Austria Declines to Mediate with the Albanians.

LABOUCHERE INDICTED.

Waddington Scores a Point on the Amnesty Question.

FAMINE IN ARMENIA.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 17, 1879.

The United States ship Constellation has sailed from Gibraltar for New York.

The London Gazette announces that the British Parliament will meet on the 5th of February.

There is great distress among the poor classes at Rome, and the Municipal Council met yesterday to consider measures of relief.

The Daily News Berlin correspondent announces that a railway accident occurred near Breslau yesterday, causing several deaths.

Mrs. Georgina Weldon has been indicted at the Old Bailey for libelling M. Riviere, manager of the Covent Garden promenade concerts.

The Supreme Tribunal of the Duchy of Brunswick has cancelled the testament of the late Duke of Brunswick, which left a large sum to the town of Geneva.

The Standard's Berlin despatch says that one of the principal persons tried with Mirsky and acquitted, but subsequently rearrested, has been banished to Pultawa.

In the Spanish Senate yesterday the Minister of the Colonies stated that all of the Ministers had agreed to uphold the Slavery Abolition bill, which will be immediately presented.

The Standard's Constantinople correspondent reports that it is feared that the agitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina will terminate in an insurrection against Austria-Hungary.

The German Federal Council has adopted by a considerable majority the bill fixing the legislative period of the Reichstag at four years and providing that budgets shall be presented every two years.

A despatch to the Standard from Pesth says: "A riot has occurred at Biela (Boemia), growing out of resistance to the collection of taxes. Nine companies of infantry have been sent against the rioters."

The Greek members of the Frontier Commission have sent a note to the Porte proposing a new line of frontier more to the South. They declare that if the Porte does not propose some definite boundary further discussion is useless.

The Armenian Patriarchate has been informed that there is famine in the province of Van, Armenia. The Patriarch has opened subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers, and has requested the Porte to distribute wheat among them.

In the Spanish Chamber of Deputies yesterday Señor Torero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, said he would seriously consider the project for a treaty of commerce with the United States, and would ask for a modification of the regulations governing the sale of alcoholic liquors in respect of customs duties levied in the United States upon Spanish wines.

THE CLAIMANT'S LATEST CLAIM. The Attorney General has granted a fiat for a writ of error in the case of Arthur Orton—otherwise known as the "Tichborne claimant"—on the ground that matters have been put before him justifying the discussion of the point whether Chief Justice Cockburn should not have made the two sentences of seven years concurrent instead of successive.

LABOUCHERE'S TRIBULATIONS. The Grand Jury of the Central Criminal Court has found a true bill of indictment against Mr. Henry Labouchere in the Lawson libel case. [Another of Mr. Labouchere's trials came before Justice Field and Manisty in the Ball Court on the 6th inst. by way of an amended demurrer to a plea of the defendant in the prosecution instituted against him by M. Demetri Lambri for a libel written by Mr. Labouchere, and published in Truth on the 9th of July, 1878, in which the prosecutor was charged with being a professional card sharper and of conspiring with other persons to gain his living by cheating at cards. The prosecutor's counsel took exception to several of the charges in the defendant's plea as not sufficiently specific. For instance, he charged Lambri with cheating at cards at "divers places," with conspiring with Bellard and Gungni and "other confederates," and the counsel demanded names and places. The plea was altered, but the judges did not think that the defendant could fairly be called upon to mention the names of the persons from whom the prosecutor was alleged to have won money by cheating in the Cavendish and County Clubs.]

HOME RULE IN DONEGAL. Mr. Thomas Lea, of Kildermister, a liberal, has been elected to the House of Commons for the county of Donegal, polling 2,313 votes, against 1,630 for Mr. MacCorkell, a conservative. The homeruleers supported Mr. Lea. The vacancy was caused by the death of Mr. William Wilson.

EXPLOSION IN A SALT MINE. An accidental explosion of blasting material has occurred in the Wilhelmshall salt mine at Schwabachhall, Wurtemberg, by which twelve miners were killed and eight were injured, of whom two only are expected to recover. The disaster was increased by the miners in a panic endeavoring to open the door outward instead of inward, thus preventing aid from reaching them before they had fallen unconscious from the effects of the fumes.

CEAR AND CZARWITCH. The Peter Correspondent publishes in a letter from St. Petersburg a story about difficulties between the Czar and Czarwitch, which is generally believed to be a rehearsal of stories circulated in the Continent during the past six months and unworthy of notice. [A horrible suspicion, says the Pall Mall Gazette, which has long been whispered about in Russia, is now beginning to take shape in more or less definite hints in newspapers outside the control of the Russian police. Russian journals are strictly forbidden to refer to the elaborate attempt to blow up the imperial train near Moscow, and the whole subject is surrounded with a mystery very different from the publicity attending the attack of Solovieff. But elsewhere it has been noted as very remarkable that the nihilists are frequently possessed of information which could be known only to the high official personages that when money is wanted for certain purposes it is always forthcoming, and that the Czar himself has on more than one occasion shown distrust of members of his own family. It is remarked upon as strange that the Czarwitch, who was to have met his father at Moscow, waited for him at St. Petersburg; still more strange that when the Czar did get to St. Petersburg the Czarwitch was, after all, not present to receive him. That the heir apparent to the throne of Russia has always favored the Slavist party and that his tour through Europe was undertaken for the purpose of forming alliances against any Teutonic league is matter of common gossip, well or ill founded. Altogether the Czar has a hard life of it, and there seems little chance of peace and quietness for him on this side of the grave.]

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VICTORIOUS MAHMUD JAN.

ENGLAND COUNTS THE COSTS OF OCCUPYING AFGHANISTAN—CABUL PASSING FROM HER HANDS—RESIGNED IN THE SHIRPUR CANTONMENTS—NATIONAL HUMILIATIONS.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 16, 1879.

A military contributor to the Times telegraphs as follows:—"The temporary success of Mahmud Jan over General Massy, coupled with the evacuation of the position won at such cost on the 13th inst., has evidently given the rising an impetus it will need all our strength to overcome. The Shirpur cantonments, which lie two miles north of Cabul, are entrenched, and they contain several months' supplies. The troops are in good health and though it is humiliating to feel that at the moment the Afghans have the upper hand; that our army of occupation is besieged; that the city of Cabul has passed from our hands and its Government has been transferred to Mohammed Jan, yet there is no cause for alarm. There is many a man inside that intrenchment who has faced heavier odds than those at present against him, and though it may be unpleasant to learn that the Afghans hate us now with the undying hatred they exhibited in 1842; there is no reason to feel any apprehension of a repetition of the disgrace which overtook us then." The correspondent of the Times at Cabul telegraphs on the 15th inst. as follows:—"The troops are in excellent spirits and ready for any work. The British loss in the various affairs during the past week was forty-two men killed, including six officers, and seventy-six wounded, including nine officers."

ROBERTS' PREJUDICEMENT.

General Roberts telegraphs to Calcutta from Cabul that one mountain gun was lost during Sunday's engagement. General Roberts estimates the number of the enemy at 30,000. Their fire he says, was severe. He is confident of his ability to restore the British authority in Afghanistan, but says reinforcements are necessary to enable him to act vigorously. The statement that the Indian government has asked for a reinforcement of 5,000 men to be sent out immediately is probably untrue, as the Viceroy of India telegraphed yesterday that he had ample forces at his disposal. The Times, in a leading editorial article this morning, thus sums up the situation:—"The news from Afghanistan indicates beyond doubt that a crisis has been reached in our military operations in that country more important than any through which we have yet passed since the commencement of the invasion last year. Happily the position we occupy and the resources at our disposal appear to render us better able to meet this emergency than any which have yet preceded it, but our strength is being tested more severely than hitherto."

THE LESSON OF THE PAST.

[The Shirpur cantonments, to which the British troops have withdrawn, are on a low piece of ground on the road to Kohistan, and are surrounded by a diminutive rampart. The assassination of Sir William Macnaghten took place on a slight eminence, five hundred yards from the eastern ramparts. "Doubtless our subsequent annihilation," said an English writer, thirty years ago, "may be ascribed to the unaccountable absence of judgment, or military skill, which selected such a position for an army in the heart of a half-conquered country—a cantonment which troops could neither quit nor enter without running the gantlet of a tremendous fire poured into them from fortress, garden, village, hill and wall, which hemmed in and commanded every face of the ill contrived and widely scattered lines." The Bala Hissar, which has been apparently abandoned, was at no time much of a defence, and after the recent explosions was probably untenable.] The Daily News despatch from Chitahm says:—"In view of the serious nature of the late intelligence from Afghanistan the troops now under orders for India will be despatched earlier than was originally intended. The grave nature of the situation will delay the departure from India of some regiments which were about to return after long service in India." The Daily News Cabul despatch states that Daud Shah, who was commander-in-chief of the Afghan army and who was sent by the Amer to quell the revolt during the massacre of the British at the Embassy, has been arrested. A despatch to the Times from Cabul, dated the 15th inst., says:—"The most difficult position of the enemy was gallantly carried yesterday. Later in the day our troops lost a position which they had before taken."

THE TIMES' DESPATCH FROM KOHAT ANNOUNCES THAT GENERAL TYLER HAS ATTACKED AND CAPTURED ZAWA, WHICH WAS STORED WITH THE GRAIN OF ALL OF THE ZAIMUKHT TRIBES. THE ENEMY LEFT A LARGE NUMBER OF DEAD ON THE FIELD. THE BRITISH LOSS WAS FOUR WOUNDED.

THE PLENARY AMNESTY.

LIVELY DEBATE IN THE FRENCH CHAMBER—LOCKROY AND CLEMENCEAU ATTACK THE MINISTRY—LE ROYER DENOUNCES THE UNPARDONED COMMUNISTS.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

PARIS, Dec. 16, 1879.

In the Chamber of Deputies to-day M. Lockroy interpellated M. Le Royer, Minister of Justice, regarding the manner in which the Partial Amnesty law had been applied. M. Lockroy said the law had not been carried out in accordance with the intention of the Chamber, and he accused M. Le Royer with having considered the persons—notably Henri Rochefort—and not their offences, in drawing up categories of those who should be excluded from the benefits of the bill. M. Le Royer replied that the power of granting amnesty rested with the President of the Republic. He read a number of offensive letters to President Grévy, sent by some of those who had been deported, and also the manifesto of twenty-eight convicts who were excluded from amnesty, in which they assume the responsibility for the assassinations during the Commune. M. Le Royer said the Cabinet would not have fulfilled its duty if it had pardoned such people as the writers of these documents. M. Jules Ferry, Minister of Public Instruction, stated that the whole Ministry shared M. Le Royer's opinion. M. Clémenceau vehemently attacked the Ministry, accusing them of inaction. Premier Waddington having refused to accept the order of the day pure and simple, as implying censure upon the government, M. Clémenceau fell back on that motion, which was rejected by a vote of 276 to 109. The Chamber then adopted an order of the day, which was accepted by the Cabinet, declaring that the Chamber adopted the views of the Ministers and approving their explanations passed to the order of the day. The Standard's Paris correspondent says that "the vote on the amnesty question is not considered to have strengthened the Cabinet." The Times' Paris despatch says:—"The members of the Right abstained from voting on the order of the day."

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GAMBETTA AND THE COMMUNE—HIS VIEWS ON THE RISING OF 1871—HIS POLICY IN THE PAST AND IN THE FUTURE.

Among the sensational interviews held by M. Hansen with celebrated statesmen and reported in his forthcoming book, is one with Gambetta concerning the Commune, which is a subject of uncommon interest in the present state of affairs. On the mantelpiece of Gambetta's quiet lodging was a bronze cast, the product of a two-volume collection made by Alsaciens. Beside it were two statues, one of Mirabeau, the other a figure of Liberty. On the wall were the portraits of Danton and Marat. The visitor asked M. Gambetta why he had not openly disavowed the Commune. "You must remember," said the statesman, "that I gave in my resignation on the 12th of February, and from that moment was nothing but a private person. Disgusted with the course of events, I withdrew to St. Sebastian to recruit my health, which was shattered by physical and moral excesses. I lived among the Spanish fishermen and spent most of my time on the sea shore. I read no French newspaper and saw none of my friends. I thought of leaving politics and starting in some kind of business. On March 22, 1871, I read in a Spanish newspaper, for the first time, of the events at Montmartre and the insurrection of Paris. I was convinced, and am still, that the conduct of MM. Favre, Simon, Tirard and Ferry was mainly the cause of those disasters. They were indignant with Paris for having shown herself sick of their administration. They gave free rein to the movement. But they made a mistake. Instead of subduing Paris, they were forced to flee. Had I been there, I would have fortified myself in the Hôtel de Ville, and, protected by all honest citizens, would have said to the mob, 'Now state your wants.' Then, placed between Paris and Versailles, I could have played the part of an intermediary and have succeeded by bringing the parties to an understanding. Being absent I could do nothing." He then discussed his future policy. "We must eradicate the pestence," he said; "we must abolish class distinctions; we must adopt a patriotic policy; we must militarize France."

MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA.

RUSSELL'S PROPOSAL THAT THE POWERS SHOULD INTERFERE AT GUSINJE—AUSTRIA DECLINES LEST WORSE CONFUSION SHOULD FOLLOW.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 16, 1879.

Official confirmation is given to the report that Austria, in reply to the Russian circular to the Powers, has declined to participate in collective action at Constantinople for the settlement of the Gusinje affair, on the ground that it would create new difficulties. Mukhtar Pacha has sent a despatch announcing that he has convinced 3,000 Albanians of the necessity of the cession of Gusinje to Montenegro. In view of the explanations of the Porte Russia has withdrawn her proposal for collective action to secure the cession of Gusinje.

HOW THE INTERESTS OF THE ALBANIAN LEAGUE ARE TOUCHED—ALI BEY, THE WILLIAM TELL, OF GUSINJE.

The district which the Porte proposes to cede to Montenegro consists, in addition to Gusinje and Plava, its two chief places, of about a dozen small hamlets dispersed along the Lino and its lateral valleys, comprising scarcely 3,000 or 4,000 inhabitants. By far the largest portion of this population is Albanian, connected by clanship with most of the neighboring Albanian clans; and the territory they inhabit, poor as it is, forms an important part of what is considered Albanian land, forming the chief and most direct line of communication between the portion of Albania lying north and east and that lying south of the central Albanian mountain range. The surrender of this district to Montenegro means, therefore, in great measure, an interruption of Albanian territory, the integrity of which is the primary object of the Albanian League. And there is a man sure to do all in his power to make the league sensible of the common interest. Like his ancestors before him, Ali Bey, of Gusinje, has been all his life one of the most trusted leaders of the Albanian irregulars, whether against Montenegro or on any other warlike expedition. The Turkish government could reckon on his appearing with his clansmen at the first summons, and in recompense of his services he received the title of pacha. At the time when Podgoritz and the Zeta Valley were to be surrendered to Montenegro he was the soul of the agitation then prevailing, and it was to be expected that he would leave nothing untried to prevent the cession to the alien of his own native district and the central seat of his influence. His efforts on this latter occasion have been more successful than in the case of Podgoritz. Before Petrov, vice ordered by the Montenegrin government to advance with six battalions and take possession of Gusinje, finding the Albanians had prepared for resistance, stopped at Andrijevitz, lower down the Lino, the Montenegrin government meanwhile addressing energetic remonstrances to the Porte to place it in possession of what was due. A meeting of Albanian chieftains is said to have lately been held in Gusinje or its neighborhood, where also Albanian clans beyond that region are said to have pledged themselves to join in the resistance. "The focus of the movement," says a correspondent of the London Times, "has from the first been the plain of Metokija, with Pristred, Djakova, Ipek and the surrounding mountain districts, all which were a man sure to do all in his power to make the league sensible of the common interest. 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