together only on the 14th to decide on the proposals submitted by the mediating powers."

PERSIA.—CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 9.—The Shah is said to insist on his continuation in the Persian Gulf. General Cheesney has received a concession for the construction of the Euphrates Valley Railroad.

SWITZERLAND—PARIS, Thursday, Jan. 15.—A telegraphic despatch from Berne dated 11 30 a. m. this day, announces that the National Council has adopted the propositions of the Federal Government, with the considerations of the Commission, by 91 votes against 4 (one member abstained from voting. The Council of the States has not yet voted.

FRANCE.—A circular has just been issued reminding the members of the Corps Legislatif that February 14 is the day fixed for the opening of the session.

It is stated that the Prince who is to command the French squadron in the Chinese seas has received orders from the government to be ready to embark at Brest on the 25th inst. The consul-general, who is on leave in Paris, has been ordered to prepare to return to his post immediately.

RUSSIA.—The official journals of St. Petersburg state that the Emperor Alexander has definitively approved of the plan of fortifications for the capital which was presented to him some time ago. The work is to be arranged in such a manner that the city will be protected both on the sea and land sides. The preparatory works are to commence in the spring.

SPAIN.—Espartero, Prim, Blaser, the only ex-minister of 1854 who had remained in exile, was about to return to Madrid. In addition to Valencia, a state of siege exists in Granada, Catalonia, and part of Aragon.

TURKEY.—A letter from Belgrade, in the *Lloyd* of Pesth, states that the British Government has just sent them twenty-four 21, 36, and 48-pounders, forming part of the 150 siege pieces bought of England, and which were deposited at Varna. Silistria has received 110 of them, including some 36-pounders, and many pieces besides. The fortress of Belgrade has been completely armed, and is about to undergo a siege.

PRUSSIA.—In the Prussian Chamber of Deputies, on Monday last, the Minister of Finance proposed certain measures for the relief of the poor, one of which is that them is a general house tax, which in towns will be at the rate of 5 per cent. upon the rent in the case of dwelling houses, and 2½ per cent. in the case of shops, workshops, and houses. In the rural districts the tax will be assessed according to a scale of twenty different degrees, in the least of which it is fixed at 10 silver groschen, and in the highest at 25 thalers for the house. The government has abandoned the idea of a salt tax, in certain cases, to increase the salt tax, and to subject all joint-stock companies and partnerships *en commandite* to a tax of 2 per cent. upon the profits or dividends. A tax on patents is likewise proposed.

CHINA.—The China mail of Hong Kong, of Nov. 20, which contains intelligence from Canton four days later than that brought by the last mail, says:—"The principle incident during the week has been the proceedings of the United States squadron, consequent upon the unjustifiable attack made upon a party of naval officers and civilians, by the bravos occupying the barrier forts, and which is likely to involve the Americans, much against their will, in a quarrel with the Chinese.

AUSTRALIA.—The overland mail brings intelligence from Melbourne to the 20th of October. Continual wet weather had interfered with business, but improved wages, and lowered the price of provisions, the principal food as flour and potatoes, were leading to increased consumption, and the tendency was to higher rates than for the last two months. Ballarat gold is quoted 77s 3d.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

The first reprisal of the British Admiral took place on the 11th of October, on which day he seized an imperial junk. The last act of hostilities was not completed until the 9th October, when in a very short time the forts were captured. Thus for a full month the British authorities were engaged in the endeavors to bring the Governor to reason, and each successive attack was followed by a fresh warning, and fresh offer for consideration. It is pretty evident that the insolence of the Canton government and its direct violation of the treaty of 1842, had long been a subject of hesitancy. By treaty the English have a right of access to the authorities at five different cities, and unless the right is conceded, but at Canton it has been evaded, and at least directly refused. The conduct of Yeh in not acceding to the demands of the Governor, which the British representatives have long protested in vain. On the 8th of October the lorcha Arrow was boarded, 12 men carried off and the British flag hauled down. The officer who complained of the outrage received from Yeh, but no effect. The 12 men were subsequently sent back, but "not in the public manner in which they had been carried away, and all appearance of an apology was pointedly avoided." Sir John Bowring thought that the seizure of a junk would lead to reparation. A junk was accordingly seized, but the act was followed by no apology from the Chinese. Then the Admiral, Sir J. Bowring, and Mr. Parkes take counsel, and agree that their best course is to seize the defences of the city of Canton, which would be a display of power and determination, and yet not involve the sacrifice of life. This step they felt to be necessary, "experience of the Chinese character having proved that moderation is considered by the officials only as an evidence of their weakness." However, it was thought to act in a gentlemanly manner. Not till the 23d of October did the admiral having moved up the river and placed his frigates and steamers to the best advantage, send off boats' crews and take possession of the Blenheim Pagoda, and the Four Forts. In these places about 150 guns were taken—a proof that the Chinese do not neglect warlike preparations, but yet know little how to use them when they are made. The Macao fort, in the rear of the city, was also captured with 35 guns, and has been garrisoned and retained by the British. On the 24th the Birdseye and Cha-min Forts were captured, the guns spiked, and the ammunition destroyed. The Governor was notified that unless the guard against the attack from the town, and boats placed to watch the approach of fire-rafts or junks by water. On the 25th a fort called the Dutch Folly was taken, and all the defences of the city were in our hands.

At this juncture proposals were again made for an accommodation. The Admiral directed Mr. Parkes to write and state that when his Excellency Yeh should be prepared to arrange the points in dispute operations would cease; but the Governor made no satisfactory answer. On the contrary, he took the offensive. A body of Chinese troops appeared by a large forces, and attacked the Factory. A charge of marines was sufficient to route this array. The next day being Sunday nothing was done. But on the 27th, and only two days after the Governor had shown no disposition to accommodate, the Admiral gave him another chance of accommodation. The Governor was another chance of accommodation. The Governor was told that offensive operations would recommence unless satisfaction were granted, and that the demands then made, or of evils like the present, which had arisen from the disregard by the Governor of the British Admiral's letters, required that foreign representatives should have the same right of access to the authorities of Canton as is enjoyed under treaty at the other four ports, and denied at Canton alone. No answer was returned, and fire was accordingly opened on his Excellency's Yamen. This seems to have highly exasperated by this proceeding He issued and placarded publicly a proclamation offering a reward of $30 for the head of every Englishman. On the 28th and 29th the Chinese made a great purpose of making a breach in the wall; and on the 29th the gate was blown in pieces and the city entered. The Commissioner still continued obstinate, and till Nov. 5 operations continued. On that day it was apprehended that a force of 23 war junks was about to attack our ships and the Factory. The Barracouta accordingly undertook their destruction, and, although they had a force of 150 guns, took or burnt the whole of them in little more than half an hour. On the 8th the Chinese again resumed the offensive, and endeavored to destroy our ships with fire rafts, but announcement of their intention defeated. On the same day the British Admiral brought his operations to a close by the capture of the well-known Bogue Forts, which were gallantly carried by storm, standing by their guns until our men entered the embrasures. The forts were found to mount 200 guns, and to be much stronger than in 1841.

A FIGHT FOR AN IDOL IN INDIA.—COCHIN, Nov. 20, 1856. I respectfully beg leave to furnish you with the following particulars relative to a subject which has excited great commotion among the Kongany population of Cochin, and which is likely to result in serious consequences. The principal idol worshipped by the Konganies of Cochin, and which is held in the highest veneration, and inseparably associated with the feelings and sympathies of the people, has been enshrined in their pagodas, at Cochin, for upwards of three centuries. In 1792, certain acts of tyranny on the part of the despotic sovereign of the day induced a section of the Kongany people to leave their native country, with them the revered idol to Allepay, in the territory of his Highness the Rajah of Travancore. In 1811 the Monganies resolved to return to Cochin with the idol, under the favourable auspices of a new administration, but the Travancore State, finding that the idol was a very important acquisition, both on the ground of a superstitious feeling, and the valuable offerings which it attracted from its numerous votaries, strenuously resisted the right of the Konganies to remove it to their country. The Konganies sought the interposition of the British Government, and numerous were the appeals made, through a long series of years, to the Residents of the day, and to the Madras Government, but without success. Those authorities preemptorily declined all interference The Travancore State, encouraged by success, carried out a system of gradual encroachment upon the liberties and privileges of the community of Cochin in the management of the affairs of the idol The performance of the usual rites and ceremonies and the administration of the funds had been previously vested in the hands of a committee of the general body of the people of Cochin; but the Travancore Government attempted in 1853 to appoint managers on its own behalf. The idol was at the same time removed from its spot where it had been placed by its worshipers, and removed to a pagoda belonging to the Travancore State; the coffers were forced and their contents taken possession of by the Travancore authorities; and the visits of the worshipers of Cochin were prohibited, or otherwise interdicted. These illegal and arbitrary proceedings alarmed the Konganies, and induced them to bring back the idol to Cochin without the knowledge of the Travancore Government, and to hide it in a place where it was discovered by the Travancore State as a theft; and an appeal was made to the Madras government, and finally to the Court of Directors, for the restoration of the idol to Travancore. Despatches recently received from the Madras government by the hon. court in support of the pretensions of the Travancore Rajah, and the Madras government have directed the immediate restitution of the idol to the Rajah of Travancore. In the interest of the Travancore Rajah and the community of Cochin will receive consideration after such restitution shall have been made. The Kongany community of Cochin immediately on receiving the Madras government, have begun to pray for a full inquiry into the case, and intimating their willingness to abide by any decision which the government may arrive at after such investigation. When the image was illegally carried out of them is a general house tax, which in towns will be at the rate of 5 per cent. upon the rent in the case of dwelling houses, and 2½ per cent. in the case of shops, workshops, and houses. In the rural districts the tax will be assessed according to a scale of twenty different degrees, in the least of which it is fixed at 10 silver groschen, and in the highest at 25 thalers for the house. The government has abandoned the idea of a salt tax, in certain cases, to increase the salt tax, and to subject all joint-stock companies and partnerships *en commandite* to a tax of 2 per cent. upon the profits or dividends. A tax on patents is likewise proposed.

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DESTRUCTIVE TYPHOON IN THE CHINESE ARCHIPELAGO.—A letter from Manilla, of Nov. 4, in the Paris Moniteur, says that on the 27th of October one of those violent hurricanes which are known by the name of typhoon made almost a complete devastation in the Philippine Islands. The suburbs of Manilla and neighboring villages were reduced to heaps of ruins The number of houses destroyed at that place alone was above 3,500, and official returns show that more than 10,000 houses were destroyed within a circuit of about ten leagues around Manilla. The disastrous effects of the hurricane were felt throughout the other districts of the islands, where the crops and the orchards were torn out of the ground and the inhabitants were left without food and cast ashore, and many small boats were also lost. It was the most terrible typhoon ever remembered. Commencing about noon, it continued until seven o'clock in the evening, and all the inhabitants were in a state of momentary fear of their death; they cowered in whatever shelter they could obtain, for no one could stand upright before the wind. The Captain-General of the islands has opened a subscription for the relief of the sufferers.

MURDER OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS.

The best and most connected account of the frightful murder of the Archbishop of Paris, is the following from the *Univers*, of Monday last, 24 inst.:

"*Monseigneur Sibour*, the Archbishop of Paris, was murdered to-day in the Church of St. Etienne-du-Mont. The archbishop went to the church to inaugurate the religious exercises which are celebrated there every year in *Neuvaine* of St. Genevieve. At half-past four he left the choir and was proceeding towards the sacristy, when a man rushed towards him, and pushed aside, with one hand, the archbishop's guard, and with the other drew a large Catalan knife into his breast, crying out, at the same time, '*A bas les dresses!*' (Down with goddesses) The prelate staggers; his attendants priests surround him and hold him up; his face is deadly pale; a some deep groans escape him, he is taken into the sacristy, medical assistance is at once procured, but all aid is in vain, the archbishop is dead. The murderer was a priest, who stood unmoved, his bloody knife in hand, by the side of his victim, whom he gazed upon as he succumbed, with an expression of fiendish joy. This priest was formerly attached to the church of St. Etienne, in consequence of his conduct, he had been several times interdicted. In the month of November last he was at Melun. The assize Court of that town having to try a woman charged with having murdered her child, this priest interested in the case with the utmost interest. The woman was found guilty, and sentenced to hard labor for life. This result did not abate the zeal of her protector. He openly declared that the woman was innocent, and to give publicity to his protest against the verdict, he printed a pamphlet on the subject, which he was on the point of publishing, when the *parquet* (public prosecutor's office) interfered, and seized the pamphlet to be burnt. The measure was called for by the protest itself, and by the terms in which it was worded, for it contained most serious accusations against the honorable judges who pronounced the sentence. This libel and contempt of the judicial proceedings, in the course of which the priest in question manifested a total want of self-control. The church thought fit to interpose his authority, and he was ordered to leave Melun, and to make no misconduct himself. This interdiction greatly augmented the irritation of the party against whom it was pronounced. No act, however violent, of the kind, which the supposition may have been capable of the crime which has now stained with blood the church consecrated to the purpose saint of Paris. The interdicted priest meditated, prepared, and executed the crime with cold-bloodedness which is horrible to think off. He provided himself with a Catalan knife, about a foot long, with a blade of the breadth of three fingers. He knew that on the 3rd of January the archbishop was to officiate at the church of St Etienne-du-Mont, he went thither with the settled resolution to kill the prelate, if he did kill the prelate, in his pontificial robes. On being asked whether he had stabbed the archbishop more than once, he answered, 'No, only once, but I knew that I had killed him, I saw that he blow wrs mortal.' 'Why did you cry when you struck, *A bas les dresses!*' 'Because I do not believe in the Immaculate Conception. I have stated my opinion on that subject, and I wish to protest against the decision against that impious worship.' On being asked why he had committed that great crime, he said, 'Because I was interdicted, and told that this time the interdiction would result in my death.' The interrogatories of the priest on having committed such a crime, and the circumstances themselves under which the crime was committed, seem sufficiently to indicate a deranged mind, and it must be believed for the honor of humanity that the man was in a state of mind with sacradotal functions was a madman and not a monster. The assassin was taken to the mayoralty of the Pantheon, accompanied by the Prefect of Police, and the Procureur Imperial, and Mr. Treihard, judge of instruction, went there at once to examine him. M. Cordouin, the Procureur Imperial, and M. Pietri, the Prefect of Police, interrogated the prisoner in presence of the body of the archbishop was taken to the presbytery of the Cure of St. Etienne-du-Mont, and placed on a couch in the drawing-room. The venerable prelate's features were not the least changed. One was ignorant of what had passed could never have supposed, on looking at him, that death had for ever frozen that generous heart. His fingers had so many friends flocked to the death chamber. We must renounce the task of describing the heartrending scenes that took place. In the course of the evening the sad news circulated in Paris, all hearts were broken at the news of a dreadful catastrophe. In 1848, an archbishop of Paris fell a victim and a martyr. In 1857, his successor falls in a church under an assassin's knife. Both were struck while in the exercise of their divine functions, and died in their sacradotal robes. May God grant that society may have only a calamity to deplore and not a crime to punish." The murderer is 32 years of age. The church of St. Etienne-du-Mont is closed, and will not be opened till after the funeral rites necessitated by the crime that has been committed in it."

The body of the late Archbishop was exposed to public view on Tuesday. Although the streets were exceedingly dirty, a considerable number of persons assembled early in the morning at the door of the palace in the Rue Grenelle, and the crowd increased greatly as the day wore on. The visitors were for the most part of the humbler classes; but very few people came in carriages. Before reaching the Chapelle Ardente, the public traversed several rooms hung with black and dimly lighted. The body, clothed in full pontificial robes, with a white mitre on the head, was placed in a satin bed resting on an inclined plane, so that the face was as plainly seen as if the figure were in an upright position. The countenance seemed but little changed by death. The two hands were crossed on the breast, and continued to touch a cross suspended from the neck. On one of the fingers of the right hand the pastoral ring might be observed. The severe decorations of the dais, the dim glow of the wax tapers, the chanting of the priests, and the muttering prayers of the Sisters of Charity produced a great effect upon the spectators of the pompous death chamber. One woman went into hysterics and was carried out screaming. The lying in state will continue for some days.

RUSSIA.—From St. Petersburg we learn up to the 2nd inst. that Count Orloff, the Russian plenipotentiary intended to leave very speedily for Nice, by way of Warsaw, Berlin, and Hanover. The Government had sent three officers to various countries to obtain information relative to railway plans, and to make enquiries respecting them.

A letter, dated St. Petersburg, the 2nd instant, and published in the *Pays*, states that the greatest possible activity prevails in the dockyards at Cronstadt. The workmen labor in the unfinished vessels night and day and night. All possible resources are employed to convert the sailing ships into screw steamers. Schools are established for the education of young men to act as engineers and machinists on board the fleet. A detachment of ship carpenters has been sent to Nicolaiefsk, in Siberia. The corps of engineers in Siberia have been reinforced. The Russian government is constructing forts on the frontiers of Siberia. The inhabitants of Irkutsk state that the Russian authorities maintain a friendly correspondence with the Chinese.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, writing on the 10th instant, says:—"A despatch from Trebizond states that the Russian fleet had anchored in the Bay of Balkan, in the Caspian, and occupied some of the islands. In order that the importance of the foregoing intelligence may be properly understood, a few words must be said respecting the islands of which mention is made. The inhabited islands in the Gulf of Balkan are three. The largest bears the name of Naphta or Tcheleken; the next in size is Ashur Ada, or Kasatchi, and the third is called the Dervise Island. The three islands, which are close to the coast of Turcomania, will form an excellent station for troops that are to be sent to Khiva. On examining any map they will be seen that the distance from the Gulf of Balkan to Khiva is about two-thirds less than it is from Orenburg to the last-mentioned place, and that there is no desert between the coast of the Caspian and Khiva. The Russian fleet has occupied the islands, south of the road which would be taken by troops marching from the Gulf of Balkan to Khiva."

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 3rd, in the *Independance* of Brussels, says:—"The garrison of New Archangel, the capital of the Russian possessions in North America, has just been relieved on account of an invasion made this year by the Kalobeds. These people, like which inhabit the neighborhood, surprised the garrison, scaled the ramparts, and could not be expelled from the church in which they had taken refuge until after a very sanguinary conflict. In the meantime the state of the affairs has been satisfactory, and its commerce with California has much increased."

The *Patrie* announces, on the authority of a letter from Kaliah, that the troops of the last Polish levy have been received orders to leave immediately for the Caucasus. It is believed that they are to reinforce the corps of observation of 40,000 men, which it is asserted is assembled on the extreme frontier of Persia. The *Patrie* adds the *Patrie*, "that serious operations are expected in the beginning of the spring, to counterbalance the probable results of the English expedition in the Persian Gulf."

PERSIA.—Accounts from Teheran of the 27th of November, published in the *Moniteur de l' Armee*, announce that the Persian troops despatched into the province of Furrah, of which the head-quarters are at Furpah and Sabzwar, had successfully occupied the fortresses of Gurjuch, Lach, and Jiswain, situate in Seistan and in the district of Furrah. The Shah's army had established themselves without difficulty on all these points. There had only been a little firing between the Persian troops and the Mahommed and the Persians. The latter remained masters of the field. The Afghans appeared discouraged; and a great number of tribes, long opposed to Persia, have entered into their submission. The Shah's troops had lost much of his reputation because he had reported that Herat should be retaken in a few days by troops from India, which had not been done.

At the above date the court of Persia had received no official declaration of war from the English government, and appeared to reckon very much upon the presence of Feruki Khan in Europe.

Letters from St. Petersburg, published in the Paris *Constitutionnel*, speak of an intrigue in Teheran to depose the present Shah, and to put Mouraad Meerza in his place. The intriguers have occupied many islands of the great and little bays of Balkan, in the Caspian, and have established their head-quarters on the island of Koftenol. Other letters from St. Petersburg, published continuously, speak of the Shah of Persia, as being under the Czar for aid, and of his intention to cede to Russia in exchange for assistance "all the territory comprised between the town of Bayazid, chief town of a pachalic, and Nakhitchevan, and the frontiers of Armenia the Russian possessions from those of Turkey."

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The body of the late Archbishop was exposed to public view on Tuesday. Although the streets were exceedingly dirty, a considerable number of persons assembled early in the morning at the door of the palace in the Rue Grenelle, and the crowd increased greatly as the day wore on. The visitors were for the most part of the humbler classes; but very few people came in carriages. Before reaching the Chapelle Ardente, the public traversed several rooms hung with black and dimly lighted. The body, clothed in full pontificial robes, with a white mitre on the head, was placed in a satin bed resting on an inclined plane, so that the face was as plainly seen as if the figure were in an upright position. The countenance seemed but little changed by death. The two hands were crossed on the breast, and continued to touch a cross suspended from the neck. On one of the fingers of the right hand the pastoral ring might be observed. The severe decorations of the dais, the dim glow of the wax tapers, the chanting of the priests, and the muttering prayers of the Sisters of Charity produced a great effect upon the spectators of the pompous death chamber. One woman went into hysterics and was carried out screaming. The lying in state will continue for some days.

RUSSIA.—From St. Petersburg we learn up to the 2nd instant that Count Orloff, the Russian plenipotentiary intended to leave very speedily for Nice, by way of Warsaw, Berlin, and Hanover. The Government had sent three officers to various countries to obtain information relative to railway plans, and to make enquiries respecting them.

A letter, dated St. Petersburg, the 2nd instant, and published in the *Pays*, states that the greatest possible activity prevails in the dockyards at Cronstadt. The workmen labor in the unfinished vessels night and day and night. All possible resources are employed to convert the sailing ships into screw steamers. Schools are established for the education of young men to act as engineers and machinists on board the fleet. A detachment of ship carpenters has been sent to Nicolaiefsk, in Siberia. The corps of engineers in Siberia have been reinforced. The Russian government is constructing forts on the frontiers of Siberia. The inhabitants of Irkutsk state that the Russian authorities maintain a friendly correspondence with the Chinese.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, writing on the 10th instant, says:—"A despatch from Trebizond states that the Russian fleet had anchored in the Bay of Balkan, in the Caspian, and occupied some of the islands. In order that the importance of the foregoing intelligence may be properly understood, a few words must be said respecting the islands of which mention is made. The inhabited islands in the Gulf of Balkan are three. The largest bears the name of Naphta or Tcheleken; the next in size is Ashur Ada, or Kasatchi, and the third is called the Dervise Island. The three islands, which are close to the coast of Turcomania, will form an excellent station for troops that are to be sent to Khiva. On examining any map they will be seen that the distance from the Gulf of Balkan to Khiva is about two-thirds less than it is from Orenburg to the last-mentioned place, and that there is no desert between the coast of the Caspian and Khiva. The Russian fleet has occupied the islands, south of the road which would be taken by troops marching from the Gulf of Balkan to Khiva."

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 3rd, in the *Independance* of Brussels, says:—"The garrison of New Archangel, the capital of the Russian possessions in North America, has just been relieved on account of an invasion made this year by the Kalobeds. These people, like which inhabit the neighborhood, surprised the garrison, scaled the ramparts, and could not be expelled from the church in which they had taken refuge until after a very sanguinary conflict. In the meantime the state of the affairs has been satisfactory, and its commerce with California has much increased."

The *Patrie* announces, on the authority of a letter from Kaliah, that the troops of the last Polish levy have been received orders to leave immediately for the Caucasus. It is believed that they are to reinforce the corps of observation of 40,000 men, which it is asserted is assembled on the extreme frontier of Persia. The *Patrie* adds the *Patrie*, "that serious operations are expected in the beginning of the spring, to counterbalance the probable results of the English expedition in the Persian Gulf."

PERSIA.—Accounts from Teheran of the 27th of November, published in the *Moniteur de l' Armee*, announce that the Persian troops despatched into the province of Furrah, of which the head-quarters are at Furpah and Sabzwar, had successfully occupied the fortresses of Gurjuch, Lach, and Jiswain, situate in Seistan and in the district of Furrah. The Shah's army had established themselves without difficulty on all these points. There had only been a little firing between the Persian troops and the Mahommed and the Persians. The latter remained masters of the field. The Afghans appeared discouraged; and a great number of tribes, long opposed to Persia, have entered into their submission. The Shah's troops had lost much of his reputation because he had reported that Herat should be retaken in a few days by troops from India, which had not been done.

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