

TELEGRAMS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

The Marquis Giuseppe Montegorza, who forged Victor Emanuel's signature to a bill of exchange for 200,000, has been sentenced to eight years' penal servitude.

Yellow fever is in New York.

At Kansas, a religious sect called the Cobbites, crazy from frenzy and starvation, have committed atrocities.

There is a quarrel between Moody and Sankey. Moody appropriated over 6,000dols. thank-offerings from converted sinners, and gave Sankey 1,000dols. The latter threatens law proceedings. The Chicago Committee is endeavoring to hush up matters.

The Sioux campaign is ended. The troops have gone into winter quarters.

The assassination of Prince Gortschakoff was attempted by an elderly lady belonging to the best society. Her object was probably to revenge the political persecution of her family.

September 12.

Inquiries of British Commissioners show that the reports of the atrocities in Bulgaria have not been in the least exaggerated. Children have been roasted alive, and their flesh thrust down their parents' throats; pregnant women ripped up; women, children, and girls violated by thousands; men impaled, skinned alive, flogged to death, tortured in every conceivable manner, not alone by Bashi-Bazouks, but to a greater extent by the regular troops, who were rewarded instead of punished for the cruelty. The English Secretary of Legation, Mr. Baring, and the American Secretary, Mr. Schuber, who have been sent to investigate the matter, report 60,000 Christian non-combatants murdered. The American Secretary suggests Foreign Commissioners to see that the leaders of these outrages are hung. Thousands of bodies were strewn about in every direction, gnawed by dogs, and in a horrible state of putrefaction, with a few half-starved women sitting in the midst of them, bewailing the fate of their dear ones. One woman was found moaning over three small skulls with the hairs clinging to them, which she had in her lap. These revelations caused an intense feeling throughout England. Meetings held in all the chief centres passed resolutions calling on the British Government to stay these atrocities.

Canon Liddon, from the pulpit of St. Paul's said, "While they were listening in that sacred building, the loud cry and bitter wail of anguish and despair was rising to Heaven from thousands of desolate homes, from mothers and daughters whose whole future life would only be one long memory of agony and shame. What made the voice falter in speaking of the subject was that the Government to which Turkey was turning for support was free, humane Christian England. If God was the same as he had ever been, he hated cruelty, and would punish those who enact and those who abet it now as of old."

John Bright stated in a public letter to a public meeting at Rochdale, convened to protest against the cruelties, that England was the sole cause of these cruelties, and of the Servian war, as, but for her support, Turkey dared not have been guilty of them.

Mr. Gladstone, in a pamphlet on these atrocities, says—"The British name has been more seriously compromised in these deplorable events than was ever known before." He urges the people to insist on the Government excluding the Ottomans from the administrative control of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria redeeming by this policy the honor of the British name.

Lord Derby has written a letter saying that the Government will spare no efforts to ascertain the exact truth, and to be ready, in common with other powers, to take such action as the justice of the case requires.

Fighting between the Servians and the Turks before Alexanitzza commenced on the 18th August and continued until 4th September. The Servians gained several successes, driving the Turks across to the left bank of the Morava river. The fighting was hard, with great slaughter on both sides. The Russian volunteers specially distinguished themselves. Russian officers drove Servians to battle with pistol and sabre, shooting down the laggards remorselessly.

The Servian loan was eagerly subscribed at St. Petersburg.

The British Ambassador has presented a demand for the conclusion of the armistice, to be followed by negotiations for peace. The term of armistice demanded is one month. England's declaration, that if Turkey's refusal shall lead to foreign intervention, the Porte must not reckon on the British Government, caused surprise and disappointment. No secret was made that Russia was likely to interfere. After this declaration it is said that the Turkish Government looked to Austria to repel Russian aggression. It is asserted that slavery will be abolished. The latest telegram dated London, September 12, says:—"The 'Standard's' despatch from Belgrade says that the conditions of peace have been received, but not officially communicated. Russia will not permit Servia to accept. The question is now, when will Russia throw off the mask, and openly prosecute the war she is actually waging, while pretending to be merely Servia's friend?"

SYDNEY, October 9.

London (no date).

The Russian Press seems confident that peace will be restored between Turkey and the belligerent States after the armistice has expired, on conditions to be proposed.

Servia and Montenegro, it is proposed, shall remain in *statu quo*; but hereafter there may be an extension of territory. The local autonomy of the other provinces is to be suggested; hostilities to be suspended eight days beyond the time agreed upon for armistice.

The Powers agree to submit the conditions to the Porte proposed by England. The Servians are, however, discontented.

Russian volunteers are still joining the Servian army.

LONDON, September 27.

Earl Derby, in replying to a deputation from a meeting held at Guildhall, said instructions had been sent to Mr. Elliott to interview the Sultan to denounce the atrocities of Bulgaria, and demand punishment of the perpetrators. Earl Derby said it was needless to convoke Parliament to consider the Eastern question, as peace negotiations were proceeding smoothly, and the possibility of a European war for the disruption of Turkey was most unlikely; but he expected that the solution of the present difficulty would be found in the local autonomy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with effectual guarantees against the misuse of Bulgaria. Respecting Servia, Earl Derby concluded by favoring the assumption of a *statu quo* without payment of indemnity.

The war feeling in Servia is unabated, and the people are clamorous that Prince Milan shall assume the royal title.

The peace conditions have been submitted to the Porte.

General Schernaff rejects the suspension of hostilities, and demands a regular armistice.

LONDON, October 2.

In the International rifle match at Washington, Fenton of the Irish team made 170, and Slade, New South Wales, 170. Both received medals. In another contest (300 yards), Fenton made 48, an American, 48, and Slade, 45.

The Council, under the presidency of Prince Milan, has resolved to fight till Servia and Bosnia are independent.

On September 28, General Tchernayeff crossed the river Morava, above Alexanitzza, and attacked the Turks. Both claimed the victory. Havotizich and his corps threaten the Turkish rear.

SINGAPORE, October 10.

The Chinese difficulty is settled, and an indemnity has been paid to Margary's family.

RESULTS OF MODERN WARFARE.

THE common belief, one apparently founded in reason, is that notable improvement in warlike weapons involves a corresponding increase in the slaughter and horrors of war, and so—or, at least, this is the theory of a certain school of philosophers—tends to the ultimate abolition of war itself. The contrary is maintained with much ingenuity by a recent essayist in England, himself a military man, who contends that while the chief feature in the military history of the past 20 years—say since the Crimean War—has been the vast improvement both in small arms and artillery, in firearms the proportion of killed and wounded to combatants has been lessened as compared with the results obtained from the old-fashioned weapon. That the firelock or old Brown Bess should have been more deadly than the Snider-Enfield, Martini-Henry, Springfield, Chassepot, or needle-gun, and the clumsy old smooth-bore cannon than the rifled Krupp or Armstrong field-gun, seems an absurdity; nevertheless the facts are these. Taking the great battles of modern European history anterior to the Franco-Austrian campaign of 1859, we find that at Talavera, 1809, one-eighth of the combatants engaged were killed and wounded; at Austerlitz, 1805, one-seventh; at Malplaquet, 1709, Prague, 1759, and Jena, 1806, one-sixth; at Friedland, 1807, and Waterloo, 1815, one-fifth; at Marengo, 1800, one-fourth; at Borodino, 1812, nearly one-third. 80,000 of 250,000 combatants falling; at Salamanca, 1812, and Leipzig, 1813, one-third, the estimate of the latter battle including only the French; at Elvan, 1807, of a total effective of 160,000, there fell or were wounded 55,000, or more than a third, while at Zorndorf, 1758, the most murderous of modern battles, 32,800 of the 82,000 Russians and Prussians engaged were stretched on the field at the close of the day, or two-fifths.

At Solferino, the first great battle in which rifled fire-arms were employed, the loss fell to one-eleventh, that is to say, was one quarter less than that at Talavera, the least bloody of the earlier battles recorded above, while as compared with Zorndorf, less than one-fourth of the per centage of killed and wounded was maintained. At Koniggratz, where the breach-loader came into play, the loss was barely one-fifteenth of the force engaged. During the war of 1870 the loss at Worth was one-eleventh, and at Sedan one-tenth, while at Gravelotte, which was popularly believed to be one of the most tenaciously fought and bloody battles of modern times, it was but one-tenth. It must be remarked that in this campaign the mitrailleuse came into play, and that the part borne by the German field artillery was such as almost to amount to a revolution in field tactics.

The same proportion of decreased casualties from improved weapons is preserved in earlier history. Zorndorf was but a skirmish to Cressy red, where the French lost in killed alone 30,000 men, 1,300 knights, and 11 princes. On the fatal field of Cannæ 50,000 of 80,000 Romans was slain, and in the same campaign, at the battle of the Metaurus, a Carthaginian army hastening to the reinforcement of Hannibal, was literally destroyed.

The reasons for this apparent paradox are, after all, simple. In the early days of Roman or Grecian warfare, where the weapons were the pilm or spear, heavy hand-to-hand fighting was the absolute rule, followed by a massacre when one side or the other gave way and fled. In the middle ages fighting was well-nigh as close and the pursuit quite as bloody, while the undefended archers or spearmen fell easily before the knights or men-at-arms. When fire-arms were introduced, and fighting was carried on from a distance, and the end of the battle was usually the capture and loss of a commanding position, the proportion of loss was immensely diminished. Then, too, each successive improvement made in weapons has been met by corresponding alterations in tactics to obviate its results. The day of massive columns or deep formations to be mown down by fire reserved, as at Bunker Hill, New Orleans or Fontenoy, till the men "can see the white of the enemy's eyes," has gone by, and troops now engage at longer distances, in much looser order, and, above all, make more use of cover.