

## TELEGRAMS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

SINGAPORE, Oct. 13.

The Czar of Russia has written a letter to the Emperor Joseph of Austria. It is reported he proposes the Russian occupation of Bulgaria, Austria to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The fleets of Russia and Austria are watching the Bosphorus.

The Russian Ambassador in Paris has stated that the Czar is in favor of peace, and that Russia will only intervene with the consent of the great Powers after a conference shall have been held.

General Ignatieff has returned to his post in Turkey.

The Porte has refused to grant the autonomy of the provinces, but promises to grant reforms while they remain portion of the Turkish Empire. The Porte also proposes to create a national Congress, composed of 110 members, Mussulmans and Christians, partly elective, for the purpose of executing reforms suggested.

A circular, officially issued by Russia, invites the other powers to join her in imposing on Turkey an assent to a further armistice between the latter power and the belligerent provinces.

(Per Arawata, at the Bluff.)

The Czar's birthday was feted at Belgrade yesterday (Sept. 11). At a banquet in the evening Prince Milan expressed his entire devotion to Russia.

The ship Windsor was abandoned on the 30th August in a sinking state. The crew have been landed at Plymouth.

Sir Stafford Northcote, in addressing a meeting at Edinburgh, denied that the Eastern policy of the Government had been hampered by the unworthy jealousy of Russia or by fear of the Malabon subjects of India. He went on to say that the Empire of India depended on good government, and that the Porte had sent a commission to Bulgaria armed with judicial power to enquire into the recent atrocities.

MELBOURNE, October 12.

The long wished-for rain has fallen in parts of New South Wales and South Australia. It was time, when £50 had to be paid for a drink of water for travelling cattle between the Lachlan and the Darling. We now hear of several hours' steady rain, with plenty of water and grass.

## "LA PETITE MERE."

THE Paris 'Figaro,' announcing the death of Sister Martha, the senior of the Sisters of Mercy, says that by her death the poor afflicted people have lost their best friend. Sister Martha, who was seventy-eight years old at her demise, has had a very eventful career, applying all her abilities to the relief of suffering mankind. Upon her bosom could be seen, besides the humble cross of black wood, three medals, and the Cross of the Legion of Honor. She was found everywhere at home and abroad, where distress was to be relieved, plague encountered, wounds to be dressed, or where sickness was to be attended to. She was said to have come from a very grand, noble, and mighty family, and was of remarkable beauty when, at the age of eighteen, she took the veil. During her stay at Lyons as hospital sister at the memorable time when the cholera more than decimated the population of the town, she was seen day and night at the sick beds of those afflicted by the fearful plague, being so untrifling in her work of mercy that the poor sufferers, and the people of Lyons, called her *la petite mère*—the little mother. During the Crimean war she was at Constantinople, attending the wounded in the hospitals, and again a few years later in 1859, in Italy, in the war between Italy and Austria. Here she was at the head of the field-hospital for the wounded, which General Roze had directed to be established at Milan. At the outbreak of cholera she was at Amiens, and accompanied the Empress of France in her visit to the sick beds of those affected by the cholera. The Empress demanded the Cross of Honor as a reward for her unremitting care of the sick, upon which Sister Martha received the gold medal of the first-class, and later on the red ribbon of the Legion of Honor. At the siege of Paris she was again found at her post, as well as during the horrors of the Commune, always indefatigable and devoted to her work of relief although at that time over seventy years of age.

## THE IRISH POLICY.

(From the 'Carlow Post.')

THE letter addressed by the member for Louth to the 'Times' will be read with no ordinary interest by the friends of the party of Home Rule. Scattering to the winds the various myths and rumours of splits and discussions, which are the mere creations of the fancy of the promulgators, Mr. Sullivan tells all whom it may concern—and what true patriot does it not concern?—that the ranks of the party are as firmly knit together and as determined to fight the battle of self-government to the end as ever they were. In powerful and scathing, yet calm and dignified terms, he denounces the efforts of the press in England and the anti-national press in Ireland to malign and belie the aim and object of the movement. Nothing could have been more seasonable, nothing more appropriate than this declaration, coming, as it does, from one who so deservedly possesses the confidence of the national party in Ireland. To have allowed misrepresentations which have been so widely and malignantly circulated within the last week or two, to remain unanswered and uncontradicted, would have been most injudicious, if not fatal. The interval of the recess will give sufficient time and afford various opportunities for maturing and discussing the future line of action to be adopted. A premature declaration of the course to be hereafter pursued, even if it had been decided upon, would be most impolitic. Many events may

take place during the next six or seven months that might give a totally different aspect to matters, and render a complete change of tactics necessary. *Festina lente* should therefore be the motto for the moment. There is one passage in Mr. Sullivan's letter in the 'Times' to which special attention should be given by every sincere lover of his country. "Drawing a pregnant lesson from the eagerness of English journals to hail so-called splits or secessions in our ranks, even these incidents only serve to awaken us to the value of union, and induce us to make still stronger demonstrations of unity of purpose and of action." In following the advice thus given, the true elements of success will be found. There is no absolute necessity for originating any new line of action; nay, the best policy may lie in inaction, or in biding the proper time, and seizing the most fitting opportunities. Such opportunities often occur when they are least expected, and it is then that their results are perhaps the most important. There is another passage in the hon. member's letter which is worthy of special notice. It is his testimony to the more favorable tenor of the great organ of English opinion towards his country. Has the Home Rule movement had no share in bringing about this change? We say it has contributed much towards it, and if, though by slow and imperceptible degrees, it continues to influence that opinion, an important step will have been taken towards the end aimed at. We think that eventually it will be recognised in England as elsewhere as a public fact that "the Irish people have set their hearts on an independent, and united, and loyally disciplined party in the House of Commons, and the man who sought to destroy it would be execrated from Donegal to Kerry." The English people admire pluck, and there is real pluck in this declaration. For the present this is our policy, the programme which will be carried out to the letter, always provided that we unite cordially and energetically in the course which it prescribes.

## GREAT MEN GOOD SLEEPERS.

(From "Memoirs of Count de Segur.")

NAPOLEON at St. Helena censured what he called historical silliness (*niaserie*) on the part of historians who judged of all men and events. "It was wrong, for example, to expatiate on the calmness of Alexander, Cæsar, and others, for having slept on the eve of a battle. There are none of our soldiers, or our generals, who have not repeated this marvel twenty times, and nearly all the heroism lay in the foregoing fatigue." M. De Segur describes him passing the night before Wagram, within reach of the enemy, on the alert, the horse bridled.

"The Emperor was in the middle of his guard. A spread mantle served him for a tent. He slept under it scarcely three or four hours, but as profoundly as usual. It was necessary to wake him in the morning. This will excite no astonishment if we reflect that at these critical moments history shows us hardly any great men without sleep or appetite; not that robust health is indispensable to these great actions, but rather because they require elevated and firm characters which maintain their calm."

Conde was an excellent sleeper; so was the Duke of Wellington; so was Pitt, till his health became fatally shattered; and the power or habit quite as essential in civil as in military affairs, for without it both mind and body must prove unequal to a strain. One striking exception was Nelson, who, when everything was ready for the attack on Copenhagen, and he was only waiting for a wind, was with great difficulty persuaded to attempt an hour or two of rest. He allowed his cot to be placed on the deck and lay down on it, but never closed his eyes a moment, and at brief intervals during some hours kept anxiously inquiring about the wind. Napoleon or Wellington would have ordered himself to be called when the wind was favorable, and gone quietly to sleep. Yet Nelson was a hero in the brightest acceptance of the word.

The fiery spirit, working out its way,  
Fretted the puny body to decay.

At Wagram there was a time when the French left was routed, and the artillery of Boudet taken. Intelligence of this disaster and of the threatening advance of the Austrian right to operate on the French rear being brought by one of Massena's aides-de-camp, the Emperor remained silent, impassive, as if he had heard nothing, with looks fixed on the opposite side, on Neusiedler and Davoust. It was not till he saw the fire of Davoust and his victorious right wing pass the tower of this village, that he turned to the aide-de-camp: "Boudet's artillery is taken. Well, it was there to be taken. Go and tell Massena that the battle is won." It was then far from won; a desperate effort was required to redeem it, and he was obliged to order up his reserve, to which he never resorted except in the last emergency.

Having given this order, confident in its execution by Lauriston, Davoust, and d'Aboville, and sure of its effect—tranquillised, moreover, by the progress of Davoust, and our right wing—Napoleon alighted, and that which will astonish, but is certain, is that, calling Rustan (the Mamelouk), he caused his bearskin to be spread out, stretched himself upon it, and fell into a deep sleep. This sleep had already lasted nearly twenty minutes, and was beginning to create disquiet, when he awoke, without surprise, without eagerness to know what had come to pass during the absence of his consciousness. We could even see, by the direction of his look, and by the orders, which he redoubled, that he resumed, or rather followed, his train of thought as if it had undergone no interruption.

The 'Daily News' Madeira correspondent telegraphs advices from Whydah to July 27. The King of Dahomey defies the blockade, and allows no communication with vessels. He has seized four Frenchmen who attempted to get off in cruisers. He threatened to massacre every white man at the first shot fired. The Sirius, Contest, Mallard, and the Spiteful form the blockading squadron. Commodore Hewett has gone to the Niger.