

ALINARI'S photographs of the most famous works in the Dresden Gallery, to be had in all Art shops.

At this interview M. Sturdza expressed his confidence in the favourable further development of the work of reconciliation begun between Roumania and Greece; with respect to Macedonian affairs he laid special stress on the incontestability of the principle of the equality of all Christian peoples settled in Macedonia including the Kutzowalachs. As for the reform movement casual criticism of the slowness with which the amelioration of the administration of the Macedonian Provinces proceeded, was quite unjustified. Reform in face of the manifold ramified evils, presented extraordinary difficulties. It was a task demanding the most prolonged patience. For that reason it was the duty of all interested to suit their hopes and wishes to the rate of progress rendered necessary. It would be a most unjust undervaluation of the earnest desire of the Powers implicated and of their capacity to carry through what was desired, to doubt that a gradual, thorough amelioration of the administration and methods of justice in Macedonia would ensue. M. Sturdza condemned in most severe terms any support given to deeds of violence for the accomplishment of national aspirations in Macedonia.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE CZAR'S LIFE.

The speeches of counsel in the trial of those accused of complicity in the plot against the Czar began on Monday. The prosecution demanded exemplary punishment of the accused who, as had been proved in the course of the trial, had been guilty of an attempt on the Czar's life.

A PRISON OFFICIAL KILLED.

Colonel Ivanov, Chief of the prison in the Viborg quarter, was killed in the streets of St. Petersburg on Monday, by an unknown young man who fired several revolver shots at him. The miscreant, who wounded a policeman in his flight, was apprehended.

THE CHOLERA.

One hundred fresh cases of cholera have occurred in Astrakhan. The total number of cases up to the present has been 289, of which 103 were fatal. In Novgorod, Perm, and in many of the villages in the government, further cases are reported.

THE NEW DUMA.

The *Rjetch* states that the number of electors in Kieff has been reduced by 22,000 in consequence of the introduction of the new election method.

THE MOROCCAN CRISIS.

GENERAL DRUDE TO ATTACK.

Admiral Philibert telegraphed on the 25th that Muley Hafid was on the march to Casablanca, but that his intentions were unknown.

The Europeans arriving from Fez were embarked in Larash upon the cruiser "Du Chayla" and conveyed to Tangier.

The London *Daily Telegraph* announces from Casablanca that General Drude had, on Sunday, determined to advance, and with the reinforcements that arrived on Saturday would endeavour to overwhelm the Moroccan camp at Taddert before day-break. The enemy would be surrounded by 3,000 Frenchmen with eight field guns and several machine guns. Some 10,000 Moroccans are concentrated at Taddert.

ANXIETY AT TANGIER.

The British colony has sent a petition to the British Government alleging that the measures taken by the French and Spanish to protect the Europeans in Tangier are entirely inadequate. More ships, particularly British, are necessary to counteract the probable unfortunate consequences of the French landing at Casablanca.

Anxiety is felt in official Moroccan circles, although the official news of Muley Hafid's proclamation as Sultan has not yet reached Tangier. The Shereefian Ministers, have, it is said, sent an express messenger to Fez to learn if the Maghzen remains in office.

DISORDER IN FEZ.

The French newspapers publish reports from Tangier that serious disorder has broken out in Fez.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* announces from Tangier that serious fighting is feared in Fez, since the new Sultan, Muley Hafid, has nominated his brother Viceroy of Fez.

THE MOROCCAN POLICE.

A note has been sent to the Shereefian War-Minister demanding in the name of France and Spain measures for the organisation of the police in the harbour towns in accordance with the Algeiras decrees.

FIRE AND FLOODS IN JAPAN.

A terrible fire broke out in Hakodate early on Monday morning, which reduced 70 per cent of

the houses in the place to ashes. All the consulates with the exception of the American were burnt.

The floods occasioned by the spring tide have done more damage than was at first reported.

Many railways have been severely damaged and the losses are estimated at several millions.

TURKO-PERSIAN INCIDENTS.

SINISTER REPORTS.

According to reports relating to the incidents of August 4, the time of the invasion of Turkish troops into Persian territory, General Samsam Dauleh and several Persian officers who were taken prisoners by the Turks, were killed. Many harmless villagers, including women and children were massacred and many women kidnapped. A church was desecrated. Stores of grain to the value of £20,000 sterling were in part stolen, in part destroyed.

Prince Ferman Ferma, Governor of Täbris has at his disposal six battalions, which are on the march to Urumia.

According to news, which lacks confirmation, the Turkish troops have occupied Merivan in Kurdistan to the East of Suleimanie.

In a telegram from the priesthood and population of Urumia to Parliament, published on Sunday, aid was demanded and it was pointed out that should the Government be powerless, help must be sought from a neighbour. It is said that Russian troops are concentrated on the frontier; of open military measures nothing is, however, to be noticed save a reinforcement of the frontier guards.

A report that 3,000 rebel Armenians have attacked the Turkish troops lacks confirmation up to the present.

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NEWS FROM CHINA.

Dispatches have reached New York from Peking stating that Yuan-Shi-Kai will shortly resign his office as Viceroy of Tshili and will become War Minister. This exchange of offices is to be regarded as a confession on the part of the Government that their position is weaker than before, for which, among other things, the mismanagement of the Finance Minister Tieh-lang in army matters is to blame.

The Empress-Dowager has summoned Chan-Chitung and Yuan-Shi-Kai to Peking in order to discuss the growing disputes between the Mandshuhs and Chinese.

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CHURCH SERVICES.

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Friday, August 30th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.

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Hon. assistant Chaplain: The Rev. M. S. Farmer, M. A.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

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BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BRITISH LEGATION: Wiener Strasse 38.
Minister Resident: Mansfeldt de Cardonnel Findlay, Esq. C. M. G.

THE BRITISH CONSULATE: Altmarkt 16.
British Consul: H. Palmié, Esq.

THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: Ammon Strasse 2, p.
American Consul General: T. St. John Gaffney, Esq.

LETTERS FROM FINLAND.

(From our London correspondent.)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS IN FINLAND.

Helsingfors, August 23.

When our good steamship the "Arcturus" left Copenhagen, conditions on board had somewhat changed, not altogether in favour of those travellers who had come from Hull, except that the weather in the Baltic formed a most pleasant contrast to that experienced in the North Sea. Between Copenhagen and Helsingfors the sea remained, comparatively speaking, much calmer, with far less motion, and congenial sunshine prevailed until we neared our destination.

But, at Copenhagen many new travellers, mostly Finlanders returning to their homes, came on board, and the "Arcturus" was very full, indeed somewhat overcrowded. The weather being fine, the meals became "overcrowded" too, so much so that they had to be taken in "sets". This caused the usual frictions and unpleasantness, some Finlanders complaining that the English passengers seemed privileged in everything. Under such circumstances, the task of the Captain is not always an easy one. It is not everybody who understands that life on the water is not less a give-and-take business than on terra firma!

It was late in the afternoon when we arrived at the Customs House Quay in Helsingfors. As we neared our goal, we saw several Russian war vessels anchored in the harbour, others we had passed outside—"all that is left of the Russian fleet", said some of the Finlanders on board, not without a natural *Schadenfreude*, for there never has been much love lost between them and their "conquerors".

Nor were those Russian warships the only visible proofs that Finland remains an integral part of the Russian Empire, after all. For there was formidable Sveaborg, guarding the approaches of Helsingfors, with a Russian garrison certainly much stronger than ever it was before the now historical mutiny. How strong the present garrison of Sveaborg is, and how much artillery it possesses, very few really know, for visits have become more difficult than ever. Access to mere outsiders is, indeed, well nigh impossible nowadays.

It is true that from the sea the aspect of Sveaborg, which incoming vessels keep in view for a long time, and at a short "range", too, is far from formidable. Sveaborg indeed almost looks peaceful! The garrison is nearly conspicuous by its absence, and of cannon one sees very little, and what one is allowed to see from the outside does not appear very modern or very destructively powerful.

It is, of course, a case of *ce que l'on voit, et ce que l'on ne voit pas*. This equally applies to the damage which must have been caused by the Russian bombardment, during the Sveaborg military mutiny, both on these islands and at Helsingfors. According to some of my Finnish friends who were there at the time, the destruction wrought by the Russian shells was very great in some places. Anyway, it has left no traces. I looked particularly for these on the ramparts and buildings of Sveaborg, but could see nothing of them, even with the aid of field-glasses. So, the repairing must have been done most skilfully.

At Helsingfors, upon landing in a splashing rain storm, I was met by an old friend and a very well-known Finlander, with whom, in London, I have been a good deal in latter years. He brought me a somewhat alarmingly friendly message and invitation to dinner from the famous Finnish *prima donna*, Madame Aino Ackté, whom you must have heard, some time or other, in the Dresden opera-house. I had last seen and heard her in London, when she came there under the unfortunate management of Van Dyck.

Of course, I was only too willing to accept Madame Ackté's most kind invitation, but the "Arcturus" arrived just at the moment when the dinner party commenced! And in the summer months she resides in a villa in an island suburb of Helsingfors, nearly half-an-hour's journey by motor-boat! And I had still to drive to the hotel, dress suitably for the occasion, and catch that motor-boat! Finally, we arrived at Tulholme only a full hour after the commencement of the banquet, which in the circumstances, considering the difficulties to be overcome, was not after all so bad.

I found a large company of guests assembled round Madame Ackté's hospitable board, and they comprised many nationalities, but chiefly Northerners, of course. Naturally they had proceeded with their "function" some time, when my friend and I made our somewhat dilapidated appearance, for rain still fell in torrents.

To cut a long story short, my first evening at Helsingfors was simply delightful, and most inter-