

had been in power before, they would have avoided the bloody and costly war, and that henceforth the object of the government would be to guarantee the safety of Melilla by the system of fortified positions which were already occupied.

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Two letters written by Professor Ferrer on October 2 and 4, from his cell, to Mr. Naguel, president of the French committee of defense for the political prisoners in Spain, through friendly hands reached their destination. In them Ferrer asserts his innocence of the charges of having incited to acts of violence, and of knowledge of the existence of a revolutionary document, said by the police to have been found in his house. In a later letter to Mme. Charles Albert at Paris he speaks of a letter which had failed to reach his friends, in which he had given a full account of his trial, and the inability of his accusers to find a charge against him, and he adds: "The judge has searched everywhere and found nothing against me. He was obliged at last to call upon the supreme prosecutor, who had charged me with being the director of the rebellion, and demanded proofs of him. He was obliged to admit that he had no proof, but said that he had heard these things."

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The Czar of Russia Visits the King of Italy.

The Russian Emperor crossed Germany and France to reach Italy by a somewhat circuitous route last week in order to make a two days' visit (p. 780) with King Victor Emmanuel at Racconigi. The avoidance of Austria, and the fact of the visit itself, have aroused fears in Germany and Austria that a closer alliance between Russia and Italy is under way, together with a weakening of the bonds of the "triple alliance" between Germany, Austria and Italy. To democratic eyes the threatening of international relationships is a less impressive feature of this Imperial visit, than the precautions taken to protect the Czar against attack from friends of the Russian people, or from the European "under dog." Four great European armies were laid under contribution. As usual, Russian troops formed an unbroken line along the railway from Odessa to the Russian frontier. The train schedule was frequently changed. According to the Berliner Zeitung, "at the start three trains exactly alike stood in the station side by side on parallel tracks. No one knew by which train the Czar would travel. They ran through Russia at intervals of a few miles and halted side by side in the larger stations on the route. Part of the journey the Czar was in the middle train, part of the time in the first, then he changed to the last train. So the terrorists could not know which train to attack, even if they had succeeded in reaching the railroad." Thousands of troops guarded the stations and

lines through Germany and France. A special commission of generals met the Czar on the Italian frontier, and on the way to Racconigi the Imperial train passed through a double line of 23,000 men who guarded the tracks. Four thousand troops were massed along the short road leading from the station to the castle. The Czar left on the 25th for his return through France.

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Finland Again Losing Her Autonomy.

The establishment of a new basis of relationship between the grand duchy of Finland and the Russian Empire, intimated last February (p. 208), seems to have been worked out. The appointment of two "denationalized" Finns to the Finnish senate, by the Governor general of Finland, in the places of two senators who in September notified the Governor general that they would not accept reappointment to office because the Russian cabinet insisted that the Finnish senate contribute \$4,000,000 to the defense of the Empire, is understood to mean the downfall of Finnish autonomy, since this step places the entire machinery of state in the hands of the Russian Governor general and a senate denationalized by Finns who have spent their lives in the governmental service of Russia. As an indication of the Russian advance, an Imperial manifesto was published on the 14th, ordering that the military contribution of \$4,000,000 shall be taken from the Finnish treasury and turned over to Russia. Cossacks began arriving at the important cities of Finland on the 19th. These troops are reported to be the advance guard of the force dispatched by the Russian government as a preventive measure against any movement on the part of the Finns to oppose Russia's action in enforcing its demands for the \$4,000,000 contribution.

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Persia Under Nationalism.

The deposed Shah of Persia (p. 804), as was expected, took refuge with his friends the Russians, and is now living quietly in Odessa.

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The foreign mail advices of the Laffan news service report the appointment as Premier of Persia of the "Sipahdar"—the field marshal, as he is called—the Nationalist leader who, when the Nationalists entered Teheran and took charge of the government, was made minister of war (p. 710). The Sipahdar's real name is Mohammed Velikhan Naser-es-Sultaneh. He is a man of the widest experience in Persian affairs and administration. "Toward the end of the reign of Naser-Eddin," says the report, "he was intrusted with the control of the national mint. The Persian coinage at that time was, owing to the fall in the price of silver, in a depreciated condition, but