

Her Majesty's Government are anxious that you should understand that there is nothing in this appointment which in any way affects their confidence in you as Her Majesty's Representative, and I should add that the Special Ambassador will be merely appointed *ad hoc* to attend the Conference with you, and will not interfere in any respect with the ordinary business of your Embassy.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office,
November 8, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference jointly with yourself.

I have informed by telegraph the Governments of the Guaranteeing Powers of this having been done, and have to request your Excellency also to inform the Porte.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office,
November 20, 1876.

SIR,

YOUR telegraphic Despatch stating that the Porte had agreed, after the assembling of a General Council, on the 18th instant, to the proposed Conference having been received, the Marquis of Salisbury left England this morning, with the members of the Special Embassy, to proceed to Constantinople.

As your Excellency is already aware, the proposals made by Her Majesty's Government on the 4th instant, have already been accepted by the Governments of the other Powers.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.

MY LORD, *Yalta, November 1, 1876.*

I RECEIVED a note yesterday evening from Prince Gortchakow, to inform me that the Emperor was unable to receive me to-day, in consequence of its being the anniversary of the death of the late Empress.

I met Prince Gortchakow yesterday, and inquired whether his Highness had received any satisfactory intelligence from Constantinople. His Highness replied that he had intelligence to communicate, but he preferred that the Emperor should communicate it to me at my audience, which was then fixed for to-day. I received later from St. Petersburg the official declaration published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," announcing that General Ignatiew had been instructed to declare to the Sublime Porte that if within a delay of two days it did not accept an armistice of six weeks or two months, and if it did not give immediate orders to arrest military operations, the Ambassador would leave Constantinople with all the members of the Embassy, and that diplomatic relations would be broken off.

I then understood that this was the intelligence which Prince Gortchakow preferred should be communicated to me directly by the Emperor,

General Schweinitz, the German Ambassador arrived here last night direct from Berlin. He informs me that the official answer of the Porte to the Russian ultimatum is expected to-morrow, and he stated that hopes were entertained that the armistice would be granted by the Porte if it should not be opposed by Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*

St. Petersburg, October 31, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE following paragraph appeared in the official part of this morning's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg :"—

" St. Pétersbourg, le 1^{er} Octobre, 1876.

" Sa Majesté l'Empereur a daigné ordonner aujourd'hui 30^o Octobre que l'Aide-de-camp Général Ignatiew déclare à la Sublime Porte que si dans un délai de deux jours elle n'accepte pas un armistice de six semaines ou de deux mois, et si elle ne donne pas des ordres immédiats pour arrêter les opérations militaires, l'Ambassadeur quittera Constantinople avec tout le personnel de l'Ambassade et les relations diplomatiques seront rompues."

* Repeated to Lord A. Loftus.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.

MY LORD, *Yalta, November 2, 1876.*

I HAD an audience of the Emperor of Russia to-day at Livadia, when His Majesty was pleased to receive me with his customary kindness and cordiality. After some gracious inquiries after my family, His Majesty at once opened on the Eastern question.

His Majesty stated that he had that morning received a telegram from Constantinople, announcing the probable acceptance of the armistice, and he read to me another telegram reporting that orders had been already sent by the Porte to their Commanders to suspend military operations. This, His Majesty observed, was very satisfactory.

On my observing on the sudden change which had taken place between the Sunday when I had seen the Chancellor and the following day, when the ultimatum was dispatched to General Ignatiew, His Majesty said that this had been caused by the intelligence he had received of the complete discomfiture of the Servian army, and his fear that it might be followed by similar atrocities as those which had occurred in Bulgaria.

His Majesty had decided on addressing an ultimatum in order to prevent a further unnecessary effusion of blood, and he observed that no one was more astonished to receive this instruction than General Ignatiew himself.

His Majesty expressed very earnestly his wish that the Conference should meet with the least delay, and that instructions should be immediately sent by the several Governments to enable the Ambassadors at Constantinople to deliberate at once on the necessary preliminaries of peace, taking as the basis the proposals which had been submitted by your Lordship.

The Emperor, then, with great calmness and lucidity, entered on a retrospective view of the past negotiations. He stated that he had given every proof of his desire for peace, and that he had done everything in his power to aid in arriving at a pacific solution of the existing complications.