

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

HORRIBLE DETAILS OF THE SURRENDER OF KARS.

ERZEROU, Dec. 11.—Our first news of the probable fall of Kars reached us through that fine old soldier Gen. Kmetty. Riding in hot haste, he reached this on the afternoon of the 23rd ult. The intelligence he brought simply amounted to this,—that the provisions being all but exhausted, General Williams had sent his aide-de-camp, Major Teesdale, to Mouravieff, to propose the opening of negotiations. Kmetty's own case was a desperate one. He had been formally sentenced to death by the Austrian Government, and had no mercy to expect at the hands of the Russians. Things being at this pass, he waited on General Williams, and besought him to accept his resignation, and allow him to cut his way through the enemy's lines. His sword, he said, was now of no further use, and he would rather blow his brains out, than become a prisoner at discretion. Williams, feeling now little he could do for him if it came to the worst, allowed him to leave, which he did that very night, accompanied by general Kolman and an escort of trusty Kurds. Kolman, as an officer who had held high rank in the Hungarian revolutionary army, was in the same predicament as himself. The Russian soldiers on the move at night, recognise each other by a peculiar, low, long whistle; and, imitating this, the adventurous little party succeeded in passing several of their patrols. At last, however, they were recognised, charged, and dispersed, but, meeting at a place of rendezvous previously fixed upon, continued their journey till they reached this without further accident. Capt. Thompson's interpreter, another Hungarian refugee in the Turkish service, who left Kars after negotiations had been closed, informed us on what conditions it had surrendered. The Redif, or militia, and Bashi-Bazouks were dismissed, to go whither they would. Liberty, however, in the case of the latter, has been at best but a cruel gift. Our winter has set in along the loftier mountain ranges, and report speaks of 150 of those poor wretches being smothered together in a teppi or snowstorm, within the wild passes of the Suwanlee-dagh. Numbers, too, have been frozen to death, and the villages along the road from Kars are filled with their miserable comrades, who have sunk exhausted upon the way. We see them staggering in all day along the principal thoroughfare into the city, haggard and footsore, their countenances half idiotic from cold, hunger and fatigue. Their condition even before leaving Kars, was as wretched as could be; so much so, that it was painful to stir out of doors. They were lying about in all directions, groaning piteously,—watching the Russian provision-wagons, which, as if to add to their misery, passed almost all day within their sight. Townspeople and soldiers alike suffered all the horrors of famine. The former crowded round the General as he rode out of his quarters, and prayed him with all the eloquence of despair, to seek some means of putting an end to their misery. Women forced their way into his very rooms, and, throwing their starving children at his feet, implored him rather to kill them at once than let them perish thus piecemeal for want of sustenance. The hospitals were crowded with sick; on the Thursday before the surrender, 80 men died in one day. Many went mad or became idiots from sheer hunger and hard work. Those who preserved a remnant of health, half-starved as they were, and scarcely clothed, were obliged to mount sentry almost every night up to the ancles in snow. Since the battle of the 29th, there had been no animal food to issue to the troops. Horses had indeed been killed in the General's stables secretly by night, but the meat was sent to the hospitals for the sick. A pittance of bread or flour made into weak broth was all that the working soldiers had to subsist upon. Discipline was almost at an end. The soldiers had at one time almost worshipped General Williams. After the action, in particular, they gathered round their gallant leader, only too happy, after the Eastern fashion, to touch the hem of his garment in token of submission and respect. Now, these same men refuse to salute him, turned their eyes away when they saw him approach. Still, to the last, he hardened

his heart in hope. Omar Pasha had written to him, on his arrival at Batoum, to hold out only another month, and he would be with him Selim Pasha, who had been sent from Constantinople to take the command, forwarded him a similar despatch, informing him that he was at the head of a large and well-disciplined force, all admirably equipped and eager for the fight, and that he would lose no time in marching to his relief. Thus deceived, the General determined to hold out as long as a mouthful of food remained; and, in fact, the last biscuit was issued out of store on the very day of the capitulation.

RETREAT OF OMAR PASHA.

Many persons have already abandoned Erzeroum in the fear of a Russian attack, and taken refuge at Trobizond. Omar Pasha has returned to Soukoun-Kuleh, renouncing his intention to attack Kutais.

FROZEN TO DEATH.—Three natives, attached to the Land Transport Corps in the Crimea, were frozen to death in a tent, and an English soldier and a Russian woman were, it is reported, also found frozen to death in a churchyard. A Sardinian soldier and a cow were found at Kadi-Keny.

A REGLER of our 13th Light Infantry Regiment, who was taken prisoner at the battle of the Tchernay while searching for plunder, managed to escape the other day and come over from the north side across the valley. He reports that the Russians have plenty of provisions, and that he was uncommonly well fed when over there.

WOLVES IN THE CAMP.—On the heights of Bala Clava, between the artillery camp, above the 89th and the sea, where the Royal (1st) are stationed, an outlying artillery sentinel has been killed by wolves, and entirely eaten up. His bones only were found.

TWO OF THE RUSSIAN GRAND DUKES cannot now be far off from Gortschakoff's army. Whether they come down, as it is said, to witness another Inkermann, time will show.

A DREADFUL NIGHT IN THE CAMP.—Last Wednesday (says the writer of a letter dated Dec. 17), was a dreadful night. I was out in it, but fortunately reached home in safety, though when crossing the site of the famous cavalry charge, the hail came down in a storm as thick and close as had the shot of the Muscovites during the engagement, and the sleet almost blinded us, and threw us out of our course, which is rather a dangerous affair when the waters are out, in a country full of *trous de loup* and other holes. But as our soldiery faced the iron hail of the enemy, it would not have done for us to be driven back by hail of a much less formidable description. Others were not so fortunate as ourselves. In the wild ravine near the sailor's old camp a valuable life was lost. A superintendent of the Army Works Corps was there drowned. Returning from the Fourth Division, he was washed away by the flood.

A SNOW-BALL BATTLE.

The 7th Fusiliers have had a great snow-balling. One wing of the regiment had to assault and take a hastily thrown up redoubt from the other wing. Rifle-pits and barricades were made on the occasion, and a great deal of amusement was caused by the plucky manner in which one of the besieger's pits, formed of snow and barrels, was destroyed by a sortie from the garrison. At last, after some hard fighting on both sides, the work was carried by assault. Similar challenges have taken place in various regiments, one company attacking another, and so forth; and in many cases several casualties have been caused by wounds in the face. For example Major Watson, 7th Fusiliers, and others.

THE EAST.—Letters from Constantinople state that the Austrian government has made satisfactory explanation to the Porte respecting the seizure of Colonel Turr, on Ottoman territory. Other accounts from Constantinople say, that the popularity of Omar Pasha has been much diminished by reason of the failure of his present expedition. It was known that he had abandoned the design of marching on Kutais, and was in full retreat upon Soukoun Kuleh. 10,000 of his troops, with others to be despatched, are to be sent to Trobizond, to cover Erzeroum, which place, it is apprehended, will be attacked by General Mouravieff. The command will be given to Ismael Pasha. On the 19th ult. an Austrian vessel laden with 100 oxen and 200 sheep was driven by a storm into the Bay of Sebastopol, when Fort Constantine opened fire upon her, and continued its fire during the whole of one day, when she fell a prey to the flames. The crew made their escape.

The war in the Crimea is not, it appears, over for the winter. The detailed accounts from the camp to December 11 communicate a Russian defeat on a small scale—a little Inkermann in its way, in which a party of the enemy, under the protection of a dark and drizzling morning, stole down upon the little village of Baga, and rushed upon the French who occupied it. The French were surprised, but they speedily recovered themselves—attacked the enemy at the point of the bayonet, and drove them out. A pursuit followed, in which a party of the Cossacks on horseback, coming to a point of the ground over which their horses could not get, dismounted and fled, leaving about forty animals in the hands of the victors. In this affair the French had an officer and seven men killed, and thirteen wounded; and the Russians were said to have left seventy dead upon the ground. The French made twenty prisoners. The report of Marshal Pelissier, in the French official paper, makes the number of prisoners 150—so that this Sunday morning's work was neither profitable nor creditable to the Czar's arms.

We regret to read again of what was so common last year in the English camp—bad roads, deficient provender for the horses, and the death of great numbers of the animals employed in the transport service. One of the accounts speaks of no less than 1200 mules having died since the rains commenced, while the number of broken down carts and other conveyances cannot be calculated. The huts for the soldiers, too, cannot be fixed, owing to the want of efficient transport power, and many of the poor fellows will have to winter under canvas, as they did last year. These statements are considerably at variance with what we had a right to expect and were led to believe. In all such cases, casualties will arise which human foresight cannot anticipate, but it appears that these melancholy results, owing to the climate and to circumstances against which proper caution would have guarded, might have been spared to the brave soldiers who risk their lives so valorously in their country's service. General Wetherhall, the director-general of the transport service, it is added, feels the inefficiency of the corps with which he is intrusted, and proposes that next year it shall consist of 20,000 men and 20,000 mules and horses. This is something, but it would have been still better, had the arrangements for the increased numbers been added in the year which is now closing. The declaration of the late Czar that General January and February were the best defenders of Russia has not been so impressively attended to as could be desired, notwithstanding the woeful experience of last year.

The French capital is to be the scene of a grand council of war, at which all the combined and concentrated movements of the next campaign are to be discussed and determined on. It is said, that this council of war has been urgently desired by Marshal Pelissier, and it will be attended by the Duke of Cambridge, General Airey, and the British Admiral in the Black Sea, Sir Edmund Lyons. Of course the proceedings of this conference will be kept a profound secret, until they are acted upon, if they don't happen to leak out in the meantime, as is too often the case, through the medium of the newspapers. Russia, too, has her agents and spies in every capital of Europe, and the means of transmitting intelligence by cipher from one end of Europe to the other, in a few hours, is an important element in the present as compared with all previous wars. Every one appears to be impressed with the conviction, that the next campaign in the Baltic, in the Black Sea, and in Asia, will be carried out on the part of the Allies with a determination and grandeur of which we have known nothing previously, and this forthcoming council of war is an augury of the fact. But seeing how little has been done hitherto by our ships of war, we must confess, that we receive these intimations with some degree of credulity. The Emperor of the French will be the presiding genius of the Council, and to his energy of character and aptitude for duties of this description both countries have borne witness. If not actually in the field, he is an excellent supervising general at home.

The position of Omar Pasha is attracting considerable attention, and the belief gains ground that the fall of Kars will considerably impede his movements. In fact it has been rumored during the week that he had retired upon Redoubt Kaleb, and another account describes him as retracing his steps across the Ingour. The distance from Kars to the Ingour is 210 miles—from Kutais to Kars 130 miles. It now appears, that he was marching at the date of the last intelligence upon Kutais, and he would have to encounter in his progress difficulties of no ordinary kind. The leading journal of yesterday strongly urges the necessity of supporting Omar Pasha in the Trans-Caucasian provinces. "To cut off," says our metropolitan contemporary, "the garrison of Kars from all communication with Russia, to close the passes of the Caucasus, to scale the ascent which leads to the tableland of Georgia, to drive the Russians before us through Tiflis to the very shores of the Caspian, are enterprises, the results of which would be enormous, but the difficulty of which would be by no means so great as those over which we have already triumphed. Resting on our fleet and a friendly population as a secure basis of operation, it would be easy for the allies to wrest from the hands of the Russians the command of the Caspian Sea, and to restore to Persia that of which Russia has deprived her—the right of navigating what must, in all fairness be considered her own waters. Either we must be prepared to enter on some such enterprise as this, or to leave the Emperor in possession of his present conquests, and in a condition to push them further, so soon as he shall be relieved from the vast concentration of his forces which the contest for the possession of Sebastopol had rendered necessary. The affairs of Asia cannot be left as they are; there, and there alone, Russia is still able to assume the offensive, and will infallibly attain more unless we take away from her that which she now has." The truth of these remarks is worthy of their force. We have a deeper interest in the Asiatic struggle than France. Our Indian empire must be considerably affected by the results of the war so near our own possessions, and we have the strongest motives of self-interest in lowering Russian pride and punishing Russian aggression for the sake of ultimate security to ourselves.

The continental papers, and more especially those of Germany, are filled with disquisitions on the peace and war question; and if the opinion of the German diplomatists be entitled to any weight, their views lean to the side of peace—to the probability of Russia accepting the terms which have been carried to St. Petersburg by Count Esterhazy. But the most remarkable circumstance connected with the question is the appearance of an extraordinary pamphlet in Paris, which is openly attributed to Louis Napoleon, and said to be the exclusive production of his pen, in which the propriety of coming to terms now is strongly advocated. About the authorship of this pamphlet, which is called "The necessity of a Congress to pacify Europe," no doubt, we believe, can exist. Private letters from the French capital do not scruple to name the Emperor as the writer, and a Paris correspondent of Manchester paper distinctly asserts, that the hand of the head of the state is visible in this brochure. The pacific views of Louis Napoleon have been no secret during the last five or six weeks, but he has gone beyond the prescribed limits of sovereigns in advocating it through the printingpress. The morning journal of yesterday, which manufactures public opinion in England, has a merciless castigation of this Royal pamphlet, which shows how much more furious the war fever rages in this country than across the channel. Whole passages are described as inaccurate or exaggerated, and the reasoning of the pamphlet relative to the congress is thus condensed. "If a congress were appointed, every one would be sure of peace, Austria and Prussia would find again the importance which they have lost—Russia, a return to industrial development,—France and England, a salutary check to a war which will test more shrewdly the union of the Allies, and the secondary States, a guarantee and a security in the collective protection of Europe." The London editor does not in-

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