

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

From the European Times, March 2.

This event was announced to Parliament last night by the Ministers of the Crown as having taken place, and the sensation, which it produced in both branches of the Legislature, was not greater than that which it will cause throughout Europe and the world. Of the certainty of the Emperor's death, no doubt need be entertained. Lord John Russell, who is now in the Prussian capital, first telegraphed home that he had been struck by apoplexy,—was on the point of death, and had just taken leave of his family. This was shortly followed by another telegraphic message from the British Minister at Berlin, to the effect, that he actually expired at St. Petersburg yesterday morning, at one o'clock.

It is hardly possible to overrate the importance of the extinction of this single life in the present circumstances of this and other countries. Its effects must be great and immediate, and it is more than probable, that the bloody struggle impending before Sebastopol, in which thousands of lives would certainly be sacrificed, may be spared by the event which we announce this morning. In the case of the extinction of a despotic monarch, like the Emperor of Russia, whose will was the law of fifty or sixty millions of people, the policy which he embodied while living, dies with him, and the restoration of peace becomes, under the circumstances, less a matter of doubt, than of certainty.

The fate which has overtaken this great but unscrupulous Monarch, supposing him to have died a natural, and not like many of his predecessors, a violent death, demonstrates, in the strongest possible manner, how feeble the most potent become, when unstained by that moral power which is stronger than cannons or bayonets, or the most deadly instruments of war. Twelve months back, before the declaration of hostilities, Nicholas Romanoff, who now lies a mass of clay in his ancestral halls on the Neva, was the most proud, the most powerful, and the most arrogant sovereign on this planet; but this small interval of time has served to reduce him to a condition more pitiable than the humblest of his serfs, for in his nefarious attempt to subjugate a weak and a near neighbour, he outraged justice, provoked the hostility of the Western powers, stirred up resistance throughout Europe to his dictation, and lived long enough to discover, that the prepared strength of a long reign and an almost boundless empire, was utterly futile in the pursuit of a bad purpose. The most conservative ruler in the world fell almost literally by his own hand, when he pushed his aggressions on the property of others beyond the bounds of endurance. The violation of the commandment which told him to respect his neighbour's property ended in his destruction,—in that prostration of the mental and the physical powers which superinduced apoplexy.

Although our enemy, it is useless to deny that the dead Czar was a great man, as well as a mighty potentate. Notwithstanding the melancholy fact of a quarter of a million of human creatures having perished, one way or another, since this war began,—sacrificed, in point of fact, to the insatiable ambition of an unscrupulous ruler, yet he had many fine qualities of head and heart; and to such of the British nation as settled in Russia, he was extremely partial, and always paid them the most marked attention. The lion preys not upon carcasses. We can afford to do justice to departed worth, even in the person of a foe, and it is not too much to say, that if he had terminated his career without the Turkish aggression which produced this war, history would have enrolled him amongst the most intellectual and successful Monarchs of modern Europe. Perhaps it is as well for the future peace of the world, that this outbreak of Russian rapacity took place when it did, for guarantees will now be enforced, which will effectually prevent its repetition. The fangs of the wolf will be drawn and the lesson which he has been taught will tell upon his successors for centuries.

The Czar was born on the 6th of July, 1796, and if he had lived until summer would have attained his 59th year. He died not of old age, but of a broken heart—of the disappointment caused by the utter failure of all his schemes,—a terrible example of the effects of unbalanced ambition.

Before a great event like this, all the other foreign affairs of the week fade into insignificance.

A DAY OF FASTING.—A Royal proclamation goes Wednesday, the 21st March instant, for a day of solemn fast, humiliation, and prayer throughout the United Kingdom, in order that the Queen and her people may implore the Divine blessing and assistance on our arms for the restoration of peace. A form of prayer, to be used in all churches and chapels on the occasion, is to be published.

We learn from Athens, of the 24th ultimo, that the French Artillery has left the Piræus, and embarked for the Crimea. The English troops are preparing to take their departure for the Crimea.

CRIMEAN INTELLIGENCE.

We are in the receipt of regular despatches from the Crimea to as late a date as the 16th of February. Telegraphic intelligence from the same quarter reaches to the 20th of February. From these sources of information, we learn that the contemplated assault upon Sebastopol has still been delayed by the inclemency of the weather, and by the consequent impossibility of bringing up a sufficient amount of ammunition for the English batteries. Great progress, however, is making with the railway from Balaklava, which, on the 16th, had already been laid down to the extent of an English mile, and was advancing with a rapidity perfectly astounding, and apparently incomprehensible, to the military engineers. The "Navies," it is plain, are perfectly up to their work, and, acting under the direction of their own skillful officers, are executing it with the vigour natural to the British character when left to its own unthwarted and unimpeded action. The high health and fine condition in which the "civil contractors" have brought these sturdy fellows to the field of their labour, reflects the severest reproach that has yet been offered upon the gross and culpable mismanagement of the military and commissariat authorities; for whilst every regiment or fraction of a regiment hitherto landed in the Crimea has instantly afterwards been reduced to the last extremity of want, suffering, disease, and death, the "navies" have been visited by none of these calamities, but have immediately commenced their work, with as much hearty robustness, unslackened sinew, and matchless strength, as if they were simply employed in laying down the trams of a railway in one of the healthy valleys of England. Such is the difference between military system and civilian common sense.

Whilst matters remain pretty much in statu quo before the walls of Sebastopol, intelligence, of the most gratifying description, has been received from the Turkish camp at Eupatoria. Our readers will remember that, during the last month or six weeks, a large Ottoman force, estimated at about 30,000 men has been in the course of transhipment from Varna to the ancient Crimea port of Kozlov, now better known as Eupatoria. These troops are the flower of the Turkish army—the same brave fellows who triumphantly withstood all the assaults of the Russian generals upon the banks of the Danube—at Kalafat, Citate, Oltenitza, and Silistria. Transferred to the Crimea, they have lost nothing of the discipline and courage which distinguished them in Bulgaria. They are commanded by Omar Pasha in person, and are supported by a small body of the troops of France and England. The position thus occupied by the Turkish General is calculated to produce a striking effect upon the future operations of the campaign. It enables him to intercept the Russian communications between Perekop and the interior of the Crimea, and, at the same time, permits him to threaten, or even to attack, the rear of the Muscovite positions on the northern side of Sebastopol. It was not to be expected, that the Russian Commander-in-Chief would allow our Allies to occupy this important and commanding position without an effort to dislodge them. Accordingly, on the 17th of February, Liprandi's division, consisting of about 40,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry, and 70 guns, moved upon Eupatoria, with the intention of driving Omar Pasha into the sea. We are not yet in possession of the details of the engagements which ensued.

It is certain, however, that the Russian assault was victoriously repulsed. From the brief and fragmentary accounts which have reached us, it appears that the Russians presented themselves in force before the defences of Eupatoria, at six o'clock in the morning,—that a heavy cannonade was instantly opened, and that something in the shape of an assault was attempted under cover of the fire of 70 guns. At 10 o'clock, however, the Russian division was in full retreat, and shortly afterwards, not a vestige of it was to be seen from the walls of Eupatoria, except the dead and wounded which it left behind. The Russian loss is roundly stated at 500, whilst that of the Turks did not exceed 50, or, as some of the accounts say, 15. It is probable, that the lesser figure refers to the number actually killed, of whom, we lament to say, Selim Pasha, the Egyptian General, was one.

This repulse of the Russians at Eupatoria is likely to be attended with the best results. It will restore the confidence of the Allies in the valour of their Turkish confederate, and it will convince the enemy, that Omar Pasha has brought with him to the Crimea the same high skill for successful command, which so signally distinguished him in the Danubian campaign of the last year.

What the next movement of the Allies in front of Sebastopol may be, it is impossible to conjecture. It is probable, however, that it will take the form of a reconnaissance, in considerable strength, in the direction of Inkerman, Baidur, and the country eastward of Balaklava. The Russians have lately re-appeared in unascertained numbers upon the banks of the Tcheranaya, and are supposed to be threatening the right of the Allied position. No assault upon the town or fortress could with prudence

be attempted, while such a force was occupying the country in the immediate neighbourhood. We presume, therefore, that we shall hear of an engagement in the field, before we have tidings of anything in the shape of an assault upon the city.

DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS AT EUPATORIA, OUR VERSION.

Lord Raglan has transmitted the following despatch to the War-office:—

"BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 18.—A force, said to be 40,000, of Russians, with a large number of guns, attacked Eupatoria at daylight on the 17th, and was repulsed with loss by Omar Pasha. The Turkish loss is said to be inconsiderable, but Selim Pasha, commanding the Egyptian brigade, was killed. The British men-of-war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect. The action terminated at 10 a.m., when the Russians retired a few miles."

The *Monitor* publishes a despatch of a nearly similar character. Other despatches have been received in confirmation, and stating the loss of the Russians to have amounted to 500 and the Turks to 15 killed and 35 wounded. A battery served by the French lost 4 men.

VIENNA, Feb. 20.—The attack on Eupatoria on the 17th was a serious affair. The Russians, with 80 guns, made several vigorous attacks. They left 428 men on the field, and carried off many wounded. The Turks lost 80 killed. Selim Pasha, the Egyptian Commander, was killed, and one of the Turkish generals wounded. The Russians bivouacked during a bitterly cold night on the way to Simpheropol, or, rather, on the way to Sak.

THE RUSSIAN VERSION.

BERLIN, Tuesday, Feb. 27.—Advices from St. Petersburg of this day's date state that the following despatch had been received from Prince Menschikoff, dated the 19th of February:—On the 17th, a portion of the troops encamped in the neighbourhood of Eupatoria made a reconnaissance against the town to within a distance of 250 yards (*toises*.) They opened a crossed fire of artillery, and in a short time succeeded in dismounting a portion of the enemy's guns, and in blowing up five caissons of ammunition. Having assured himself, that Eupatoria was defended by 40,000 men and 100 guns, Gen. Churleff, who commanded the detachment, gave orders to retire out of range, which was done in perfect order.

An English cavalry regiment from Bombay has arrived at Cairo on its way to the Crimea.

It is intended immediately to reinforce the army in the Crimea by sending out at least 10,000 additional troops, exclusive of cavalry.

"Tefik Pasha, son-in-law of Omar Pasha, has died at Eupatoria of typhus fever. Fresh troops continually arrive at Balaklava. A great many huts have arrived."

Recruiting for the 4th Light Dragoons, whose numbers have been considerably thinned during the present war, is going on with considerable vigour at Manchester, where there are already 2900 fresh horses and 140 men in active training.

The attention of the Board of Ordnance has been called to a newly-invented shell, without a fuse, and so constructed as to explode at any given interval, according to the desire of the person projecting it. It is the invention of a Frenchman.

THE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO THE CRIMEA.—Paris, March 1.—No one now doubts longer as to the Emperor's journey. He will go at the end of this week or at the beginning of next. He will be escorted by the Cent Gardes, the Guides, and the gendarmes of the Imperial Guard. Some of these corps have already received their orders. It is further affirmed, that the Empress goes with him.

EUPATORIA, Feb. 21.—Since the 17th no new attempt has been made against Eupatoria. To-day we have seen Russian infantry columns and trains of waggons moving away in the direction of Simpheropol. Several villages in the neighbourhood are now burning. Three heavy guns have been landed, and new works of fortification are in course of construction.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRUSSIA.

The French Government still maintains that Prussia, as a preliminary condition to taking part in the bonhomie of Vienna, must engage herself to abide by the majority, whatever that may be, and Prussia, or rather General de Wedell, declines that engagement, asserting that the point is one, which is a proper matter for discussion by the Conference which he asks to be admitted to.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.—BERLIN, March 1.—Lord John Russell arrived here yesterday forenoon. He waited upon Baron de Mantouffel, in the afternoon. He had an audience of the King to-day. M. de Wedell, the Prussian Envoy, left Paris on Thursday night for Berlin. He will return to Paris on Tuesday or Wednesday next.

BERLIN, March 2.—The dinner at Court to-day in honour of Lord John Russell has been deferred.

A VISIT FROM A RUSSIAN GRANDER, AT A RESPECTABLE DISTANCE.—On the 13th, a Russian officer—evidently of high rank, from the numerous and brilliant staff by which he was attended, and who was supposed to be one of the Grand Dukes round Balaklava. Only a few Cosacks attended this party, who surveyed our position on the hills from the Turkish redoubts commanding the Woronsow road. The Grand Duke—if it was he—had a long telescope with a stand on which to rest it, while surveying the lines. The whole party stayed nearly three hours in No. 3 redoubt, and if one might judge from the actions of the officers, a long and exciting discussion on the merits of our defences appeared to be going forward. If the Grand Duke intends attacking Balaklava, I by no means envy him the feelings, with which he must have recognised, by the furrows on the hill sides, our deep lines of trenches, breast-works, wet ditches, infantry pits, and above all, the cannon with which every point is surmounted. Whatever Russian General takes Balaklava from us will purchase his conquest dearly, though, as it is the very root of our whole expedition, I doubt if the Emperor of our Russia would think any sacrifice too great to gain possession of the ruined, dirty hamlet of which all the world is talking just now.

THE REBELLION IN AUSTRALIA.

By the letters and papers brought by the Overland Mail, which have reached us to-day we have later accounts of the disturbances at Ballarat, which are as follow:—

Observer Office, Tuesday Morning.

With deep and heartfelt regret we have received the following intelligence through the medium of the *Straits Times*. We have little doubt, however, that law and loyalty will speedily triumph:—

From the Straits Times, Jan. 16.

After the above was set in type, we received, via Batavia, Melbourne and Adelaide papers to the beginning of December. The Melbourne journals mention, that the disturbances at Ballarat Diggings had assumed the form of a rebellion. The diggers had armed themselves and fought with the troops, the latter consisting of detachments of the 40th and 12th Regiments. Several of the soldiers were shot, and many of the diggers were slain. Mr. Commissioner Reed was a prisoner in the hands of the diggers. Monster meetings had been held at Melbourne and at the diggings, at which the liberty of all digger prisoners was demanded as also the dismissal of Mr. Foster, the Colonial Secretary.

The *Argus*, of Dec. 6, says, the latter functionary had resigned. Melbourne was in a state of the greatest excitement, and every one in the service of the government was sworn in as a special constable, not excepting the Post-office clerks, so that, on the arrival of the *Argus* (9) from England, the Post-office was closed. The greatest excitement prevailed. The diggers had raised the banner of independence.

The *Argus*, of Dec. 6, states, that the colonists were engaged in a civil war, but the respectable classes were with the government. Governor Sir Charles Hotham had called upon all good citizens to join him in enforcing the law. "Accordingly," says the *Argus*, "Melbourne's tens of thousands were as one man, and Sir Charles Hotham might have, yesterday, proceeded to Ballarat with a mounted guard of armed gentlemen, such as never escorted a British governor before."

A government *Gazette Extraordinary* was issued on Dec. 4, which proclaimed martial law within the district of Buninyong, from noon of Dec. 6; but it is especially declared, that no sentence of death shall be carried into execution without his Excellency's express consent.

VIGOUR AND DEXTERITY OF THE ZOUAVES.—The Russians in the town have been extremely quiet of late, and no longer show in the same numbers, promenading in and round their works, as formerly. The Cosack Battery which they have erected to the north of the valley of Inkerman still maintains its fire on all who are sufficiently imprudent to quit the line of our defences on that side. The new ships'-gun battery, erected above the Tcheranaya, on the rear of our lines, also opens an occasional cannonade on the wretched stragglers who descend the valley in search of wood for fuel. It has caused no casualty yet, nor firing at any shorter range than 4,000 yards. The Zouaves are by no means deterred by its presence. These indefatigable troops avail themselves with the most persevering ingenuity of all the resources which this un hospitable country presents. Some of them have constructed snarcs for wild ducks, which they place in the Tcheranaya each night, and descend to before the break of day to secure their spoil. Others have made good nuts of twine, and with them they are eminently successful—never failing to secure an immense haul of fine fish, a large proportion of which they sell to the officers about the English camp.

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