

steamers, and not of mere transports. The Russians attacked this flotilla as it lay at anchor in the roadstead of Sinope with an enormous disproportion of force, inasmuch as the division of the Russian fleet under the command of Nachimoff, at Sinope, consisted of four ships of the line, 120 guns each—*Tri Sviatitela*, *Grossfurst Constantin* (Admiral's ship), *Paris*, and *Zool Apostol*; two ships of 84 guns—*Rostislav* and *Sviatoslav*; and the two steamers, *Wladimir* and *Odessa*.—Admiral Kornileff arrived in another steamer just after the close of the engagement. This Russian squadron was bound on a cruise, and had already, as far back as the middle of November, been on the chase after these Turkish vessels, and had hoped to come up with them in either Sinope, Varna, or Baltschik.

One of those fogs which are so prevalent in the Black Sea at this time of year, and which render the navigation of it so difficult, concealed the approach of the enemy, who had been blockading the port, and the land batteries appear to have been unprepared for his approach. The first object seen in the mist was the Russian fleet in overwhelming force, at a short distance, bearing down. The Turkish vessels were quietly at anchor. A Russian three-decker placed itself between a Turkish frigate, the *Mixania*, and the Egyptian frigate, the *Danietta*. These two ships before the enemy could open his fire, threw in their broadsides so close, that the Russian three-decker was severely injured. In the meantime, another Russian ship of the line attacked two corvettes between which it succeeded in placing itself. The rest of the Russian fleet quickly came up, threw in their fire together on the helpless Turkish vessels; and the combat became general. The Turkish steamer, *Tait*, foreseeing the disaster that was sure to happen, got its steam up, and, not without great difficulty and much danger, succeeded in gliding between the Russian ships, hotly pursued by two corvettes and a steamer. When it had got out of the reach of fire, it was found that she had not less than seventeen cannon balls in her, and had two men killed, and four wounded. According to some accounts, the Russian fleet was composed of 18 ships—three-deckers, two-deckers, frigates, corvettes, and steamers, and that the Turkish flotilla lying at anchor consisted only of six frigates, three corvettes, and two steamers. No one denies that a complete victory was gained by the Russians. The Turkish frigates, however, received their gigantic assailants with the greatest courage and spirit. They only succumbed to the immense superiority of force, and that not without inflicting severe injury on the Russians; and they fought to the last with a degree of courage which has never been exceeded in naval warfare.

So completely were the Turks taken by surprise that, although two Russian steamers had reconnoitred the roads—which are renowned for their security even in winter—on the day preceding the attack, the boilers of the Turkish steamers were not heated when the battle began; and when the Russian vessels were pouring in their broadsides, it was found that they received the fire of their own batteries.

Before the squadron was destroyed, it had con-

veyed arms and ammunition to the coast between Gelendshik and Souchumkaleh.

The intelligence of the affair at Sinope caused the greatest excitement both in England and France, and instructions were promptly and definitively despatched to the commanders of the allied fleets to guard against the repetition of such a disaster. The allied squadron also entered the Black Sea, and apprised the Governor of Sebastopol of their intention not to permit farther aggression. Early, too, in January, the Turks attacked the Russians at Citale and defeated them, driving them back on Krajova, with a loss of three or four thousand men.

Early in April a British vessel, carrying a flag of truce, was fired into, and it was decided by Admiral Dundas and Hamelin to punish it in the most summary manner. To have attacked Sebastopol, unless aided by a military movement in the rear, would have been premature, and perhaps unavailing. Odessa, the chief commercial city of the Russian Empire, and the emporium whence the Czar draws a large portion of the supplies necessary for the subsistence of his army in the Danubian provinces, was therefore chosen as the point of attack. Accordingly, on the 24th April, the combined fleets appeared before that city, and bombarded it for several hours, inflicting immense damage. Russia has thus felt, for the first time since it was a nation, the weight of the arm of England—and should the war entail no greater calamity, the Czar would not remain unpunished for his unprovoked aggression, the bombardment of Odessa will, however, only be the first of a series of attacks, as the combined fleet had sailed for Sebastopol, to attack, as supposed, that post. French and British troops are rapidly being landed, and accounts may be daily expected of operations undertaken on the sea coast of the Dobradja, in the Danube itself, and on the Crimea.

The greatest exertions are being made, in the meantime, by the Czar to prepare for the conflict, and he has announced his resolution to continue the contest while he has a man or a gun left. In a proclamation, dated the 23rd of April, he has declared that Russia is contending for the Christian faith of her co-religionists, oppressed by their merciless enemies, and that the real object of England and France, is not only to fight against orthodox Chris-