

The following extract from a private letter received by last mail, may interest some of our readers, though it contains no news relating to the war:

"Agamemnon," Malta, Jan. 5th, 1856.
The *Agamemnon* arrived at Malta the day before Christmas, precisely two years since the occasion when she joined the allied fleets assembled in Beikos Bay. Our passage from the Piræus was unusually long and stormy; indeed for two days it blew a gale from the westward, and as we were not allowed to use steam, you may suppose we did not make much in the right direction. Getting, however, at last to the coast of Sicily, we were well repaid by a glorious view of *Ætna*, and of the part of that beautiful island which stretches from Syracuse to its southern extremity. Since arriving, we have been and still are enveloped in an extraordinary mist of doubt and uncertainty, as to whether we go to England or not. The fact is, that three years of constant hard work, with several bombardments, has so shaken the ship, that she requires a thorough rest in dock. Now, as there is at Malta but one dock, and that employed constantly by the pressing requirements of the gun-boats and transport service, the people in authority here say positively, they cannot take us in hand, and that we must go to England. On the other side, Sir E. Lyons, who was here the other day on his way home, is exceedingly reluctant to part with what he calls his chief supporter, and is equally determined that we remain; so the matter rests. I myself am inclined to believe that the Admiral will carry his point, though perhaps I may be misled by my own wishes, which, however great may be the attraction for England, lead me on the broad principle of self-interest to desire that I complete my four years in the ship; thus, too, giving me what I particularly wish, the next campaign season in the Black Sea. It is also to be considered that were we now to go home, the extensive repairs they would consider necessary might detain us beyond even the time for decisive operations in the Baltic. What a fate for the *Agamemnon*. It will be very easy, I think, to patch us up sufficiently to carry us well through the summer, and take us to England by the Christmas of next year; for after all there is little the matter even now, which with common care, would prevent our running for a long time to come. You will know our fate, before we do ourselves.

I enjoyed our stay at Stamboul very much, for as we lay close to the shore, up the Golden Horn, it was easy in a few moments to reach in a caique any part either of the ancient or modern city. Each day off duty was dedicated to some new excursion in search of somewhat to interest or amuse us; at one time, a ride to that terrestrial paradise of the Stamboul Turks, the sweet waters of Europe, now of course deserted through the unseasonableness of out-door amusements; at another, a run over to Scutari, and so to that celebrated point of view, from which can be seen the richest panorama in the world, that of the Bosphorus and Sea of Marmora even to Buykdere; a walk along the ancient walls from the Golden Horn to the Sea of Marmora, with a visit to the castle of Seven Towers, was perhaps on the whole most interesting, and richest in high historical associations; but the sight of the Sultan in great state going to the mosque on the occasion of a high festival, and attended by all the ladies of his court, superbly dressed in magnificent carriages, was one which from its almost barbaric splendour, with the interest attached to the declining monarch, must remain for a long time fresh in my recollection. We had, in an hour, while the Sultan remained in the mosque, ample opportunity of investigating the claims of the ladies to admiration; they truly were very beautiful, but less so, I think, than our own fair countrywomen in England. It was most remarkable to note the difference which little more than a year had made in the city and its inhabitants. French influence, I am sorry to say, is paramount at court; but we have made ourselves to be thoroughly respected by our general deference to national prejudices—the extent and liberality of our commercial dealings. In fact, among the people, the preference of us to the French is very remarkable,

and was shown most unmistakably to myself on several occasions.

We were a week at the Piræus, four days of which were spent in quarantine. This we employed in visiting by boat the islands looking upon the bay of Salamis. The weather was delightfully warm, and on one occasion, I picked a magnificent bunch of wild flowers, principally consisting of anemones and sicloman, a flower in high request in English hot-houses. I have preserved some of the bulbs, which I hope to send, if I do not take them to you.

It had been a matter of some doubt whether or not we should remain long enough in Attica to get pratique for a visit to Athens; it was then with an unusual amount of pleasure, that I found myself free to wander where I would in a land sacred by so many associations, to whose genius we of these latter days owe all we possess of lofty purity in art, and loftier thoughts in every branch of learning, but of which (the original impulse) even now we can but aspire to be distant and humble imitators. A very tolerable coach carried our party over the four miles of good road between the capital and its seaport, setting us down at the Hotel d'Angleterre. We there obtained a guide, and at once started forth, eager to make the most of the short time left to us. I have done wrong in not first describing the effect which even a distant view of the great remnants of antiquity possessed in causing one completely to overlook the miserable Greece of to-day in contemplating the glory of the ancient city, even as modern Athens is dwarfed into insignificance by the overshadowing grandeur of the Acropolis. I was possessed with this feeling throughout, and although, save the Parthenon, and the adjacent temples, with those of Theseus, the Winds, and the few columns yet standing of Jupiter Olympus, little now remains of the glories of the ancient city not overgrown by the modern, swept away by successive conquerors, or the yet greater destroyer Time, these were all I had eyes to see. The temple of the Winds came first, which having sufficiently admired, though all unable properly to appreciate its manifold beauties, we moved on to Theseus, stopping for a moment to inspect the ancient market place, of which there still remain tables of prices, stone blocks for exposing wares, &c. The temple of Theseus has been made by government a sort of museum in which is stored a large part of the statuary, &c., collected at various sites; it was therefore, as you may suppose, with a degree of interest almost amounting to awe, that we first introduced ourselves within its time-honoured precincts, and looked around us upon its many wonders of ancient art. They have all been more or less injured, but it was impossible for the least capable among us for appreciating such things, not to be struck with their manifold excellences. It is not the least part of these extraordinary productions, that nameless grace of form, that easy flow of drapery, so much lacked in most of our modern works, and which makes these studies of all that is highest in art. From the Theseus to Mars' Hill, or more properly the Areopagus, is but a few hundred paces on a slight ascent; arrived there, I knew that I was standing on the very spot from which had been delivered those wonderful orations that have descended to us of the great men of living Greece, which still stand as high with us in their department as in theirs the statuary of which I have spoken. More than all, I remembered that from there St. Paul had addressed the "Men of Athens" in the words to all familiar, but which, in the full sight of the great temples of their triumphant gods, had proved of so little avail. The Areopagus is but a sort of rounded hill, about which could be easily grouped large multitudes, and on which were the marble seats of the judges who formed the ancient court.

7th.—The mail is about to leave unexpectedly, and I have therefore time for little more. I must refer you, until I return, to descriptions of better observers than I of those most wonderful among the highest triumphs of architecture, the temple of Minerva, &c. &c. I have lingered among them all, from the Jupiter Olympus to the classic shades of the olives, which now cover the Academy. I look forward to the time when I can tell you all about them.

News by last night's Mail.

LONDON, Friday.—The *Times* Paris correspondent writes, that private letters from St. Petersburg, dated 17th inst. state that the Czar has declared formally that the Austrian propositions were to be the basis of ulterior pacific negotiations, and for the present may be considered as true preliminaries of peace.

Among the diplomatic body and the court, peace was regarded as inevitable, and the unconditional acceptance of the propositions had produced considerable sensation in that capital, with the exception of the officials. This sudden turn of pacific ideas was generally badly received, not merely by the old Muscovite party, but also by the mass of the people. The popular fanaticism had been roused to such a pitch after the fall of Sebastopol, that at present it is a work of difficulty to make them accept a political arrangement as necessary or desirable for Europe. The public mind was greatly agitated, and an outbreak would not be surprising.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* states that in that capital the most strenuous efforts are making to induce England not to insist on the dismantling of the Russian fortresses on the Eastern shores of the Black Sea.

The chances of a speedy and pacific settlement are on the increase, and Austrian sincerity is as much questioned as on former occasions, but appearances are fair and straightforward.

The Czar has ordered his army in the Crimea to cease hostilities, without waiting for a formal armistice, although it is rumoured that an armistice will be agreed on for three months.

LATEST.—The *Daily News* of Saturday, on undoubted authority says that the preliminaries will be signed probably before Tuesday—certainly before the meeting of Parliament. An armistice will be concluded immediately after signing the preliminaries, and negotiations, with the view of a final and comprehensive treaty, will be commenced immediately. It further states that it is the determination of the Allied Powers to exercise to the fullest extent the right reserved to them by the Austrian proposals to bring forward additional stipulations to the general interests of Europe.

Conferences had been held at Constantinople to adjust the first and fourth points relative to the Principalities.

The fighting continues on both sides of Sebastopol. The Allies had blown up two of the docks.

A deep fosse had been dug and a parapet 12 feet high raised around the town of Kertch, and the defences of St. Paul's and Yenikale, within which the troops are huddled.

A rumour had reached the camp, that Gen. Wrangle had been reinforced at Arabat, and meditated an attack across the ice.

The Russians had taken up their winter quarters at Simpheropol, and Backschiserai and at Kingburn. They had 30,000 men between Petroski and Ofriakoff, and fears were entertained of an attack on the fortress. The garrison had been reinforced. The flotilla was frozen in, but would aid in the defence.

All the officers of the Anglo-Turkish contingent are ordered to quit Constantinople and join their corps at Kertch.

Constantinople letters of Jan. 10, state that Gen. Mouravieff, after having destroyed the advanced works of Kara, had left in the place and garrison about 1000 men well provisioned, and had gone toward Gumri with the bulk of his army.

It is stated and afterwards contradicted that Marshal Pellissier, General Codrington and Omar Pasha had like Gen. Gortschakoff, received orders from their respective Governments, to stop hostilities. Such orders will not be sent till an armistice be nominally concluded. It is hoped that such armistice may be signed on or about the 2d February.

AFFAIRS IN THE CRIMEA.

Accounts from the Crimea to the 6th of Jan., mention no fact of the least importance. The cold was intense, and sea had frozen along the coast, but particularly in the ports of Cazatch and Balaclava, and in the roadstead of Sebastopol. The ice, however, soon disappears.—The men who suffered most were the porters and laborers recently arrived and not yet inured to the climate.

The cannonade from the north forts continued uninterrupted. It is remarked that recently the Russians have fired shells into Sebastopol, whereas they formerly threw only bombs, hence it is inferred that they have received fresh supplies of material. The fire on the city does not much damage, but is directed with a sagacity that shows that they have accurate information of all the movements in the allied camp.

The *Globe*, the Palmerston organ, of Friday evening January 25th, announces in a leading article that the warlike preparations of the Government are proceeding as if no pacific intimation had been received within the last few hours. It says a requisition had been sent for transport accommodation for 4000 horses, or nearly 60,000 tons of shipping. Lord Palmerston while meeting cordially the advances of peace, will carefully provide for a possible failure in diplomacy.

Kertch letters of Dec. 29th mention that although locked in by the ice the garrisons of Kertch and Yenikale want for nothing. Fuel was the only article at all scarce.

UNITED STATES.

A message from the President endorsing the course of the Missouri invaders and condemning the Emigrant aid Society has excited great indignation in many circles. We fear that the Kansas question will yet involve the nation in civil war. The settlers in Kansas never will consent to be ruled by the citizens of Missouri. If the latter should repeat their invasion, the free West will send men to help the settlers.—Then comes the tug of war. Nothing can prevent this fearful result, so far as we can see, but the timely intervention of Congress against the Missourians.—*Herald and Journal*.

HAZARD'S GAZETTE.

Wednesday, February 20, 1856.

The *Courier* arrived with the Colonial and American Mails last night about 10 o'clock. The British Mail Steamer had not arrived in Halifax on Saturday. No doubt the weather was too boisterous. The *Persia* which had sailed the week previous, had a protracted passage of nearly fourteen days, which proves that the weather while she was at sea was far from being propitious, as it was confidently expected, after her trial trip from the Clyde to Liverpool, that she would have made the run in seven or eight days. The Collins steamer *Pacific* sailed from Liverpool on the 23d Jan. (three days before the *Persia*) and no tidings had been heard of her after being out three weeks; a steamer was to be sent in search of her from New York. We have no later news than the Telegraphic despatch published in our last, but we have the details in the paper which all tend to confirm the peace rumors, the most interesting items we have copied in to day's paper.

The House of Assembly has been hitherto engaged in the usual routine business of appointing committees, and incidental to the commencement of the Session the Treasurer and Collector of Impost accounts have been presented. A resolution to revise the License Laws has passed the House, and the following very important one with respect to Schoolmasters was moved by Hon. Mr. Warburton and agreed to.

Resolved, That a Committee of seven members be appointed to report by Bill or otherwise, on the expediency of making provision for Schoolmasters under the Free Education Act; when obliged to discontinue teaching from continued sickness or old age. Should any measure of interest general or local, be mooted we shall not fail to present our readers with everything relative thereto.

ADDRESS.

A deputati Park on Satu the following To Lieut. Col Sir, It is with that it is you land. On your three years country in t distinguish that your ab sent, and we associations land of your The short which you o ble office unc sufficient to and indepe duties attac yourself, an In bidding, departure, regard and plary Lady, to hope tha compatible genial with day for the Island you whatever c mand your your lot ma, you our ear welfare of

- Charles You
- Joseph Hens
- James Dingy
- Ed. Haythor
- John Wright
- Henry Falm
- Rev. L. C. J
- F. Langwort
- J. H. Peters
- W. Candall
- James D. H
- Theo. Desb
- Wm. Duse
- J. H. Conre
- John Morris
- Chas. Desb
- D. Hodgson
- T. B. Tremai
- Robt. Stewa
- Peter M'Go
- John Breck
- Benj. Desb
- W. H. Holt
- D. FitzGera
- Geo. T. Hu
- James Morr
- Peter Desb
- William Me
- Ewen M'Ni
- Robert Has
- Charles A.
- W. H. Ga
- James Nite
- Robt. Potts
- Thos. Murj
- John Harp
- George Ma
- Wm. Birch
- George Hi
- William H
- Theo. Desb
- John Darre
- Chris. B. S
- John Stam
- Alexander C.
- Henry C.
- William Ja
- Wm. Ryan
- Thos. Desb
- Robt. A. S
- William G
- William P
- Alex. M'N
- Isaac Smit
- Isaac Smit
- Henry Smit
- Nathan W
- Nathan W
- Benj. Chas
- Bertram M
- John Stani
- Thomas D
- John Ryan
- Charles H
- David Chr
- Thos. Desb
- James Evi
- William V
- Kenneth J
- John C. B
- John A. B
- James De
- Wm. T. F
- Alexander
- William E
- Samuel M
- Frederick
- Wellings
- Frederick
- Samuel B
- James De
- Robert Pe
- James Mi