

that as Churchmen they possess a sacred character, which must not be compromised, and spiritual privileges which it were ruin to forfeit.—*New York Churchman.*

News Department.

From Papers by R. H. S. Asia, March 17.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.—VIENNA, MARCH 15.—The first meeting of the Congress took place this day. There were present one French, two Ottoman, two English, and two Austrian plenipotentiaries. The discussion on the general principles of the basis of the negotiations terminated satisfactorily.

The second edition of the *Times* contains a Vienna despatch dated this morning, which says the only thing known of the previous day's Conference is, that it began with a pacific speech on the part of Count Buol. The Conference lasted from one o'clock till past three. The *Times* also contains communications from its special correspondent in the Crimea to March 2nd.

THE CRIMEA.—Intelligence had arrived at Constantinople from the Crimea up to the 8th inst., Nothing important up to that date had occurred.

General Forsy had been recalled to France. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was seriously indisposed. The intelligence of the death of the Emperor Nicholas caused great sensation at Constantinople.

Preparations are being made in Constantinople for the visit of Napoleon.

Count Zamoisky organises at Schumla a second regiment Ottoman Cossacks in which Poles will be incorporated.

The railway from Balaklava to Sebastopol was to be finished by March 15th.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following telegraphic despatch, addressed by Admiral Brant to the French Minister of Marine:—

PORT OF KAMIESCH, MONTEKKLO, March 7.—The news of the death of the Emperor Nicholas arrived at Kamiesch the 6th inst., at seven o'clock in the evening. For some days we have been throwing rockets into the town, which have succeeded in setting fire to it in different places. Two Russian officers have deserted and sought refuge in the English lines. The siege works are pursued with activity.

BERLIN, March 15.—We learn from Knigsberg, under date of the 15th inst., that the Emperor Alexander has ordered that the part of the Crimea from Theodosia to Kertsch, hitherto under the command of General Chomutoff, shall also be placed under the military command of Prince Gortschakoff.

Despatches from Balaklava of the 3rd state that the railway now extends half-way to the camp, that the position of Balaklava has been strengthened, and that the weather and health of the troops had improved.

The *Journa de Constantinople* gives details of a fight which took place on the 23rd February before Sebastopol. A battalion of Zouaves carried by assault the plateau of Malakoff Tower, spiked eighteen guns, and drove the enemy out of their trenches, retiring ultimately before a body of 8000 Russians. In this heroic struggle 380 French were put hors de combat. General Malet was wounded in both arms. The *Presse* of Constantinople estimates the Russian loss at 1000, and reduces the French loss to 250. Some journals say that General Malet received five slight wounds while dispersing a Russian column, which attempted to cut off his retreat.

The *Times* correspondent, writing on the 2nd inst. says.—The railway has commenced to render service in saving the hard labour attendant on the transport of shot and shell, and it is quite evident that an unusual display of energy has been visible recently in most of the public departments connected with the army. The word *must* begins to be heard; officers are now told so many things must be in the batteries on such a day, and that such a work must be finished by such a time. It is now rumoured that our fire will really be opened against the place very soon. The 24-pounder guns are all to be retired from our batteries, and 32-pounder ship guns are to be put in their stead. In addition to these, eight new 8-inch guns are to be added to our armament, and are to be advanced to the second parallel, where their fire will be most destructive. All this is to be done by a date which will have elapsed several days ere these lines are in print. In addition to our present stores it is hoped that 30,000 shot and shell will be up at the front ere the 9th of this month. The Russians have begun to construct an advance from their new entrenchments to Malakoff. This is besieging with a vengeance. The French seem to have given up all notion of taking this work from the enemy, although twenty thousand men were under arms the other night to do it. Emboldened by this success the Russians are preparing to throw up another work on the right of the new trenches. A council of war was held at Lord Raglan's on the 27th, after the departure of the post. The weather has been of the most extraordinary character for the last few days. Three days ago the very sight of a great coat or a warm pair of gloves made one perspire. The next day it was so cold that even our immense stores of warm clothing were not superfluous. Out of the midst of summer you are here suddenly precipitated at half an hour's notice into the midst of winter.

DESPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

Before Sebastopol, March 3, 1855.

MIL LOND.—Some more ships are said to have been sunk since I wrote to your lordship on the 27th ult. I am not certain of this; but, according to my observa-

tion, the new barrier across the harbor appeared, yesterday evening, to have been extended beyond the point at which I had seen it two days before.

The enemy is busily occupied in establishing a work considerably nearer the French batteries on the extreme right than that which was attacked by our allies on the morning of the 24th.

The enemy seem to be increasing their forces in the neighborhood of Sebastopol, both to the northward and upon the Tcherdnaya.

The railway continues to progress satisfactorily, and we have already made considerable use of it in the conveyance of stores, hutting materials, &c., as far as Kadikoi.

The electric telegraph is completed between that village and my head quarters.

The weather has again become extremely cold, and there was a fall of snow yesterday, and some little this morning.—I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

To Lord Panmure, &c.

The funeral of the late Czar is to take place on the 20th inst.

Accounts from St. Petersburg state, that the taking of the oath of fidelity to the new Emperor, and in general all acts of homage to him, have been marked by a total absence of enthusiasm.

The Patriotic Fund now exceeds £1,000,000.

Don Carlos expired at Trieste on the 10th March.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* states that from the commencement of the siege of Sebastopol up to the 7th ult., upwards of 100 days—the number of French soldiers killed whilst employed in the siege was only 454, so far from our soldiers being clothed in Gallic uniforms, no fewer than 15,000 articles of under clothing had been placed by Lord Raglan at the disposal of the French authorities.

We hear from the Crimea of the death of another chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Wbyatt, chaplain to the second division. He was much respected by officers and men, and his loss will be severely felt by all who knew him and his labours.

The subscription set on foot some time ago to purchase winter clothing for the Turkish troops in the Crimea has just been closed, and the returns show a total of proceeds amounting to 1,100,000 piastres or £10,000—a sum sufficiently creditable to Constantinopolitan generosity.

General de la Marmora has left Paris for Turin, to take the command of the Piedmontese army, which is about to embark for the Crimea.

RUSSIA.

The following is the manifesto of the new Emperor on ascending the throne:—

"By the Grace of God, we, Alexander II., Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russias, King of Poland, &c.,

"To all our faithful subjects make known:—

"In his impenetrable ways, it has pleased God to strike us all with a blow as terrible as it was unexpected.

"After short but serious illness, which in the last days developed itself with unward of rapidity, our beloved father, the Emperor Nicholas Paulowitch, expired this day, February 18 [March 2nd.] Words cannot express our grief, which will be also the grief of all our faithful subjects. We submit with resignation to the impenetrable views of Divine Providence. We seek consolation only in it, and from it alone do we expect the necessary strength to support the load which it has pleased the Almighty to impose upon us. In the same manner as our beloved father, whose loss we weep, devoted all his efforts and every moment of his life to the labours and cares claimed by the welfare of his subjects—in like manner do we also, at this sad but grave and solemn moment, in ascending our hereditary throne of the Empire of Russia, and of the Kingdom of Poland, and of the Grand Duchy of Finland, which are inseparable from it, take before the invisible God, always present at our side, the sacred engagement never to have any other object than the prosperity of our country. May Providence, which has called us to this high mission, may we, under its guidance and protection, consolidate Russia in the highest degree of power and glory; that through us may be accomplished the views and the desires of our illustrious predecessors, Peter, Catherine, Alexander the well-beloved, and of our august father, of imperishable memory.

"By their proved zeal, by their prayers, united with fervour to ours, before the altars of the Most High, our dear subjects will come to our aid. We invite them to do so, ordering them at the same time to take the oath of allegiance to us and also to our heir, his Imperial Highness the Czarévitch Grand-Duke Nicholas Alexandrovitch.

"Given at St. Petersburg, the 18th day of the month of February [2nd March,] 1855, and of our reign the first."

"ALEXANDER."

There are rumours of disturbances in favour of the Grand-Duke Constantine having taken place, but they are totally unworthy of credit. Another is that he is to proceed on a visit to his uncle, the King of Prussia, and that the Dowager Empress will accompany her son, and finally take up her residence at Berlin.

The new Emperor Alexander II. has ordered the following last words of the deceased Czar to be placed upon the order of the day of the army:—

"I thank my faithful Guard, who saved Russia in 1825, and whose conduct has never belied itself; I also thank my army and my fleet.

"I pray God to perpetuate the bravery and good conduct of my soldiers, to ensure the security of the empire at home, and its power abroad.

"Then woe to the enemies that should attack Russia.

"If the condition of all my subjects has not been improved as much as I could wish, it is because it was not in my power to do more."

If a second order the Emperor presents to the Guards, the Cadet-Corps, and to the Suwarrow-Regiment, the uniforms worn by his father.

We have no later accounts from the Crimea than those quoted by our Paris correspondent from the *Moniteur*. A despatch from Admiral Brant gives some further particulars of the combat between the French and Russians, alluded to in last week's post script:—

"In the night between the 22nd and 23rd of February the garrison of Sebastopol had established important works of counter-approach opposite our works on the counter-foot of the plateau which descends towards Little Careening Bay. The Commander-in-Chief ordered these works to be carried in the night between the 23rd and 24th of February, the troops of the second corps. This affair does the greatest honor to our army, and increases, if possible, the ascendancy which it has not ceased to exercise over the enemy. Our losses amount, it is said, to 100 wounded."

The *Debats* further informs us, that the engagement took place in front of the right attack—that is to say, on the side of the Arsenal, a portion of Sebastopol called, as is known, 'the sailors' town'. At the foot of the plateau is a deep ravine, very steep at the sides, which descends from the camp of the English to Careening Bay. This ravine covers the flank of the naval town to the East, and is the extremity of the attack of the besiegers to their right. It will be seen that this right attack is henceforth to be conducted with all desirable activity.—The side of the arsenal is the most vulnerable point of Sebastopol, or, at least, that which would exercise the most influence on the fate of the town. It is to be regretted that the weakness of the English troops did not permit them to carry on the works of the right attack with the necessary celerity. But a French corps of two divisions is now charged with them. The English troops remain encamped in their old positions opposite Inkermann, above the ravine of the aqueduct, on the left bank of the Tcherdnaya, observing the enemy, and, if necessary, protecting the French from attacks from the outside.—Let us add, that if the English cease to work in the trenches they do not the less preserve their batteries where from 80 to 100 large naval guns will open their fire on a given day, in conjunction with 15 French guns on the left and centre."

A Russian despatch states that a second redoubt was erected on the night of the 28th of February in front of the former one, which the allies had been able to prevent the Russians completing. This is not consistent, however, with the despatch in the *Moniteur*, that nothing of importance had occurred up to the 4th. A report was circulated at Vienna on Monday that "a battle had been fought before Sebastopol, but without any decisive results. General Osten-Sacken was wounded, and the French have taken one of the forts."

The whole of the army of the South has been placed under the orders of Prince Gortschakoff. General Osten-Sacken has been appointed to command in the Crimea, and General Luders on the Pruth.

The *Debats* says that the answer of the King of Prussia to the Emperor's dying message is a promise of strict neutrality, if he cannot succeed in mediating a peace.

Police have been introduced with great effect at Balaklava. "There you see the 71st man with a badge on his arm, announcing that he is an authorised policeman, and right well does he do his work. He makes no noise, but to each he gives his directions according to instructions received, and admits of no compromise." On Feb. 18, we are told. "For the first time, I found Balaklava presenting some resemblance to a Sunday—not that there was little going on, but the bustle seemed to wear a subdued appearance, occasioned in some degree, no doubt, by sales not taking place on board any of the floating shops, and the other causes were, probably, too numerous flags flying in the harbour, presenting an unusual effect. The sailors were to be seen satisfying their curiosity about the shore, or rambling to the front, and their best clothes betokening that the day was at their disposal for pleasure or devoted to rest, and God grant that the time is not far distant when all will be alike enabled to enjoy repose of both body and mind, and otherwise use the Sabbath as conscience may dictate."