

consideration. Those forty-eight hours elapsed on Saturday, and on that day another conference was held, and at that conference the Russian plenipotentiary absolutely refused to accept either of those alternatives, which were pressed by the four other plenipotentiaries unanimously. Thereupon the conference adjourned sine die, and my noble friend, the member for the city of London, and the French minister, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, were, I believe, to take their departure from Vienna in the course of today.

Sir H. Willoughby asked if Russia had made any counter-propositions?

Vicount Palmerston—Russia made no counter-proposition.

#### THE BUDGET.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought up the report of the resolutions agreed to in committee of ways and means.

Mr. Goulburn complained of that part of the plan which provided for the re-payment of the loan at the rate of a million a year. He objected to it as unjust in principle—as throwing upon the next generation a heavy sinking fund, which we would not bear ourselves. But he did not believe that when peace came Parliament would consider itself bound by this declaration; and therefore he looked upon this loan as imposing an irredeemable annuity of £500,000 a year upon the country. In this point of view he thought his right hon. friend would have acted a wiser and safer part if he had borrowed in the New Three per cent. Annuities, which were redeemable, without further notice, after 1874, rather than in the Three per cent. Consols, which were practically irredeemable. He also objected to the mode of terminable annuities.

Mr. Thomas Baring defended the scheme of the Chancellor, as just in itself and favorable in its terms for the country. The small capitalists of England would never have taken the loan, as the French did theirs, by open subscription, especially on the low terms of 3½ per cent.

Mr. Gladstone agreed that the loan could not have been disposed of in terminable annuities or by open subscription. He agreed also in the propriety paying off this loan in time of peace. The question was, whether the terms of the contract agreeing to pay it off by a million a year in time of peace was the proper mode of paying off the debt. They were stepping out of their province in dictating to a future Parliament that which was the duty of that future Parliament, and not of theirs.

Mr. Cardwell said his objection to the clause was, that it would act as an opiate to the public, and make them believe that the money was about to be repaid, at the same time that no effective provision was made for that purpose.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted that the disputed clause was no essential part of the loan; but, having made it deliberately, he was prepared at the proper time to defend it. He admitted that Parliament could repeal this clause as they could repeal any act; but the operation would be this, that till the clause was repealed it would be incumbent upon the Government of the day to make annual provision for the payment of this million. He did hope that on the return of peace a real sinking fund might be established, which would have the effect of extinguishing portions of the debt.

The report was received, and various resolutions were discussed.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS, TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

##### MR. STURTEVANT'S EXPLANATIONS OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

In reply to the Earl of Malmesbury, the Earl of Clarendon said it is entirely true that the conference at Vienna has been adjourned sine die, in consequence of the rejection by the Russian plenipotentiary of the proposition either to restrict the fleet of Russia within certain limits in the Black Sea, or to reduce the Black Sea to the condition of a neutral sea, only open for commercial purposes. The four bases of negotiation were all frankly accepted by the Russian Government, and the third contained the proposition that the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea should cease. The bases were discussed in the order in which they stood numerically, and to the first and second Russia virtually acceded.—When the third basis came under discussion the representatives of the Allied Powers, to prove that they had no wish to offend the honour of Russia, but that they desired to consult her dignity and feelings, proposed to the Russian representative to take himself the initiative. The Russian plenipotentiary acknowledged this courtesy, and asked for time to consider what course he should adopt. That time was given him, but in the meanwhile we tried to go on with the discussion. The answer at last arrived, and it was that the Russian Government had no proposition to make. The representatives of the allied

Powers on the following day brought forward their proposition, and the Russian plenipotentiary asked for twenty-four hours' time, and on Saturday last he announced the absolute rejection of the proposal. This only took place on Saturday last, and that is all the information I have at the present moment to communicate, except that we have received a telegraphic message stating that Lord John Russell had left Vienna (hear). With respect to the position which Prussia will occupy, I can only say that the position which she has occupied since the time of the opening of these negotiations, and has continued, has entirely exempted her from the conference and from all these arrangements. With respect to the other part, as to the consequences which might be expected from her in relation to the Danubian provinces, I do not think at this moment it would be convenient to enter on the discussion of that subject, nor till your lordships are fully in possession of all the information we possess, and which, I assure you, her Majesty's Government will lay before you at the earliest period consistent with a due regard for the public service (hear.)

The Earl of Marlwick: I wish to know something of the position of Austria at this moment (hear). We see that country in the position ready to play any game, and to avail itself of the support of one side or the other. It is a position of great eminence, dignity, and power which Austria has placed herself in—in possession of two provinces, and enabled to hold language of dictation, and to receive the support of England and France against Russia, or the support of Russia against England and France (hear, hear). Holding that commanding position, the country is looking with the deepest anxiety to ascertain what information her Majesty's Government can give of the intentions of Austria.

The Earl of Clarendon: Your lordships are aware of the terms of the treaty with the Austrian Government of the 2d December, and I have no reason to think that Austria will depart from the terms of that treaty (hear, hear). I can only say that on Friday last Austria appears to have used precisely the same language as the representatives of England, France, and Turkey; and it was only in the event of peace not being made on the basis agreed upon, that Austria was to be called on to consult on the manner for carrying out the principles laid down by the allied Powers. That contingency has not yet arrived, and it is not for me to say what course Austria will take when the time shall arrive for her decision.—The subject here dropped.

#### THE CRIMEA.

##### DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

Before Sebastopol, April 10, 1855.

My Lord,—In accordance with the arrangements made between General Canrobert and myself, the batteries of the French and English armies opened upon Sebastopol soon after daylight yesterday morning.

The weather was extremely unpropitious. Much rain had fallen during the night, and continued during the day, accompanied by a tempestuous wind, and a heavy mist which obscured everything, and rendered it impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the effect of the fire, which has been continued with little or no interruption from the commencement, and has been superior to that of the enemy, who were evidently taken by surprise, and, except upon the extreme left, did not respond to the attack for nearly half an hour.

This morning has been hazy, and for some time there was a drizzling rain; but it is clearing this afternoon, and there is again a prospect of fine weather.

The country yesterday was covered with water, and the ground was again very deep. The trenches were likewise extremely muddy, and their condition added greatly to the labours of our men employed in the batteries, who consisted chiefly of sailors, artillerymen and sappers.

They conducted their duties admirably, and I am sorry to say that the two former, particularly the navy, sustained considerable loss.

I have not yet received the returns of the casualties beyond the 9th inst., which are herewith enclosed; but the death of Lieut. Twysford, of the Royal Navy, a most promising officer, and greatly respected by all, has been notified to me; and Captain Lord John Hay, who has taken a most active part in the gallant and distinguished services of the naval brigade, was wounded almost at the very moment, I believe by the same shot. I hope the injury he has received is not very serious, but the loss of his assistance even for a time is much to be regretted.—I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

The Lord Ponsonby, &c.,

Returns of casualties from the 6th to the 8th of

April, 1854, inclusive; 8 rank and file killed; 17 rank and file wounded.

Before Sebastopol, April 16.

My Lord,—Since I wrote to your lordship on the 10th instant a steady and heavy fire has been maintained from all the batteries of the allies.—The fire of the British artillery being chiefly directed against the Garden batteries. The Warrack Battery, the Redan, the Malakoff Tower, and the Mamelon have been most affected, and the enemy's works have suffered very considerably, although they have, as usual, made a good use of the night to repair damages, notwithstanding the vertical fire has been continued throughout the twenty-four hours. The practice both of the naval brigade and the artillery has been excellent.

The casualties have not been very numerous, but the loss has fallen heavily upon the sailors, as your lordship will see by the accompanying returns, and the Royal Navy has to deplore the death of Lieut. Douglas who had served with great ability and zeal from the commencement of the siege. Lieuts. Urnston and D. Aeth, Royal Navy, and Steele, Royal Marine Artillery, all valuable officers, have been wounded. The Royal Artillery has also to lament the death of Lieut. Luce, who was an officer of much promise, and Lieuts. Sinclair, and L. Estrenger among the wounded. The former has sustained several injuries, but I am happy to add that there is every hope of his recovery. They are both highly meritorious officers. Captain Croston, of the Royal Engineers, who had in the course of the protracted operation before Sebastopol rendered most essential services, has also received a wound, which will, I fear, detain him from duty for a considerable time.

Our batteries and parapets continued to stand remarkable well, notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather. The enemy's fire has been comparatively slack, but the practice good, owing to their having ascertained the range of our batteries with great nicety, several guns have been disabled in both the right and left attacks.

Towards the Tchernaya nothing important has been observed: but small bodies of men, from 150 to 500, have been with a heavy gun and some ordnance carriage moving along the Inkormann heights towards Mackenzie's farm-road, near which it has been placed in position.

Although the duties have been unusually severe and arduous both by day and night during the week, they have been carried out with the utmost cheerfulness and zeal, reflecting much credit both on officers and men.

The Submarine telegraph has been safely brought to the monastery from Cape Kelegra; and as soon as it is established at the former place the engineers will proceed to convey it from the latter to the immediate neighbourhood of Yafra, where I hope it may be in a state to act in a week or ten days from this time.

The first division of the 10th Hussars arrived the day at Bataklava. [Signed] RAGLAN.

RETURNS OF MILITARY CASUALTIES.—Killed: Lieut. E. Luce, 2 sergeants, 19 rank and file.—Wounded: T. M. Graves, slightly, and Captain G. Croston, severely, royal engineers; Lieut. J. Sinclair, severely; Lieut. P. W. L. Earsinger, severely, royal artillery; 1 sergeant 51 rank and file wounded.

##### DESPATCH FROM ADMIRAL LYONS.

In a despatch dated "Royal Albert, off Sebastopol, April 12," Sir Edmund Lyons says,—"Efforts to say that the casualties have been severe, though not, perhaps, more than might have been expected, considering the number of guns manned by seamen. The services of the officers and seamen of the naval brigade have been invaluable."

RETURNS OF CASUALTIES IN THE NAVAL BRIGADE.—Killed: Lieutenant Twysford, of the London, and 15 men. Wounded: Lieut. W. K. Douglas, of the Queen, and 58 men, of whom five died; 14 wounded.

##### TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES.

The Monitor publishes the following despatch from General Canrobert, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the East, to the Marshal Minister of War:—

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, April 17.—Our fire continues to maintain its superiority, without our having been prodigal, as yet, of our ammunition. The attack was made chiefly by our Artillery, but the Engineers combine their efforts, and make approaches, which bring us nearer to the place. These works advance regularly, notwithstanding the difficulties of the ground.

Advices from before Sebastopol of the 17th say that the want of ammunition had been felt by the besiegers. On the 18th and 19th the Allies gained an important advantage on the left attack. The French