

We owe this happy result to the promptitude itself of the success.

Pellissier, Marshal.

"Commander of the French Army in the East."

A letter from Sebastopol, dated the 7th of December, describes the extensive works which the enemy has thrown up on the north side:—

"The summit of the Plateau Constantine is now covered by a fortification to which it would be difficult to give a technical name; it is a pile of batteries and counter-batteries, of cavaliers and redoubts united together, to Fort Constantine, by numerous covered ways. In the rear of Fort Constantine is a small bay, in which there are several large storerooms. There are two batteries at the bottom of this bay, and the Russians are now engaged in constructing a third.—After Fort Constantine comes Fort Catherine, constructed, like it, of granite, with a double row of casemates and embrasures. It has been strengthened by fresh earthworks, and the upper part—that is to say the terrace—is filled with guns *en barbette* and heavy mortars. This fort is in the form of an oblong square, with the corner opposite the port rounded off, while the other corner on the same side is flanked by a large crenelated tower. The part towards the land is defended by two strong towers, large ditches, and a horn-work, situated on a small tongue of land which runs out towards the port. Two earthworks, having each fifteen guns, have been thrown up on the right and left of the fort. A little above this fort, on an intermediate plateau, is another strong battery, and on the summit of the plateau is a large construction, which serves as a sort of advanced work to the citadel. Between this fortification and those mentioned at the commencement of my letter, there is a redoubt mounted with guns of very heavy calibre. After Fort Catherine there is another point on which the Russians have cut out in the earth and rock a series of fortifications on a most gigantic scale, the whole point being, in fact, metamorphosed into a citadel. There appear to be here several rows of batteries, then barracks for the troops, and then more batteries. In the rear of this point may be seen some small clusters of houses or stores, and some small vessels lying on the shore.—The beach is defended by a strong battery, which extends all round the bay, as far as Fort Severnaya, which is of itself an assemblage of batteries placed one over the other, and defended on the land side by a large ditch. To the right of Severnaya are some sunken steamers, and then another village or collection of barracks and storerooms, protected by two batteries. All these are commanded by the citadel, which has been so much increased that all that formerly existed is now concealed behind the immense work recently executed."

We learn from St. Petersburg that great preparations are going on for continuing the war. The Emperor has appointed, by an Imperial ukase, Prince Menschikoff Military Governor-General of Cronstadt, with all the rights and powers appertaining to a General-in-Chief in time of war. A proclamation has been issued to the peasants of the Crown domains, calling on them to raise a second corps of sharpshooters, to bear "the name of the Imperial family, and defend holy Russia against the enemies of the Orthodox faith." A new issue of copper coinage has been issued; and advertisements appear daily in the *Gazette*, for war materials. On the 23rd, for instance, the Minister of War advertised for tenders for the supply of 139 complete mortar-carriages, and fittings for an immense number of others. All are to be delivered early in the spring. 5,280 cwt of ordnance are to be delivered at Archangel. The arsenal at St. Petersburg is ready to contract for the delivery of 200,000 lbs. of Russian lead.

Gen. Jea Durando was to replace Gen. La Marmora in the command of the Sardinian troops during the absence of the latter. Marshal Pellissier was spoken of as the probable commander-in-chief of the allied forces in the Crimea.

A letter from Kalisch, of the 25th ult., in the Austrian Gazette, says.—According to the last accounts from the Crimea, the Russian troops have been reinforced by a regiment of hussars of the Guard, and by the Radetzky Regiment of Hussars, formerly stationed at Odessa. It is therefore evident that no want of provisions is experienced by Prince Gortschakoff.

A letter from Odessa of the 21st ult., in the Austrian Gazette, says.—Large bodies of troops are marching from the Crimea into Bessarabia. There is not, however, any intention of evacuating the former, as their places will be filled by other troops from the reserve, and by the militia. Gen. Gortschakoff will, it is said,

be replaced in the Crimea by Count Oster Sacken. The former will resume the command of the troops on the Danube. The allied gunboats which remained at Kinburn, have been frozen in, and all the efforts made to release them have been hitherto fruitless.

The French Government has demanded of the Cabinet of Vienna an explanation of the toasts which had been drunk in honour of the Russian army at a banquet given to Marshal Baron Hesse, to celebrate his fiftieth year of military service.

**DISHONEST STATESMEN.**—So low have probity and public spirit sunk in Constantinople that the allies have been obliged to appoint a Commission to prevent the statesmen of Turkey from plundering the loan which the guarantees of England and France have enabled her to raise in her last extremity. It is considered that much will be achieved if the Commission can induce the harpies of the Divan to content themselves with the plunder of £1,000,000 out of £5,000,000.

**AN OFFICER SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR COWARDICE.**—A letter from Kizatch Bay states that on the 11th ult., Mr. Deheny, second master of her Majesty's screw gunboat Lyux, was tried by court-martial for cowardice exhibited during the attack on Kinburn. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

A letter from Bucharest, in the *Suadian Mercury*, says—"The Bishop has had a notice read in all the churches, declaring to be null and void the marriage contract between M. Alexander Philipesco and the second daughter of the Princess Euprosimo Ghika, for the reason that the brother of the said Alexander had married the elder sister of the lady, the two brothers thus marrying the two sisters. The priest who celebrated the second marriage has been degraded, and the Bishop has called for a criminal prosecution against Alexander Philipesco and his wife. The strange part of this affair is, that no law exists in Wallachia against such a marriage."

The Swedish Arsenal and Military Establishments are actively employed in the preparation of every kind of warlike material. The Finances have been managed with such economy, that the Government has several millions of thalers in hand, all of which are to be devoted to fully equipping the army and navy. The Danish Government is reported to have given its consent to the establishment of depots of all kinds at Kiel, for the service of the English fleet, which is expected there in April next.

#### INDIA.

Marital law has been declared against the Santals but the arrival of Lord Dalhousie, expected at Calcutta on the 29th of December, appears to be waited for, to put the sentence into force. That the Santals will be suppressed there appears to be little doubt; but as yet they maintain their defiant attitude, and show no inclination to succumb. It is noted by the *Times* correspondent that they are not a people of the hills.—We stated so at the time the insurrection broke out—pointing out that they are a separate race, of quiet disposition, occupying the valleys at the foot of the Rajmahal range. It seems probable that we shall have to wait for a Santal Blue-book, before we get at the true origin of the insurrection.

The quarrel between the Hindoos and Mohammedans in Oude has proceeded to a collision, in which Ameer Alee, the fanatic Moulavie, leader of the Mohammedans, and 500 persons, were slain. The Moulavie had the active sympathies of the Lieutenant commanding the district of Lucknow on his side, and the Darbar was of the same inclination, but feared the more powerful Hindoos. At length, however, the dread of British interference caused the vacillation to cease, and Captain Barlow conveyed to the royal troops an order for the destruction of the Ameer.—Another difficulty arose, the troops were half Mohammedan and half Hindoo. Fortunately, Captain Barlow understood his position and his men.—

Slowly and quietly the Hindoos of his regiment were separated from their comrades. A few guns were entrusted to Hindoo gunners. The Mussulman gunners were despatched on different errands, and at last Captain Barlow had about five companies on whom he could rely. The supplies of food granted by treachery were peremptorily stopped, and on the 7th of November, the Moulavie, urged on by the cries of his men, terminated the situation. By a forced march he gained a point in advance of Captain Barlow, and streamed along the road to the great temple of the Hindoos. Leaving all the Mussulmen behind them, Captain Barlow and his picked corps started in pursuit. They overtook the Mohammedans some seven miles in advance, and the engagement commenced with

a shower of grape. Ameer Alee fell wounded at the first discharge, but his Pathans, mad with fanaticism, charged sword in hand straight up to the muzzles of the guns. While the day was still doubtful, they were attacked from behind. The Hindoo Zemindars, all along the road, had assembled their retainers, and appeared at the critical moment in overwhelming force. The Pathans saw the day was lost, but they had come for death in the cause of Islam, and they died, fighting shoulder to shoulder around the guns. The King's Mussulman troops, enraged at the manner in which they had been checkmated by Captain Barlow, drew their swords on their Hindoo comrades, and the tumult was only suppressed by an order dispersing the regiments to different and distant stations. An incident of the engagement illustrates the passionate zeal of the two parties even better than the death of the Pathans. One Mussulman gunner accompanied Captain Barlow. Though all alone, he refused to fire on his co-religionists, and was sabred on the spot. About 200 Hindoos and 800 Pathans perished on the field.

According to Letters from Lucknow, the danger is not yet over. The fallen are regarded as martyrs, and the ditch into which the bodies are thrown is styled the 'Martyrs' Grave.' The Prime Minister has been threatened with death, the sentries at his gate have been cut down, and an outbreak is considered possible in Lucknow itself. The revenue has fallen to nothing. The Darbar are afraid to employ force for its collection, and this year it will reach scarcely £300,000. And out of these thirty lakhs, 80,000 soldiers, as the rabble are styled, have to be paid. Daryabad is utterly desolate. Every house has been unroofed, every hoard of grain taken away, every woman subjected to the insults of the King's forces. The end of all this cannot be far distant, and troops are assembling at Caunpore. As this is the frontier station, the assemblage of an army of 16,000 men, including three European regiments, is considered proof positive that ulterior measures are intended."

Nor is the spirit of annexation to be satisfied with Oude. Afghanistan is dimly hinted at as necessary for the protection of Northern India, which is supposed to be threatened by Russia *via* Persia. The armies of the latter, offered by soldiers of the Czar, may make an inroad into Peshawar with effect, and, though "it is true the invaders would be annihilated before they had crossed the Indus," yet, in the interim, "we might have Northern India to reconquer." The fact is, the Persians have taken Herat, and it is necessary for our protection that the Shah should be compelled to resign his conquest:—

"This coercion can be exercised without difficulty. We have sufficient men, guns, and ships on the Bombay side to throw a force of 15,000 men into Bushire in six weeks from the issue of the order. The Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay army is active, experienced, and comparatively young. To a force so composed and so led the Shah has literally nothing to oppose. He has no infantry who could cross bayonets with the Sepoys, no cavalry whom Colonel Jacob and his Scinde horse would not ride down like corn. He must yield as he yielded before, and give back Herat to its chief, a man who performs for Central Asia the function performed by the Sultan in Europe, viz., holding a city too important to be trusted to any one with power to employ its capabilities."

The writer complains that our Persian diplomacy is not directed from Calcutta, which it ought to be. We have, however, a report, via Germany, that the British representative at the Court of Teheran has already withdrawn, though personal disrespect is the grounds alleged for this step.

#### AUSTRIA.

We find the following in the Vienna correspondence of the *Times*:

"It is related that the new ordinances for settling the future position of the Protestant sects will make no difference between Luthoran, Calvinist, and Unitarian, and if this should be the case there will be terrible heartburnings in Hungary, and more particularly in Transylvania, where the Calvinists are very numerous and extremely influential. In the Augsburg Confession (Lutherans) the management of the church funds is almost entirely in the hands of the Clergy, but in the Helvetic Confession (Calvinists) the communities have as great a share in the administration of the property of the Church as have the Scotch Presbyterians. Men in office say that "it will interfere with the unity of the empire," if a difference is made between one Protestant sect and another, and the remark leads me to conclude that government would be well pleased if all its subjects could be induced to join that Church which is in future to reign supreme throughout Austria. The population of Transylvania consists of almost 2,000,000 of souls; of these about 1,000,000 belong to the non-united Greek or Russian Church, and there are, in round numbers, 300,000 Calvinists, who are mostly of German origin and extremely wealthy, 200,000 Lutherans, and 60,000 Socinians, or Unitarians. The rest of the population consists of 'united' Greeks (who acknowledge the supremacy of the Pope, although the Latin language is not employed in their ritual), Roman Catholics, Jews, and a half-heathen sect, the name of which does not occur in the text."