war programme is to bring Santa Anna from his retirement, and send him and to capture Vera Cruz. General Concha is named for the command of the expedition to Mexico.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has returned to Vienna.

TURKEY.

Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar is a candidate for the throne of the United Principalities, and the British Government favors his claim.

There is a change of Ministry in Egypt.

RUSSIA.

News from Circassia received to the effect that the Circassians have again beaten the Russians on the banks of the Laba.—The Russians were driven back over the river, with a loss of 400 men, 4 pieces of cannon, and their baggage.

The Russians are seeking to take possession of the Chutla. Its Sovereign has demanded the interposition of the Sultan.

Constantinople, March 2.—A Russian corps of 3000 men had been received with enthusiasm at Tabriz.

The Persian army destined to act against the Affghans had been reinforced.

Russia was seeking to occupy the Khanate of Khoukhand, with a view to the extension of its frontier to the English possessions. The Sovereign of Kokhara, alarmed at these projects of invasion on the part of Russia, had solicited the mediation of the Sultan, to secure the independence of Krouckhand.

CHINA.

Further despatches from the Indian mail received.

Hong Kong, Jan. 30th.—Admiral Seymour had withdrawn from the gardens and Dutch Folly Fort. As a reprisal for certain attacks of their fleet Admiral Seymour had burned (?) the western suburbs of Canton.

Nine Chinese have been arrested at Hong Kong for poisoning.

At Foo Choo Teas were arriving slowly, and prices were high. At Shanghai holders demanded a further advance.

Later by Telegraph to Liverpool.

Earl Belgis (?) has accepted the office of Plenipotentiary to Pekin, and will proceed there as soon as he has been made sufficiently acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's government.

The Daily News' City article of Friday evening says, Funds closed at a fresh decline of ¼ per cent. Demand for money active, but no pressure.

THE WAR IN PERSIA.

Our news from Bushire comes down to the 17th of Jan. At that date the troops were still unmolested by the enemy, part in the town, the remainder in the intrenched camp outside the walls and in the neighborhood of the wells. Pending the arrival of reinforcements one offensive movement only had been made by them; this was an attack on a depot of Persian stores and ammunition collected at a place called Chakotah, 22 miles from the camp. The service was intrusted to Colonel Tabb, with a party of cavalry and horse artillery, who, marching out of Bushire early on the morning of New Year's day, returned late in the evening, having accomplished the object of the expedition without loss, and, it would seem, without opposition on the part of the enemy. His service is acknowledged by the General in the following terms:—"Major-General Stalker tenders his best thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Tabb and the officers and men of the detachment, which has so entirely and satisfactorily carried out the object of destroying the enemy's depot at Chakotah, and returning to camp last night after marching a distance of 44 miles. The Major-General begs that Major Wray and Lieut. Stirland, C B, who accompanied the party, will also accept his best thanks." That the Persians were urging forward large reinforcements from Teheran to the southward was heard at headquarters without anxiety, but without apprehension. The position taken up by their troops, in anticipation of an advance from Bushire upon Shiraz, are considered by our military men to be eminently judicious, so much so as to suggest to them—or, at any rate, to one of no slight experience—that Russian skill, not mere Persian intelligence, has planned them. The shortest road from Bushire to Shiraz is by Kisht and Kazeroon. The difficulties presented by this route to the advance of an army are so great that we may readily believe the report that the force collected at Kazeroon, though strongly placed, is not very numerous. But there is another and easier, though more circuitous, route which, proceeding from Bushire to the eastward as far as Ferozabad, and thence nearly due north, turns the flank of the mountains and approaches Shiraz by comparatively trifling acclivities. It is at Ferozabad, commanding this road, that the main strength of the Persian army is posted in numbers which the latest accounts raised to 20,000 men and upwards. Here they are in a position either to receive our advance, should we decide upon making one in that direction, or, in the event of our moving straight upon the passes, to harass our flank and imperil our communications with Bushire, or to retire upon Shiraz and meet us as we struggle up the defiles at Kazeroon. Another route into the heart of Persia is found by ascending the river Karoon, which enters the Gulf by one of the mouths of the Tigris, as far as the town of Shuster, and thence striking off for Ispahan through the district of Lomistan. Shuster, it is understood, will be the point of raising and assembling the proposed corps of Irregular Horse. For this purpose it is calculated not only from its being situate among Arab tribes, who are, it is supposed, perfectly ready to serve us, but also from its proximity to the Turkish frontier and the Bashi-Bazouks and other wild horsemen of that empire. With all our constant talk of war, we find it difficult to persuade ourselves that the resistance of Persia will be a sustained one. Clearly, it will not, unless her mighty northern neighbor powerfully supports her. Meanwhile, the second division of the army is gradually assembling on the Persian seaboard, General Outram and the headquarter staff of the army would reach Bushire in the latter days of January. The 78th Highlanders and 96 Native Infantry have sailed, as also the mountain train, the additional field battery, and three companies of the Light Battalion. The seven remaining companies of this latter corps were still at Bombay waiting for the commissariat stores which are to be sent up to them.

MILITARY RESOURCES OF PERSIA.

The military strength of Persia does not consist in the number or efficiency of the regular army, and when it is said that the king, when he takes the field, makes up a force of a hundred thousand fighting men, it must be understood that this is only done by taxing all his resources regular and irregular. If we except the Russians serving in the Persian army, and who have been encouraged by the Russian authorities to desert for that purpose, the most efficient troops at the Shah's disposal are the levies of the tribes, which they are bound to furnish when called upon. These consist almost entirely of cavalry. The military tribes of Persia, in many marked respects, differ materially from the other inhabitants of Persia, and are distinguished for their hardy, generous, and courageous natures. From the vice of the rest of the population—their inveterate habit of lying—they are comparatively free. But, on the other hand, they are excessively proud, and not a little ungovernable. Under the influence of passion they will not even spare the monarch himself; and so well is their character understood, that the utmost intemperance of language [illegible] never punish[illegible] The Shah's army [illegible] different [illegible] of which the [illegible] personal guards a permanently [illegible] not exceeding sometimes not amounting [illegible] *[illegible] troops of Adjerbijan* and [illegible] were in number from 30,000 to [illegible] of the [illegible] a number of [illegible] equipped and [illegible] to be depended [illegible] The [illegible] of some of the battalions are expressed their [illegible] and the [illegible] It may in a great measure [illegible] the [illegible] maladeministration of affairs that the Persian troops are not efficient in the field. For the character of the Persian [illegible] by [illegible] of the virtues which [illegible] They are active, robust, and quick of apprehension. They are brave, too, and have, when well led, displayed a high degree of valour. But this has depended always on the character of their leaders and the nature of the [illegible] for which they have fought. The [illegible] of their crimes is excessively depraving them in indolence and luxuriousness.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED VETERAN.—In the *London Gazette* of Tuesday last appeared a list of those officers [illegible] to which [illegible] Victoria Cross. Amongst [illegible] was the name of John Taylor, [illegible] to whom the [illegible] was awarded for [illegible] the Redan [illegible] from Russian guns. Taylor was [illegible] rated as a [illegible] from [illegible] the Crimean [illegible] Wednesday last, within a few hours of receiving information that the Victoria Cross had been conferred on him, [illegible] Woolwich. The deceased was [illegible] by the officers in the Dockyard, and [illegible] knew him, and although covered with honors, and assuming was his character, that he could scarcely be prevailed upon to wear them. He had medals for the Kaffir and Burmese wars, the Sebastopol medal with every clasp, the medal of the French Legion of Honor, and for meritorious conduct. *Unfortunately this brave man has left* a wife and family unprovided for.

THE AMERICAN STRAIN.—A writer in Bell's Life, in treating of the blood of horses now upon the Turf says, "The American Turf may be quoted again, as possessing a very good breed of race horses, many of whose pedigrees soon become very questionable. The Sir Archy blood is, I believe, considered very good, and American—not indigenous to the country, but the result of their breeding from a partly English strain. The famous Boston proved it good. It *now rests with us to come to the scratch with* the Americans, and, if Lecomte, Pryor, and Pryoress are tip-top nags, then may we hope to see them throw down the gauntlet to Fandango, Melissa, or Fisherman, in an Ascot Cup race. There is as much work in that race to prove a horse's speed and stamina, as in a four-mile race, *and it is more likely to bring out the best horse.* If the American horse possesses the enduring powers attributed to him, then we may be greatly benefitted by the importation of a son of Boston."

A WILD BEAST TRAPPED.—A wild animal of the lynx species was caught in a trap last week, about three miles above Galt, along the line of the Mill Creek. The animal is supposed by many to have been in the vicinity for several years. A trap was set beside some carrion during the first of last week, and the following morning the animal was found fast enough.—On the person who set the trap coming near it, it became quite savage, giving evidence of its ferocious nature. It was ultimately despatched and is now being stuffed.