

to the Sound of Wingo. A great many people came down from Götterburg to see us, and call us the deliverers of our country, and such things, and make presents and other things to us. I hope, if all goes well, to get a month's leave when I come back to England, after the war. I have got one of the most dangerous and best posts for myself for chances of taking prizes in the ship, as I am captain's aide-camp, and I shall go with him in his gig. I am trying to get a pistol, as everybody else has one, and I mean to get one too, if possible. We are allowed them. I can get one easily as I have lots of tin supplied by kind auntie. I mean, if possible to get some prize money. I am in the first division of boarders, and am nearly sure if any work be going on, to be in the midst. I am happy to say I have got a very good sword indeed, and am very happy. I should like to see you before I go to the forts—very much indeed, but impossible so I must hurry. Write to me soon, as ever more I mean to send my love to all, and a fond farewell. I am very much obliged to Marty and Henry, tell them for their kind letters to me during the short time I was at Portsmouth, though not able to go on shore. When the men practise at firing, we do also. It is cold. I have some very nice thick things, so I do not mind it much. The packet goes this afternoon, so I must hurry. Good bye, dear mamma, and papa, and brothers and sisters. I remain, dear all of you.

E. C. H.

How is child, and all brothers and sisters, and Charles, (apel for), and Bounce, and the dogs, and the short-tailed pony?—*Evening Post*.

### Selections.

At Schumla we are told most of the shops are closed, their owners, in common with every available man in the town, being engaged on the works, under the personal superintendence of Omar Pasha and an officer of the Etat-Major specially sent here by the French Government. The feeling of the Turks towards their French and English allies is most chivalrous, and the knowledge that they are to be well supported, has inspired them with fresh courage and enthusiasm. The reported death of Colonel Dieu, a French officer (probably the one above alluded to), and the right hand of Omar Pasha, is happily contradicted. On the 5th the late officer was in perfect health.

We have heard somewhat of the "enormous rise of prices" lately in respect to provisions at the seat of war. Most persons will be surprised to find the meaning of the complaints as interpreted in a letter from Widdin, dated March 25, and published by the *Daily News*.—"Bread enough for two labourers' dinners, or 2½ lbs., now purchased for a penny. Capital beef costs 2½d for 2½ lb., or about a penny also. Eggs are still very low, being a farthing each.

"I saw a priest to-day paying a high price for a large fat duck, which he bought alive, as usual, of a peasant woman, under my window, for 8d. A fine fat chicken, now difficult to procure, and therefore dear, cost from 3d. to 4d. You must try to believe the fellows: the people are complaining of the enormous rise in the price of provisions, and the papers abound—for of course there is not one in Bulgaria—crissled with accounts of the famine prices at Widdin. Is so it is. For 2½ lbs., or over a quart of good wine, sold eighteen months ago for less than 3d., as to fat, and the best (for it is as good as you can find out of England, in any part of Europe,) it was sold in great pieces, without stopping to weigh it. You might buy half-a-dozen pounds for 2d.; in fact it could not be had for a price. A goose, if well fatted, would be commanded 6d.; and in one of my letters I recently mentioned that our Serbian coachman would not let me be cheated by giving a coochee for as fine a fat young turkey (though small, six or seven pounds) as I ever saw in England. The roasting pig at 10 lbs. for 2s. 8d., it must be remembered was eight after prices had doubled. The fact that the potatoes failed last year, not by the disease, but on account of the wet and late planting, would account for the rise in prices, to say nothing of the whole armies to feed. Within fourteen days, beans, which were 3d. 4½ lbs. have risen a penny. Coals or charcoal, so much used by the Turkish soldiers in their mangals, at 10 lbs. without chimnies, have become very dear. Within ten days they have risen from 1d. to 2½d. All else is in proportion, and the fact that the eggs could once be bought here thirty for one penny, would justify me in heading this letter with—'Prices, or enormous rise in Widdin. The truth is that an Englishman goes abroad with his English money for prices, and astonishes mankind by the

manner in which he throws his money away for nothing except to ruin all the travellers that come after him. It should be added here, that the land still seems to teem with abundance."

The following description of the Dobrudzcha is taken from Baron Molika's well known work.—

"The Dobrudzcha is such a waste as one would hardly expect to find in Europe. The population may be about 300 persons to every five square (English) miles. In 1828 it was foreseen that, from the nature of the soil, in a war in its march through the Dobrudzcha would meet with great difficulties. In the northern part of the province are the steep mountains of Mateschin and the heights of Babadagh. Further south the whole country is an undulating plain, not much more than 100 feet above the level of the sea. The soil consists of a fine, grey, sandy mass, through which the water sinks, as it also does through the calcareous strata underneath. In vain does one seek in the valleys for brooks and springs, and the little water which is found in the distant villages is drawn from wells 80 or 100 feet deep. From this want of water, and the thinness of the population agriculture is at such a low ebb that neither corn nor hay can be had in any quantity. Even at the beginning of the summer nothing presents itself to the eye but an immeasurable expanse covered with parched blades of grass.

**THE DOBRUDZCHA.**—The following account of this desolate district, which has suddenly risen into interest and importance, is taken from the forthcoming new edition of *Murray's Turkish Guide*. At Tchernavoda the Danube approaches within thirty-four miles of the Black Sea, but is separated from it by a peninsula or tongue of high land, extending north, nearly opposite to Galatz, called Dobrudzcha. From Tchernavoda a road runs to Kostendje, on the Black Sea, partly parallel with a stream, or rather a chain of lakes, called Karason. At Bourlack (four hours), the stream ceases, and the valley is shut in by hills crowned with downs, from which the sea is visible. Kostendje (Constantina), a small village on a height above the shore, has a little port, with remains of a Roman mole, now destroyed. From a point a little south of this, to Rassova on the Danube, runs a rampart of earth called Trajan's wall. It is certain that no branch of the Danube ever flowed into the sea across this tongue of land, which presents on the side of the sea an uninterrupted range of low hills and cliffs. The district of the Dobrudzcha is at most seasons a wilderness, partly owing to its having been deprived of its Tartar inhabitants, after 1829, by the Russians, but chiefly owing to its soil, which, excepting to the north extremity, where rise the hills of Mateschin (granite?) consists of porous limestone, which retains no water, and furnishes no springs on the surface. Population is scanty, and villages wide scattered, and drinking water is obtained only through a few deep wells. Corn is scarcely cultivated at all, hay and fodder are very scarce, the scanty herbage dries up early in the summer, and the flocks of sheep and herds of buffaloes repair to the borders of the Danube for pasture. This desert extends south of the Wall of Trajan, nearly as far as Bessarjik and Varna. It is not tenable by troops, unless they carry food forage, and water with them. A canal was at one time projected between the Danube at Tchernavoda and the Black Sea at Kostendje, but a survey made by a Prussian engineer proved that the head of the valley of Karason was 164 feet above the sea, and that not a drop of water was to be obtained on the summit level (limestone hills) to feed a canal if it were made.

**ART.**—Art imitates nature; and the nearer it comes to nature in its effects, it is the more excellent. Grace is the new nature of a Christian, and hypocrisy that art which counterfeits it; and the more exquisite it is in imitation, it is the more plausible to men, but the more abominable to God. It may frame a spiritual man in image so to the life, that not only others, but even the hypocrite himself may admire it, and favouring his own artifice, may be deceived so far as to say and to think it lives, and fall in love with it; but he is no less abhorred by the Searcher of hearts than pleasing to himself. Surely, this mischief of hypocrisy can never be enough inveighed against. When religion is in request, it is the chief malady of the Church, and numbers die of it; though, because it is a subtle and inward evil, it be little perceived. It is to be feared there are many sick of it, who look well and comely in God's outward worship, and they may pass well in good weather—in times of peace; but days of adversity are days of trial. The prosperous estate of the Church makes hypocrites, and her distress discovers them.—*LUXURION*.

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