

nothing but idle inventions. Letters from the Interior of Sebastopol, dated July 25, assure us that the connection between the north and south is unimpaired, that food and ammunition are abundant, the magazines on the north side alone containing supplies sufficient to serve 300,000 men for a year. The hospitals in the days of greatest slaughter, have never contained more than 9,000 men. For sanitary reasons, however, Prince Gortschakoff had just given orders to remove all the sick from the hospitals in the northern forts and to take them into the interior of the Crimea. There are only about 1,200 sick and wounded who are too ill for removal. The cholera, which is making such ravages among the allies, has never appeared among us in an epidemic form. At the same time it is seen that the position of the garrison on the left line of defence, from Bastion 1 to Bastion 5, (from the west of Careening Bay to the Flagstaff inclusive), will not long be tenable. But more than any sanguinary struggle will probably precede its abandonment. The defenders have resolutely devoted themselves to death, and, trusting in God, wait with calm expectation till their time comes. Hence the indifference, one might almost say the joviality, with which they play cards and dice on the bastion while shot and shell are falling around, so that as soon as one is struck down he is quietly removed, and the game without more ado goes on as before. Thus, after the last unsuccessfully attempted storming, Prince Gortschakoff visited the bastions, asking, "How goes it, children?" "As God wills," answered the soldiers. The garrison of Sebastopol numbers at this moment from 60,000 to 65,000 men."

The *Times* complains of the want of co-operation between the allied armies, and asks if it is true, as stated on the spot, that the French have only to turn the guns of the Mamelon on the Redan, to make it untenable? A French account of the siege in the *Presse d'Orient*, on the other hand, declares that the slow advance of the English works has been the great cause of delay throughout the campaign.

There is but little to extract from the correspondence of our contemporaries. Mr. Russell, in the *Times*, says—

"It seems a pretty general opinion that no very long period will elapse before another attack is made upon the Malakhoff. As regards an expedition into the interior of the Crimea, that is highly improbable. In fact, I believe nothing of the kind is in contemplation—at any rate, for the present. The month of September would be a favourable season at which to commence such a movement.

"No firing of the Russians," says the same writer, "be it good or bad, slight or heavy, is able to impede the progress of the works. The surface of the ground in the neighbourhood of the Malakhoff works and the Redan is presenting every day a more checkered appearance. It is one mass of trenches, traverses, rifle-pits, and batteries—a perfect maze, so that it requires a strongly-developed organ of locality, or else many days of trench duties, to find one's way. The railway is perhaps the best test of the gigantic activity which is prevailing; numbers of mortars and large quantities of ammunition come up daily by it, and vanish again silently, to be replaced next day by others. It is as if the trenches were an unfathomable abyss, such an incredible mass of mortars, guns, shells, and shot do they seem to swallow up. When they will be satisfied, and when the word "enough" will be said, seems as uncertain as Crimean weather. I heard a few days ago from a French officer of artillery, that Pelissier, being asked when offensive siege operations would be again resumed, said, "Well, I don't know, the Russians are losing every day 300 or 400 men by sickness. If we wait a week they will have lost a brigade, if we wait a month they will have lost a corps d'armée." But, if the Russians lose many men by sickness, they seem to be careful to replace them again. Numbers of stories are afloat about the formidable forces which have come and are still coming down this way, and apprehensions of an attack on the Tchernaya line are daily gaining more ground."

Below the following brief description of Sweaborg, before the bombardment, from an English paper:

The fortress of Sweaborg is built on granite isles, about a mile in advance of Helsinki, the Russian capital of Finland, as Abo was formerly its Swedish capital. The isles in question, eight in number, are mere rocks connected together by a strong fortification, and in the centre is situated the port where the Russian flotilla is kept. The largest of the rocks is that called "Gustavus' Sword," on which is built the resi-

dence of the Governor, with a sort of garden formed of mould brought from the main land, and a vast cistern, in which is hoisted together a large quantity of snow in winter to furnish water to the garrison. Sweaborg has been called the Gibraltar of the North; it would seem, however, not with as much injustice as was formerly thought, since the last bombardment shows it to be anything but impregnable. The islands flank each other, and all have the granite cut perpendicular to a height of from 30 to 40 ft. Two only passages by which the roadstead of Helsinki, which is one of the great war ports of Russia, can be reached, winds along these formidable isles, which are armed with 800 guns of large calibre. As Sweaborg only presents an unapproachable ceinture of granite, a siege of it could not be made by land, and the place could only be reduced by famine. But it might be attacked and demolished from the sea by means of a bombardment, and this is just what has been executed with full success by the Anglo-French fleet, a bombardment which must have caused immense material losses to the Russian Government, by destroying the barracks, the different maritime establishments, and the arsenal of the fort. Sweaborg was constructed in the 18th century by the King of Sweden, Gustavus III. In the revolution which dethroned Gustavus IV., in 1808, and which afforded Russia the wished-for chance for invading Finland, the impregnable fortress was given up without resistance to the Russian General Barclay de Tolly, by a traitor, who forgot what was due to his country in gratifying his political passions. Sweaborg has a population of about 3,430 persons. Its barracks can hold more than 12,000 men; and, besides its fine port, it has two basins to repair ships.

TURKEY.

The house of Rothschild has agreed to lend the Ottoman Government £400,000 at six per cent. The Reform party in the Turkish Ministry, wish to purge the Divan, and get rid of such of their colleagues as are hostile to their measures. A change in the Ministry appears imminent.

Quiet was re-established at the Dardanelles town, but the Bash-Bazouks were laying waste the country and burning the neighbouring villages. Desertion is very rife among the Anglo-Turkish Contingent at Constantinople. The crops will be sent to Schumla it is said.

The accounts from Asia Minor are encouraging. Mehemet Pacha, Governor-General of Erzeroum, had collected 4,800 men, infantry and cavalry, of the militia, and advanced at their head in the direction of Kars, and effected a junction with Vely Pacha, who held a strong position. A letter from the town itself, which is surrounded by 30,000 Russians, says—

"The Ottoman army seems resolved to fight valiantly, and every one is at his post at the batteries, expecting the attack from one moment to another. General Williams is everywhere, and allows himself no repose either day or night. He wishes to see everything himself, and this extraordinary vigilance and activity, which he communicates to all around, has had, up to the present time, the happiest results. The garrison is in no want of provisions. Barley and hay are the only things in depot of which the supplies are very limited. We have every hope that Kars will hold out. The confidence in it is very great; but if the chances of war should turn against us, the army can fall back upon Erzeroum, where the construction of the batteries is progressing rapidly. United with the troops of Kapri Kioi, it would be enabled to maintain itself in a very favourable position."

UNITED STATES.

THE YEAR OF PLENTY.—Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-five will be entitled to golden remembrance in our national chronology, as the Year of Plenty.—Never were the labours of the husbandmen rewarded with such abundant crops, and, coming after a season, if not of famine, at least of pinching prices, the rich abundance of our fields, orchards and gardens, and the prevailing healthiness of the country over its vast extent afford sufficient cause for gratitude and joyous feelings. From all parts of the country comes the same unceasing and joyous cry of abundance. There never was such a golden harvest before.—All our great staples yield more than an average harvest, and the lesser crops, the fruit and small vegetables, which are not taken into the account of commercial economists.

We have accumulated a great heap of harvest statistics during the past week—some of them in the shape of private letters from various parts of the country, and some of them extracts from our contemporaries' reports—intending to make a synopsis of them, but they are too numerous, and their unvarying tenor deprives them of interest. They all tell the same story of glorious weather, abundant harvest, brilliant prospects, and rejoicing farmers. Add on the back of these comforting reports, the intelligence from Europe of abundant crops there is most encouraging. The coming year must inevitably be one of cheap bread-stuffs,

and consequently one of cheap living; but there is no danger of the farmer not being abundantly rewarded for his labours. Prices must rule much cheaper than they have done for the past two years, but they will be high enough to afford a remunerative profit to the agriculturist.—*N. Y. Times*.

WASHINGTON, August 28.—*Statistics of Commerce*.—The imports of the last quarter of the fiscal year just ended, amount to about \$80,000,000. The imports during the quarter at the Lake ports, from Canada and the Provinces, amounted to over \$6,500,000. The whole value of the trade for the year 1854 was \$7,398,000. The great increase of the trade in that quarter, over that of last year, is due to the Reciprocity Treaty.

EXTRAVAGANCE OF AMERICANS.—The people of the United States are not only "profuse" in their "expenditures" but extravagant in a degree amounting to prodigality. We sincerely believe that Americans, particularly in the city of New York, are the most extravagant people on the face of the earth. There are men—merchants in that city—who live in houses costing 100,000 dollars, and spend at the rate of 25,000 or 30,000 dollars per annum; and some of the wives of these merchants wear thousand-dollar shawls, and other thing to match. The sound, wholesome, prudential, and economical proverb of honest Ben Franklin are repudiated, and we have heard them designated as "scoundrel maxims."—*Hunt's Merchants' Magazine*.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

BOAT RACING.—We learn that the Haligonians have challenged our St. John oarsmen for a race to come off in Halifax harbor at such time as shall be mutually agreed upon. We believe it is customary in such instances for the challenging party in case of acceptance to agree to the payment of expenses—a very important consideration, which, we are informed has been overlooked by our neighbours. We are authorized to say that our oarsmen will pay the expenses of the Haligonians if the race can be fixed to come off in St. John harbor. What say they to this proposal?—*St. John News*.

SYDNEY, C. D.

THE American Steamship *James Adger*, having in tow the Barque *Sarah L. Bryant*, and accompanied by the Steamer *Victoria*, entered our harbour on Thursday afternoon. These vessels have been engaged laying the Submarine Telegraph Cable, intended to stretch from Port au Basque, in Newfoundland, to Cape North, in this Island. This undertaking was commenced on Thursday last from Cape Ray and successfully carried forward until Wednesday afternoon, at which time a gale came on, when they were within 15 miles of St. Paul's Island, and to save the ship were obliged to cut the Cable, thereby losing 17 miles of it, then already paid out—leaving about 30 miles of it still on board the *S. L. Bryant*. These vessels then bore up for this Port. The Cable is insured in London. The portion which is lost, and that which remains of the Cable, will be sold, it is rumored, for the benefit of the underwriters. H. M. Ship, *Argus*, joined the *James Adger*, during the gale on Wednesday evening, and offered her assistance.—*News*.

THE French Corvette "Capricieuse," Monsieur Gautier in command, having on board Monsieur de Belvize, Commandant, arrived here on Tuesday last, after a rapid passage of 84 hours, from Quebec.—*Ibid*.

Correspondence.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

August 25, 1855.

ON Sunday, 12th inst., St. Paul's Church, Manchester, was crowded to excess by an attentive congregation, anxious to witness the solemn rite of Confirmation, and listen to the energetic remarks which his Lordship the Bishop usually makes at the time of administering that Apostolic ordinance.

Prayers were offered up by the Revd. Mr. Jarvis of Guyabon, the prefatory address in the Confirmation Service was read by the Revd. Mr. Dunn, of Halifax, after which his Lordship spoke to the congregation on local Church matters, and then addressed himself to those who were about to renew in so solemn manner, the vows of their Baptism. Two remarks of his Lordship to the Candidates were monitory, exhortatory, and highly spiritual. The Revd. W. T. Morris, Rector, then presented 13 persons, who received the ancient rite of laying on of hands. This ceremony being ended, his Lordship preached an excellent Sermon full of scriptural and evangelical truth, the good effects of which, it is hoped, will be seen in the lives of that large concourse of persons who listened to it.—His Lordship proceeded, after services, to Guyabon, where he preached in the evening, for the third time, another of his excellent Sermons.