

**ENGLISH LADIES AT THERAPIA.**—A hospital surgeon, writing home, remarks on the lady nurses at Therapia. He says:—"The lady nurses who are here have been most kind and attentive to the sick and wounded, sitting by their bedsides reading to them, &c. Before they arrived many men were discharged from the hospital for passage to Malta or England very thinly clad. Now they have nice warm comforters and clothing given them. Imagine, if possible, the daughter of a baronet in Belgrave-square, with good property, (and not at all bad-looking), laying on one side all her wealth, and leaving a comfortable home to come here and stand at the washing-tub, in an underground back-kitchen. This she has done daily for the last fortnight, even when snow and frost have been on the ground. Also, Miss —, another daughter of a baronet, going from the bedside to the kitchen, ironing, &c. Well may Old England be proud of her daughters, when we see what sacrifices they are ready to make in order that they may fully carry out the Divine precepts of love and charity; and so high is the standard of the ladies of our country, that it is of little consequence what offices they perform, for whether at the washing tub or in the drawing room, they are the same in all that renders them high in the estimation of God and man."

### News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America, May 13.

#### THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

Lord John Russell took the oaths and his seat for the city of London on Monday, appearing in the House of Commons for the first time since his re-election. His lordship's return from Vienna led to some questioning in both houses, as to when the results of his journey would be formally made known to Parliament. The subject was pressed by Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli for an early day, which was promised by the Marquis of Lansdowne in one house, and Lord Palmerston in the other; subsequently Lord John Russell, who, on rising in his place, was received with cheers, made the following statement:—

"The first meeting of the Conference took place on 15th March, and the negotiations with respect to the first two of the Four Points lasted until March 26. Upon the 26th March, the third point came under consideration. It was then suggested by the Plenipotentiaries of Austria that the Plenipotentiaries of Russia should themselves make proposals calculated to satisfy the exigencies of the occasion. The Plenipotentiaries of Russia said that they had no instructions to make propositions, but asked for time to refer to their own Government. The Conference was then adjourned, and that no meeting for the transaction of business took place until the answer arrived from St. Petersburg. On the 17th April another Conference took place, when the Plenipotentiaries of Russia informed the conference that they had received instructions from their government not to take the initiative in any propositions, but that they were ready to hear and discuss any propositions that might proceed from the other side. The representatives of the allied Powers then requested forty-eight hours to consider the form in which they should make their proposals, and on the 19th instant the Plenipotentiaries of France and Great Britain, supported by the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, laid their propositions before the Conference. The Russian Plenipotentiaries requested forty-eight hours to make their answer to these propositions. On the 21st accordingly, they made their answer to these propositions, totally rejecting the propositions that had been made to them. They stated, at the same time, that they had propositions to make on the part of their Government, which, as they conceived, would be in accordance with the demand that Turkey should be united more completely with the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe, and that an end should be put to the preponderance of the power of Russia in the Black Sea. The Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, and Great Britain, found the proposals of Russia entirely unacceptable, and refused to consider them in detail. The Plenipotentiary of Austria then said that, although these propositions had been rejected he trusted that all means of reconciling the belligerent parties by peace were not exhausted. To this the Plenipotentiaries of France and England replied that their instructions were exhausted, and that they had no further powers to consider any other propositions. I then considered it my duty, and the best way in which I could perform my duty, to repair to my own government and lay before them the whole state of the case with respect to the negotiations at Vienna and the manner in which the Conference had been suspended.

The French Minister for Foreign affairs, two or three days later, having requested the orders of the Emperor, came to a similar conclusion, and I believe he was to arrive last night at Paris, where, no doubt, he will duly inform his Government of what took place in the course of the negotiations at Vienna."

Replying to further questions from Mr. Disraeli as to papers, Lord Palmerston declined at present saying what papers, beyond the protocol of the proceedings at Vienna, Government would lay upon the table.

Mr. Duncombe wished to know whether negotiations of any kind had been resumed by the gentlemen left behind at Vienna. (A laugh.)

Lord Palmerston—There has been a conference held since my noble friend left Vienna, at which some proposals were made by Russia which were not considered by any other parties to be calculated to lead to the termination of the war.

In reply to Mr. Bass, Lord J. Russell said that throughout the negotiations the Turkish Plenipotentiaries were of the same mind as those of Great Britain, France, and Austria.

#### THE ARMY AND THE WAR.

There was some questioning in both houses on Thursday respecting the opening of the telegraph from Balacava to this country. The Earl of Harrowby said the first Lord of the Admiralty had received a telegraphic communication the previous day in less than twenty-four hours, but it simply announced the opening of the communication. Lord Palmerston and Sir C. Wood in the Commons, raised considerable laughter by the curt replies they gave to questions whether it communicated any intelligence of the bombardment.—The Premier jauntily replied, "The telegraphic message does not bear upon that subject." The First Lord of the Admiralty states that there is still a break between Varna and Cape Kelerga. Pressed by Mr. R. Lubbock, amidst the evident sympathy of the House, Lord Palmerston said it was the intention of Lord Panmure to urge upon the Commander of the Forces the necessity of daily intelligence from the seat of war.

The subject was again noticed by Mr. Warner on Monday, when it is reported:—

Sir C. Wood had to say in answer to the hon. member's questions that the telegraph was, they believed, completed throughout, excepting across the Danube. He had stated three or four days ago that the line had been already carried from the Crimea to the Turkish coast, and he believed that it was now completed from the English coast to Rutschuk. It was also completed on the other side from Giurgevo forward, but they were not aware whether it had been yet laid across the Danube. The last despatch from Lord Raglan was dated yesterday, but it conveyed no news. It contained no account whatever of the raising of the siege, nor was there any fact bearing on it stated, further than that there had been a temporary discontinuance of the fire on Sebastopol.

Mr. Grogan asked if the right hon. gentleman, when he received any further information as to the operations of the siege, would communicate it to the house?

Sir C. Wood—When anything of special interest—(a loud ironical cry of "Hear, hear," followed by laughter in the house)—What I was about to say was, that when the telegraphic despatch contains anything of sufficient interest to render it necessary or advisable, or interesting, in fact, to anybody, to communicate it to the house, there cannot be the least doubt that her Majesty's Government will think it proper to do so. I have not the slightest objection for the satisfaction of the hon. gentleman who cheers so contemptuously, to state the whole purport of the telegraphic despatch received by us to-day. Lord Raglan acknowledges the receipt of a despatch from Lord Panmure, and asks when the Sardinian Contingent would sail? (Some laughter.)

Replying to some observations of Lord Ellenborough, the Secretary of War stated on Monday that the Sardinian Contingent in the Crimea would be supplied by the English Commissariat on the terms that they paid for what they received; and he was informed by Sir John McNeill that Mr. Filder was fully prepared with ample means to meet such calls as may be made upon him. The Turkish contingent and the troops under General Beatson would be supplied from other sources.

The Marquis of Salisbury complained of the Guards being sent to Portsmouth, and finding no preparations made for their embarkation, at last they were sent with their old clothing, without any sufficient provision for the summer months, and without the new clothing which at this season should be supplied to them. They were also sent with their old arms, and without that invaluable and indispensable arm, the Minié rifle.

Lord Panmure could not believe the last to be the fact, as all troops in the Crimea were supplied with the Minié rifle. Soldiers were always sent put in their old clothes, and the new sent after them. The Duke of Cambridge said it was possible the Guards might get the Minié rifle on arriving at Constantinople, but they certainly took only their old arms with them. By a mistake their shoes, most necessary for them, were left behind on the beach. Lord Panmure said the articles left behind would overtake the detachments shortly after their arrival in the Crimea.

The Marquis of Blandford inquired on Monday if it was true that the Naval Brigade, as stated in the *Times*, had been for eight months without a chaplain. Sir C. Wood replied that it had not been so long in the Crimea. "He did not know whether any chaplains were attached to it. It is not usual to attach a chaplain to a body of men intended for a temporary purpose; but, if it should appear desirable, the Commander-in-Chief would provide the assistance of one of the chaplains of the forces."

According to Mr. F. Peel, the cavalry force in the Crimea has been increased by bringing from India two cavalry regiments; in addition 550 men and double that number of horses were now on their passage from this country to the Crimea; and upwards of 1,100 men and horses ordered to proceed to the same destination. It was intended to form a reserve at Scutari of 150 men and horses for each of the regiments.

On Friday the Earl of Albemarle complained of the insufficient blockade against the trade of Russia. Means should also be taken to stop the land transit trade carried on so largely through the Prussian territory, the existence of which rendered the maritime blockade altogether abortive. Lord Stanley of Alderley repeated the explanations showing the necessity for the lenity of last year's blockade. In the present year the Black Sea ports belonging to Russia were blockaded, as those in the Baltic would be as soon as the navigation was open. With respect to the general commerce of Russia, he read returns showing that she had lost nearly half her export trade, and asserted that she had been seriously crippled in every branch of her resources.

Mr. Layard has given notice of his intention to move the following resolutions on an early day:—

"That this house views with deep and increasing concern the actual state of the nation.

"That, while at all times the administration of public affairs should be intrusted to those best qualified to discharge the duties imposed upon them, it is the more necessary that it should be so at a moment of great national emergency.

"That the manner in which merit and efficiency have been sacrificed to party and family influence, and to blind adherence to routine in appointments to the great offices of state and to posts in diplomacy, the army, and other branches of public service, is opposed to the best interests of the State, has already given rise to great misfortunes, threatens to bring discredit upon the national character, and to involve the country in serious disasters.

"That this house will give its best support to any Ministry which in the present emergency shall propose to itself as its main objects the efficiency of the public service and the vigorous prosecution of the war, as the only means of securing an honourable and lasting peace.

### Correspondence.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

MR. EDITOR.—I presume that you expect some information respecting the proceedings of our Bishop to be communicated from each locality which he may visit, as such information conveyed through your columns must be interesting to all members of the Church.

Thursday, the 10th instant, was the day appointed for administering the rite of Confirmation in Trinity Church, Sherbrook, and on the previous evening his Lordship, accompanied by the Rev. C. Shreve, of Chester, arrived in that Settlement, and were hospitably entertained at Rose Bank Cottage, the residence of George Rose, Esq. Notwithstanding a severe snow-storm that prevailed throughout the following day, the congregation was as large as the limits of the Church would permit. The day's solemnities were to have commenced with the consecration of a burial ground, which now, for the first time, had been enclosed with a coat fence, and as the weather did not permit the usual service to be performed at the Burial Ground—which is detached from the Church—the Petition and Sentence of Consecration were read in the Church. After the Morning Service the Bishop addressed the candidates for Confirmation in his usual effective style, combining explanation and solemn admonition with affectionate advice. Twenty-two persons were