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HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE RUSSIAN WAR.

THE COMMENCEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.

SIROR OF SILESTRIA.—(Contined.)

All this, in substance, was true; and our allusion to the incidents here will save us the necessity of recurring to them hereafter. Let us quote a few words more from the electric messages of the time. They are at present both interesting and elucidatory. "The wonderful garrison of Silistria is said to be now reduced nearly one-half." On the ——they made another amazing sally, and routed the Russians at the south front. This cannot. last. much longer. The next mail will probably record the surrender of the fortress. The terms will be mild, it is thought; the garrison, at least, are certain to have the honours of war." (They were, indeed. Of these honours of war." (They war.) (They wa SIEGE OF SILISTRIA.—(Contined.)

the siege; thirdly, no such movement was made, silistria could be sayed by a given measure, which was perfectly practicable. Without that measure Silistria could be lost. That measure was avoided. Therefore, may we not fairly ask—was it the intention, was it the wish, that Silistria should in fact be lost? We fear that, if the reply was honestly given, it would be affirmative. But what motives could exist? They could not be strategical. No; but they might be political, or, rather, they might be diplomatic. The Emperor of Russia saw by this time, that his calculations, based upon expected dissensions between England and France, and on the weakness of "the sick man"—in short, that all his calculations were quite illusory. He was willing to accept the terms then offered. But his honour must be saved—he must not be degraded in the eyes of Europe, or desecrated in those of his own people. His pride must be humoured. Some great success must be achieved, and then he would proclaim that he was satisfied; and that, not from the stress of defeat, or compulsion, but under the influence of his "habitual moderation," he wanted to terminate this quarrel, and relieve the anxieties of the world. Peace, it was thought, would immediately follow the capture of Silistria.

If this vile deference to the vainglory and selfishness of the man who had inflicted so many injuries upon the community of nations was indulged at the cost of that community, if the feelings of the tyrant and the despolier were honoured above the interests of his victims, above the interests, indeed, of the world at large, above the claims of the most righteous of causes, and let us not forget it) above the blood of the faithful and valiant garrison of Silistria, doomed thus to destruction and to attached, they could not a bundanment, we may at least console ourselves with two facts—first, his conduct of Omer Pacha; and, secondly, the conduct and the fate (combined) of the troops in Silistria. Whatever restraints may have been imposed upon Omer Pacha's movement

north bank of the Danube, opposite Silistria; and the town was bombarded from morning till night; and, undoubtedly, the Russians now began to show themselves in force on both banks of the Danube, near and around that fatal fortress. On the 28th of April, the Russians, being completely established on the south bank attacked the outworks of Silistria. On the same day, one hundred miles to the west, at Nicopolis, Sali Pacha had a battle with the Russians, who had neglected all the country lying to their right, because they were endeavouring to envelope Silistria in every direction, and they thought they had excluded the western or left wing of the Turkish army from the real business then in hand. Sali Pacha defeated the enemy, killing nearly 2000 of them. In conformity with their usual strategy, straggling and indecisive, the Russians, at the same time that they were thus endeavouring to force the Danube from Turna, tried also to exhibit themselves in apparent strength. tried also to exhibit themselves in apparent strength at Radowan, nearly sixty miles to the right. Suleiman Bey, whose rank was that of a Colonel, stormed Radowan, and had the glory of beating the invaders with almost as much slaughter in this place as Sali Pacha had inflicted on them at Nicopolis and Turna. But these reverses on the Russian right might have been expected, when they were weakening it, in order to strengthen the divisions destined by them to take Silistria. The assault on the outworks was so hotly received, that full three weeks elapsed before General Schilders had completed the investment. On the adverse shore he piled up batteries of heavy guns, which maintained a continual bombardment; and with those guns he left his portable hospitals (or ambulances) and his reserves. The forces which he transported over the Danube to form the actual leaguer were not less than 53,000 men, while the garrison mustered 8000 only. His artillery, which was numerous and heavy, has been variously computed. Probably tried also to exhibit themselves in apparent strength at Radowan, nearly sixty miles to the right. less than 53,000 men, while the garrison mustered 8000 only. His artillery, which was numerous and heavy, has been variously computed. Probably the most effective batteries were those which he directed against the south-west fronts; and here, indeed, the fire was severe and terrible. On this side the ground rises in a series of platforms, which could not be surrendered to the enemy with safety to the town. They are occupied, therefore, by outworks which are all-important; for, on the day when they are taken, Silistria is virtually taken. The outworks are called respectively Arab Tabia and Illanli. They are of earth. The Turkish artillery protecting them was repeatedly breached; but, burrowing in the cavities of that redoubt, the indomitable defenders waited only till the thunder of the guns had ceased, and till the tramp of the storming columns made the ground about them tremble, when they appeared swarming out of the bowels of the earth, and—dagger in hand, rather than sword in hand—dung themselves upon the assailants. The Russians in these great assaults which, as the siege progressed, were conducted in

and not to witness his own success; to win imperishable praise, and die without hearing the first cheer. Butler, Nasmyth, and the Prussian engineer told the Turks that they must not despond, because the besiegers were laying powder under the surrounding works. Against those mines other mines could be wrought, and all the enemy's labour would be more than lost; for before they approached near enough to do damage, they would themselves be blown into the air. The Turks took heart again, saving that Allah was indeed great. saying that Allah was indeed great.
On the 11th of May, Silistria itself was assaulted On the 11th of May, Silistria itself was assaulted. The assailants were beaten, and lost more than two thousand men. Meanwhile, however, the works were incessantly advanced; and, so convergent were the movements with a view to storm or reduce this great fortress, that the right wing of the general Russian army of occupation was consigned to every mischance; whereas the Turkish left wing, as we have said was transformed virtually into a nowerthis great fortress, that the right wing of the general Russian army of occupation was consigned to every mischance; whereas the Turkish left wing, as we have said, was transformed, virtually, into a powerful and dangerous army. On the 21st of May another general assault was repulsed. On the 26th of May the left wing, being now an isolated division of Omer Pacha's force, felt its way eastwards, to Turna, Semnitza, and Giurgevo—in all which places it found, and severely defeated, the enemy. Some such results Omer Pacha had foreseen, when (if we may use the phrase) he had abandoned this part of his forces to themselves. We must not confound these Turks with the Turks defending, originally, that part of the Danube which on the other shore, corresponded with the present position of the advancing victors. Quite otherwise; the conquerors had come from the west, not straight across the river; and their "pivot" was, properly speaking, Widdin. The Russians persisted in disregarding such casualties; and, on the 29th of May, only three days afterwards—a very fatal date to choose for a contest with the Mussulman—Prince Gortschakoff and General Schilders ordered a combined assault upon the south-east, the south, and the west fronts of Silistria. Hurled from the breaches, the enemy himself scknowledged that he lost that day, between one thousand men. They had used thirty thousand in the attack. It was the anniversary of the Turkish conquest of Constantinople. On the 29th of May, 1453, Mahomet II. took forcible possession of that European territory which his descendants were now defending with so much heroism. Two days after the assault just mentioned, the last day in the month (May Sist), the outflanking left wing of the Ottoman army had pushed to Slatina, and there had yon another victory; and, indeed, on the previous day, which was the day immediately following the great assault upon Silistria, they had fought a hattle at Karakal (through which Slatina is reached in hatter the second control of the previous day, which was

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Wednesday, January 18, 1956

It order to collect an irresistible force for the crowing expeit of the campaign. Further than the control of the campaign and the "must be taken," and when the storming columns on the 29th were mustered for the assault, the gloom in the countenances of the men gave a bad augury of the result. Repulsed twice from the defences, they hesitated to obey, when ordered once more to advance. Upon this Count Orloff, jun., General Schilders, General Gortschakoff, and General Schilders, determined the bend of the General Schilders, General Gortschakoff, and General Luders placed themselves at the head of the men, crying to these to follow; while Prince Paskiewitsch rode up to the spot and addressed them partly with reproaches and partly with encouragements. The assault was unsuccessfully renewed, and a murderous carnage took place. General Schilders, not again destined to take a fortress, the capture of which twenty-five years before had been the commencement of his reputation, was struck by a cannon ball, which carried off his thighs. General Luders had his jaw struck away;

thighs. General Luders had his jaw struck away; Count Orloff was killed: General Gortschakoff was thighs. General Luders had his jaw struck away; Count Orloff was killed; General Gortschakoff was severely, and Prince Paskiewitch desperately, wounded. The Turks had not only repelled the assault, but had pursued the assailants up to their very batteries. Some of the relieving column outside had meanwhile alarmed and disordered the Russians in the rear. This practically terminated the siege; for the garrison was again succoured during the confusion of the engagement; and the Russian works were so damaged, that they would have all to be recommenced. Mussa Pacha, struck by a spent ball, died of the hurt in a few hours. Such was this memorable siege of Silistria, which might be compared with that of Saragossa for the bravery of the defence. We believe we shall not be guilty of exaggeration, in saying that, from first to last, the Russians lost, under or near the walls of Silistria, 30,000 men.

They now recrossed the river, so thoroughly demoralized, that, had there been a sufficient force to pursue them, they must have either laid down

They now recrossed the river, so thoroughly demoralized, that, had there been a sufficient force to pursue them, they must have either laid down their arms, or been annihilated. They retreated from every point towards Fokshani and Birlat; evacuating not only Lesser, but Greater Wallachia. Skender Beg and some of the other Turkish chiefs who commanded in the south-west of the Principalities, pursued the enemy at leisure beyond the Aluta. It was only in the Upper Dobrudscha that the Czar now held any portion of the further bank of the Danube.

The Allies had meantime assembled, to the number of about 50,000, in Varna and the neighbouring camps; and, as the campaign was finished upon the Danube, they began to meditate some other expedition; and, after many councils of war, it was secretly decided to invade the Crimea, and to attack Sebastopol. Siege-trains were ordered from England and France, transports were prepared, and everything gradually provided flut the cholera attacked both the armies and the flees, which for two months lay prostrate under this (Continued on fourth page-).

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