

**THE FRIENDS OF PEACE IN St. PETERSBURG.**

Mr. Joseph Sturge and the other gentlemen deputed by the Society of Friends to wait upon the Emperor Nicholas, have arrived at their destination, and have probably ere now fulfilled their mission. Mr. Sturge has communicated to his brother some particulars of his progress, from which we are indebted for the following details:—Early in the present month the deputation left Riga, a town situated in Russian Poland, distant about a hundred miles from St. Petersburg. This and several hundred miles from St. Petersburg. This distance was traversed by means of sledges; and some conception may be formed of the sort of route they had to take, when we mention, that no fewer than three hundred horses were employed for the various relays on the road. Mr. Sturge, writing from St. Petersburg, on the 4th February, describes his journey as having been very satisfactory; and, considering the great amount of snow that had fallen, he and his companions had arrived as soon as they could have expected. On their arrival at the Russian capital, the party first obtained an introduction to a gentleman who had resided in Russia for 40 years, and who it was thought would be of service to them in their delicate mission. The deputation found a report prevalent that all the members of the royal family, even including the Grand Duke Constantine, were anxious for peace; and as Count Nesselrode, the Chancellor of the Empire, was known from the first to have opposed the war, the gentleman alluded to, recommended the deputation to send the Count a note, requesting an interview. This they did, stating that they had not deemed it advisable to apply to their own Ministers, or to the Ambassador in London; and for the same reasons they had preferred applying to Count Nesselrode direct, for the purpose of securing his assistance in the presentation of the address to the Emperor. On this letter being delivered, the Count almost immediately sent a messenger, apparently one of his private secretaries, who could speak good English, and fixed an early hour for receiving the deputation. The messenger further stated that he was instructed to render them any service he could. On the 5th of February, Mr. Sturge and his friends were visited by the English Consul, who, though he had but little hope of their success, expressed his belief that the Emperor would receive them. In reference to the war, the British Consul stated to the deputation that the trade of Russia, as far as England is concerned, must be greatly paralysed by what has taken place. This circumstance is already known to the Emperor, and it was hoped would have influenced with him on the side of peace. On the following day the party learnt that the Emperor was rising out, and consequently that the day of their reception would be thereby postponed. However, just after receiving this intelligence, they had a note from Count Nesselrode, stating that he had been sent for by the Emperor relative to the interview, and intimating his (the Count's) wish to receive their visit about half past 1 o'clock. Accordingly, they waited upon him, and met with a very cordial reception. The Count said he had already spoken to the Emperor upon the subject, who had expressed his willingness to appoint a day for giving an audience. The deputation then read the address they had been deputed to present, and the Count replied that both himself and the Emperor sympathised with the sentiments it contained. The deputation then retired, after leaving a French translation of the address for the perusal of the Emperor. Up to the 11th inst. the party had not been in the least expectation of learning his Majesty's pleasure. Mr. Sturge describes the frost as exceedingly intense, the temperature being one morning at five degrees Fahrenheit. However, the houses are so secured with double windows and other means used to exclude the cold, that he was not sensible of the change of temperature until going out of the domicile. Sunday is very little observed by the great body of the people. The places of worship were all opened, as also were a number of shops; while, on the same day, there was a sledge-race on the frozen Neva, to which some thousands of persons resorted. Mr. Sturge adds that there is an Episcopalian place of worship, and also one belonging to the Independents.

**ROYAL CLEMENCY.**—In the House of Commons, Feb. 22, Lord Palmerston in reply to a question said: "Some of those persons who were transported with Mr. Smith O'Brien have thought fit to break their parole, and have escaped from their place of detention. Mr. Smith O'Brien on the other hand, whatever may have been his other failings and his guilt, has acted like a gentleman, and has not taken advantage of opportunities which, if he had been less honorably disposed, he might have availed himself of; and it is the intention of her Majesty's government to recommend the crown to extend to Mr. Smith O'Brien the means of placing himself in the same situation by an act of clemency, in which those other persons had placed themselves by a violation of the pledges which they gave."

The Gazette of Tuesday night announces the principal appointments on the staff of the expedition, which involve an increase of army rank. Lord Raglan becomes a General, and Colonels Benbow, Sir Colin Campbell, Airey and Eyre, are gazetted to the rank of Major-General. Colonel Pennesfather, C.B., Dep. Quarter-master-general in Ireland, will be the Quarter-master-general of the Force. Colonel Pennesfather had the command of the 22nd at Meane. It is not expected that Lord Raglan will leave England before the last week in March, by which time the whole of the expedition, both first and second divisions, will have been completed.

**TRADE BETWEEN ENGLAND, RUSSIA AND TURKEY.**—A return to the House of Commons has been printed, by which it appears that in 1862, the official value of imports into the United Kingdom from Russian northern ports was 4,190,830*l.*, and from the ports within the Black Sea, 2,212,289*l.*; and the declared value of British produce and manufactures exported to the same ports was 294,330*l.* to the northern ports, and 105,687*l.* to the ports within the Black Sea. The official value of the imports from the Turkish dominions, exclusive of Wallachia, Moldavia, Syria, Palestine and Egypt was 9,252,234*l.*, and the British exports was 2,079,910*l.*

The following is a list of the regiments under orders for Constantinople, with the dates at which they are directed to hold themselves in readiness to embark.

4th (King's own)	22nd March
9th (Royal Fusiliers)	25th "
7th	6th "
14th	3rd "
17th	4th "
21st (Royal North British Fusiliers)	15th "
27th (Antiskilling)	10th "
28th	17th "
35th	13th "
35th	29th "
39th	2nd "
42nd (Royal Highlanders)	30th "
60th (Queen's own)	18th "
62nd	5th "
63rd	7th "
79th Cameron Highlanders	29th "
82nd	10th "
85th Connaught Rangers	27th "
90th	1st April
90th Perthshire Light Infantry	9th "
93rd Sutherland Highlanders	21st "
95th	24th "

The following regiments will be all remaining in the United Kingdom to do some duty.—The 34th, 20th, 97th, 45th, 3rd, 77th, 91st, 12th, 19th, 23rd, and the Rifle Brigade.

It is intended early in the ensuing month that a camp, consisting of 30,000 English Militia, shall be formed either at Chobham, or such other place as the general in command of the army shall deem fit.

About 10,000*l.* is to be collected to form the first expedition.

A brigade of Guards forms part of the expedition.

**THE AMERICAN MINISTER AND THE ENGLISH COURT.**—It gives us much pleasure to be able to state that the Queen has intimated to Mr. Buchanan, the American Ambassador, that it will in future be left to his Excellency to appear at State balls and her Majesty's dinner-parties, in whatever costume is most agreeable to himself. The Lord Chamberlain has also made a similar communication to his Excellency, relative to his costume on the opening or closing of the sessions of Parliament.

**MANNING THE NAVY.**—It will be learnt with extreme satisfaction by the maritime interest, that the Government has not the remotest idea or intention of resorting to compulsory measures of any kind for manning the Navy.

**NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Capt. Edward Augustus Inglesfield (1853), who made two previous voyages to the Arctic regions—the first in the Isabel, screw steamer, in which he proceeded up Smith's Sound to an entrance of the great Polar Sea; and the second, in which he succeeded, in the Phoenix screw steam-ship, in conveying stores and provisions to Beechy Island, for the relief of Capt. Sir Edward Belcher's expedition, and returned the same season, bringing home Lieut. Cresswell, of the Investigator, the first European who accomplished the North-west passage, having entered through Behring's Straits and returned to England by Davis' Straits—is appointed to command the Phoenix screw steam-ship, Woolwich, commissioned on Tuesday, for the purpose of conveying further relief, during the approaching season, for Sir Edward Belcher's expedition, at the rendezvous at Beechy Island. Lieutenant Samuel George Cresswell (1853), who has been borne on the books of the Investigator, which he left last year in Mercy Bay in the Arctic regions, on his return to England with despatches from Capt. McClure, is appointed to be lieutenant-commander of the Talbot, 22, to convey stores to Beechy Island, and to accompany the Phoenix.

**DECISION OF AUSTRIA.**—Austria has adopted a decision which is alike accordant with her interests, her dignity, her traditional policy, and her rank as a great European power. She has intimated to the Western Governments that, should Russia persist in hostilities, she will take an active part in co-operation with the Allies; and there can be no doubt that, with the powerful support, both moral and material, which the arms of England and France will derive from the aid of the States to which the guardianship of the Danube naturally belongs, the war must be both decisive and brief. Simultaneously with this wise and bold determination of the Court of Vienna, the Czar is hurrying on the contest which he has so rashly and wantonly provoked.

We have intelligence from St. Petersburg to the effect that the Emperor Nicholas had been suffering from erysipelas, and was said to be in a state of great irritation and excitement, which rendered him inaccessible to the advice of his oldest Ministers.

The utmost activity prevailed in every department of the Government, and preparations for war are made on the most extensive scale.

A letter from Berlin states that the Czar is extremely enraged at the answer returned by Prussia. Prince Paskovitch is summoned from Warsaw to St. Petersburg. Russian troops are to be stationed between Riga and Memel.

Five Turkish steamers and a swarm of sailing vessels, conveyed by five English and three French steamers, under Admiral Lyons, left the Bosphorus on the 7th with stores for Smyrna, Trebizond, and Batoum.

The Russians lately attempted a landing at Czernowola, in the Dobruddja, at the mouth of the Danube, but were repulsed with loss.

A Russian manifesto has appeared, announcing that between the 1st of March and the 15th of April a further levy of nine men in the thousand will be made.—It also mobilizes the whole army and fleet.

Three Russian ships of war are lying in the Austrian harbours.

Colonel Baumgarten, the Russian commander at Cistale, has died of his wounds.

The Debats for the third time this last six-months, states on the authority of a private despatch, that Khiva has been taken by the Russians.

The combined fleets are still at Baicos, where they await an order from their Governments explanatory of the instructions forwarded to the Ambassadors, who differ from the Admirals as to the purport of those instructions.

Letters have been received from Madeira, from the owner of the Proserpine yacht, which fitted out at Plymouth, and was at Madeira, on her way to Australia, stating that two Russian frigates were cruising off Madeira.

Some eminent Israelites at Adrianople have raised a free corps of their brethren. The Sultan has accepted the services of its members, and presented to it two banners, one of which bears three golden fishes and the other a silver crescent.

A letter from Vienna states that 25,000 more men are to be sent immediately to the south-eastern frontier. To calm the fears of the public, it will be officially announced that his Majesty is still doing all in his power to maintain peace.

All the Turkish consuls in Russia are about to give in their resignations, and place their fellow subjects under Austrian protection. Foreigners are leaving St. Petersburg and Moscow in numbers.

**SWEDEN.**  
From Christiana the news is warlike: 6000 men are to be mobilized, of whom 3000 are to be sent to Stockholm, 1000 to Christiansand, 1000 to Horten, and the rest to Kaholmen. The frigates Desideria and Freya, the corvettes Nordstjernen, Nidaros and Flluda, and a division of the gunboat fleet, are to be got ready immediately.

**SPAIN.**  
An Englishman of the name of Thorold, who had been a few months in Spain, died lately at Madrid, and was buried in the new burial ground acquired by the English government, this being the second case of interment. On the present occasion, the English consul (Mr. Braatenbury) by Lord Howden's desire, read the Protestant burial service over the body of the deceased—no opposition whatever being made; neither did the passage of the corpse through the streets provoke the smallest hostile manifestation. The cemetery question may therefore be left practically where it is. It is, however, urgent that a wall should be built around the acquired ground, and this without any unnecessary delay.

Generals Concha and O'Donnell are struck off the list of the Spanish army.

The Madrid Gazette publishes the following decree: "Her Majesty the Queen having been informed of the sudden rise in this capital of the price of bread, without any justifiable motive, has deigned to order, in her solicitude for the welfare of the people, and particularly of the indigent classes, that your Excellency should immediately remedy the evil, authorising you for that purpose to adopt all the measures you may deem necessary, &c."

**GREECE.**  
**RUSSIAN INTRIGUE.—THE GREEK INSURRECTION.**—Four provinces in Lower Epirus have already risen; they are the districts of Seonicaris, a Radovitzki Zoumerka, and Agrapha. More than two thousand men are already under arms; their flag is the Greek cross on a blue ground, with the motto of the *Laborans*, the ancient standard of Byzantium, "Conquer by this." They have issued a proclamation, in which they say that, "being no longer able to bear the barbarism that oppresses them—the violation of all law, the pillage of their property, the dishonor of their daughters—they have taken arms to reconquer their liberty, and continue their work of 1821, which for them has only been interrupted." And they then take an oath to die to the last man rather than ever again submit themselves to the Turks. The Governor of Arta sent against them a detachment commanded by Zeinebey, but the insurgents beat them, and killed their chief. A second engagement has taken place since, in which the Turks were again beaten; and the news has arrived that the town of Arta was on the point of being taken, and that Preveza was in capitulation. The insurrection had extended as far as Soufi. A great number of the inhabitants of the Ionian Islands had, also crossed over to Epirus to help their countrymen.