

THE BOMBARDMENT OF SWEABORG.

The following is a translation from the *Svenska Tidningen* of a letter from Finland, dated Helsingfors, November 1, 1855.

"With regard to your request for a detailed account of the affair of Sweaborg, is now a little late for that. Three months have elapsed since that event, and the *Svenska Tidningen* appears to estimate the losses pretty correctly. I had, moreover, left the town during the occurrence itself, and when I returned I came too late for the sight. Kajsaniemi (Katarinapoint) Park, which I visited the day after my return, gave me, nevertheless, an idea of all the confusion which must have prevailed during the bombardment. A little way from the great entrance gate one saw on both sides of the road furniture of every description, lighted up by lanterns flashing through the trees. On approaching nearer, a singular sight presented itself. Surrounded by their goods and chattels, a number of families had here fixed their habitations. Employes, Russian merchants, shoemakers, even a lucifer-matchmaker with his stock-in-trade, were encamped here peacefully alongside one another. Conversations, laughter, lamentations, and even the sounds of a piano-forte were to be heard indiscriminately from among this society, all occupied in their own pursuits. I sat down for a little while on a pail, without an owner and watched these groups. Near me was to be seen the mother of a family drinking coffee out of a teapot by the light of a lantern which hung on the branch of a tree, while her husband sat a little way off, with his arms folded, on a heap of bedclothes. The family seemed to be completely calm and tranquil, and as far as one could judge by the effects that surrounded them, had not failed to save everything they reasonably could. On the other side of the park again, all the way from the Kajsaniemi (now bearing the sign of Cafe Restaurant) up to the new bridge a regiment of Grenadiers was encamped. Sweaborg still stands where it was though somewhat changed. The fine line-of-battle ship *Russia*, which according to Count Siever's report in the *Allmanne Tidningen* lost 103 men (somewhat in contradiction to a later statement made by the same paper, that the Russian loss during the whole bombardment only amounted to 60 men), and which was struck in the hull by 25 shells, is now again repaired as far as was possible. According to the testimony of the officers, the brave defenders of Sweaborg did not for one moment waver during the terrible bombardment; only once when the indispensable cellar belonging to the well-known brewer Linebrychon was blown up at the commencement of the attack, did a part of the garrison lose their presence of mind; there is, however, no want of reports of court-martials, military executions, &c. Since a Russian officer has discovered that the mortars of Swedish metal, which are lying in quantities in the arsenal at Sweaborg, carry from one to two versts further than the Russian ones on the ramparts, the former have been mounted, and they are now only waiting to show the allies, that the Russians can also make discoveries in artillery science. The new bombproof roof which is now being erected at Sweaborg, made of earth and beams, may also put some difficulties in their way.

"But I now abandon all political gossip about the 8th of August, with respect to which I have indeed little more to say at present. On the other hand, I will call your attention to the distress which the war causes us private individuals. The dearth of everything has now reached an extraordinary height. I will not speak of colonial wares, but I will just mention the price of some of our home produce. A cow now costs at Helsingfors 35 silver roubles. Wood costs 15 silver roubles a fathom. (A fathom of birchwood; which is considered enough for the consumption of one stove during the winter, costs about one guinea at Stockholm at present. In ordinary times about 1/6s. Pine wood is about one-third cheaper.) Lodgings are hardly to be got at all; most of them are hired at enormous prices the very day they become vacant for billeting troops. Nearly all the lodgings have been occupied during the whole year by Russian soldiery. Soon there will be no other course open but to hire apartments

from the Russian officers, and I know a person who has done so already. If one travels to or from Helsingfors, one has the greatest difficulty in obtaining post-horses. A person going to Abo was compelled to wait at the posthouse at Grahns from 3 o'clock in the afternoon till 6 o'clock on the following morning for one post-horse. This has had a very bad effect on the university, which opens in a few days, and for which a number of students have already arrived from all parts.

"As a proof of the vigilance which characterises our new governor general, I send you in conclusion a proclamation, which is calculated more than any description of mine to throw light on the existing state of things here. This proclamation was to be posted up on all the assize towns, the public houses, and on the roads frequented by the military:—

PROCLAMATION.

"The investigations into the causes of the collisions which have repeatedly taken place between military men and civil authorities in Finland have convinced me that the said collisions do not arise from design on either side, but generally from ignorance of the laws and institutions, of the habits and customs, and of the character and language of the people. A knowledge of the national customs, but especially of the language, might in many cases avert all possibility of such misunderstandings, which often produce disagreeable consequences for both parties. I therefore recommend all officers under my command (without reference to the first conditions which distinguish all educated persons from the lower classes, viz., a civil and friendly bearing towards portions of all ranks, as well as in communications on duty with the authorities here (eng. the Post office, the magistrature, &c.), to consult with persons acquainted with the laws and institutions of this country; and when they have learned the proper mode of proceeding and the accepted customs in such cases, then, and not before, to set about the business they may have in hand. Respect shown by military men for the laws and institutions of the country creates confidence among the inhabitants towards the troops. A civil and friendly bearing enables the troops to obtain their lawful demand which must always be more or less burdensome for the inhabitants. An obliging manner creates in them a disposition to return 'like with like,' and I am convinced that if military men will pay attention to this my advice, many misunderstandings and collisions between the troops and the inhabitants will be avoided, to the advantage and mutual satisfaction of both parties. "Adjutant-General BENC." "Helsingfors, Sept. 12."

NIAGARA SURPASSED.—It may not be generally known, that there is supposed to be a cataract in existence in North America, of much greater magnitude than the Falls of Niagara. A gentleman with whom we were recently in conversation upon the subject, has just returned from Hudson's Bay, where he had been connected with the Fur Trade company for the last 6 years, and had been attached to many posts in different parts of that vast territory. During this period he had often heard the different tribes of Indians speak with superstitious awe of a cataract that existed in the interior, and which they called *Machimantou*, or the Falls of the bad spirit, (the devil.) They refused to take any white man with them, but would tell their locality as nearly as possible. The river on which these Falls flow is a large one, and is supposed to empty into the Arctic Ocean. The gentleman to whom we refer, had occasion to pass near the falls, and he describes the impression as being peculiarly sublime. The ground trembled beneath their feet, and a rumbling noise like distant thunder seemed to pervade the vicinity, which with the thick white clouds of mist slowly floating over head, at once combined to impress the mind with a supernatural feeling, and leave no doubt whatever upon the mind as to the existence of the great cataract. Our informant thought the height must be tremendous, as it took the party two days to ascend the pine ridge over which the water falls. The gentleman in question had often been at Niagara, and we have reason to believe that his statements are not exaggerated—though they may appear incredulous to many. We have no doubt, however, that this incredulity will in the course of time be removed, by the foregoing account being substantiated by others from enterprising travellers.—*St. John News.*

Hamburg is in a state of ferment in consequence of the arrest of a bookseller, named Cape, who has been sent to prison, for publishing a work by Dr. Vobse, which has been suppressed by the German government.

RETURN OF ADMIRAL LYONS.—The British war steamer *Caradoc* arrived at Marseilles on the 30th ult. from Constantinople, which she left on the 28th. Sir Edmund Lyons, Admiral-in-Chief of the English Black Sea squadron, and General La Marmora, Commander-in-Chief of the Sardinian army, came passengers in that vessel, and took their departure for Paris the next morning. The Consuls of England and Sardinia accompanied Sir Edmund Lyons and General La Marmora to the railway station. Admiral Lyons arrived in London late on Thursday night.

DENMARK AND THE ALLIES.—Letters from Copenhagen mention "the probability of the conclusion, between Denmark and the two Western Powers, of a treaty based in a great measure on the principles of territorial guarantee, and containing the same reciprocal obligations stipulated in the treaty signed with Sweden. It is impossible to deny that the policy of the Scandinavian Governments, which had maintained during those two years of maritime war a system of strict neutrality, has been deeply modified, as respects Russia, by the signature of a treaty of this description, in which, it is generally believed at Stockholm, that some secret clauses are inserted with regard to certain contingencies likely to rise out of the war. For the present, it appears positive that Sweden—and Denmark will necessarily follow the same line of conduct—has not bound herself to participate actively in hostile operations against Russia; but, should the war recommence in 1856, circumstances may occur which will render all further hesitation impossible on the part of Sweden. There is one fact, however, very clear—namely, that this last Power has evinced, by signing that act, a marked preference for the Western policy, and that the old alliance between the three Northern Powers, Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, is virtually at an end. The French corvette *d'Assas*, which returned with the English squadron to Elsinore, where she underwent some repairs, has sailed for France. During the last fortnight, agents of the Swedish Government purchased at Copenhagen a large quantity of dry tanned leather, which is said to be destined for her military armaments."

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

The immense interests depending on the results of Count Esterhazy's mission to St. Petersburg, continue to suggest a number of reports, both warlike and peaceful. The junction of new adherents to the great league formed by civilized Europe against the Czar is now a topic of almost daily announcement. On Monday last Baron Seebach, Saxon Envoy in France, left Dresden for St. Petersburg, on a mission which is officially stated to be "connected with the negotiations for peace." The Baron, it is understood, will communicate to the Emperor Alexander something like an "ultimatum" on the part of the smaller German Powers. What must be the tenor of that ultimatum is sufficiently shown by the selection of its bearer, who comes fresh from the Tuileries. New and stronger rumours that Spain and Portugal are contemplating an active adhesion to the Western Alliance, have reached us; and it is even stated that another friend to the cause will be found in the King of Naples and the Two Sicilies. It would be rash to expect from these new Allies any serious addition to the forces actually engaged in carrying on the war. But the mere fact of their junction—the bare offer of support and cooperation—must lend moral strength to the opponents of Russian ag-

gression. At every step, and on every side, the Czar is shown more clearly that his cause is abjured and his ambitious projects discountenanced. Every day he finds himself left in more complete isolation.

Sir Hamilton Seymour had an interview with Count Buol, at Vienna, on the 21st inst. M. de Bourqueney, the French Minister at Vienna, was present. The Austrian Gazette, adopting the current version of the terms offered to Russia through Austria, remarks that they are exceedingly moderate. "In fact, all its best positions are to be restored. The mouths of the Dniester and Danube, and, with the exception of a few points, the Crimean coast, are in the hands of its opponents; and the sea is forbidden to Russian ships. Yet Russia is to suffer no territorial limitation; the Baltic is to be open to all its ships, and the Euxine to its commercial navy. It must give up the luxury of a Black sea fleet, and open its ports to foreign consuls; but, on the other hand, it need raze none of its fortifications. Nothing is demanded which would wound the dignity or lower the military honour of Russia. The command of the Sulina mouth of the Danube was acquired by Russia without the consent of Europe, and only held under the pretence of guaranteeing the Continent against the plague. But Europe, which no longer requires the aid of Russia to secure her against that evil, does need, and must have, the freedom of the Danube."

The Dresden Gazette announces that Russia has already manifested a disposition to accept the neutralization of the Black Sea, with certain modifications, in conformity with the interests of Europe. Count Esterhazy was to reach St. Petersburg on the 23rd. The Czar is perfectly aware of the peace terms which the Western Powers have placed in the hands of the Austrian Envoy, and the Cabinet of St. Petersburg could, if it thought proper, give a decided answer within 12 hours.

BARON SEEBACH'S MISSION.

The German *Frankfort Journal* learns that Baron Seebach's mission to St. Petersburg is the result of an arrangement between the courts of Munich and Saxony. An evasive Russian reply to the offer of peace now made would, it is remarked, only lightly touch the Western Powers, but it would seriously affect Austria, who is the prime mover in this intervention, and perhaps compel her to measures which would introduce great coldness into her relations with Russia. "It is to prevent this," says the *Frankfort Journal*, "that M. de Seebach, has been sent to St. Petersburg."

IRISH ENTERPRISE.—Our enterprising fellow-citizen, Mr. Michael Smith, of Copper-alley, has entered into a contract with the Government of his Imperial Majesty Napoleon, for the supply of about a thousand tierces of Irish beef, to be delivered at the ports of Brest or Cherbourg, within a definite period.—*Dublin Mercantile Advertiser.*

The public clocks of Cork were on Tuesday changed to Dublin time, pursuant to a proclamation of the mayor. The city clocks were therefore set ten minutes in advance of the sun. A similar change has been practically adopted in Limerick and in some other towns.

The plan of getting up an Austro-German industrial exhibition in Vienna, for the year 1859, appears now to have been abandoned; and a grand universal exhibition, after the models of London and Paris, has now been decided upon; but it will probably not take place until the year 1860.

The people of Monaghan have memorialized the general commanding the forces in Ireland for a military force to be stationed in the county.

Monsignor Talbot, the "Cameriere Segreto," who used to introduce British subjects to the Pope, has gone to South America on an apostolic mission, and is succeeded by Monsignor Chigi, *pro tem.*

On the 4th ult. there were 50 cases of cholera at St. Petersburg, notwithstanding the coldness of the weather.