

from a too prolific vegetation. Last year the seeds of cholera and fever were brought to life by encampments in wooded Bulgarian valleys, in the vicinity of fetid morasses, or within the limits of a crowded and filthy seaport. Before Sebastopol the allies are encamped on a spot where no deleterious emanations can reach them, except those engendered by the necessary impurities of a camp, and these, through the care taken in burning or burying all offensive matter, have as yet had little effect on the health of the troops. As to fever, the usual season for it is June, and this month is now past, without any unusual sickness in the camp. It is therefore to be hoped that the autumn will pass away without any serious calamity. As to the dangers to be dreaded from winter, they are in the hand of man, who can avert them by proper care and forethought.

#### THE PLAGUE OF FLIES.

Though delivered by the progress of the siege from Russian sorties, we are exposed to the attacks of other enemies, as unceasingly troublesome, if not as dangerous. Every nook and cranny is infested by flies in millions, which give one no rest by day, and little by night. Within the last week the thing has almost assumed the dimensions of a plague. Like the Harpies, they literally "dispute the viands," such as they are, on which we regale, a morsel in its passage to the mouth being generally settled upon by two or more of the insects, which require to be vigorously shaken before they will let go their hold. To remove them from a glass of any liquid before tasting it, it is necessary to introduce three fingers and draw them from the vessel on the principle of "dragging," as practised by the Humane Society. The only way to be at rest is to sit in a thorough draft, which, when surrounded by papers, is a somewhat troublesome position. On entering a hut after a few moments' absence, they rise in a dense cloud, with a deafening buzz, from every object. Irritable sufferers pursue them desperately with towels, laying about on every side; others try to carry on a more scientific warfare, by burning old newspapers after closing every aperture; but it is useless—in five minutes the place is full with a new and more hungry swarm. The only respite is at night, when the invaders retire to rest on the ceiling in enormous black patches; but even then a candle brought in rouses them to all the playfulness of noon.

#### TACTICS OF THE ALLIES.

Nearly six weeks have now elapsed without bringing us, either from the Black Sea or the Baltic, any of those gratifying assurances of the active prosecution of the war, which the people of this country so earnestly desire to receive. Day by day the telegraph delivers its messages from the Crimea, but gives no tidings of any great or important event. Since the unfortunate repulse of the 18th of June, everything in the immediate vicinity of Sebastopol appears to have been in a state of abeyance. No movement upon a grand scale has been attempted. The siege works, we are told, in front of the Malakoff and the Redan are progressing favorably; but the difficulties to be overcome are exceedingly great, and the exploits of the pickaxe and the shovel, however valuable and indispensable towards the attainment of some well calculated end, have ever the appearance of being slow and spiritless. This is one of the circumstances which invariably detract from the popular interest in a siege; and it must be confessed that its depressing influence is at this moment beginning to be very strongly felt in England. People wonder why it is that with an army of upwards of 200,000 men supplied by a fleet of more than 200 sail, the allied commanders should allow six weeks of the height of summer to pass with scarcely so much as a single hostile shot fired against the enemy. We cannot pretend to answer all the impatient and indignant inquiries which are made upon this point. We can only presume that the allied generals are well aware of what they are about, and that they are zealously taking the best steps that their experience and skill can suggest to accomplish the great end for which the Crimean expedition was undertaken. At the same time we must candidly own that we participate in no slight degree in the surprise now so generally felt, that the operations of the allied army in the Crimea should be exclusively confined to the mere works of the siege. In the earlier months of the springs, when the united strength of the French and English troops before Sebastopol scarcely exceeded 50,000 men, there was an earnest demand on the part of the generals for large reinforcements, to enable them, as it was understood, to extend the field of their operations—to open a campaign in the neighboring country—to cut off all the enemy's sources of supply, and as it was hoped, to accomplish a complete investment of the beleaguered fortress on every side. The demand thus made was complied with all the promptitude that circumstances would admit of, and before the end of May the aggregate strength of the English, French, Sardinian, and Turkish troops landed on the plateau to the southward of Sebastopol, amounted to not less than 220,000 men. With this magnificent reinforcement, it was confidently anticipated that the allied generals would lose no time in giving effect to their original intention and that whilst a portion of the army was retained to prosecute the siege of Sebastopol, and to hold the lines of Balaklava, the remainder would take the field and seek an encounter with the enemy wherever they could find him. For some cause or other this plan has never been acted upon. With the exception of the expedition to the Sea of Azoff, which necessarily partook more of a naval than of a military character, nothing whatever has been attempted either to bring the enemy to a battle in the field—to cut off his supplies from Perekop and Simpheropol—or to shut him up in Sebastopol by enclosing him up within the lines of a complete investment. This, for upwards of two months of the finest season of the year, by far the greater portion

of the superb army of the allies has been passing its time in a state of complete inactivity and idleness, whilst the smaller portion has been laboriously but fruitlessly engaged in pressing the works of the siege. It cannot be denied that the continuance of this state of things—so different from what was proposed and expected—is beginning to produce a strong feeling of dissatisfaction. A conviction daily gains ground that there must be a grave fault somewhere; either that the allied generals are not competent to the task they have in hand, or that their skill is thwarted and rendered nugatory by the perverseness of instructions, or the defectiveness of supplies, received from their Governments at home. One reason for the suspension of any active operations in the field is alleged to be the want of an adequate supply of draft animals to enable the army to move even one day's march from its place of encampment. If that be so, it is impossible too strongly to condemn the gross mismanagement of an Administration which spends a million of money to plant a noble army upon the territory of an enemy, and then denies it the means of taking a single step in advance or of striking a single blow in furtherance of the design for which it was placed there. That Sebastopol will ultimately be subdued we do not for a moment question; but with the utmost deference to the superior knowledge and experience of the military chiefs by whom the operations before its works have hitherto been conducted, we must be allowed to doubt whether the best means for its speedy reduction have yet been adopted. It will be remembered that we have from the first contended that the readiest, and, perhaps, the only mode of obtaining a triumphant access to this redoubtable stronghold, is by gaining complete possession of the country which surrounds it. We remain of the same opinion still. All that has occurred within the last three months convinces us that the allies are but vainly wasting their strength as long as they confine themselves to a mere contention with the mounds of earth which the wonderful activity and great engineering skill of the enemy enables him to throw up at all points for his defence. Even supposing that success should instantly crown the gigantic efforts they are now making to carry the Malakoff and the Redan, it by no means follows that an early conquest of Sebastopol would result from it. The utmost advantage that could be gained, would be the reduction of that part of the town and fortifications which lie to the southward of the remarkable inlet upon which the fortress is seated; and this would be but a barren victory as long as the formidable Russian works which crown the northern heights, and command every part of the city, bay, and river remain intact. This is where we think the allied generals err in their strategy. Were they to force their way into the south side of Sebastopol to-morrow, they could not retain possession of it for an hour—seeing that they would instantly be brought under the overwhelming fire of the whole of the works which line the northern side of the inlet, to which it would be impossible for them, from the inferior elevation of the ground on the south, to make an adequate reply from their own artillery. No conquest of Sebastopol can be complete until the northern fortifications have been assailed and carried; but up to the present moment not a single step has been taken towards the achievement of that great and necessary end. With the numerical strength which the allies now possess in the Crimea, their inactivity in the field is, we confess, quite inexplicable. The country between the Tchernaya and Simpheropol is said to have been so strongly fortified by the enemy as to forbid the successful advance of an army, however powerful, in that direction. It may be so, although the fact has not been ascertained, and may be open to considerable doubt. But the army of the allies, if it desires to strike a blow, either upon Simpheropol or upon any other point of the Crimea, is not dependent upon any single line of approach. The sea is open to it in every direction, and there is no point of the coast upon which, with the assistance of the fleet, it is not capable of making a speedy and easy descent. If nothing were to be done to force a way from the lines of Balaklava to the northward of Sebastopol, why was Omar Pasha and the gallant army of the Danube transferred from Eupatoria to the already crowded heights of the Tauric Chersonesus? It is now pretty obvious that that movement was a mistake; and probably the best way of correcting it would be to send that able general back again to Eupatoria, accompanied by a powerful division of the other portions of the allied army, with instructions to march at once by the coast to the banks of the Belbek, with the view of carrying or laying siege to the strong works of the enemy on the northern side of Sebastopol. Were something of that kind done—and done without further loss of time—we should look with confidence to a speedy and successful issue of the immense exertions now being made in front of the Malakoff and Redan; but as long as the labors of the besiegers are confined exclusively to the capture of the southern outworks, with no corresponding efforts made to subdue the stronger defences of the north, or to effect a complete investment of the place, we shall expect to hear only of partial advantages, obtained at costly sacrifices, and attended with no result of a final and conclusive character.—*London News of the World*, July 29.

#### ALLIANCE OF THE NORTH AGAINST THE WEST.

Circumstances which have recently transpired would appear to justify the apprehension that Austria is about to seal her treachery towards the Western Powers, by entering into direct combination with Russia and Prussia to oppose, and if need be, to resist by arms the policy of the Allies. An impression of that nature has latterly taken deep root in the mind of the Parisian public. It rests in these circumstances: A few days after the close of the conferences at Vienna, Count Buol transmitted an ac-

count of the whole proceedings to Count Valentine Esterhazy, the Austrian Plenipotentiary at St. Petersburg. The attention of Count Esterhazy was called, at the same time, to the new obligations which the change of circumstances imposed on Austria: he was also instructed to communicate the despatches to Count Nesselrode, and if required, to leave a copy of them with that Minister. This attention on the part of Count Buol was responded to by Count Nesselrode in a note, dated the 5th of July, addressed to Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, with orders to communicate it to the Austrian Minister. These orders were carried into execution in a conference which took place between Prince Gortschakoff and Count Buol on the 12th of July. In Count Nesselrode's note he expresses the most unbounded and unqualified approbation of the course pursued by Count Buol throughout the conferences. The last proposals of Count Buol are declared to be such as Russia would have accepted with one or two unessential modifications. Count Nesselrode complains bitterly of the refusal of the Plenipotentiaries of the Western Powers to proceed to the discussion of the Fourth Point before the Third had been finally adjusted; and declares that this article, which would have placed the Christian subjects of the Porte under the protection of the European Powers, was the most essential of all. More important, however, than any part of Count Nesselrode's note yet adverted to, are two passages, in which he lavishes the most flattering eulogies on the conduct of M. Buol, and declares, first, that Russia views with complete satisfaction the occupation of the Danubian Principalities by Austria; and, secondly, that Russia, so far from ever being induced to make war upon Austria, would be ready again, as she had always previously been, to lend her the assistance of her arms to maintain possession of any and every part of her dominions. Whilst this correspondence has been going on between the Courts of St. Petersburg and Vienna, the Cabinet of Berlin has not been idle. On the 5th of July, a note from the Prussian Minister was communicated to Count Buol. This document contains some unmeaning promises as to what Prussia would do in the event of Russia's invading the Principalities or threatening Germany. The value of these promises may be judged by the circumstance that Count Nesselrode's note declaring the satisfaction of Russia at seeing the Principalities occupied by Austria is also dated the 5th of July. No reasonable man can doubt that the terms of the Prussian and Russian Notes were concerted between the two Courts. The real meaning of the Prussian Note is to be sought in a sentence in which M. Manteuffel recommends that Austria and Prussia should rest satisfied with expressing, in general terms, their approbation of each other's past policy, without entering into "dangerous explanations." Austria is said to have responded favorably to these propositions; and there are strong grounds for believing that, through the mediation of Russia, a complete re-approximation and thoroughly good understanding has already been established between the two great German Powers. Should that prove to be the case, should the mutual jealousies of Austria and Prussia become healed, as they promise to be, under the intervention of the Czar, there can be no doubt that the result would be to weld all Germany into an alliance with Russia; and thus to place the three leading Powers of the North in an attitude of open and combined defiance to the designs and policy of the West. Against such an alliance of despots it will be the duty of France and England to guard themselves by adopting a bolder and more vigorous policy than they have yet resorted to. The plot is not yet ripe for execution, and it never will be if Russia is stricken down before it can be fully matured. Let us trust, therefore, that the Allies, forewarned of the danger which impends above them, will lose no time in striking such a blow as shall effectually preserve themselves and all Europe from the calamity that threatens them.—*News of the World*.

#### IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.**—The first public examinations of the Catholic University was held on Monday and Tuesday, the 16th and 17th July, in the University House, Stephen's-green. One of the large lecture-rooms had been prepared for the occasion. A dais, with three different elevations, and covered with red cloth was raised in the centre of the room. On the highest and middle elevation seats were placed for any distinguished visitors, who might honor the examination with their presence. On the lowest elevation, at a long table, sat the Rector, Examiners, and the candidates. Around the room benches were arranged for the accommodation of the University authorities and Professors and visitors. The concurrence of the retreat of the clergy at Maynooth deprived the examination of the presence of many of the clergy, who would otherwise have assisted in it.

**MR. DUFFY.**—The *Cork Examiner* announces, on the authority of Mr. Maguire, M.P., that a leading member of the Irish independent party is about to retire from the Saxon senate and emigrate to Australia. The *Freeman's Journal* broadly states that the person alluded to is no other than Mr. Gavan Duffy, the representative for New Ross, and the founder of the once formidable *Nation* newspaper. The report has been long current in Dublin, and its truth was but half denied by the friends of Mr. Duffy.

**MR. SMITH O'BRIEN.**—The unaccountable delay of Lord Palmerston in answering the memorial for the return of Mr. O'Brien, begin to be painful and almost intolerable. The reply has been over, and over again, postponed. The only compensation for this delay, is the additional security it gives on a favorable answer. For it is not possible that the government would keep Mr. O'Brien's family and friends in suspense for so many weeks and, in the end, disappoint them. To the many inquirers on the subject, therefore, we feel entitled to answer that his return to Ireland cannot now be long delayed.—*Nation*.

The Lord Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Right Hon. the Earl of Clare, Lieut. of the county, has been pleased to appoint Carol John Naish, of Ballycullen, Esq., to the commission of the peace for the county Limerick.

The foreign trade of Belfast has lamentably decreased this year. Only one foreign vessel in port for the last week. The earnings of tide-waiters, carters, and dock laborers are seriously impaired.

A Military officer was fined 40s. for having knocked down a man in Limerick, on the night of the 12th of July, exclaiming, "you are a bloody Papist?"

Cork Barracks, recently so much crowded, now contains only 500 of the 2d Somerset Militia, besides the 15th Regiment which, including the detachments to arrive, is 1,000 strong, a troop of the 16th Lancers, numbering 70, is also in barracks. Total, 1570 men.

The 3d Battalion 60th Rifles is ordered from the Curragh to the Crimea.

**MILITIA.**—Colonel Fitzstephen French, M.P., reviewed the Roscommon Militia on parade at Boyle, and expressed himself highly pleased with their soldier-like appearance and good conduct. He had, he observed, seen several English Militia Regiments, and although they had the advantage of longer training, he met none to surpass the Roscommon.

Lieut.-Colonel Maude, at parade, read an order giving permission to the North Tipperary Militia to volunteer into the line, when 50 young men stepped out of the ranks.

Captain John O'Connell, M.P., accompanied the Dublin County Militia to the Curragh Camp.

**WHAT THE MILITIA IS COMPOSED OF.**—Out of seventy militiamen who volunteered from the Limerick regiment into the line last week, sixty-three, we are told by the *Munster News*, have been rejected upon examination by the Doctor and the Drill-Sergeant. Considering how easy it is to satisfy the regimental standard at present, and considering also that volunteers are supposed to be the most soldierly young fellows in their corps, the fact affords a fine illustration of the constitution of an Irish militia regiment. An Irish militia regiment is, in fact, an aggregation of all the juvenile vagrants and rascals of its district. First of all, they pick up the idle ragamuffins who slouch about stables and farms, pick pockets, and rob roasts in the country. Then the Workhouses is scoured of all the unfortunate orphans of the Famine, who have not the strength to work or the pluck to emigrate, a wretched race, soft-boned and flaccid. A few tipsy farm-boys are the sergeants' prize. Take them all in all, they are the most ungainly and unmanly body in creation. Already the severe drill is driving them to volunteer in squads, and then it is quick work with them. One paragraph announces that so many volunteers have sailed for the Crimea, and another that the raw levies just sent out are dying like rotten sheep in the trenches. Our readers read it every week, and so the militia mustner falls at the rate of Kilrush or Skibbereen.—*Nation*.

**THE IRISH CONSTABULARY.**—A general inspection is ordered of the Dublin metropolitan police force, and also of the Constabulary in the Park. An officer of rank is now in Dublin, empowered to offer advantageous terms to men of the police force, willing to join the Coldstream Guards. Each man will have his time in the police allowed him as service in military duty for pay and pension.

**THE GRAND JURY SYSTEM.**—It is admitted on all hands that Irish governments have perpetrated enormous crimes. The avowed object of those crimes was not the destruction of an individual—it was to sweep away an entire nation. The Protestant Government of Britain waged a war of extermination against the Catholics of Ireland. We see in the clearance system of the present day the ebb of the great deluge of extermination. What must it have been at the full?—The tenant system of Ireland is one of the colossal crimes of Irish rule. The grand jury system is another. It is an error to suppose that the land of Ireland is free from taxation. The land, and especially the occupiers of the land, pay considerably more in Ireland than in England, and what makes its pressure more galling is, that the burthen is vexatiously uncertain and grievously unequal. In all Irish counties "a cess" or tax is levied to defray certain expenses which are indispensably necessary. The county cess has doubled in amount within the last ten years. It has risen while the people have declined. It amounts at this moment to one-eighth of the actual value of Ireland. Our grand jury system is a relic of bygone days of Protestant ascendancy. It is a fragment of the great inheritance of tyranny that has been left to us from those evil times in which famine and misery were organized for unborn generations. The soul of this very system—the very principle of its vitality—is the exclusion of those who pay from the control of their own fiscal affairs. Catholics and Presbyterians furnish the funds, and Anglican Protestants undertake to expend them. The grand jury system is a clumsy imitation of a great English example. In England, as we are assured by the administrative reformers, the taxes are paid by the plebeians, but the labor of expending them is imposed on the aristocracy. There is in almost every Irish county a "family party" connected by an interlacing network of widely ramifying consanguinity, which possesses the power of abstracting money from their neighbours every six months. They never omit at due and stated intervals to put forth this power. The grand jurymen are scrupulously punctual in their demands. It is lamentable that such exact scrupulousness is not extended to their disbursements, and that a conscientiousness, so painfully active at one moment, should drop into a dead and drowsy lethargy at another. Such is unfortunately, however, the case. It is necessitated by the vital principle of Irish grand juries—the principle, we mean, of taxation without representation. This principle unavoidably produces punctuality in exaction and lavish wastefulness in disposing of public funds. A consciousness of this result produced a great revolution. In the seventeenth century the Government of England resembled an Irish grand jury. As a consequence all England was disturbed with social convulsions—society was upturned—the throne was capsize, and Charles the First lost his life for levying cess without representation. If the English were warranted in revolutionising their Government, the Irish would be warranted in reforming their grand jury system on this account. But unfortunately wrongs which the English would resist with intrepid courage the Irish submit to with pusillanimous patience. In 1853 the net amount of the grand jury presentments was forty-eight thousand seven hundred and eighty pounds—seventeen shillings and fivepence. In Armagh