

was? I answered yes, and feel thankful that it is my privilege to do so, from my very heart. We know what comfort was in the midst of all, but it was not the comfort of the creature. Our consolation was derived from another source than the things of earth. Daily we were enabled to commune with God in prayer: now in the cabin, now in the darkened hold: (for it being a cotton ship at night we had no light: but yes, we had light, even that of our Heavenly Father's countenance shining upon us and amid the gloom!) and elsewhere, occasionally, throughout the ship, we were permitted every day, more or less, to celebrate the worship of Almighty God—to pour out our hearts before him, and offer due sacrifice of praise. On our first commencement of religious services in the hold the soldiers quartered there were some of them profane: but soon a reformation was, in this respect, begun: even the females of the camp at first sought to interrupt our worship by whispering and noise, but they, too, soon learned to respect others, if they did not respect themselves. There is hope for the soldier yet, and he should never be sent abroad without the minister of God. Before we left the ship never could people be more attentive to common prayer than they had learned to be.

Once I preached in that ship's hold. It was on Sunday afternoon. No congregation could possibly be more attentive and respectful in demeanour than those rude soldiers, many of them professing another creed than mine, had then become. May I not humbly hope that the seed thus sown may yet spring forth and bud: that the bread thus cast upon the waters may be found after many days. Poor Captain Field! a common Prayer Book, given to thee by thy wife, and found, as we were leaving her, upon the deck of the San Francisco—all that now remained to us of thee!—was many a time found to be of value in directing our supplications to the Throne of Grace. As we offered up truly scriptural prayers, the language of the Ritual, so deeply consonant to our wants and feelings, became doubly dear. Many a tongue then joined in audible response to such prayers, perhaps, as they had never joined before. The petitions, "Thy will be done on earth," and "give us this day our daily bread," were offered, too, in all sincerity, by many a suppliant who, till then, it may be, had used the prayer of our Lord as comparatively a form alone.

But I must hasten on. This narrative is already long enough. After seeing many ships—one of which, in particular, bore away from us after we had signalled her for hours, the day fine and the sea calm, and she so near that I could have discerned her signals with the naked eye—after seeing the lights of the searching steamer Alabama, without its being in our power to answer them for want of cannon, or a lantern wherewith to signalize—when all, starving, and for the most part diseased, and grown well nigh desperate from hope deferred, and the crew had mutinied, requiring the Captain to beach the ship on the nearest shore, it pleased God to send the Lucy Thompson to our relief. That was a joyous moment! I pass over the wretchedness and anxiety of our second disembarkation in that angry sea. I will not speak of the dread with which I beheld my little ones once more passed from ship to ship, banded down the side, a sailor holding my child with one hand whilst he sustained himself with the other, the sea rolling, and the boat tossing to and fro beneath him. I will only add, the day on which, chilled and wet, I found myself in the splendid cabin of that fine ship, was, with but one exception, if I can except even that—the day of my ordination—the happiest of my life. Treated in a most princely manner, by the noble-hearted Captain Pendleton, the spirits of us all revived. Thanks were given to God for this second rescue, and, on Saturday evening, the steam-tyg having come down to us to Sandy Hook, were, by God's mercy—yet in far different plight from that in which, three weeks before, we left it—having in that time lived an age—all landed in the city of New York. Yours affectionately,

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Asia, to Feb. 25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEB. 20.

RUSSIAN BLOCKADE.—Mr. Cobden said he wished to ask whether the Government had come to any decision with reference to blockading the commercial ports of Russia? He asked the question in consequence of the order in council which had been published that day for prohibiting the exportation of arms and machinery. Lord J. Russell said there had been no order issued.

ALLOWED INSURRECTION OF TURKISH CHRISTIANS.—Sir John Walsh asked Lord John Russell whether he had received any official information as to the breaking out of an insurrection on the part of the Christian subjects of the Ottoman Port, and whether such insurrection had been fomented or instigated by the government of the kingdom of Greece (*hear, hear*)? Lord John Russell: I received information some days ago of the breaking out of an insurrection at Arta. The Government have no information which leads them to conclude that that insurrection had been fomented by the King of Greece, although there are persons connected with it who have been lately residents at Athens.

EXPORTATION OF ARMS.—Mr. Bright inquired whether the exportation of machinery, intended for other countries than Russia, was to be permitted, under the proclamation just issued? Mr. Wilson stated that the proclamation in question had been issued in consequence of information from the Commissioners of Customs relative to a large attempted shipment of arms and ammunition for Odessa. Exportation would be permitted in cases where the authorities were satisfied by documents that the articles were intended *bona fide* for the consumption of friendly or neutral powers.

NAVY ESTIMATES.—Sir J. Graham said it would be for the interest of the country if without any further delay the increase in the number of seamen were at once voted, (*hear, hear*), and he would propose to take a vote for their payment also in the present committee, (*hear, hear*).—88,500 men, for the service of the Royal Navy, including 15,500 Royal Marines, and 2,000 boys, were then voted.—The next vote was £2,192,671 for wages, Sir James Graham remarking that the increase in the vote from last year was £717.—Agreed to.—The next vote was also agreed to, of £870,324, for the victuals of seamen and marines.—Adjourned.

FEB'Y 21.

PRIVATEERS.—Mr. Horsfall wished to know whether the treaties with foreign nations, or the steps which her Majesty's Government are prepared to take in the event of war, are such as will effectually prevent privateers being fitted out in neutral ports, to interfere with British shipping? Lord Palmerston said that, in the present state of things, an explanatory answer could not be given.

ORDNANCE ESTIMATES.—The Ordnance Estimates have been laid before the House of Commons and printed. The increase of the charge for this department in the financial year about to commence is estimated at £792,311.

The number of officers and men of the several ordnance corps and departments proposed to be maintained for service at home and abroad is raised from 17,698, the number voted last year, to 19,266. The force will be—Royal Engineers 330: Royal Sappers and Miners 2,640: Royal Regiment of Artillery 15,018: Royal Horse Guards 1,124: Riding House Troop 35: Garrison Master Gunners 71: Field Train Department 7: Medical Department 46. The artillery regiment includes a company of Royal African Gunners at Jamaica, and a company of Gun Lascars at Hong-kong.

The first vote is for the pay and allowances for the corps; the sum required is £902,817—an increase of £96,319 upon the previous year. The expense of recruiting alone is estimated at £40,000, or double the charge for the previous year.

Vote No. 2 is for commissariat and barrack supplies for her Majesty's forces, greatcoats for the army, and clothing for the militia; the amount required is £557,176—an increase of £183,959. Half of the increase arises in the charge for forage for cavalry and artillery horses.

The next vote, which is for the Ordnance-office, is £73,719, showing a saving of £250.

There is a saving of £10,012 upon the next vote, for ordnance and barrack establishments; the amount required is £281,646, viz. £156,182 at home, £125,463 abroad. But there is an increase of £20,897 upon the vote which follows, and which is for the wages of artificers and labourers at these several establishments; the sum required is £162,334—viz. £142,218 at home, £20,119 abroad.

Vote No. 6 is for Ordnance stores for land and sea service; and the amount is £639,332—an increase of £207,355. A very considerable proportion of the increase is absorbed by one item, which did not appear at all last year—viz. 4 machinery and buildings for the manufacture of small arms, £100,000.

The next vote is for works, buildings, and repairs, £902,821—an increase of £207,166. An account is furnished of the cost of the various new works and repairs at the barracks, fortifications, and civil buildings at home and abroad. The heaviest item in the increase is a charge of £85,000 under the head of "Civil Buildings, Woolwich Division." The purpose was that of "improving the artillery practice."

There is an increase of £27,155 upon the vote for the scientific branch, the sum to be voted being £164,365. The Ordnance surveys of the United Kingdom absorb the bulk of this vote.

The superannuation and pension vote, £171,469 closes the estimate.

The result is, that the charge for the Ordnance Department, which was fixed at £3,033,567 for the financial year ending with March next, is taken at £3,843,878 for the year commencing with April next.

The Estimates for the three services are now before the country, and we close our summary of their contents with a tabular statement of the amount which Parliament is asked to vote for the year commencing on the 1st of April next, and the extent to which that is an increase on the vote taken last year—

	Proposed Vote.	Increase.
Army	£6,287,480	£262,470
Navy	7,487,948	1,202,453
Ordnance	3,845,878	792,311
	£17,621,312	£2,257,230

Regiment after regiment is told off and embarked—the flower of the British army and in the finest condition. Ship after ship is commissioned, fitted and manned with wonderful celerity and order. The splendid squadron of steam transports, the greatest proof of all of the extent of our maritime resources, lies ready as if by magic at Southampton quays, and receives in silent and quick succession its precious freight of troops and gallant hearts. Popular excitement rises as the war estimates involving an increased outlay of not quite three millions, are received without demur—(we do not know as yet the particular sacrifice which we shall have to make to meet them): the troops march off amidst profuse caresses and hearty farewells; volunteers pour into Portsmouth and besiege the Home Guards, and the recruiting sergeant finds that the visionary hope of getting a "prod at the Emperor of Russia" is a more tempting inducement than his red coat, his ribbons and his shilling. It needs but the first bulletin to set the whole country in a blaze. The war is very popular—every war is so until its calamities come home to us, and the burthen it imposes begins to be felt; the bustle of preparation hides all that is painful, and as the bright bayonets, clean uniforms, and gay music pass cheerily through the streets, there is nothing but the contrast between the shouting crowd and the set impassive features and quick mechanical tread of the troops to remind us on what serious work we are entering, and give a faint and distant glimpse of the stern realities behind.

The Order in Council prohibiting the export of arms, machinery and munitions of war, which is the usual prelude to the commencement of hostilities, was issued on Saturday. The final "No" has reached Paris from St Petersburg, totally dispelling the last faint hope that prudence might yet get the better of anger and pride; the Czar "has confidence that his troops will reply as they replied in 1812;" and the French Government publishes its intention to throw diplomacy aside, and resort to "more efficacious means." The German Powers are concerting an armed neutrality, and Austria is preparing, not it is believed without the consent of the Hospodar, to overawe and possibly to occupy the inflammable principality of Servia. Free the theatre of war we receive no intelligence, except of the frequent despatch of stores and reinforcements along the Turkish coasts. The great attack on Kutat is still unattempted, and it is reasonably conjectured that General Schuler is concealing behind the mask of inaction preparations for a terrible and decisive blow. But the immediate danger to the Turkish Empire arises less from without than from within. The agitation among the Greek and Slave populations—a certain consequence of a great war—is becoming perceptible, and on the Greek frontier fierce and violent outbreaks have occurred in Albania and elsewhere, and conspiracies have been discovered, said to ramify below the surface to a vast and formidable extent. We need not regret the certainty that the arrival of European troops, though not actually employed in any real service will put these movements down. The war is now outgrown its earlier stages; the quarrel has become our own, and the Ottoman empire merely the arena for it—the business in hand is to beat back Russia—and our present duty to the Christian subjects of the Porte is to secure for them justice and the protection of equal laws, but not to encourage them to seize opportunities of rising, at a time when to cut the throat of Turkey is to fight behind our backs the battles of the Czar.—*Guardian.*

LARGE BODIES OF TROOPS are daily leaving the metropolis for the shores of England. The details concerning the departure are all of the same character, and the story of yesterday is the reflection of that of the day before. There is one exception to this, however, in the case of the Highlanders who have just sailed from Plymouth. They previously attended to the service at the Presbyterian chapel there; they sang the hymns, every man from a book of his own, and, finally, the minister addressed them in touching but cheering terms, blessing them to their work, committing them, and to the care and guidance of God. Why has not something like this been done for the poor but brave fellows who have left the metropolis? They would have departed with hearts none the less stout for this assurance that heaven was on their side.—*Ibid.*

THE BLACK SEA FLEET.—It is said that some despatches have taken place between Admiral Dundas and the British Ambassador, in consequence of Admiral Dundas not being allowed by the Ambassador to see despatches, and interpret the wishes of the Government from his own reading of them.