

THE RUMOURED PEACE.

(From the London News of the World.)

The peace bubble appears to have burst. Some of our own journals, it is true, persist to this hour in singing their pacific peans; but the *Paris Constitutionnel*, long the leader of the optimistic party in both countries, is at least fairly forced to own that no propositions of any kind whatever have emanated from Russia. It tells us, what indeed we have never doubted or denied, that Austria is very busy in her efforts to bring about a renewal of negotiations; but this clever and frequently well-informed journal no longer attempts to delude either itself or others into the belief that Austria has any warrant, direct or indirect, from the Government of St. Petersburg for her advances towards the Western Powers. We find the old story revived, of Austrian determination to impose warlike conditions, if her pacific propositions be not accepted; but how can such a story be made to square with the reduction of her army? To deprive oneself of the means of putting a threat into execution is to render the threat absurd, if not obviously insincere. It is unlikely, that the same jealousy of Prussia, which once kept Austria in a fidgety affectation of activity, may now be felt, and with like effects, on account of the attitude of some of the secondary German Powers. Sardinia has set an example and taught a lesson to minor states, which seems likely to be laid to heart. The secret by which importance is to be acquired has been learned, and is found to be as simple as it is encouraging. Sardinia has by her bravery and honour attained to a dignity which some first-rate powers might envy, and which some second-rate powers seem to be already in a fair way of partaking. We hear that Bavaria and Saxony are resolved to whirl no longer in the slavish and discreditable orbit to which Austria and Prussia have hitherto bound them. There is, we are assured, a growing disposition on the part of the German States of minor order, to take those independent views to which they are invited by the Emperor Napoleon in his memorable speech on the day of the close of the Exhibition. Such symptoms of independence are not lost sight of by Austria, and hence it is that she again attempts to re-enact the miserable negotiation of last year. No doubt she must vary her language, if she hopes to secure the slightest attention, and hence those intimations of hypothetical hostilities with which the public have been amused during the last three weeks. Until Russia herself shall authorize overtures in her name, there is nothing which Austria may merely say, that can ever be seriously taken into account. Will Russia lend her sanction to any step of that nature? The declaration of the Belgian *Le Nord*, a journal notoriously employed as the organ of the Russian Government, may be taken as conclusive upon that point. *Le Nord*, in a recent number, says:—"The rumours of peace, yesterday favourably received, are to-day regarded with incredulity. Owing to what has been published in England and France about the exhaustion of Russia, many people are quite disposed to believe that Russia is imploring peace. Those good folks completely delude themselves. Undoubtedly Russia would prefer peace to war; she would gladly accept peace, but she does not sue for it as a beggar. Russia, on whom the war is inflicting heavy losses, is not ignorant that it costs the enemies dear also, and she feels in herself a genial current quite adequate to the preservation of her full vitality, notwithstanding the blows now being or about to be levelled against her. She does not underestimate the strength of her aggressors, but she knows her own strength of resistance, a strength increased tenfold by the feeling of national honour, by the enthusiasm of a people, and an army fighting in defence of their native land, in sight of God, whom they invoke, and in the name of the Emperor, who blesses them. Russia has done nothing, has said nothing to authorize the belief that she will now go beyond the concessions she made at Vienna for the sake of securing the peace of the world. If, in the absence of positive facts, persons like to indulge in conjectures, they should at

least venture only on such as are probable. The public mind runs the risk of getting bewildered in the midst of this medley of rumours, which the journals take the pains to collect; and no person can be a gainer by the bewilderment of public opinion in a jumble of suppositions, or by its creating hopes one day which the next destroys. We repeat, and we do so without growing weary, that the rumours of peace will be entitled to no sort of credit so long as the Western alliance shall not have categorically laid down what the conditions are which, in its opinion, will render peace possible."

What have our peace-mongers to say to this?

PROPOSALS FOR PEACE.

Count Esterhazy left Vienna for St. Petersburg on Sunday, bearing despatches, containing propositions for a pacification, on terms which had been finally resolved on. The following are "understood" to be the propositions:—First—The liberation of the Black Sea by the exclusion from its waters of all ships of war of all countries and all denominations, with the complete dismantling of all fortifications of whatever kind on the coasts of the sea, and within its limits.

[If all the ships of war are excluded, the ships of war of the Sultan, we imagine, are meant to be excluded to. The "annihilation" of the Russian fleet in the Euxine does not seem to extend to its "annihilation" in the Bug, or the Dnieper, or the Sea of Azoff. Nicolaief, on the Bug, will be the new Sebastopol, and a very pretty float may be built there and floated down to the confluence of the Bug and of the Dnieper, where it might ride at single anchor, out of the Treaty and the Euxine. New armaments for new wars will be gunboats and mortar-vessels, propelled by screws, and with a light draught of water. These formidable floating batteries may be accumulated in the Sea of Azoff, ready to clear the Straits of Kerch, and threaten the coasts of Turkey. The "annihilation" of the Russian fleet in the Euxine means the construction of these.]

Second—The reception of consuls, of whatever nations may desire to establish consulates, in all the ports of that sea; in order to see that the former conditions be faithfully fulfilled.

Third—The cession by Russia of such portions of Bessarabia as embrace the mouths of the Danube, so as to place the navigation of the lower part of that river once more under the exclusive authority of the Porte.

Fourth—The surrender by Russia of all claim of authority in the Danubian Principalities.

"If, it is added, 'these terms be accepted within a reasonable time, then the Austrian Government proposes an armistice, and negotiations for a permanent peace; but, if these terms be not accepted within a reasonable time, which is calculated at about a month from the present date, then Austria will withdraw her ambassador from St. Petersburg, and unite her arms with those of the Western Allies.'

The Turkish Ambassador in Paris has just announced to Prince Napoleon, by order of the Sultan, that His Royal Highness is at full liberty to sell all the articles sent from the Ottoman empire to the Universal Exhibition for the benefit of the widows and children of those brave men who have fallen in the Crimea.

Sir Colin Campbell, G. C. B.—In the work just issued by Mr. Woods, late Crimean correspondent for the Morning Herald, he makes publicly known, now for the first time, that it was by Sir Colin Campbell's disobeying orders, that the English army escaped annihilation at the battle of Balaklava; or rather, it should be so said, that by countermarching an order of General Airey, to withdraw a most important field battery, he prevented the enemy seizing on the town, which it was their object to possess.

Why is a cricket on the hearth like a soldier in the Crimea?—Because he often advances under a brisk fire.

MEDALS FOR THE ALLIED TROOPS.—At the Mint, 370,000 medals are being made for distribution amongst not only the British but the French, Sardinian, and Turkish troops. They will be nearly the size of a crown, or five-shilling piece, the materials being virgin silver, or silver without alloy. On the reverse of the medal is executed the representation of an ancient Roman soldier, in classic costume and equipments, and whose brow, Fame is depicted as encircling with the victor's wreath, and the word "Crimea" is inscribed at the side. On the obverse side there is a large medallion head of Queen Victoria, the ornamental work of whose crown is delineated with the greatest artistic delicacy and finish.

NEW MORTAR BOATS.—The new iron mortar boat *Cupid*, recently built by Mr. John Laird, has proved so successful that the Government have given him an order for several more, which are being rapidly proceeded with at his yards in Liverpool and Birkenhead. These boats, when fully loaded, will only draw three feet of water, and will be painted sea green. They will be of 100 tons' measurement, 60 feet long, 20 feet broad, and 6 feet deep. The *Cupid* was built and got ready for sea in less than three weeks.

It is affirmed in advices from St. Petersburg that the main force at Odessa will be removed to Nicolaief, and that the Czar has commanded a concentration of forces on the strong positions of the Black Sea and the Baltic.

Other letters state, that it was always intended to act merely on the defensive against Omar Pasha, and that it is not presumed that the fall of Kara will make any change in this plan, but that General Mouravieff will make that place his winter quarters.

There is, it is reported, still some talk of Austria's laying resolutions before the Frankfurt Diet in relation to the Eastern question.

A despatch received at Marseilles from Constantinople, to the effect that after a battle Omar Pasha had taken possession of Khoni, a place five and a half leagues from Kutais, that he found in the place 15,000 furs—and that he had pushed on to the banks of the river and made preparations to attack Kutais. The precise time at which this affair is reported to have taken place is not given, but in all probability it is the same event referred to in a communication from Trebizond of the 17th ult., which is to the effect that "Omar Pasha was on the banks of the Marnal, three and a half hours' march from Kutais. From that station to Redout Kale the roads are good and in possession of the Turks. The security of the roads was obtained after Omar Pasha had taken possession of the village of Kappa, where eight Russian battalions were. In this village were found 12,000 winter coats and other articles of equipment, which were quite a godsend to the Ottoman army."

In a despatch from Berlin it is asserted, that the Grand Duke Constantine has ordered the Captain of every vessel in the Baltic Fleet to make return of supplies received, and especially to note those articles not furnished in sufficient quantity. This order is said to have been caused by the wretched state of the Crimea, concerning which the most incredible tales are told.

BRUSSELS, Wednesday. A treaty of defensive alliance has been concluded by France and England with Sweden, and it is believed that a treaty of offensive alliance exists, but will not be made public, until the time for active co-operation in the spring.

WARSAN, Dec. 15. An order of the Superior Council of Administration enjoins all the inhabitants of the kingdom to offer gifts to the defenders of Sebastopol.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.

BERLIN, Monday Evening. Great arrangements are making in the Baltic ports on English account for victualling and providing for the next spring.

Contracts have also been made in Sweden for the French fleet, and, it is reported also, for an accompanying army.

Fresh arrests have been made in connection with the affair of the despatches abstracted at Potsdam.

Intelligence from Russia confirms the difficulty of maintaining the paper money in circulation.

The "Patriot gifts" toward the expenses of the war are principally made in paper, so that the Treasury gets its notes returned to it.

The *Cologne Gazette* publishes a letter dated Odessa, Nov. 30, mentioning a large fire at the military settlements, from which the cavalry have just been drawn. Vast stores collected by the troops for men and horses have been destroyed.

AUSTRIAN AND PRUSSIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

BERLIN, Tuesday Evening. Since the arrival of Count Munster from St. Petersburg, those who denied the existence of any attempt at peace negotiations have altered their tone.

The contents of the autograph letter the Count brought from the Czar have not been entered to transpire.

We learn from Vienna, that they are expecting there the publication of a fresh convention, concluded between the Allied Powers and Austria.

The attempts towards negotiation made by Austria and Prussia are not concerted, or coincident in terms.

It is rumoured that Austria is ready to become actively belligerent, in case of need, if the Allies will consent to erect the Danubian Principalities into an independent state, with a prince of the Austrian imperial family as chief.

KINBURN.

A letter from Kinburn, of the 26th ult. in the *Press d'Orient*, says:—"We are busily occupied in putting our quarters in comfortable condition for the winter, as the cold begins to be pretty sharp. The sea is covered with floating ice, and the vessels at anchor off Otechakoff have their lower rigging and sides covered with icicles. When the five or six buildings within the fort shall have undergone the most urgent repairs, we shall be pretty well quartered. I speak of the officers and employees of the administration; as to the soldiers, a number of them are lodged in the casemates; one battalion occupies the village, about ten minutes distance from the fort, and the remainder are under canvas. As, however, all are well supplied with warm clothing and camp equipages of all kinds, those even who are the worst off will be able to brave the rigors of the season. We are expecting 200 wooden huts from Kamiesch, which will each contain 30 men. Gulls, duck, and other water fowl are abundant and are easily shot but unfortunately, many of them when killed are lost for want of dogs to fetch them out of the water. The gulls which are good for nothing in the Mediterranean are very delicate eating here. I have them several times a week. A good dog would be worth its weight in gold."

FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

PARIS, Thursday, Dec. 21.—According to a report generally credited, France has sent an energetic note to Prussia, requesting that she stop put to exports contraband of war to Russia, otherwise the allied fleets will blockade the Prussian ports.

RUSSIAN BATTLE ON THE KUBAN WITH THE TCHERKESSES.

The *Invincible Russe* contains the report of the Cossacks of the Black Sea, Major-General Philipson, on the expedition sent on the 22nd of Oct. last against the Tcherkessians, an independent tribe of the Caucasus, inhabiting the country to the south of the Kuban, and which made continual incursions into the Russian territory. Aoul-Yeientoukai, the principal village of these mountaineers, was attacked unexpectedly by a detachment of Cossacks, who had four pieces of cannon and eight mortars, and was given up to the flames. But when the conquerors were retiring, with some prisoners and three hundred head of cattle, they were constantly harassed by the mountaineers; several times, in fact, the Tcherkesses assembled in considerable numbers, attacked the Russians, and obliged them to cut their way through. In one of these attacks the chief of the natives, Hadji-Hakof Hadji, is said to have been mortally wounded. The conflict was prolonged on these conditions for an entire day, and in the evening of the 23rd October the Russians recrossed the Kuban. Their chief admits a loss of 4 men killed, and 43 men wounded. As for the Tcherkesses, they are said to have had 200 killed and wounded. The report praises a young ensign, who, before the commencement of the affair, went with four Cossacks to reconnoitre the situation of the village, and who afterwards served as a guide to the Russians.

THE BORTHOLLE STATES, AND THE TREATY JUST RATIFIED AT STOCKHOLM.

The Bortholle states, that the treaty just ratified at Stockholm, concludes to France and England the privilege of establishing depots and hospitals on Swedish territory. In return, the Western Powers undertake to maintain the integrity of Sweden against Russia, should the latter treat the conduct of the Swedes as a breach of neutrality, and declare war.

Jenny Lind.—Madame Jenny Lind Goldschmidt appeared at Exeter-hall on Monday evening, the 10th Dec., singing in Haydn's *Creation*, after an absence from England of six years. One of the London journals says, she looks thinner, but all seem to agree that her vocal powers are as superb as ever. The *Creation* affords many opportunities for the display of her powers, and she missed no opportunity of indicating to her audience how thoroughly she appreciated the composition. There was a large and enthusiastic audience, and even guinea tickets were at a premium. The demand for tickets for the two concerts at the Philharmonic Hall is very great, and there is every probability that the audience at both will be as numerous and fashionable as any ever assembled in the same place.

While t
strict of L
cumbered
of Norway
a curious
the whole
long fiord
gion is, c
The influ
which do
after con
British I
than that
Be the ca
Archange
in thick
Okhotsk
town of
Circle, h
the inha
fluences
in fishin
region a
with the
is a pa
protects
—we a
transpo
shores o
Russia,
the for
south, s
up with
Baltic,
lives t
Russia
oversig
most c
blandis
United
duce t
less te
of this
the Ba
The l
miles
where
my.
presen
five t
afford
any n
soon
dostly
the n
fied t
the t
nava
to m
have
scher
man
ted a
agg
the
so a
ente
Uni
unde
cede
the
they
the
to c
as
lar
ma
lin
per
cor
hu
fro
fro
of
W
loy
w
te
ag
th
fo
th
be
fi
a
G
a
a
H