

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

**FRANCE.**  
Lord John Russell is on a visit to the Emperor, subjects of the greatest importance are said about to be discussed between them. At a grand review of the Imperial Guard, prior to their departure for the Crimea, the Emperor made the following address to his soldiers:  
"The French nation, by its sovereign will, has resuscitated many things which were thought forever dead, and to-day the Empire is reconstituted; an intimate alliance exists with our ancient enemies the flag of France waves with honor on those distant shores where the bold flight of our eagles had not before ventured; the Imperial Guard, the heroic representation of military glory and honor, is now before me, surrounding the Emperor as formerly wearing the same uniform carrying the same standards, and having, especially, in their hearts the same sentiments of devotion to their country. Receive, then, these standards, which will lead you to victory as they led your fathers, as they have just led your comrades. Go, and take your share of what still remains of danger to be overcome and glory to be earned; you will soon have received the noble baptism which is your ambition, and you will have lent your assistance to plant our eagles upon the walls of Sebastopol."—*Times* 11 Jan.

## AUSTRIA.

Telegraph despatches from Vienna state that on the 6th, Prince Gortschakoff received an order from the Czar to negotiate at once with the Ministers of Austria, France, and England, on the basis of the four conditions, as interpreted by the allies in the protocol of the 28th of December. The following are the four points alluded to:—

1. The abolition of the Protectorate of Russia over the Danubian Principalities, and the privileges of those provinces placed under the collective guarantee of the contracting Powers.
2. The free navigation of the mouths of the Danube secured according to the principles established by the congress of Vienna.
3. The revision of the treaty of the 13th July 1841, in the interest of the balance of power in Europe.
4. The abandonment by Russia of her claim to exercise an official protectorate over the Christian subjects of the Porte (to whatever rite they may belong), in consideration of the Powers giving mutual assistance to obtain from the Sultan a confirmation and observance of the religious privileges of all Christian communities.

The Austrian summons to the Czar embraced the following additional points, but it is not believed they have been urged by the Western Powers:—

Austria in her final summons to Russia demanded no modification of the internal possessions; and besides the four points, an indemnification for the war expenses is to be a basis for future propositions. A future Russian protectorate over the Greco-Catholic subjects of the Porte is declared inadmissible with the Sultan's sovereign rights; the five powers guarantee the privilege and equal rights of the Christians.

The Russian protectorate in the Danubian Principalities and in Serbia is declared extinct.

The navigation of the Black Sea is to be guaranteed by the razing of Sebastopol, and by converting the other arsenals on its coasts into common harbors.

The Russian fleet to be four frigates and two line-of-battle ships.

The remainder of the Black Sea fleet to be allowed to withdraw to the Baltic, and free navigation to be insured by a formal declaration.

The Sulina mouths, with the environs to be declared a neutral territory.

The following appears in the Second Edition of the *Morning Post*, from its Paris Correspondent:—

"It is the intention of England, France, and Austria, to occupy Russian territory for a limited period after peace has been concluded. This they can demand without hesitation, as it was precisely the position of the army of the Czar in the principalities before the announcement of hostilities. There are two points which might be chosen for this purpose—one of the latest Russian annexations, Bessarabia, or the Crimea (at least that most important portion of the Crimea the peninsula of Cherson, with the town of Sebastopol). Another point on which the Allies will uncompromisingly insist is that of limiting the number of Russian ships in the Black Sea, with constant presence of a corresponding squadron of the Allies."

The *Globe* in reference to this statement says:—We would remind our readers that many statements of this class must necessarily be purely conjectural.

## ITALY.

The French army of occupation in the Roman States will not be reduced below 3,500 men.

Letters from Vienna state that a convention between France and Austria for securing the tranquillity of Italy has not yet been signed, nor will it be until the treaty of December 2nd shall result in an offensive alliance of the powers named.

## RUSSIA.

From St. Petersburg we learn that great distress is felt in the city, and much dissatisfaction prevailed at the hardships imposed by the war. In all the churches prayers are offered for peace. As the religious services are under the control of the Government, this statement is somewhat remarkable. At the same time the Czar seems determined to make extensive preparations for the next campaign. A correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing from St. Petersburg, under date December 8, says:—

"The extensive preparations now making in the Imperial arsenals for putting the Baltic fleet in a condition not only to carry on a defensive war, but even to assume the offensive, are of such vast magnitude

that they ought not to be overlooked in England or thought lightly of. The most important of these measures is the immediate formation of no less than twenty-six reserve companies of sailors, or ship crews to replace those that may be swept off by the British and French cannon-balls next summer."

The *Independence Belge* publishes a letter, dated Hamburg, 16th Dec., which states that after the retreat of the allied fleets from the Baltic, the civil governor and the generals in command of the troops were summoned to St. Petersburg to give the Emperor an account of the administrative and military position of the province.

The acceptance on the part of Russia of the four points, as the basis of negotiations, has caused considerable surprise and a large amount of controversy. The movement is generally viewed with suspicion, and the belief is strong in some quarters that the Czar, in thus acting, desires to detach Austria from the Western Alliance, and thus to lessen the number and the power of his foes. The *Daily News*, a paper which has certainly no Russian sympathies, for it has been loudly demanding, from the commencement, a vigorous prosecution of the war, states in its impression of Thursday, that in well-informed political and commercial circles, the opinion gains ground that Russia sincerely desires peace—that the Russian army in the Crimea is thoroughly demoralized, in an infinitely greater degree than the worst accounts represented our own army to have been—that the Emperor is deplorably in want of money and men—that the Empress, whose life is fast ebbing away, is incessant in her entreaties for the termination of hostilities—and that Nicholas acutely feels his isolation from the great European Courts. These opinions will be taken for what they are worth. They may or may not be a correct interpretation of the Autocrat's feelings, but they appear in an organ of opinion to which not the slightest suspicion of insincerity can attach. Nevertheless, the surest method of strengthening his pacific intentions, supposing them to exist, will be the taking of Sebastopol, and destroying that source of his power and his insolence. It is, therefore, gratifying to know that these negotiations will not have the slightest effect in retarding the progress of the allied arms; for, while the diplomats are protocoling at Vienna, the siege will proceed, and the readiness or otherwise of Nicholas's representative in the Austrian Capital to accommodate himself to terms will be materially influenced by the events in the Crimea. Whether we believe that Nicholas is really anxious to bring to a close a contest in which he is so overmatched, or whether we view him merely in the act of playing a deep game, animated by the hope of ultimate success, the fact of his appearing before the world in the character of a suitor for peace, at so early a stage of hostilities, must be deeply mortifying to his enormous pride and wounded vanity. The moral influence of such a piteous exhibition, even amongst his own serfs, cannot fail to be considerable; and even if he be acting a hypocritical part, it is difficult to imagine what subsequent advantage can be held to atone for the degradation to which he will have sunk by thus early crying *peccavi*. On a close review of his position, the probabilities are quite as great in favor of his sincerity as against it. Sebastopol will be the turning point. If the allies succeed, the war is over; but peace cannot be proclaimed except on another condition being added to those already named in the extract which we have given, and it is this—that he must be made to pay the whole expense of the contest. Unless this be insisted upon, neither the people of England nor those of France will be satisfied with the result, nor ought they.

According to a telegraphic communication, received from Paris, dated from Brailov, the 9th instant, the Russians had crossed the Danube, invaded Dobrukscha, and taken possession of Tultscha and Badadagh. This extraordinary announcement has taken most people by surprise, but the statement is so meagre and unsatisfactory that we wait with some interest for the details, or a contradiction of the statement. Such a diversion appears extremely improbable under the circumstances; but if the Russians have stolen a march on the troops of the Emperor of Austria, the circumstance is not very creditable to Austrian vigilance.

## THE CRIMEA.

The siege works were proceeding vigorously, and the health of the troops was improving; abundance of warm clothing had arrived out and was being distributed, and the allied armies were anxiously waiting for the moment of attack. The weather was still unfavorable, but the means of transport were better, and everything indicated the resumption of hostilities on a scale so commanding as to afford every reasonable hope of success. The French approaches, according to one of the accounts, had been pushed within ear-shot of the town. Reinforcements for both armies were constantly coming in, and it was calculated that, on New Year's Day, there would be 100,000 men before Sebastopol. The belief was that the batteries could not open fire before the 10th or 12th of January. The assault, in all probability, will not be made until the enemy has been attacked in the open field.—The Turks at Eupatoria will take the Russians in the rear, and, hemmed in between two fires, the Russian General's position was not to be enviable. The troops under Omar Pasha consisted of the Egyptian division and the men who fought on the Danube last year. The Sultan's generalissimo had gone to Balaklava to concert measures with Lord Raglan and General Canrobert, and the army under his command will amount to 50,000 men.—We see it stated that the batteries will open with 300 guns, the metal much heavier than that originally employed. Sorties continued to be made by the enemy and these skirmishes appeared to be at ended with occasional loss of life and the taking of prisoners.

(From the Correspondent of London Times.)

SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 20. We are now more comfortable in various ingenious ways, chiefly by burrowing under ground, the treacherous tent canyass (treacherous as far as the wind is concerned) forming a roof, stretched across the wreckers. This roof stands rain, well, but melting snow searches through it. Since I last wrote (at which time we had two days of almost summer weather) we have had all sorts of eccentric atmospheric changes—bitter cold, followed by comparative heat—sunshine and hail—snow and rain; the whole interspersed with various modifications of winds from a gentle breeze to a severe gale. These sudden changes are most remarkable; morning will gradually reveal to us a glorious sunrise, when the evening of the same day will find us enveloped in thick murky mist, out of which will spring hurricane and rain. While I am writing, the aspect of the heights is as chill and miserable as any Russian can possibly desire. Fogs blow up in quick succession from the castellated crags below. It is difficult to walk upon the soft yielding mud around us, and heavy falls of rain and tremendous gusts of wind have it all their own way. Such heavy masses of falling rain as came down upon us last night, I never saw exceeded, even in the tropics. Last Monday, the 18th December, was St. Nicholas day, the name-day of the Emperor and a great *fête* day for all the Russians. Upon this day we thoroughly expected to be attacked, and particular instructions were issued on the occasion. Every preparation was made on the previous night, and Captain Brandling's troop of horse artillery was ordered to the front. Before 5 o'clock in the morning we were all at our posts, devoutly wishing our friends in the valley below us were on their way to us; and about to take that licking which sooner or later they must receive—but no; the gray of the morning came gradually upon us as usual, and day-light revealed to us the Russians quiet in their camp. No work did they do upon that day: the breastworks, at which they had worked for days, as busy as bees, remained *in statu quo* for 24 hours, and it appeared pretty evident that the Moskoos had given themselves up to a general holiday and carouse, at which, no doubt, the accustomed "gin and prayers" was the distinguishing feature of the Russian relaxation. During the day, we remarked a high erection of wood, round which the troops were formed, but whether the thing was a cross or a gallows, a religious ceremonial or the final punishment of some unfortunate Pole who had perhaps attempted to run away, we could not exactly determine, and the opinions on the subject were divided. Inflamed by their dose of spirits, it was thought that the next morning might be chosen by the Russians for their attack, but this again passed quietly by, like its predecessor. The main body of the Russians in our front is upon the opposite side of the Tchernaya, this side being principally occupied by Cossacks and a battalion or two of infantry in the right rear of the village of Kamara. Our spies tell us that all the villages to the eastward are also occupied by troops, who have ill treated and turned out the original inhabitants—principally Tartars. On the 20th Dec., a general reconnaissance was made of the Russian position. At 10 o'clock large bodies of French cavalry were seen by us in motion across the plain; the glittering helmets, *pantalons rouges*, and white horses upon which one regiment was mounted forming in contrast with the green plain a pretty spectacle in the morning sunlight. They advanced skirmishers in front to the whistling Turkish redoubts, from which the Cossack pickets and vedettes beat a hasty retreat. A body also galloped to their left, and crowned the heights, close underneath which occurred the memorable light cavalry charge on the 25th of October. Turning to their right, the reconnaissance galloped towards the village of Kamara, and then came in full pursuit of many Cossacks, who, with their shining spear-heads in the air, made the best of their way before them, with the exception of one, whose horse stumbling brought him to the ground; and after running for some distance he was made prisoner. The Cossacks continued to retreat until they reached the entrance of a gorge, where stands a ruined house; here the French halted, the cause being soon rendered apparent by the appearance of a large force of Cossacks and the rallying of the runaways. A sharp interchange of fire from the respective carbines on either side took place, which lasted for several minutes, when the Cossacks again retreated through the gorge, and a portion of the French cavalry galloped gallantly up to the crest of the brown hill overlooking it, firing down below, and evidently making also the best use of their eyes in their commanding position, from which might be had a fine view of the Russian camp. This same camp had been observed for some minutes to have become the scene of great activity; and from it emerged a large cavalry force; and 10 guns were by this time horsed and being moved from a redoubt by the rear to a commanding position. The Russian trenches, too, were lined by their greatcoated soldiers. The French cavalry were quickly seen retiring from their position on the top of the brown hill, having seen all they wanted to see; and it was rather well for them that they beat a retreat, for a long line of skirmishers gradually appeared, and Russian battalions now topped the heights; the bodies of Russian cavalry, too, on the Mackenzie road made preparations for passing the lower bridge, while the French troops, having finished their reconnaissance, retired over the hills of the Turkish redoubts, which, in their turn, were again occupied by the advancing Cossacks, who, however, came thus far and no further, having a salutary remembrance of the batteries occupied by the Marine Artillery and Marines. The French cavalry remained for some time on the plain in the event of the Russian troops being drawn on to attack, and then returned to their camp. While all this was going on, a reconnaissance was also attempted on our right, in front of the heights—a regiment of Zouaves, the left wing of the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, and the 42nd Regiment, the Royal Marines also having orders to be ready to stand instantly to their arms. Here, however, little was done. The Russian pickets, of course, made the best of their way from their picket-house (800 yards only in advance of our pickets, and occupying an extremely beautiful position in a hollow between two high hills), leaving behind them all their cooking utensils and a Cossack lance; the former useful articles were, of course, immediately appropriated by the Zouaves, the latter became the capture of the bow and spear of Colonel Sterling, the Assistant Adjutant-General. At this point the troops forming the French reconnaissance were seen to retire, down the vale between the mountain ridges, and our reconnoissances therefore followed their example, by some oversight having failed to demolish the comfortable house

of the Russian picket, which appeared a most enviable spot after ours. Daylight, on the morning after these proceedings, revealed the Russians prepared for an attack; battalions crowned their hills, with skirmishers thrown out in front, and a breastwork, which had risen during the night, crossed the face of the brown hill up which the French cavalry advanced; they remained working at this, the whole day; they threw up these works with wonderful quickness, and they appear to be exceedingly well made. I have just heard the news of the day before yesterday at Eupatoria: 10,000 Turks had disembarked there, 10,000 more were about to disembark, and Omar Pasha was shortly expected there with 20,000 more, making in all a force of 40,000 of Omar Pasha's people, and therefore fighting Turks. General Cannon had arrived at Eupatoria in command of the force of Turks disembarked, and he has several English officers in the same service upon his staff.

Camp near Balaklava, Dec. 15. The following is from a Regimental Surgeon:—"Winter has set in upon us, and I am sorry to add, without those comforts of food, fuel, and shelter, so indispensable after having lived in a state of civilization. If you can fancy yourself set down in the middle of a ploughed field in the month of December, and a large canvass umbrella over your head, against which the rain is pelling pitiously, you may be able to figure to yourself my situation while writing this letter. It is true I am not wet to the skin, but the poor soldiers who must be out, and have no change of clothes, are so, and if they have the fuel to light a fire in the mud the rain quickly extinguishes it; so the chance of drying their clothes or cooking their salt meat, is small indeed. And yet a vast deal of this misery might have been avoided if our military rulers had been gifted with common forethought, and had announced to the army in time their intention of wintering in the Crimea. The officers, at least, might have provided themselves with wooden houses from England, and some kind of portable stove to warm themselves, dry their wet clothes, and cook their food by, and the sick might have been provided with some kind of shelter, and removed from the bare ground. The last *Gazette* from England has made Lord Raglan a field-marshal for the battle of Inkermann, with the fortunate termination of which he had little more to do than I had, and there is no disguising the fact, it was a most shameful surprise, in which we allowed the enemy, under cover certainly of weather favorable to them, to get a numerous artillery into position in most difficult ground, under our very noses, and to penetrate into our very camp. That they were beaten was not due to any generalship, but sheer indomitable British pluck, backed by vigorous French impetuosity. The Russians came on bravely, with cheers and hurrahs; our poor half-starved infantry received them with sullen calmness, and drove them back with the desperation of despair; it was eventually a hand to hand fight, for no generalship was or could have been exhibited. As usual, the Russian loss was too to one of ours. You will not be surprised to learn that the same men who behaved with such determined courage before an overpowering enemy exhibited the same fortitude under the knife; and yet these very men, for want of common prudence, have been half-starved, from the shameful state of the roads, which prevents their food reaching them in time or in sufficient quantity. The same remarks apply to the horses of the Cavalry, many of the former dying of disease; the latter from sheer starvation. At last it occurred to our wise rulers to move them a little near to Balaklava, and to provide the poor beasts with some kind of shelter and clothing; but this is "shutting the stable-door after the animal is gone." The Cavalry, from mismanagement, are nearly *hors de combat*, and the infantry in front of Sebastopol, dying fast. That an army of young soldiers should suffer severely in a winter campaign was to be expected, but when that same army was destitute of the necessary means of enabling it to endure the privations consequent thereon its sufferings have been greatly increased, and disease is rapidly doing the work of the enemy. To give you an instance of the want of common prudence, a regiment is landed hurriedly from a warm climate, marched almost into the trenches, exposed to cold, wet, and want of food; the result is, that a few days sees nearly a hundred of them hurried to their graves, and scarcely more than 200 left fit for duty. No representation is listened to from the medical department. They are not encouraged in their arduous duties in any way, snubbed whenever a pretext can be found for doing so, and often made to bear the blame of what they cannot help, or take the responsibility which belongs to others. I am no croaker, as you well know, I came out here voluntarily, and am prepared to die, if necessary, like a man; but I think the truth ought to be known, viz., that in the management of this army there has been a lamentable want of forethought, leading to a great sacrifice of life, much misery and discomfort, and the service thereby rendered unpopular among themselves.

**ANECDOTE OF THE CZAR.**—A very severe satire had appeared against the Emperor in St. Petersburg. The police were on the alert, and discovered that its author was a student of the University of St. Petersburg. The Czar sent for the Minister of Public Instruction and the young poet. "See what subjects your pupils study! Read this paper here!" The unfortunate man obeyed, whilst the Czar laughed at the annoyance of the Minister. "My son," said the Czar to the young man, "you have committed a serious fault; a sincere repentance may atone for it. You must expiate it. You are a soldier. Depart; be a good soldier; if I forget you, write to me!" and thus he dismissed him affectionately. The poet departed, filled with enthusiasm for his sovereign, to join the regiment to which he was ordered. After a long time, remaining a subaltern, he wrote to the Emperor. His letter remained unanswered. Supposing the Czar might not have received it, he thought he would present himself in person; but he could not obtain an audience. He left his regiment, and took the road to St. Petersburg. He was condemned to be flogged. The Emperor remitted the punishment, but refused to promote it. The unhappy poet, however, having great talent, published some lyric poems well known in Russia. His songs did not obtain the epaulettes; but after many years the brevet was sent him; it reached him on the very evening he expired of an illness occasioned by his grief and disappointment.

A mass meeting was lately held in New Orleans for the purpose of raising a Russian war fund. It seems that the call was intended as a hoax, but the thousands that assembled made it a reality. *Citizen*