

The Provincial Wesleyan.

encamped along the coast, from Sebastopol to Stryn, are well supplied, well tended, and, if it is to be hoped, well employed and distributed. It is a force of eighteen who could not be even a rival of the regular army. Yet it must be ready to march in the spring. Time, labour and money the present efficiency has been bought. It is only by chance that a season of rest enables the recruits to be instructed at the seat of war in elementary duties. As a general rule, the man must be made a soldier before he leaves the barracks. The government must not calculate on always having a quiet camp abroad, and six months to drill its men. As far as possible they should be fit to fight on the day they land. In the absence of a conscription the Militia is the best reserve for a regular army. For the present, at least, its main duty of guarding our coast is happily not pressing, and if it were well made it may be the chief means of conducting gloriously a difficult war.—Times.

Warlike Preparations.

Advices from St. Petersburg state that the Council of War has reported that the resources of the Empire were capable of maintaining a second, a third, and even a fourth campaign. The army of Prince Bismarck had received reinforcements, and Gen. Moravieff's forces were to be augmented. Perhaps no other sort of report will be expected to be made public: private correspondence, however, gives a very different view of the resources of Russia, and the means of maintaining the war, even through the winter campaign. It can be no secret to the Russian Government that, whilst the Allies were willing to negotiate for peace, they were making gigantic preparations for war. For long three large camps will be formed in France, with little short of 100,000 men to each. Already the generals and superior officers have been named, and it is not impossible that one of these armies may be dedicated to operations in a new quarter. The number of troops will be increased, and the British will find England and France supported by real Allies, who will make us entirely independent of Germany.

The Peace Proposals.

The following is a statement from an Austrian pen of the contents of the "proposals" which Count Esterhazy is laying before the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, they are described to be the results of a perfect understanding between the Western Powers and Austria, both with regard to the terms of the conditions of peace which are to provide the necessary guarantees, and to the common action of the allies in case of their rejection. The proposals are as follows:—1. The relinquishment of the Russian Protectorate over the Danubian Principalities and the conditions essential to a securing of a new order of things there. This difficult point, which is already in process of being carried out, is drawn up so decisively and so clearly, that in case of its acceptance, namely, that there was "No such thing as a partition of the Balkans," the wind seemed to come from the southwest, but at that hour it veered round towards the north, and became bitter cold: the rain at once changed into hail and snow: the wind ground began to freeze; and at eight o'clock, by one of those magical changes which can only be equalled by the chemical landscapes of our childhood, the whole camp, which was an expanse of blackish mud, dotted with white tents and blue awnings, was transformed into a vast, level, white plain, marked with lines of dusky gravel, labours of canvas and wood. The wind had now diminished in force, but it is exceedingly cold and penetrating. The unfortunate natives of Southern Europe or of Asia, employed in such myriads in the service of the army, suffer greatly on such occasions, and perish like flies when the frost comes. The huge swarms of camp followers, who to the number of some ten thousand hover about the caissons and round Bakalava, Kadikoi, and the fairs, also feel the effects of this weather bitterly. This army, indeed, has absorbed in its train all the financial camp-followers of the old world. It is much to the credit of the Prussian-Marshal and his assistants that these myriads of specimens of the dogs of all nations have been preserved so perfectly and kept in such admirable order.

The Crimea.

The Monitor publishes the following dispatch from Marshal Plesier to the Minister of War:—
"MONSIEUR LE MARCHELAL.—You have already learned by my telegraphic despatch of the 8th inst., of the failure of the Russians in their attack on the morning of that day against the advanced posts of D'Audenarde's division in the Valley of the Isard."
"As your excellency is aware, these advanced posts form a semicircle of 3,000 men in advance of the main body of the division on the Upper Tchernaya, passing by Eski-Arman, Ourkist, Baga, and Savarka. These villages, situated at the foot of the wooded hills which separate the valley of Isard from the Upper Bala and the Chouhou, command a sight of the passes by which the valley can be entered, and are occupied by strong advanced posts (grand guard) of the enemy."
"The enemy, on the strength, probably, of information received from Tartars, conceived the idea of carrying off one or more of our outposts."
"On the 7th, at daybreak, a portion of the Russian troops stationed at Janiska, Fox-Sala, and Argu, were suddenly in motion. The Cossack regiment of Col. Zolotoff took the lead, followed by 500 men taken from the ranks, armed with rifles: these were followed by three battalions of the Silesian Regiment, Col. Ogilvie, which formed the main body of the column, consisting of about 2,500 infantry and 400 to 500 horsemen."
"The Russians crossed the summits of the Carbonado and Caden-Otar ridges; surrounded, during the night, which was dark and rainy, and carried, despite a vigorous resistance, a small advanced post of twelve men, placed at the junction of the Baga and Ourkist rivers. They then attacked with the greatest number of their force, about half-past five in the morning, the villages of Ourkist and Baga, directing their chief efforts against the latter village."

panies of the 7th Battalion Chasseurs-a-pied and a division of the 4th Chasseurs d'Afrique. He immediately assumed the offensive and sent on the command of Chef de Bataillon Maurice, in command of the 7th Battalion, to companies of Chasseurs of that battalion to small plateau, situated in advance and to the right of Ourkist, and from which those companies threatened the Russian right. This movement, executed with great resolution, first alarmed and caused the enemy to hesitate; they first backed their advanced, and then came to a halt. On perceiving this decision the charge was sound along the whole line, and from Baga as well as from Ourkist our troops threw themselves against the enemy, who were compelled to beat a retreat, and were pursued through the woods nearly as far as the ridges which enclose the valley."

"At the same time that the Russians attacked Baga and Ourkist, 200 infantry, and about 150 Cossacks, descended by the Caden-Otar road, attempted a diversion on the left of Ourkist; but they found two companies of the 7th Chasseurs-a-pied to stop their advance, and after two or three ineffectual charges, they turned back. Capt. Pichon, who commanded these companies, and who killed three Russians with his own hand, displayed on this occasion his usual valor."

"On the first night shot, Gen. d'Audenarde sent Gen. Niel, with two battalions and a squadron, to reinforce the line attacked. But on the arrival of these reserves on the scene of action the enemy was already completely routed. At 9 a.m. all was over."

"Our troops and their commanders, Monsieur de Marchal, did their duty well; they were full of resolution and intelligence, and this was what made the success so quick and so decisive, even against superior forces."

"The Russians left in our hands 150 killed, wounded, or prisoners. The number of the latter is 17, two of whom are officers. Yesterday morning 800 killed had been buried, and a search was going on for those that might have fallen among the brushwood."

"Our loss, even including the twelve men of the outpost that was surrounded, and four Chasseurs d'Afrique, captured between Baga and Ourkist, is much less than that of the enemy. We only had two men killed and eleven wounded, one of whom is an officer. We owe this happy result to the promptitude itself of the success."

"PELISIER, Marshal, Commander of the French Army in the East."

THURSDAY, December 13.
The storm howled and raged fearfully over the camp last night, and was laden with a deluge of rain, which it discharged in waterfalls, driving it through huts and tents, and forcing it in streams through the minutest interstices. The gusts were extremely violent, and the beating of the rain kept many a one awake with only one topic of conversation, namely, that there was "No such thing as a partition of the Balkans," the wind seemed to come from the southwest, but at that hour it veered round towards the north, and became bitter cold: the rain at once changed into hail and snow: the wind ground began to freeze; and at eight o'clock, by one of those magical changes which can only be equalled by the chemical landscapes of our childhood, the whole camp, which was an expanse of blackish mud, dotted with white tents and blue awnings, was transformed into a vast, level, white plain, marked with lines of dusky gravel, labours of canvas and wood. The wind had now diminished in force, but it is exceedingly cold and penetrating. The unfortunate natives of Southern Europe or of Asia, employed in such myriads in the service of the army, suffer greatly on such occasions, and perish like flies when the frost comes. The huge swarms of camp followers, who to the number of some ten thousand hover about the caissons and round Bakalava, Kadikoi, and the fairs, also feel the effects of this weather bitterly. This army, indeed, has absorbed in its train all the financial camp-followers of the old world. It is much to the credit of the Prussian-Marshal and his assistants that these myriads of specimens of the dogs of all nations have been preserved so perfectly and kept in such admirable order.

An outrage was committed at Kamiesch on Monday last of a very barbarous character, and I am sorry to say the perpetrator was a soldier and an Englishman. It appears that a man employed in a canteen in the town gave some cause of offence to the sergeant of the detachment of the 11th Hussars quartered at Kazatch for orderly duty between head-quarters and the advanced posts. The sergeant, having armed himself with a pistol, went to the canteen and accused the man of being a deserter from the *Regiment Albert*, calling on him at the same time to surrender and follow him. The man denied that he was a deserter, and refused to go, whereupon the sergeant fired at him across the counter, and gave him a mortal wound, of which he died in a very short time in great agony. The sergeant was at once under close arrest.—*Cour.*

THE RUSSIANS ON THE NORTH SIDE.—I cannot say what advantage the Russians expect to derive from all the works which they are constructing on the north side of Sebastopol; but they are certainly not actively engaged on them, and there is not a hill, a creek, or any position, however insignificant it may be, that is not secured by a battery, a fort, or a redoubt. I will endeavour to give some details of these works, beginning at Fort Constantine at the entrance of the port. The summit of the Plateau Constantine is now covered by a fortification to which it would be difficult to give a technical name; it is a pile of batteries and counter-batteries of cavaliers and redoubts united together and to Fort Constantine by numerous covered ways. In the rear of Fort Constantine is a small bay in which there are several large store-houses. There are two batteries at the bottom of this bay, and the Russians are now engaged in constructing a third. After Fort Constantine comes Fort Catherine, constructed like it of granite, with a double row of casemates and embrasures. It has been strengthened by fresh earthworks, and the upper part—that is to say, the terrace—is filled with guns a *barbette* and heavy mortars. This fort is in the form of an oblong square, with the corner opposite the port rounded off, whilst the other corner on the same side is flanked by a large crenelated tower. The part towards the land is defended by two strong towers, large ditches, and a horn-work situated on a small tongue of land which runs out towards the port. Two earthworks having each fifteen guns, have been thrown up on the right and left of the fort. A little above this fort, on an intermediate plateau, is another strong battery, and on the summit of the plateau is a large construction which serves as a platform of advanced work to the citadel. Between this fortification and those mentioned at the commencement of my letter, there is a redoubt mounted with guns of very heavy calibre.—After Fort Catherine there is another point on which the Russians have cut out in the earth and rock a series of fortifications on a most gigantic scale, the whole point being, in fact, metamorphosed into a citadel. There appear

to be here several rows of batteries, then barracks for the troops, and then more batteries in the rear of this point may be seen some small clusters of houses or stores, and some small vessels lying on the shore. The beach is defended by a strong battery, which extends all round the bay as far as Fort Siverina, which is of itself an assemblage of batteries placed one over the other, and defended on the land side by a large ditch. To the right of Siverina are some steamers, and then another village or collection of barracks and storehouses, protected by two batteries. All these are commanded by the citadel, which has been much increased that all that formerly existed is now concealed behind the immense work recently executed. As I have already mentioned, the activity of the Russians is most surprising.—Every day bodies of from 2,000 to 3,000 men leave the citadel and proceed to their work.—For some days past they have been occupied in raising some of the sunken vessels, but whether this done for the purpose of getting timber or for other intentions, it is impossible to say. They have still more fishing smacks and some smaller boats, and they frequently make use of the latter in the night to come and reconnoitre our works. Last night they availed themselves of the darkness and came within half-cable's length of Fort Alexander, or rather of our batteries on that side. At the cry of *Qui vive!* from our sentries, they moved off in haste. It is really difficult to imagine what can be the object of the Russians in erecting such masses of batteries. It is to occupy their soldiers and give them confidence, or to mask some other movement? Time alone can unravel the mystery. On our side, as you may suppose, we do not remain inactive; strong batteries are being established to play on the Russian works.

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Under date of the 26th of November, General Mouravieff announces that the Russians made at Kara 16,000 prisoners, among whom were 8000 Nizams (Turkish regulars) and 6000 *Bedis* (Irregulars), 12 standards, 130 cannon, and 30,000 muskets. General Mouravieff dispensed with making the English who formed part of the garrison march past him.

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The Times' correspondent at Constantinople writes under date, December 10, the following particulars respecting Kara:—A number of men had died from hunger, and it was impossible to hold out longer. The price of each had risen to 100 piastre a piece. The Russians have little to boast of in the capture; for although they thus close the campaign of 1855 (otherwise uniformly disastrous to them) with a triumph and a trophy, the number of their prisoners will hardly equal their own loss in their late unsuccessful assault on Kara, and it is not likely to retain when the spring campaign opens. Possibly they may not even attempt to do so. The defence of Kara, although it has terminated unfortunately, is one of the most remarkable exploits of the present war, and one of the most honourable to those engaged in it. It is as worthy of applause as the mismanagement that rendered it unavailing is deeply to be deplored and strongly to be condemned. All that could be done was done by the gallant Turkish troops, and by the English officers who associated with them by their counsels, shared their privations, and headed them in the fight. When want of forage and scarcity of provisions compelled the departure of the Karais, the garrison could but patiently wait—reality and able (as they have shown themselves) to repel an attack—the arrival of relief from without or the exhaustion of supplies within. Sorries, with Infantry alone, were out of the question; for the Russians were besieging the place, they were watching and attacking it, and General Mouravieff's headquarters were actually three leagues from the island. The garrison attempted the offensive, but had to give up a farther distance from their fortress than it was possible to do without Cavalry and artillery, in both of which arms the Russians were strong. So they kept, perforce within their defences, hungry and with little hope, yet patient and fearless—doing everything in short, that brave men could do under such circumstances, without rushing madly on destruction. It is at least three months ago that General Williams wrote of the capture of Kara as a mere question of time and of the stomach; in the place could certainly be held, unless famine more powerful than the Russians, should put an end to the possibility of resistance. The fall of Kara, had the circumstances attending it be considered, should produce a great sensation in England and France; not on account of its real importance, which I repeat is not great, but as exposing gross neglect and mismanagement in some quarter or other. Prisoners of war are brought to a court martial which restored to their service those made in Kara would seem to be most honourably acquitted of blame, but there must be other persons, not in Russian captivity who will have to stand their trial before the tribunal of public opinion. It will surely be asked by those fault-finders, while the enemy quietly blockaded Kara ever since mid-July, and large bodies of troops were kept idle and useless on the Bosphorus and elsewhere, and the formation of an army in Asia was delayed until winter was at hand.

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General Mouravieff has despatched a column to Akhalzik, and a portion of the garrison of Kara had been detached to Goree to defend the passes which commanded the entrance into Georgia.

Selim Pasha with 12,000 men, was at Trebizond, waiting the arrival of the Egyptian division.

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