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HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE RUSSIAN WAR.

Established 1823

FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME

ACTIVE ENTRANCE OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE INTO THE WAR.

With this brief but necessary glance at the general condition of the respective belligerents, we may continue our record of the actual events. And here we are obliged to say that, having landed the English are obliged to say that, having landed the English and French expeditionary forces in Turkey, and, as it were, set them down within reach of the enemy, we shall find little to justify any name journal of their proceedings for the next for months. The war proceeded; and, indeed, one very remarkable part of the struggle—a truly me orable transation—soon engaged the attention of all Europe; but we miss, in the story of it, the acts or presence of the Allied forces. They were are, and took to part. In short, though dispatched spring, they were not destined to engage the feet autumn. During that In short, though dispatched spring, they were not destine I to engage the food autumn. During that long delay, sufferings formed a greater part of their history than actions, and see sufferings were of the saddest kind in the sold sestimation—the visitation of a dreadful parence, not the hardships or catastrophes of a global campaign. With the exception of one vigorous low struck by the fleet, our remarks apply to the great attitude of both services. On the other side is Europe, however, something was to be uchieved sough even there not much at was to be achieved rough even there not much at first), and the read will perceive that many of the adventures of the Baltic expeditionary force were contemporaneous ith the occurrences which we now proceed to ment of in their order.

SARDMENT OF ODESSA.

Trustworth information having come that be-tween Sebas of and the various Russian stations, from Anapa, Odessa, there was a constant and active passage to and fro of troops and stores, the Allied fleer issued forth and patrolled the whole Euxine, forug the Russian ships to take refuge in Sebastopal after which, Admiral Dundas and Adniral Haelin, with their squadrons, approached Olessa othe 22d of March. There, the squadrons nortening sail about three miles out to sea, sent a ma!l wsel with a flag of truce, to summon General sten acken to deliver up to them all the ships, 2, if the harbour, failing which, chastisement hould forthwith be inflicted for the massacre of

Beore anything was attempted against Odessa, our shots from the batteries had been aimed at an loss had been aimed err. lesson, to respect the laws of nations. Next the 23d, twelve war-steamers of both nations ree detached from the fleet, and sent within range shot; the order being to spare the town, if possible at to destroy the batteries, the magazines, and the essels in the harbour. The order was scrupulously in the first particular, and executed with rilliant effect in the second. The detachment of teamers approached, accompanied by rocket-boats hase ventured further in, being a smaller mark for the land artillery, which dared not besides waste its fire short of the covering frigates and steamers. The boats having taken their station, the attacking detachment began a most singular and beautiful movement in file, tracking one the other's wake with exquisite precision, along an ever-repeated circle; and as each vessel touched those points of her orbit which were nearest to the Russian batteries, she devared her broadside, passing onwards, and made by for her successor in the revolving chain, until r own turn should come again. To borrow a most uphic and striking expression used by an eye-wit-48, the ever-returning evolution of these graceful misters of a memorable act of vengeance seemed, in the distance, to be performing a sort of wild waltz to ther, as they laid low the fortifications of the Proud Russian seaport. In the middle of the action, of the French steamers, struck by a red-hot shot ngh the hull, caught fire, and returned for a space to the fleet, to have assistance in ex-nishing the flames. This was very soon effected; ing hishing the flames. This was very see again her the wounded falcon hastened to take again her structive place in what may be said to have remble l also the wheeling flight of some beautiful irds of prey swooping at intervals, each in its turn, The defence from the shore was at first very

spirited, and the Russians are described as having stool well to their guns; but in range these were inferior to the artillery of the ships; and, by sensible degree, the fire of the garrison became slower. At Jength two great powder magazines of the Russians blew up in quick succession, while most of the battaries were dismounted, the forts knocked to pieces, and the runs strewn with the bodies of the artillery-When the defences were shattered into a men. shapeless ruin, and the resistance of the Russians had evidently ceased in despair, and when thirteen of the enemy's ships, laden with munitions of war ad been captured, the Allied detachment drew owly off, and rejoined the fleets. Their comrades no had, from the yards of the distant men-of-war, essed the action, descended now and welcomed with shouts that might have been heard on What the Russian loss was in slain and

we have not, of course, the means of ascer-

taining with exactitude. The officers engaged have estimated the number of the enemy killed at about eight hundred or a thousand soldiers. The Allies had ten sailors wounded and five killed. Such was the bombardment of Odessa on the 23d of March. Shortly afterwards the loss of the Tiger (16 guns) securred. She grounded at the Campagna Costazzi, near Odessa, in such a position that she could not use her batteries against the field artillery on shore. After a short fight she surrendered, and her crew (250) were all made prisoners, and carried to Odessa, where they were well treated. The Captain's (Giffar.!'s) wounds proved mortal; and he told the officers and sailors around with his last breath, that to his death they owed their own lives; for he was going to fire the powder magazine when he was struck down. The Russians blew up the Tiger.

PASSAGE OF THE DANUBE BY LUDERS AND GORTSCHAKOFF.

It was about this epoch that Prince Dolgorouki, sent to Teheran to involve Persia in the Czar's quarrel, struck the Sedr Azim, or Prime Minister of the Shah, with a cane to punish his reluctance. The most imperative instructions had now come from St. Petersburg to the Russian Generals in the Principalities, to effect some great exploit at whatever cost. The frightful significance of this order delivered Prince Gortschakoff and his coadjutors from cer ain natural scruples and hesitations. Long since, the Czar must have perused the report of General Schilders, announcing, so early as the month of January, a loss of thirty-five thousand Russian soldiers, although active hostilities had then lasted only about ten weeks. There could be no illusion in the Imperial mind, and yet this order is sent; the Generals. enforced by the awful addition, "at whatever cost." To hear was to obey.

We have seen how, on the 15th of March, Prince Gortschakoff had been frustrated in a bloody attempt to seize the island between Oltenitza and Turtukai, losing 2000 men, and yet failing to storm the place. Luders had five days before this crossed the Danube at Galatz. He was in force, having 241 battalions, 8 squadrous, 6 sotnias, and 64 guns Gorischakoff, learning the fact of the passage so far down the river to the rear of his own left, determined to abandon for the present his disheartening operations against Turtukai and Rustchuk, and to fly to the support of Luders; thus imparting, he hoped, a decisive character to the advance of that enterprising General. By a retrogade circuit, he passed even beyond the rear of Luders' left flank, and threw himself across the river a little above Tultscha, with 14 battalions, 16 squadrons, 6 sotnias, and 44 guns. He brought with him more cavalry than Luders though a smaller general force : and their united columns amounted to nearly 50.000 men. The reader is aware, that Omer Pacha had decided not to dispute possession of the Upper Dobradscha; and it is, therefore, nearly incomprehensible, though stated in all the contemporary accounts of these operations, that Prince Gortschakoff should have there taken eleven guns and 150 His capture of the guns is more uninelligible than his capture of the prisoners, who might have been the unarmed or half-armed ordinary inhabitants-for the guns must have belonged to Tultscha, which the Turks still held as an outpost, and which was the only place they retained in all that region. This event took place about the 23d of March, the day of the bombardment of Odessa, and five days before the Emperor Napoleon, who, on the 2d had, in person, opened at Paris the Legislative Session of 1954-joined Queen Victoria, in a common declaration, purporting that the rupture between them and Russia and that their alliance with Turkey for the purpose of active and direct operations of war, were now accepted facts. Redschid Pacha, General Baraguay D'Hilliers, and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, soon afterwards signed the tripartite treaty to this effect, at Constantinople; and, still later, it was solemnly ratified at Paris.

On the same 23d of March, as we have seen, the Danube was forced by the Commander in Chief of the Russian army of occupation; the fortification Odessa were laid in ashes, and the Governments of England and France agreed, that they would at last publish in all form their acceptance of the Russian challenge. These are among the amusements and this is but the mysticism of history; we will therefore add, at present, only one more such coincidence, or, as the French term it, "rapprochement." It is not, indeed, in private life alone, that these strange juxtapositions of events may be observed which have suggested throughout all countries a number of well-known wonder-breathing proverbs. The very day on which the long-prepared Greek conspiracy exploded, was the day when, at the other extremity of Europe, by an equally striking and curious obviam fit the declaration of war, in pursuance of the tripartite understanding just mentioned, was issued by the Maritime Powers Dates are the chords and the discords in the great music of human annals.

The perilous success of the Russian divisions, who had now barst into the Northern Dobrudscha was soon counterbalanced by a misfortune, the news of which reached the ill-starred commanders in the midst of their exultation. Fokshani, where they had piled up the richest part of their laboriously-accumulated munitions of war and general stores, was burnt. The loss to a struggling nilitary treasury must have been extremely serious;

hough we cannot specify its amount.

The divisions which had crossed the Danube ontinued their advance, taking Bahadagh on the sea, and Hirsova on the river. All the Upper Dobrudscha, except Tultscha, was now occupied by the invaders; and by April the 3d their Cossacks patrolled as far as Kustendjeh, which the Turks kept, and which was their grasp upon the sea, at the east of Trajan's Wall. On the north shore of the Danube, the Turks retained nothing except Kalafat, two hundred miles to the west.

we pursue the Russian enterprises of

April, and their results, in the Danubian war, it may be interesting to our readers to cast a glance over the general circumstances of that period. The first object which strikes us is another of those The curious historical coincidences already remarked. On the 7th of that month the alliance defensive and offensive between Austria and Prussia was concluded, the overtures (made too late) of Russia were rejected by the indignation of the Maritime Powers; and our Baltic fleet had left Kloge Bay, and was patrolling every creek and inlet, not still frozen, of the Scandinavian seas. The two Princes of the Blood Royal, who belonged respectively to the English and French expedition to the East, were among the latest who set forth. On the 9th of April Prince Napoleon left Paris, with Pacha, the Ottoman Ambassador; and the Duke of Cambridge, still more dilatory, was on his road from that capital nine days later-and then, not by so direct a line to their common destination, but via Strashourg; and, indeed, when the Danubian campaign had reached its very crisis, he was at Vienna. But it was destined that the Allied powers of the West should be excluded from the triumphs, as they were excluded from the heat and labours, of the Danubian campaign. The troops, both French and English, were all this time incessantly forwarded; and, on the 12th of the month only three battalions of our Guards, remained at Malta, awaiting their conveyance. The prid of the Czar amidst this clash of arms, was still bending; and, dating from the 19th of April, six weeks were by him proclaimed free for English and French vessels to clear out of the Russian ports. On the 20th of this memorable month, the Queen in Council ordered a National "Day of Humiliation;" and, to complete our present digressive and discursive glance at the more general, and sometimes very distant, occurrences to which we should not wish to turn side in the narration of the ensuing Danubian campaign-it was in the midst of this warlike incandescence of all Europe, that Mr. Pease and the other members of the "Peace Conference" proceeded to St. Petersburg, and (almost literally) requested the infuriated Autocrat—to be a good boy. Generals Canrobert, Bosquet, and Martimprey, who had arrived on the 2d at Gallipoli, began, by their presence and even by the noise of their very names, amid an Eastern population, to impart a new gravity to the whole Western movement—the character of a

great Crusade inverted. We may mention here—for fear of omitting it circumstance which exemplifies the truth of the inspired intimation, that the utmost wisdom of man is only folly before Him who knows and foresees every-Of all the measures adopted by the two leading Powers of Europe in the beginning of this contest, that which united the most suffrages in praise of its wisdom, was the Emperor Napoleon's expedient of sending to the scene of action some of his Algerian army; not only as starting from a nearer point of departure, but, still more, as having been tried in a similiar climate and in a not dissimilar warfare. And again, of all the troops in his African dependency, the Zouaves were, in every sense, considered to be the most eligible for such a service-European in discipline, and to a great extent in blood, Mahometan in experience—the very men, in short, to teach the rest of the mixed expedition how to avoid the imprudences incidental to such an enterprise, and how to secure its success. Now, of all the corps brought together by this great adventure, the Zouaves have suffered, beyond comparison, the most Moralists or physiologists may speculate on

ful lesson : we have only to note the certain fact. It was on the 16th, that Admiral Plumridge sent me the premices of the war, the first Ru prizes, five vessels of commerce; and on the 17th four more such vessels followed. They were laden chiefly with salt. The first division of our Baltic fleet —consisting wholly of steamers, 17 in number, carrying nearly 10,000 men and 107 guns—was speedily followed by the second; this last brought 25 ships of war, of which twelve were line-of-battle. The united divisions constituted a noble fleet of fortytwo vessels, 220.1 guns, 16,0.00 horse power, and 22,0.00 sailors and marines. The only additions desirable to this splendid armament were a militar force (which arrived too late for any but a partial and disproportionate exploit), and a sufficient flotilla of steam gun-boats drawing but little water, which were equipped too late altogether to be of service during the year 1854.

We return to the war on the Danube. The Russians, having seized Hirsova, spent some time in preparing for a great attempt to pass Trajan's Wall but, though their Cossacks scoured the country down to the very ramparts of Kustendjeh, they found that they had selected a most difficult part of the Turkish line to force; and at Czernavoda, on the 25th of

April, more than five wears after General Luders crossed the Danube at Gala; and, nearly a month atter the second Russian coltran had followed near Tultscha to his support, their nited divisions were taught a severe lesson. The Tuta, at that place—which is some five miles to the outh of Trajar's Wall—once more checked the Lusian advance; and, in a sharp action, repulsed the emy with considerable loss. On the whole, the avenue by which the Russians endeavoured to penetral from the Dobrudscha were defended for about a me weeks; during which time, the invaders—being locked up amid the marshes of the worst district of the whole Turkish territory in Europe—suffered-incomarably Turkish territory in Europe suffered incon unably more from ague, fever, cholera, and privation than they suffered in the field. It must not be supposed that this advance along the coast against O er Pacha's right wing was an isolated movement. the country, it was part of a very large combination, which Marshal Paskiewitch, Prince of Erivan, was, on the 8th of April, summoned from Poland to superintend in person, and in which the famous General of Engineers, Schilders, was to take an eminent part. Marshal Paskiewitch had long since expressed an opinion, that Prince Gortschakoff was conducting the campaign injudiciously; and, just about the time of which we speak, there was an immense change in all the Russian dispositions. Their right was drawn back; their left, as we have related occupied the Dubundesha, and was thunder related, occupied the Dobrudscha, and was thundering vehemently, at the north-east gates, so to say, of Bulgaria; while, now, the various columns which had been countermarched from beyond the Aluta, were massed in apparently irresistible strength all around Bucharest and Slobodzie, and in front of those towns, bearing fast upon the Danube, between Oltenitza and Czernavoda. With General Luders' army, these concentrated troops maintained their communications through Hirsova; and his instructions were to press forward at whatever cost and to interpose between Varna and Silistria. It was evident that the recent peremptory and dreadful orders from St. Petersburg were impelling the Russians to their last and truly desperate exertions.

SIEGE OF SILISTRIA.

We approach the siege of Silistria. In the history of that great operation there is one mysterious and sombre particular, which the reader will notice. The subject is more than delicate; and we will not in our present uncertainty, say anything beyond what the duties of a historic narrative imperiously require. How is it that from the 1st of May to the 15th of June the besiegers were allowed to press forward their scientific approaches, and their sanguinary assaults, unmolested by any serious or regular attack from without? A very great Anglo French force was by this time mustered at Varna; and, alowing for all the windings of the road, not more han seventy miles interposed between that maritime station and the very walls of Silistria, while a much shorter march would have precipitated the irresistible that army of many s soldiers of the West upon ings which beleaguered the gallant fortress several replies may be given, even if unsatisfactory ones, on behalf of our own and the French troops; We accordingly repeat the question, with more direct reference to the Turkish host which Omer Pacha held at Schumla. He had, at the least, seventy thousand men accumulated around that impregnable position, or within easy summons; and his march for the relief of Silistria would have been still shorter than that of the Allies. It was the general opinion n Europe, it was the impression among our officers in Europe, it was the impression among our outcers in Bulgaria, and, we have reason and varranty for adding that it was, for about three weeks, Omer. Pacha's own conviction that Silistria, unassisted, must fall; and when we say "unassisted," we mean without some strong and combined effort to assist it. It was, also, not for a moment denied, that the beeaguering army would have to abandon their enterprise if that effort were made, and they were thus attacked. It was, in the end, found that, although rot externally assailed in the manner we have described they were not collect to result would have been then, be any doubt, what the result would have been f a powerful force had disturbed their operation

We speak not of any wild advance, or attempt to advance, up the Dobrudscha; nor do we refer in any manner to a general effort to carry the were across the Danube; what we say is specific; it relates to one and only to one, manifestly practicable movement, which, it is acknowledged, would, if rale, have celivered the most important river-fortress in Turkey; and without which, it was supposed, that fortre s must surrender; and this movement was not made.
We wish the reader to fix the true case in his mind; it is well worthy of his attention. This, then, it is:
The general expectation was that Silistria would fall. if the forces in Bulgaria did not move-Omer Pacha, like the rest, entertaining that expectation; on the other hand, it was the unanimous conviction of all concerned, that, by a move of the troops in Bulgaria, Silistria could most certainly be saved. And with this expectation on the one hand, and this conviction on the other, the troops in Bulgaria remained quiescent during the whole time of the darger. The style in which the progress of the siege was adverted to by the journals of Europe is most remarkable, ex. gr. — Silistria had not fallen at the departure of the last advices." "It is rumoured, that ed made a great sally on the and de