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NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Progress of the War.

TEN DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

HALIFAX, Dec. 23.

The R. M. Steamship America, from Liverpool, 9th inst. arrived at noon to day. She brought 17 passengers for Halifax. Admiral Bruce was on board, proceeding to take command of the Squadron, in the Pacific, in place of the late Admiral Phipps. Since the battle of Inkerman, no other engagement had occurred in the neighborhood of Sebastopol up to the date of the latest despatches from the seat of war. The reported loss of a large fleet of transports and men of war in the Black Sea is unhappily confirmed. The most important piece of news by the America is, that Austria signed a treaty with the Allied Powers on the 2nd instant at Vienna, engaging to take the field, should the Emperor of Russia prolong the war beyond the 1st of January next. It is not doubted that Austria has taken this step, in consequence of the issue of the battles of the Alma and Inkerman, and fears of her subjects in Italy and Poland revolting. Prussia, too, joined in it on the 6th.

LIVERPOOL, December 9.

Parliament, which meets on Tuesday next is not to be called upon to provide more money by loan or otherwise for meeting the expenses of the war. Last session, the House of Commons voted nearly £10,000,000 of additional annual taxation, with power to issue Exchequer bonds and bills to the amount of £6,000,000, until the new taxes should become productive; and there was besides about £2,000,000 of surplus to begin with. It is now stated positively, and apparently on official authority, that Mr. Gladstone has paid his way that he has still a balance of nearly £5,000,000 in his favor; and that he is consequently in no present need of money. No financial measure, therefore, will be produced before Christmas; and it depends on circumstances as yet beyond calculation what may be needed and proposed, when the regular session shall commence in February. Many members of the Society of Friends in Ireland, notwithstanding their repugnance of war under any circumstances, have been earnest supporters of the Patriotic Fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of our brave soldiers who fall in the conflict with Russia. Several of the principal Quaker merchants of Dublin have subscribed to the fund.

We have at length complete accounts of the great losses suffered by the Anglo-French expedition in the Black Sea on the 14th ult. Thirty British and French transports were wrecked, and half as many were wrecked or damaged at the mouth of the Cacha. The loss of men at the various stations on the coast of the Crimea during the gale is reckoned at a thousand, besides those that have fallen into the hands of the Cossacks. The English men of war, owing to the strength of the cables, suffered comparatively little, but the French have lost the three-decker war steamer Henri IV. The greatest loss is that of the fine screw-steamer Prince, of 2700 tons. She carried out to Balaklava the 40th regiment, all the winter clothing for the troops engaged in the siege, including 40,000 greatcoats, flannel shirts, under-clothing, socks, and gloves; beef, pork, and other provisions; hospital stores for Scutari; and a vast quantity of shot and shell to carry on the siege. The troops were landed at their destination in safety, but the stores are wholly lost, and nothing remains of the Prince but half a dozen of her numerous crew, who managed to get on the cliffs when she was "broken to powder" against them. The Resolute, with 900 tons of gunpowder, also went to the bottom. The pecuniary loss to the shipping is roughly estimated at two millions of pounds. On shore the tents of the soldiers were blown down and greatly injured.

The anxiety of the public as to the terms of the treaty between Austria and the Western Powers has not yet been relieved, and it is probable that the precise words of the important document of the 2d inst. will not be allowed to transpire, till after its ratification this day week. A Paris correspondent states, however, that the purport of the treaty is perfectly well known; that it is on one side a treaty offensive and defensive; and that it sets forth, that if Russia does not comply with the just demands of the Western Powers, and take steps to conclude a solid peace within a certain specified time on the basis of the four guarantees, Austria will make common cause with England and France to coerce her. The same writer adds, that at the Palace of the Tuilleries, on Saturday evening, when the telegraph despatch announcing the signing of the treaty was received, a large party happened to be assembled, to whom the Emperor read the despatch, amidst the hearty congratulations of his guests. The

correspondent of the Globe states, that in the diplomatic circles it is believed that the three Powers have agreed fully on the conditions of peace to be submitted to Russia by Austria, in the name of Germany, as being fair and reasonable, and necessary for the repose of Europe; and that Austria binds herself to enter into a definite offensive and defensive alliance with the Western Powers against Russia, if within the time allowed to Russia for her answer, these propositions be not accepted.

There are different statements as to the time allowed to Russia for her answer. Some state that it is three months; others, that it is only one month, to expire on the 1st January next, and that the three months spoken of are the delay, beyond which the direct co-operation of Austria with the Western Powers cannot be deferred, in the event of the refusal of the Emperor of Russia to make peace on the conditions agreed upon by England, France and Austria. Whatever may be the terms of the treaty, the announcement of its conclusion has given general satisfaction, because it is believed that in the present state of public feeling, the Government of this country dare not accede to any propositions which were not likely, in the event of their acceptance, to lead to the re-establishment of peace on an honorable and lasting basis, and in case of their rejection, to bring in the effective aid of an armed power which has too long delayed active co-operation in a struggle, in which its own interests are permanently involved. While the French rears have risen about 2 1/2 per cent., our own consols, after steadily rising with the renewed hopes on the earlier reports of the treaty, stand firmly at 92 1/2 to 93.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

VIENNA, WEDNESDAY MORNING.—The Press makes mention of the sortie on the 25th of November, and states, on the authority of a despatch of the 26th from Balaklava, that the English took two batteries of seven guns each, which the Russians had not time to spike. On the 26th a part of the garrison attacked the French lines, but was routed with a loss of 230 men. The French lost 75 men, three of whom were officers.

Since the battle of Inkerman, all the weak points in the external lines of the allies have been thoroughly fortified. For this purpose, works of considerable strength, well furnished with cannon and mortars, have been placed, so as to command both the ravines up which the Russians advanced to the British camp on the morning of the 5th November. The ravine leading from the fortress of Sebastopol, up which General Dannenberg advanced, is now commanded by three batteries mounting nine guns, one of them a Lancaster; and the ravine leading from the valley of Inkerman is closed by entrenchments which completely cross it, and commanded by guns so placed on both sides, as to sweep the whole valley. In order to render it impossible for the Russians to bring up cannon as they did on the 5th of November, the road from Inkerman to Balaklava has been scarped (that is, rendered precipitous and inaccessible) before it reaches the English entrenchments. These works will render it difficult to attack the British camp with any chance of success, at the point at which it was attacked on the 5th. Supposing an attack to be attempted, the Russians would have no chance of getting their artillery into the formidable position which it occupied on that memorable day, or indeed any other where it would command the British position.

From the British camp, near Inkerman, to Balaklava, a distance of about eight miles—the country which is naturally strong, is strongly fortified. Even Balaklava, which is in advance of the lines, has been rendered so strong, as to be considered impregnable. The fact that the Russian army had not attempted anything from the 5th to the 27th November is no slight proof of the strength of the position of the allies. The Russians, indeed, seem to have been reduced to total inactivity for the 21 days which followed the battle of Inkerman.

THE CRIMEA.

BALAKLAVA, Nov. 21.—On the 14th, the hurricane blew down the tents, and the men were exposed to rain and cold for the day. Several of our troops died from cold and exhaustion, and many horses perished. The camp was a sea of sand, and the Russians were quiet and depressed. On the 16th, the fire was very slack on both sides. On the 16th, men and officers were beginning to but themselves for the winter. No officers may leave for Scutari without the consent of a medical board. On the 18th, the weather was fair. The Russians in the valley are said to have been reinforced. On the 20th, it rained all day. There was a good deal of firing on the French and British lines, which was replied to very briskly. French and English reinforcements continue to arrive.

About ten days later, and after the result of the battle of Inkerman was known to the Czar, the Austrian minister at St. Petersburg was informed, that the Russian government was disposed to accept the four points without these modifications. In both cases, it is evident that the real object of the Russian Cabinet in making these negotiations was to obtain from Germany a neutrality supported with firmness and perseverance; but in both cases, the manoeuvre failed, for even Prussia was not restrained from concluding the additional article to her treaty with Austria, and Austria proceeded without any further delay to complete her treaty with the Western powers.

PARIS, THURSDAY MORNING.—The minister of war has this morning received the following telegraphic despatch from General Canrobert: "Before Sebastopol, Nov. 24.—The rain has ceased, and the weather becomes more propitious. The progress of our labours has been hitherto impeded by the stormy state of the climate; but we are now again at work in the trenches with renewed activity. Reinforcements are arriving. Our enemies still continue unmolested, covering themselves by their numerous intrenchments."

STATE OF THE RUSSIAN TROOPS.—A Vienna military paper says, on the 15th November there were 6,000 sick or wounded Russians in Sebastopol. Surgical assistance was much wanted. The position of the Russian troops was very miserable—they had no tents or warm covering, and only half a pound of meat per week. The English prisoners were taken into the interior.

THE GALE IN THE BLACK SEA.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 19.—We have just had the most distressing news down from the Crimea,—the total loss of a great many of our transports in a heavy gale of wind. I send you a list of the vessels lost:—The Prince, screw steamer, went down, and only five were saved out of 150. The Melbourne, dismasted. Her Majesty's steamship Retribution lost all her guns. Her Majesty's steamer Sampson, dismasted. The Resolute gone down, and all hands lost; cargo, gunpowder. The Rip Van Winkle lost. The Wild Wave lost; one boy saved. The Eastwind, all lost. The Progress lost; a few saved. The Wanderer, all lost. A French ship, all lost. The Mary Ann, foundered at her anchors; all hands lost.

The Pride of the Ocean, the Medora, the Sir Robert Sale, the Lady Valiant, and the Caduceus, all dismasted. The unfortunate ships were lost just outside Balaklava. It is a most fearful coast, and a ship once on shore would not have the slightest chance, there being not a foot of beach anywhere—nothing but perpendicular rocks.

The Himalaya dragged also, and very nearly got on shore in the Turkish arsenal. This was last Tuesday. The Sunday before we had very heavy weather in the Horn—torrents of rain, and so cold. There was the most fearful smashing going on among the shipping. A large transport with stores on board (the Wynstay) went on shore outside Constantinople, off St. Stefano Point, and has become a perfect wreck.

The General Screw Steam Shipping Company's ship Jason is on shore at Eupatoria with a hole in her bottom, but they hope to save her. The news came down by the Valorous. Nov. 21.—On the night of the 13th, a violent storm burst over Constantinople, and caused much damage to the inferior buildings; the mosque of the Sultan Ahmed alone losing three minarets. The tempest commenced at Balaklava about seven in the morning, and in two hours eleven transports had been wrecked and six dismasted and rendered unfit for service.

A later account says, the disasters of the 14th are greater even than we anticipated. The following names may be added to the list of those totally lost at Balaklava:—Gertrude, Pyrenees, Pride of the Ocean, and Ganges. The total loss at Balaklava is:

Lost Dismasted.	
British	18
French	12
	4 or 5

Eighteen more British are said to be lost or dismasted at Eupatoria or the Katcha. Numbers of French and British sailors were taken by the Cossacks on the west coast. The Britannia, 120, and the Marengo nearly foundered; each is slightly injured. The rudders of the Queen, 110, and the London, 90, are badly wrung; but they may be kept at sea, at least for a time. Five French line of battle ships have lost their rudders and received other injuries; they will be brought down to Constantinople in tow. Captain Inglis, of the Engineers, was lost in the Prince. It is said that several officers are lost in the vessels of Balaklava. The following is an extract of a letter, written by the captain of the Andes, belonging to the British and North American Royal Mail Steamship Company, dated Constantinople, 20th November, and received in Liverpool on Monday evening:— "There was a fearful loss of life and property at Balaklava on the 14th instant. The Jura, very fortunately, got into harbour before the gale came on. TUESDAY, Dec. 6.—Accounts have just been received from Constantinople to the 27th. They confirm the news that General Liprandi had retired from Balaklava and the Duke of Cambridge is seriously indisposed.

THE TREATY WITH AUSTRIA.

The Daily News Paris correspondent learns from a perfectly authentic source, that the treaty with Austria will become eventually a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive. Peace will be proposed to Russia by Austria on the basis of four points, interpreted as mentioned in the treaty. If by January 1st or 2d, Russia shall not have accepted the four points, as interpreted, Austria will recall her ambassador from St. Petersburg; and if by March 2d the four points, or at least some conditions satisfactory to the western powers based upon the four points, shall not have been accepted by Russia, then Austria will declare war. The interpretation of the four points includes the throwing open of the Black Sea. Russia is not to be allowed to have a larger number of vessels therein than France and England. Six ships from each nation are the stipulated numbers. An European port is to be formed as a counterpoise to Sebastopol, either at Batoum or at Sinope. The liberty of the Danube is to be declared; and, as a guarantee for such liberty, the town and fortress of Ismail, and all the Russian forts near the mouth of the Danube, are to be destroyed. The protectorate of the Christian subjects of the Sultan in Turkey, is to be exercised collectively by the five powers. Should Austria be compelled, on March 2d, to declare war, she will enter with all her forces into Bessarabia, and will send 20,000 men to the Crimea.

The Times' correspondent also mentions, as conditions, the liberty of the Black Sea, of the Danube, the annulling of the treaties between Russia and the Porte, and the joint protectorate of the five powers of the non-Moslem subjects of the Porte.

THE ANGO-FRENCH-AUSTRIAN TREATY.—Vienna Wednesday.—Austria, so it is asserted in all quarters, has not signed the offensive and defensive treaty. It is also asserted that the Emperor Nicholas's willingness to accept the four guarantees as originally proposed by M. Drouin de L'Isle, Russia, is in further doubt, will not prolong the war beyond the winter.

The news from the Crimea still comes principally from unfriendly sources, and yet it is favourable to the Allies. Notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, great progress had been made in strengthening the defensive lines from Inkerman to Balaklava. A despatch from General Canrobert, dated the 24th ult., states that the weather had become more favourable, and that the work of the trenches had been renewed with increased activity. The Russians in the field had, up to that date, made no further offensive movement against the lines of the Allies, but remained under the cover of their numerous entrenchments. Prince Menschikoff reports that the siege operations were continued up to the 27th, but that the fire of the Allies was feeble, and produced little effect upon the works at Sebastopol. He admits, however, that our troops were strengthening their position and establishing new entrenchments. A despatch received via Vienna states that on the 25th the Russians made a sortie and were repulsed. The English pursued the enemy to their entrenchments and captured a battery of nine guns, which they still hold. Another account of the same affair is that the English took possession of two batteries of seven guns each. On the next day, the 26th, a part of the garrison of Sebastopol attacked the lines of the French, but were repulsed with a loss of 230 men. The French lost 72 men and 3 officers. Reinforcements were daily arriving in the Crimea, but it is believed that the assault would not be undertaken until an addition of 20,000 men had been made to the forces of the Allies. It is reported in a despatch from Bucharest that 40,000 Turks and 400 guns were immediately to be embarked for the Crimea from the ports of Varna and Balchik.

The Morning Chronicle states that there is not the smallest ground for supposing that the shipwrecks of the 14th inst. in any degree crippled the operations of the English army, or exposed our troops to intolerable privations. Lord Raglan had in store, at the time, upwards of three millions and a half of cartridges; and, independently of the articles of winter clothing that were unhappily lost on board the Prince, there were, on board other ships that must have arrived shortly after the storm, 54,000 pairs of woollen socks, 30,000 woollen coats, 34,000 fannel drawers, 3500 watch coats, 50,000 blankets, 23,000 rugs, and nearly 7000 pairs of worsted gloves. Little, therefore, is to be apprehended from the results of the confessedly severe loss which our army has sustained.

The emperor of Russia still continues his military movements and preparations. A despatch from Warsaw, dated the 4th of Dec., states that Gen. Siewierski is concentrating the First Infantry Corps of the Russian army, with a portion of the Imperial Guard, of the left bank of the Vistula, that is, on the extreme Western frontier of the empire, while General Panjutin is advancing with the Second Infantry Corps on Podolia and Volhynia. Movements of this magnitude and importance, undertaken by whole armies (for each infantry corps consists, when complete, of about 25,000 men) at this season of the year, when the troops would otherwise be taking up their winter quarters, indicate a conviction of the near approach of hostilities.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES.

LOSS OF RUSSIAN STORES.—A correspondent of the Vienna Fremde Blatt, a journal usually very favourable to Russia, adds that a train of several hundreds of waggon, laden with provisions and munitions for the Russian troops at Balaklava, was surprised by the frightful snow storms in the steep south of Perakop, and annihilated.

PROVISIONS IN SEBASTOPOL.—The Vienna correspondent of the Chronicle states that Sebastopol is provisioned for not more than 14 or 16 weeks, and the Russian relieving army altogether depends for its support upon the supplies sent from Southern Russia. These are conveyed in all directions of vehicles, principally drawn by oxen, which are so much exposed to destruction in the Tauridian steppes as the ships of the allies in the Black Sea.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

In England matters are approaching a critical crisis. It is probable that Parliament will be summoned for the creation of new taxes to support the war. The despatch of resolutions to the seat of war continued interest.

It has been determined to call Parliament together on the 12th of December. The object of this assembling of the National Council is mainly to provide the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the means of carrying on the war. What those means are will not probably transpire before Mr. Gladstone announces them to the House of Commons. War is costly sport, and the sinews must be provided, come from what quarter they may. In his statement of last session, Mr. Gladstone set his countenance against the system of raising the wind by means of loans—saddling future generations with the expenses of the present. If he still adhere to this view, the income-tax must be increased to at least ten per cent., and additional duties must be placed on the great necessities of life,—on tea, coffee, sugar, beer, and probably wine and spirits. Such a course seems to be the only one which is open to the custodian of the national finances, for hitherto the war has been enormously expensive, and we may probably only be at the commencement of it. The effect on trade cannot fail to be very serious, and there are already prophets of evil busily engaged in prognosticating dire calamities, which are to occur between this time and mid-summer next. Hitherto the war has been undeniably popular, but, whether the enthusiasm of the people will be kept up to the present point at which we see it, can only be demonstrated by events. Paralyzed trade, small profits, and heavy taxation are likely enough to increase the members of the Peace Society; but still we feel confident that public support will be cheerfully extended to the Government in the struggle in which we are now engaged. Success must be achieved, however, by heavy re-choosing. Failure would involve with us a change in the Administration, but in the case of our French allies, it would end in the extinction of a dynasty. Louis Napoleon must see and feel this, and the reinforcements which he is now sending to the Crimea are on a scale sufficiently gigantic to show his appreciation of the crisis. We cannot afford to lag far behind him. In men we may not be so numerically strong; but in ships, munitions of war, and money, we are at least as strong as our neighbour. The address of the Emperor of the French to the army in the Crimea, is a spirit-stirring affair—a document admirably calculated to inspire the spirit of the soldiery; and in this document the head of the French nation distinctly pledges himself to persevere in humbling the pride of Russia, a feat which is evidently destined to cause Western Europe far more blood and treasure than has yet been expended.

THE FEELING IN RUSSIA.

From The National Intelligencer.

Extract of a letter from a respectable and well-informed citizen of the United States to a friend in Washington, dated.

St. Petersburg, Russia, Sept. 18, 1854.

Dear F.: The war is actively begun. There is no chance for any power, be it ever so great, to conquer Russia. The Emperor is only preparing for war. Next year he will have in the field, ready for active battle, one-and-a-half millions of soldiers, well drilled. The people are all for the war, and he has no trouble in getting soldiers, for it is with them a religious war. They want the Christian faith to be sanctified over the world. They are the most devoted people on earth, and the last crucifix will go for the war before they give it up.

THE TRIPLE TREATY.

The Paris correspondent of the Morning Chronicle, writing on the evening of the 7th, gives the following summary of the text of the triple treaty:—

"The treaty commences by repeating and recording the declarations and the principal acts of the conference at Vienna, as well as the declarations and engagements contained in the notes exchanged on the 8th of August, 1854, between the high contracting parties. It maintains the four points of guarantee as the necessary basis of peace, at the same time that it reserves and recognises to each of the Powers the faculty of extending them by additional conditions."

Small vertical text on the left margin, likely containing medical or legal notices.