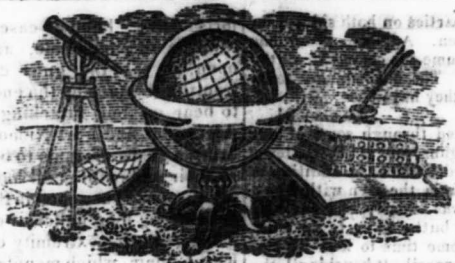


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NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Steamer Canada, Captain Stone, arrived at Halifax on Thursday morning, at half-past one o'clock, from Liverpool, bringing London dates to the 16th, and Liverpool to the 17th inst., from which we make our selections.

A telegraphic despatch from Vienna, states, that a regular Congress will be held there, and not a simple Conference, as was at first supposed. A Special Minister will be sent by France.

It is reported in one of the Vienna papers that the English are retiring from the siege lines before Sebastopol, and are with the French guard, to form the reserve at Balaklava.

The King of Naples presided at a Cabinet Council on the 4th inst., at which the question of Naples joining the Treaty between the Western Powers and Turkey was discussed.

The latest accounts from the Crimea are to the 6th of February. From these we learn, that the Russians had recommenced their sorties by night, but had been repulsed with vigor. The French Admiral had received considerable supplies, and the enemy, it is also added, had received large reinforcements. Omar Pacha was to have left Varna on the 6th instant for Eupatoria, accompanied by Colonels Dicu and Simons.

The weather, which has inflicted such destruction on the troops of the Western Powers, was improving. The roads near Eupatoria were said to be in good order, and the French, and capable of reconducting transit. Lord Raglan, in despatches bearing an interior date, also speaks of the improvement in the weather, but he adds that "the ground was still rotten, and that it was a most arduous labour to pass along it." Prince Menschikoff's whereabouts seems difficult to trace. Some people surmised, that he had gone in the direction of Perekop, to accelerate the march of 35,000 men which constitutes the third corps d'armee; while others again labored under the impression, that he had been despatched towards Eupatoria to arrest the movements of Omar Pacha's troops.

The want of suitable medicines to meet the prevailing fever and diarrhoea in the hospitals at Balaklava and elsewhere was severely felt, and there was the still farther want of medical officers. Some improvements in these features were anxiously looked for, but the want alluded to is simply disgraceful to the authorities at home and on the spot. Mr. Lindsay, M. P., has been despatched to Marseilles for the purpose of improving the transport service, and of establishing hospitals along the Crimean coast. Taking Paris in his way, he has submitted his plans to the French authorities, who have approved of them, and promised co-operation. The London Times, announced its intention on Monday to take charge of an additional £5,000 for the sick, and wounded in the hospitals in the East, and in the course of three days, this large sum of money was subscribed by individual liberality, and sent to the office of that journal—the strongest proof which can be adduced of the excitement which fills the public mind on the subject.

The eighth division of the French army, consisting of 10,000 men, had reached Kamiesch, and other reinforcements were looked for. But about the renewed attack on Sebastopol, all is darkness.

In the Russian capital affairs were not pleasant. A hard frost had set in. Caricatures in the shops and public buildings

showed the wretched condition to which the allied forces were reduced before Sebastopol. Recruiting on a large scale continued, but the withdrawal of so many men from productive labour was paralysing the national exchequer, while the new paper money is looked upon very suspiciously by the subjects of the Czar. Great reliance is placed upon the frost, which in such a contest as the present, is regarded as the best friend of Russia. It is said,—but the statement requires confirmation,—that Tuscany, Parma, and Modena, have joined the Western alliance, and that each has engaged to furnish a contingent of 1000 men.

If rumour is to be believed, the new Ministry has taken a step, which will be warmly approved of by the country, for it is in perfect unison with public feeling,—the recall of Lord Raglan from the Crimea. This if it be so, is a strong step, but not stronger than the urgency of the case demands. Where gross mismanagement has prevailed, where men have been starved in the sight of plenty, where so many valuable lives have been sacrificed to military routine, somebody must be held answerable for the consequences, and who so fit as the Commander-in-chief? In fact, from the first, Lord Raglan has displayed few of the higher qualities of a general. At the Alma there was no strategy used—no opportunity perhaps for its display; for the field was won by mere building courage on the part of the English, who rushed at the cannon's mouth, and bayoneted and sabred the gunners; while the French by their agility and fearlessness, scaled the heights to the right and turned the Russian left. At Balaklava it was all brute courage again, without any exhibition of high strategic skill—the impetuosity of resolute men, determined to achieve a purpose at whatever cost, and they achieved it nobly, even in defiance of the unfortunate order executed by Lord Cardigan, which ended in the almost total destruction of the Light Cavalry. Inker-man was a scramble—a hard to hand fight, where the British, assisted at a late hour of the engagement by the French, destroyed and wounded more of the enemy than their own numbers amounted to. These battles have been very appropriately called "soldiers' victories," and they speak little for the possession of that scientific skill without which a commander is only a shade removed in intellect from a corporal. Parliament, for these heroic deeds, voted its thanks to the army and to the generals; and Lord Raglan was entitled to his share of the honor, if his subsequent mismanagement had not forfeited the credit which he had derived from the bravery of his troops. But, with recent disasters before their eyes, people question his capacity for the post which he has held, and the nation, almost with one voice, has declared, that he is not strong enough for it. This too, appears to be the opinion of Lord Palmerston's Government, if it be correct that one of their first acts was to recall him, and with him Lord Lucan, who played such a discreditable part at Balaklava in the reckless sacrifice of the Light Cavalry. The commissariat department has also incurred, too deservedly, the deep displeasure of the authorities at home. These punishments are certainly merited, and they show, on the part of the newly-constructed Cabinet, a sympathy with public opinion, which cannot fail to have a strong moral effect on the future conduct of the war.

These misunderstandings and dismissals are not confined to the military branch of the service, for the admirals have not escaped censure. Sir Charles Napier was the first to announce his own dismissal on his return from the Baltic, and he has published a letter in reply to the retort of Admiral Berkeley, in the House of Commons, in which he states that he was "goaded to act contrary to his own judgment,"—referring, probably, to his correspondence with the Admiralty; and he looks to the coming blue book, as the justification of his conduct. Sir Charles does nothing by halves, and he threatens the publication of a letter which he forwarded from the Baltic, to the late Prime Minister, Lord Aberdeen, in order to remove what he considers the undeserved stigma under which he labours. He is now at open war with the naval authorities, and some amusing disclosures may be anticipated. Admiral Dundas has also a quarrel, very pretty in its way, to settle with Mr. Layard, who witnessed the battle of the Alma from the masthead of the admiral's ship, the Agamemnon. Mr. Layard, in a letter addressed to a friend at home, imputed something like cowardice to Admiral Dundas on this occasion, and he has still more elaborately reiterated it in a recent article in the Quarterly Review. Admiral Dundas, considering that he is a man of war, seems disposed to treat this serious charge in a very pacific manner. He has called upon Mr. Layard for its retraction, and if that gentleman won't unsay what he has said, the admiral will walk into the Court of Queen's Bench, and ask for a criminal information against the member for Aylesbury. No doubt Lord Raglan, when he comes home, will have grievances enough of his own to tell,—so that we are in a fair way of having any quantity of naval and military scandal served up at breakfast with the daily press.

One of the first acts of the War-office under its new head is that of augmenting the Crimean army. It is a very necessary business, as things stand! All the regiments are to have their strength raised to 2000, with twelve companies of rank and file in the field; and four companies in the depot at Malta or the Ionian Islands. Several companies of the Dragoon Guards, the Hussars, and the Lancers, are to be raised to the extent of seventy-five men per troop. The Sappers and Miners are to be increased 500 men, and other augmentations, which it is needless to describe here, will be speedily carried out. Our Indian empire is also to be laid under contribution for soldiers. The 10th Hussars are now on their way to the Crimea, and other draughts from India have received orders to move towards Southern Russia. The accounts from the Crimea show the ravages of disease and death. The correctness of Mr. Gladstone's estimate of 28,000 fighting men being before Sebastopol is rudely contradicted, and the figures adduced seem to invalidate his statement. It is asserted, for instance, that the Fourth Division of our Crimean army has dwindled down to thirty men! Of the Grenadier company, originally 120 in number, only one man was left to represent it! Attention is also drawn to the fact, that while in the three engagements already referred to, the loss of officers was out of all proportion to the loss of men—a proof how nobly the officers discharged their duties at the head of their regiments—the loss of men now far exceeds in proportion the loss of officers, and the exclamation is not unnaturally indulged in, "the men perish, but the officers survive!" This, we fear, what has been ably elaborated in the leading morning paper almost continuously during the last two months, that men vested with authority, and having long purses at their command, can apply both for the purpose of procuring creature comforts which are denied to the deserving poor. Certainly, a country which starves its soldier-peasantry, and scolds its aristocratic officers, can never hope to be successful in the field,—nor does it deserve to be.

A despatch from Vienna states, that Austria, France and Russia have declared their readiness to enter into negotiations, and it is said that Prussia will take part in the conferences.

At Canton, the progress of the insurgents had been checked by Admiral Stirling.

Night and day, and even Sundays, the work of refitting and outfitting ships for the fleet (the Baltic principally) goes on at Portsmouth. The Neptune, Captain Hutton, 120 guns; James Watt, Captain Elliot, 91 guns, 600-horse power; Hastings, Captain Coffin, 60 guns, 200-horse power; Pembroke, Captain Seymour, 60 guns, 200-horse power; Blenheim, Captain Hall, 60 guns, 450-horse power; Ajax, Captain Warden, 60 guns, 450-horse power; Edinburgh, Captain Hewlett, 60 guns, 450-horse power; Hogue, Captain Ramsay, 60 guns, 450-horse power; Imperieuse, Captain Watson, 51 guns, 360-horse power; Arrogant, Captain Yelverton, 47 guns, 360-horse power; Penelope, Capt. Sir W. Wiseman, 18 guns, 650-horse power; Retribution, Captain Tatham, 23 guns, 400-horse power; Tartar, Captain Dunlop, 20 guns, 250-horse power; Himalaya, Commander Priest, 700-horse power; Falcon, Commander Pullen, 17 guns, 100-horse power; Ariel, Commander Luce, 8 guns, 60-horse power; and Oberon, Lieutenant Freeland, 3 guns, 200-horse power.

PROBABLE FATE OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—An additional gleam of light has been cast over the probable fate of the Franklin expedition by an Esquimaux, named Mastitukwin, who accompanied Dr. Rae's party, and who has been for many years a member of the Wesleyan congregation at Rossville, in Hudson's Bay. Dr. Rae has always considered this native highly efficient and trustworthy. On his return to Rossville, the Esquimaux stated that he witnessed with his party in a snow-house, where they had six weeks' constant night. In March last (1851) they started, on the ice, to the north, and were 37 days on their northern journey. They were 100 miles beyond the reign inhabited by the Esquimaux, but they still found the tracks of the musk ox. Sir John Franklin and his party are dead; but, perhaps, one or two of the men may still be alive, and amongst the Esquimaux. Sir John's watch, all in pieces, with his silver spoons, knives, and forks, were found. The ship was a great God-send to these people, and they now all have good sledges, spears, canoes, &c., of oak wood. Dr. Rae and his party did not see any of the remains of Sir John and his party; but the Esquimaux informed him, that Sir John was found dead, with his blanket over him, and his gun by his side. The probability is, that it is not more than two or three years since the party perished by hunger. Such are the words of Mastitukwin's narrative, as detailed to the Rev. T. Hurlbert, of Rossville Mission, Hudson's Bay. They are entitled to credence, because the narrator is a native of the country, acquainted with the language, and could have had no object in making a false statement. The various implements made of oak which were seen in the Esquimaux encampment, prove that they must have had access to at least one of the ships of the missing expedition.

We learn by a despatch from Vienna that, under date of the 12th inst., the Czar had issued a Manifesto, in which he calls the entire male population under arms, in order that an additional force of 300,000 men may be immediately dispatched to the Crimea. Russian night-parties from Sebastopol were made on the 1st and 3d inst., but the enemy were driven back with great loss by young French volunteers.

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