

OMAR PACHA IN CIRCASSIA.

Southern KALEH, Oct. 12.—If the interest of the public in England with respect to the Georgian campaign is increasing as rapidly as the plot is thickening here, the proceedings of Omar Pacha's army will soon be as closely watched as those of the Emperor's Simpsens and Pelissiers. They will be as well worthy of attention. Not only are the green hillsides of Souchem becoming every day more thickly dotted with tents, but a great part of the army has already commenced moving towards the north. The singular character of the country through which they are about to pass is now acquiring a special interest. I was glad to avail myself of the opportunity which was afforded to me of accompanying a small reconnaissance which was made a few days ago to the Mingrelian frontier. Our party consisted only of Mr. Longworth, the English Commissioner, and his secretary, Mr. Champeoiseau; Colonel Ballard, of the Turkish army, who has followed its progress ever since it was given the name of the Commander of the French brig of war La Vigle, and myself.

The Abasian houses are made generally of wattle, and thatched with Indian corn. In most of the villages, there are both Christian and Muscovite houses, and the women of the women cover their faces, or are more shy than savages generally. The men are afraid of committing themselves by hospitality to strangers in time of war, and profess sympathy with the invaders. How far this is genuine fear, or a well-justified one, the country is thinly populated, and we only pass two or three villages before reaching Shemsheerai, the first important place upon the line of march, about 35 miles from Souchem, and situated to the east, 3 miles from the point at which the road strikes into the interior. We found that it was not safe to proceed by land beyond this point. A Russian force of 4000 men are stationed at Sogiddi, 12 miles distant, and the whole of the country is completely in the hands of the Russians, and occupied by Mingrelian militia. We heard here that a number of Cossacks and militia were at Anaklea, and it was important to discover the truth of the rumour; we were informed that they were the Cyplois and La Vigle, which met us here, and proceeded to the mouth of the Ingour. Fort Anaklea is a picturesque ruin, situated on the left bank of the river, and surrounded by a dense forest. As we saw smoke rising from behind the fort, it was judged necessary to enter the river with an armed force, in the event of an ambuscade. Seven boats, with a force of about seventy men, under Lieutenant Ballard, of the Cyplois, and Lieutenant Vilmorin, of the Vigle, pulled towards the mouth of the river, which was completely commanded by the guns of the vessels. We found five feet of water upon the bar of the Ingour, which is one of the most considerable streams upon the coast. Upon our party starting at the fort they came upon the smoking ruins of the fort, which our guide told us was that of the militia; not a human being seemed in the neighbourhood, and the wood seemed so thick that we did not anticipate much warning from the men stationed in the main body of the Cyplois. We gave an alarm, and proceeded up to the bank of the river for some time, and came upon the remains of the village of Anaklea, of which a few charred logs alone remain. Having satisfied our curiosity, we returned to the boats, when the shots from the fort threw our party into a state of some excitement. We immediately threw out skirmishers to protect our embarkation, and soon after saw a large group of persons on shore at some distance on the river. As they seemed to be the people of the country, Messrs. Longworth and Champeoiseau went up with a flag of truce, with M. De Vilmorin, our guide, and myself.

One of the group, putting his white cap upon the top of his gun, by way of responding to our flag, and the people of the country, the immediate neighbourhood of Anaklea was comparatively free of Russians, that the nearest large force lay at a distance of nine miles off, and that they rarely visited Anaklea. The people themselves professed themselves to be the sovereigns of the country, and that they were determined to cement the alliance.

From the accounts of these men, the whole Russian force within a circuit of fifteen miles from the fort, consisted of 10,000 men. The most important point, and the one at which the first struggle may be anticipated, is at the fortress of Rachi, about six miles beyond Sogiddi, and about sixty from Souchem Kala.

On the Vigle in tow, we returned to Souchem. It is a considerable place, at present only partly inhabited. The Greek and Russian population have shut up their shops and decamped, and the Turkish merchants have it all their own way. Prince Michael has a handsome house here, built and furnished in the Russian style. It is his principal residence. At a distance of three hour's journey in the mountains are his game preserves, where he strictly prohibits any one from poaching his wild boar, with sheep, and deer.

The limits of Prince Michael's jurisdiction in this direction are not very clearly defined. He claims Samurschan, a province lying between Abasia and Mingrelia, on the frontier of which Shemsheerai is situated, and the people of Anaklea professed to be under his authority. It is not certain, that his powers of protection do not extend beyond Shemsheerai. As we rode out of the town, on our way back so Souchem, we found that there was an addition to the party, which were soon after enlightened upon the subject by the arrival of an Abasian, who pronounced himself to be the slave of a Turk in Shemsheerai. He spoke to one of our servants, who was a Pole, and informed him that he and six of his fellow slaves were confined at that moment slaves to Turks in Shemsheerai. We assured him that his freedom would be obtained, but insisted upon his returning; for the masters of the other slaves, finding we had liberated one, would have secreted the others; they are now thrown completely off their guard, and Omar Pacha has since assured me of his intention to liberate them.

The road generally follows the sea coast, crossing the mouths of innumerable rivers, the bridges over which are almost invariably destroyed. We slept at a large village of the name of the Khor, in a most magnificent situation, the lofty rocks being completely hidden by masses of wild vine. Here we were hospitably received, a comfortable hut was placed at our disposal, and our covillets and pillows were arranged upon the floor. The country is the most civilized night. The staple food of the country is pasta, or Indian corn bread, almost exactly similar to that of the States, and quite as good. The cheese is eatable, but very salt, and boiled pumpkin is not very palatable. The climate is a good deal above the average. When we were within a few miles of Souchem, we met three squadrons of cavalry, the *avant garde* of the army which is now moving into Mingrelia; and the first 400 miles of its march was therefore very acceptable, and I was rather astonished at the rapidity with which Omar Pacha is hurrying on his campaign. In spite of his energy, however, the number of bridges which must be constructed along the line of his march will necessarily retard the progress of his army, and ten days or a fortnight must elapse before he finds himself in face with the enemy. Menante troops are disembarking with their usual rapidity; the Great Britain has disembarked 2500 men, an increased amount, and returned for more. She brought Col. Simmons from Balaclava. There have been 20,000 men landed within the last fortnight. The Duke of Newcastle has also arrived in the Highflyer, and on Monday next she will be ready to receive the Highflyer picked up the Naib, who was coming to pay Omar Pacha a visit. He declares his expedition against the Russians to have been eminently successful, which is somewhat at variance with the report of the Karachi men, who are allied in the country. At all events, Omar Pacha evidently has a high opinion of his power and influence in the country, as he has appointed him Civil Governor of all the provinces of Circaasia, from the country of Schamly to the north, through and beyond the Caucasus, which are at present under the jurisdiction of Sefer Pacha. The terms of his boyanrouldi are almost identical with

those of Prince Michael; the object of the appointment is in both cases the same. It is not to be understood, however, that a source, and in a manner calculated to impress the natives of the country who witnessed the ceremony, he goes back to his government under the most favourable auspices, and there can be no doubt that a similar arrangement, which has done more towards utilizing the Circaasians than could have been effected by the most elaborate and judicious treatment of the individual and petty chiefs. These will now be afraid to resist their overtures, and Omar Pacha, will be a useful instrument in his hands. The great difficulty in dealing with the Circaasians lies in the fact, that they are determined to be subjects of the Porte, in spite of the Porte itself; indeed, it has always (publicly at least) disclaimed the idea of appropriating territory in this direction; and it is evident that it is no less the interest of Turkey than of the allied Powers to abstain from any such addition to the Ottoman dominions, and to leave the Russian Empire, which depended upon the forbearance of these mountain tribes, would be worth a rush, and we should be continually engaged with Russia if we attempted to preserve the independence and integrity of the mountain territory of the Caucasus, while a frontier composed of such material would be an endless source of annoyance to the Porte. It is probable that Omar Pacha sees this as well as many of the more intelligent Turks, and has contributed little to the excitement, with the most full expectation that the Allied Powers will render him ultimately independent.

At present no human being whose power was not derived from the one venerated source could acquire any influence among the tribes, and the Russian Government, in the acute perception of these leading features of the internal policy of Circaasia that Omar Pacha has proved himself a skillful diplomatist; and perhaps it may be questioned whether it is not necessary to form a commission independent of him to settle all political and civil questions in the theatre of his present operations. Such a commission has nevertheless been formed, and it will call for the utmost discretion on the part of the Allied Powers, in the exercise of their functions; the political complications in Mingrelia and Georgia and the other Traucanese provinces are infinite, and offers of assistance upon certain conditions have been and certainly will again be made. Omar Pacha will promise everything, so as not to compromise the safety of his army. The Civil Commissioners will promise nothing, so as not to compromise their Governments. They will both be perfectly justified in their separate lines of conduct. How far the great cause which we all have at heart will be benefited by the result, it is for others to determine, and I have no doubt that Omar Pacha, on the one hand, and Messrs. Longworth and Champeoiseau and Eminence, on the other, will be equally anxious to avoid what appears to be almost the inevitable consequences of the position in which they are placed with reference to one another.

Oct. 13.—This morning our slavers were disturbed by the thunder of cannon, and we saw the ships in the harbour decked out with flags. We found the cause of these rejoicings to be the arrival of despatches from Kars, announcing the total defeat of the Russian army investing that city, with an entire annihilation of the force which have, doubtless, reached you. Looking out of my window, I saw Omar Pacha informing his army of the fact, which they received with loud cheers. It was an inspiring sight, and having exhorted his soldiers to march to the entire annihilation of the army which their comrades have almost destroyed, to see his Highness, upon a prancing charger, leading his battalions to the war, 5000 men, with two batteries of artillery, followed him along; the Kutaisians, with much of the entire artillery, and the music of their hands harmonised well with the booming of the heavy guns, which were still celebrating the victory. The troops were in good heart, and have perfect confidence in their general and in the success of the cause of the country which they are engaged. It is much to be regretted

that its importance does not yet seem to have been recognized in England, when all attention is directed to the Crimea, and diverted from the Crimea. If, instead of sending the contingent to Kertch, it had been put under Omar Pacha's orders, its services would be made more available, and a goodly number of the troops might be produced for the Turkish cause, which, upon beginning to recognise the merits of English officers. At present, if Omar Pacha succeeds, his triumph will not be the less complete that it has been won in spite of the errors thrown in his way by the allied Powers.

POSITION OF THE ALLIES.

The *Monteur de la Flotte* publishes a letter from Kamiesch, from which we extract the following:—"The Commodore has recently ceased for some days at Sebastopol. The Russians never continue to throw from the north an occasional shell or shot into the town. They appear now and then to feel a remorse of conscience at having left some houses standing in the place, and they are endeavouring, without much success, to continue at a distance their work of destruction. The Russian fleet has not yet returned, and previous to their departure, for they are actually making preparations indicative of an intention to re-embark the marine position on the left side of Fort Catherine. The first man who I lately saw was a sailor on the watch, who exclaimed, 'The Russians are coming back, and I am very sorry that he should have thought so, for it is thus the Muscovites generally shut their quarters; they set on fire and destroy everything they cannot take with them. They were probably burning in Fort Catherine their provisions, or, perhaps, the coal deposited there for the supply of their ships, which were at the bottom of the sea. The next day we despatched another configuration in the direction of Balaclava, the forerunner, no doubt, of another evacuation. In the meantime the British fleet, particularly the *Agamemnon*, on some expedition are quietly making preparations to spend the winter as comfortably as possible. Our allies display in that respect an extraordinary degree of liberality, and are not sparing for themselves but, chimneys, tools, wooden and iron stoves, &c. The general works, the iron works, &c. particularly, are progressing rapidly. The Crimea will be hid to us by the invention of a useful invention, that of draining. All the pools of stagnant water, so injurious to the health of the troops, are being drained. Large and deep ditches surround our principal buildings, the hospitals, and stores, and small drains are everywhere to be seen. We are certain of being abundantly and regularly supplied with provisions during the winter, and we earnestly await the return of that season in which the Russians so confidently relied to force us to evacuate the Crimea."

The Prussian Government continues exceedingly anxious to discredit the rumour of its being employed to offer propositions of peace from Russia. A high personage is reported to have said of the Emperor of Russia—"He might as well sign his abdication as talk of peace."

A letter from Berlin, says—"The members of the old nobility of Prussia still refuse to take their seats in the First Chamber on the opening of the approaching session, unless the government shall consent to restore the privileges (exemption from taxation and military service, &c.) of which they were deprived in 1848. Negotiations on this subject are now being carried on and the government on the subject, and they led to no result; the King, however, has ordered that they shall be resumed."

THE YOUNG PRUSSIAN PRINCE.—According to the orders of the King of Prussia, Prince Frederick William, son of the Prince of Prussia, in November to take part in the sessions of the Council of State, and also in the business at the different ministries, in order to become initiated in public affairs.

EIGHTY YEARS A PRISONER.—A tough and hardy old fellow recently passed through Lyons, France, on his way to Savoy, his native country. No less than sixty years ago, he was forty-one, he was sentenced to the French galley, for life for some crime. At the commencement of our revolution, he was in the galley, but he was set out from the world. The other day he was released at the age of one hundred and twenty-one. No cause is assigned, but the probability is that he was set free by the Convention, which treated him as a natural life in the galley, and that he was past doing any harm. It is said that he has a little property in Savoy, the interest of which he has not touched for more than a hundred years, or since he arrived at the age of twenty-one. The old fellow enjoys perfect health, although his steps so much that his face nearly touches his knees.