A GLIMPSE AT CRONSTADT.

Nearing Tolbeukin from the sea, the low island of Cronstadt with all its terrors, gradually rises in patchy hummocks, and to the southward, singular rocky excrescences appear dotted about between it and the main, backed by the tall masts of the liners; these, with the gilt steeple of the church, which sparkles many a mile, are the most prominent objects. By degrees the haze so prevalent in this gulf, and which veils or distorts both nature and art, is gradually dispelled, and these rocky excrescences assume a more determined shape. To the extreme right, the enormous square block of masonry, mounting some 150 guns, is Risbank, looking nothing the worse for the winter, an additional work being apparent on its southern side, and a corresponding flanking battery on the main for its protection; next comes Fort Alexander, looking like an ill-conditioned hayrick; shortly after Peter I. and Cronslot become visible, the latter of which it would have been difficult to improve, with a couple of three-deckers moored across the entrance of the passage, supported by numerous heavy paddle steamers, apparently under the special protection of Prince Menschikoff, which, with the mole batteries form the last of the long line of forts on or near the south shore of the island, which is now one vast entrenched camp, encircled by detached earthworks, all furnished with the heaviest ordnance, and finished with that scrupulous nicety which we have learnt to respect at Sebastopol. Oh that "Bono Johny" had abandoned Silistria, and our enemy had never been taught the value of mud in that sanguinary siege! These detached works are carried right across the island from abreast of Fort Alexander on its south side, commencing at the spot marked "Kessel Battery" in the old plans, and extending to the Governor's house in the north, on the town side of which another huge earthwork is being constructed, affording daily employment to about 3,000 men. These detached works are admirably placed, having a gentle slope in front of them, flanked by and flanking Fort Alexander on the south, and on the north protected by the shoals, submarine piling, and infernal machines. All the old works outside this line, as well as Alexander Fort, are apparently abandoned, and with judgment, for the defences of the island against a land attack are rendered more compact, and the chances of a successful landing, which last year was the most, or one of the most, feasible operations, is now rendered hopeless.

On the north side the barrier of submarine piling has been much improved and extended; the means employed are large wooden caissons, some 25 feet square, which are first floated over the place they are intended to occupy, and then sunk with stones, and afterwards filled with the same material; passages are left between many of these piles about 18 feet in width, for the egress of their gun-boats, should the north side be menaced. A fort and battery have also been erected on Lisi-noss, to flank any attempt to force the barrier, which is also protected by a line of floating batteries, consisting of four liners, five frigates, and two corvettes, together with some 40 gun-boats moored within it, the distance varying from 500 to 1,000 yards, and stretching from the island to the main, and which will now, therefore, prevent the possibility of passing round and attacking from the eastward. The other vulnerable point, and which was most accessible to a naval attack last year—the line of defences on the north side of the town—has also been much improved, and very heavy guns mounted. Were one's eyes to be trusted in Russia any more than one's ears, they have actually built 12 steam gun-boats; but as two only have been seen under way, it may fairly be surmised that the remainder are dummies, with a funnel and wood fire at the bottom of it, for by this time our friends must have perceived our gullibility, and acted accordingly, *vide* Kertch. I would here notice, that seventeen of their largest ships are dismantled and lying in the basin, which serves to show their confidence in the means of defence. The infernal machines, to which they have in a measure confided the defence of the north side, are no longer the myth of last year. One of our small steamers, when reconnoitring the other day with the French admiral and several captains on board, very nearly received its quietus. She exploded two of these machines, whether from contact or otherwise is uncertain—luckily in 5 fathoms water; as it was, the one exploding under the starboard bow fairly lifted her out of the water, bulging in the side before the paddlebox, and ripping off much copper—at the same time throwing up a column of water alongside about 14 feet high. Had it happened in shoal water, or had the explosion taken place more directly under her, it would have been a similar case to the "John o' Gaunt," which I dare say, your readers recollect being destroyed by the much-abused Warner, off Brighton. Depend upon it, those who first succeed in bringing chemistry and science to bear in the matter of war must be the winners. Hitherto it has been studiously opposed by the authorities, under the Exeter-hall excuse of being a too certain, or, perhaps, too diabolical, means of getting rid of your enemy. The more certain the better is the practical teaching of war, and I fancy the prevailing opinion of the moment: and it is to be fervently hoped, that my Lord Dundonald may have a fair trial. He, with many others, may not succeed at first, any more than Watt could have built an express-engine for the Great Western, were he resuscitated; but, at any rate, it is a step in the right direction.

These machines, when seen from a vessel's deck, have the appearance of large cylinders moored under water, well below the surface, with a funnel rising from the centre to within a few feet of the same, and the probability is that violent contact causes explosion, though it is perfectly possible, and even probable, that they are fired by batteries from the shore (on the vessel's identifying herself with their position), more particularly as neither of the explosions which took place were under the bottoms, but alongside, and consequently the amount of damage was small.

The energies of our antagonist have been little less vigorous in the north than at Sebastopol, considering the winter, and it is no exaggeration to state, that this year Cronstadt is twice as strong as last. Then it had two vulnerable points—now it has none. Something, however, may yet be done; should it be deferred until next year, that will be impossible; but the golden opportunity was lost last year, when Cronstadt was as unprepared to resist the combined fleet and 80,000 troops as Sebastopol was to resist the combined armies. In the meantime, where are the batteries and mortar flats?

SAILING OF AN AMERICAN FLEET.—The French correspondent of the National Intelligencer, writing from Marseiles, gives the following account of the sailing of a fleet of American clippers from that port, with stores for the seat of war, under character from the French Government:—"In my last, I mentioned various American clippers that were embarking troops, materiel, &c., since which most of them have sailed from Toulon and Marseilles. The Great Republic was towed by the Navarino, of 100 guns, a screw three-decker; the Queen of Clippers by the steam frigate Eldorado. The Monarch of the Sea, the Gauntlet, the Nonpareil, and the Alleghanian, all went under their own canvas. The above six vessels took on the aggregate 1900 horses, 2800 troops, and more than 10,000 tons of military stores and supplies, besides what was on board the two ships of war, both of which were loaded down with similar articles. One of the above vessels had on board 500 tons of bombs; and an officer connected with that branch of the service told me that within the last sixty days more than 8000 tons of missiles (bombshells, balls, &c) have been shipped to the Crimea. All this is exclusive of 500,000 bombshells that had been previously sent. I asked from whence came all these missiles for the destruction of human life, and was answered, 'From the arsenals: not an item manufactured since the war:'"

THE CROPS.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—The weather, for the past weeek, has been sultry. Messrs. J, and R. Proctor have published the following report of the state of the crops in the United Kingdom:—With one or two exceptions, our advices confirm and agree with the view we formed, after personal inspection over a wide tract of country, that the crops have made wonderful progress during the last month; that the season is later by two or three weeks than the average, which is evidenced by wheat not being fully out in ear; also, by the time when potatoes ought to be more plentiful in our markets; the cutting of seed grass for our early hay crops, and the hawthorn still in bloom,—unusual for the first week in July. That the wheat crop is thin of plant, and not in average one upon the ground, we have abundant testimony, but this circumsatnce, with fine dry weather, to secure the crop, will increase the yield from the ear. On the contrary, with wet and cloudy weather where it is now of luxuriant appearance, the tendency would be the mildew and disease. The prospect for a good potato crop stands next of paramount importance. The plant is looking exceedingly well in some districts, but in others the set of the seedling, with some other sorts, have not come well, and look very sickly. A large acreage of ground, however, is planted with this root, and, should disease keep off, a large, if not an abundant crop may be anticipated. The growing oats and barley look remarkably well, the latter, perhaps, too luxuriant, and will require very fine weather to secure a quality equal to last year's sample. The hay crop, we believe, will fall very light, but as this fact will soon be tested, it is unnecessary to comment upon it, further than the first crop being kept uncut fully a fortnight later than the usual season, the second cutting will probably be light also.—*European Times, July* 7.

GRATIFYING NEWS. Together with the very cheering accounts we receive from every quarter concerning the wheat and corn crops, we have the most cheering intelligence of the state of the potato fields in all sections. At New York, a total of at least 25,000 bushels of potatoes from Bermuda alone have arrived this season, and large quantities also from Charleston and Norfolk. The potato crop in the Northern States will be most abundant, if no special disaster befals it—we believe we may say unprecedented. Almost every farmer has more than the usual quantity. They look remarkably well everywhere, and the prospect is that this vegetable, once so within the reach of all classes of people, may soon again be abundantly on the tables of the poor as well as the rich. About Boston, the price has not, however, as yet been reduced.—*Boston Chronicle*.

NEW YORK.—The Delhi, Delaware county, *Gazette* says that vegetation never advanced more rapidly than within the past few days. Corn looks vigorous and is growing rapidly. Potatoes, rye, and oats never looked better. The *Gazette* speaks confidently with regard to wheat, of which it thinks there will be more raised in that county the present season "than for the last five years put together."

OHIO.—In Washington county, particularly on the bottom of the Ohio river, the crops indicate an enormous yield. We learn from Mr. John Bartlett, who has resided on the little Hocking for upwards of forty years, that the crops in that section were never so promising as they are at the present time.

The Dayton *Gazette* says "the wheat crop in southern Ohio is safe. No blight, no rust, no shrinkage—but plump, excellent, abundant. A few fields have been cut this week, more will be next week. It is now certain, that this crop will be more than an average one in Ohio, and if so, we may set down the amount at from 23, 000 000 to 25,000,000 bushels for this season alone." The good time is coming, when flour will be six dollars per barrel.

VIRGINIA.—The South-Side *Democrat* contains the following encouraging information in reference to the crops on the South side of the river:—From observation and the accounts of reliable friends in nearly every county of the South section of our State, we feel warranted in predicting a full average crop this year. The continued drought of the spring prevented the stalks of wheat from attaining their usual height, but the head is in the main full and healthy, and as it is for the most part harvested, it is liable to no other mischance than the sprouting of the grain from too protracted an exposure in the field to the present heavy rains. The oat, like the wheat crop, is fully an average crop and promises exceedingly well, and the same may be said of corn, which is as fine as we ever saw at this season of the year. The tobacco crop, is, however, the most luxuriant of all. So far the weather has been unusually favorable, both for seeding and transplanting, and many old farmers have informed us, that it promises to be the best crop which Virginia has gathered for a number of years. The ground was prepared by copious rains to receive the tender plants, and a succession of cloudy days gave them time to obtain firm hold in the soil before the scorching rays of the sun had the opportunity to weaken their strength. They look as fresh, vigorous and healthy as the most sanguine could desire.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Woodstock *Journal* says:—Never within the memory of the oldest inhabitant—(a pretty large draft we admit, but certainly within the scope of truth,) has the prospect of the husbandman in this part of the country been more flattering or promising than at the present time. The heat and sunshine of the last fortnight, succeeding the timely and seasonable rains of the previous part of June, have imparted a stimulus to the vegetable growth which has been rarely if ever equalled. The grass crop is most abundant, and will shortly be at maturity for the scythe; while potatoes, wheat and oats are following in the rear with the same rapidity:—all crops, in shoot except Indian corn, which clouds and rain kept back, but the late heat has given new life to this also. Red clover and early potatoes are in full bloom, strawberries are ripe, and green currants are in all their glory.

POTATOES IN CALIFORNIA. A lady in San Francisco, California, writes to a friend that "potatoes there are twelve and a half cents a bushel, larger and better than any she ever saw in the States." In this part of the country twelve and a half cents a bushel would hardly pay for the digging, leaving out of the question the time, interest and labor required in producing the crop.

A NATURAL BAROMETER.—They have in Germany a small green frog, termed by them the "leaf-frog," which, when caught, is placed in a glass jar partly filled with water, and steps erected on which the little chap sits. If the weather is to be clear and fine, he reclines on the upper step; but if a storm is approaching, he goes down part way, and if the storm is to be a severe one, he goes to the bottom. He is seldom more than an inch or an inch and a half long, and his rations consist of one fly per day.

VALUABLE INVENTION.—Powers, the sculptor, has invented a file, for which he has taken out patents in Europe and America. The English cutlers pronounce it admirable, and say that a "royalty" of half a farthing on all sold in that kingdom will make a handsome fortune.

Holloway's Pills.—Astonishing Cure of a bilious Complaint.—Mr. Philip Henderson, of Halifax, suffered for upwards of three years from violent pains in the head, a foul stomach, bad digestion, disordered liver, and general nervous debility, he tried various remedies for the mitigation of this compound disorder, but he only became worse instead of better, although he also consulted several doctors. Finding that the medical faculty could not cure him, he had recourse to Holloway's Pills; by continuing this remedy for a few weeks, he entirely regained his health, and ever since then he has not had the slightest return of his complaint.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Saturday, July 28, 1855.

CHARLOTTETOWN HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

THE scene that the Government House grounds presented on Wednesday last, was such as well regulated and benevolent minds take pleasure in. Cheerful happy faces of fine women, joyous children, and men glad to be relieved from the cares of business, were every where to be met with, whether in the fine open Lawn, with its commanding prospect of the Harbour, and the surrounding scenery, or in its shady walks of the well-kept Garden and Shrubbery. If to these are added the enlivening strains of a musical Band, and the charm that a display of choice flowers, well arranged, never fails to bestow, it may be easily conceived, that the picture must have been one of no ordinary beauty. The day was deliciously fine, a moderate breeze tempered the ardent rays of the sun, and enabled the numerous spectators to promenade with comfort and satisfaction. WILLIAMS's Marquee was pitched to the southward of the Plantation, so that the access to it was from avenues formed by the trees, under the luxuriant shade of which the Fruit and Vegetable part of the Show was judiciously arranged; the varieties composing which, we are happy to say, reflected the highest credit on the exhibitors. Very few people were aware of the perfection to which that wholesome and delicious luxury, the Strawberry, can be brought in this Island, until they saw those displayed as the growth of Mr. Dark's and Mr. Tremain's gardens—the former particularly large and well grown, and finely tasted also, but not so exquisitely flavored to our palate as the latter. Both, however, would have done credit to any exhibition; and we trust, that the attention of the cultivators of gardens will have been so awakened, as to induce them to experiment largely in the production of the different varieties of a fruit to which the climate and soil are both admirably adapted. The Government House gardener, Mr. John M'Crudden, was as usual, eminently successful in his specimens of cucumbers, potatoes, lettuce, &c.; and the display made by Mrs. Lewis was highly creditable to her skill and industry. We were sorry to see, that there were no other market gardners competitors. It is for the peculiar benefit of that class of producers, that the Society is most anxious; and we trust, that they will not be slow to avail themselves of the advantages that competitions like these will not fail to produce. It depends entirely upon their own exertions to make the Fruit and Vegetable market of Charlottetown equal to any in North America: let them only bestow the same attention, and it will be surely followed by an equal amount of benefit to themselves and the Town.

The Flower Show did not contain as many articles as we have seen on previous occasions, but those displayed were remarkably fine, and many new ones appeared, as will be seen by the list of prizes. The stand for Bouquets presented a most brilliant appearance.

On the whole, the fete may besaid to have gone off with great satisfaction to the Society, and those who were present, and will we hope animate the one to further exertions, and the other to continued and increased patronage.—*Isl.*

The following is a list of the Prizes awarded to the successful Competitors, at the Horticultural exhibition held on the Grounds of Government House on the 25th July 1855.

Mr. Wm. Mitchell, best bouquet of Roses,	0	6	0
Mrs. T. B Tremain, best Moss Roses,	0	6	0
Miss J. Haszard, 1st best bouquet of Flowers growing in the open air,	0	6	0
Mrs F. Longworth, 2d best do. do.	0	4	6
Miss J. Haszard, best Balsam,	0	3	0
Mrs. T. Dawson, best Calceolaria,	0	3	0
Mrs. Williams, best Geranium,	0	3	0
Mrs. T. Dawson, 2d do. do.	0	2	3
Mrs. Duchemin, best Flowering Myrtle,	0	3	0
Mrs. N. Davies, 2d do. do.	0	2	3
Mrs. Barrow, best, show of Pansies,	0	3	0
Mrs. F. Longworth, 2d do. do.	0	2	3
Mrs. Williams, best Fuschia,	0	3	0
Mrs. John Oxley, 2d do. do.	0	2	3
Mrs. Barrow, Chinese Primrose,	0	3	0
Mrs. T. Dawson, 1st Rarest House Plant,	0	6	3
Mrs. Barrow, 2d do. do.	0	3	0
Mr. John M'Crudden, 1st Flower from the garden,	0	6	0
Mrs. C. Stewart, 2d do. do.	0	5	3
Best Potatoes, John McCrudden,	0	3	0
Carrots, Mrs. Lewis,	0	2	3