

THE EXAMINER:

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND NEWS.

EDWARD W. LAMONT,

Liberty, when Free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

[EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Vol. IV.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1855.

No. 37.

News by the last English Mail

LATE AND IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE FROM EUROPE.

The London arrival in town on Monday evening last with an unusually large Mail, from the Colonies, the United States, and England. The most important intelligence from the latter place is the announcement of the death of the Emperor of Russia. This important event occurred on the 21st instant—the account of it reached England on the same day by telegraph, and was at once communicated to Parliament. As the Mail left Liverpool on the following day, there could, of course, have been no account of the accession of the new Emperor, or what effect the decease of the late Czar would have on the progress of the war.

It will be seen that the gallant Turkish army under Omar Pasha have fully sustained their high reputation by defeating, with considerable slaughter on the side of the enemy, a powerful army under General Liprandi.

DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

This event was announced to Parliament last night by the Ministers of the Crown as having taken place, and the sensation which it produced in both branches of the Legislature was not greater than that which it will cause throughout Europe and the world. Of the certainty of the Emperor's death no doubt need be apprehended. Lord John Russell, who is now in the Prussian capital, first telegraphed home that he had been struck by apoplexy,—was on the point of death, and had just taken leave of his family. This was shortly followed by another telegraphic message from the British Minister at Berlin, to the effect that he actually expired at St. Petersburg yesterday morning, at one o'clock.

It is hardly possible to overrate the importance of the extinction of this single life in the present circumstances of this and other countries. Its effect must be great and immediate, and it is more than probable that the bloody struggle impending before Sebastopol, in which thousands of lives would certainly be sacrificed, may be spared by the event which we announce this morning. In the case of the extinction of a despotic monarch like the Emperor of Russia, whose will was the law of fifty or sixty millions of people, the policy which he embodied while living, dies with him, and the restoration of peace becomes, under the auspices of a less a matter of doubt than of certainty.

The life which has overtaken this great but unscrupulous monarch, supposing him to have died a natural, and not the cause of his persecutions, a violent death, demonstrates, in the strongest possible manner, how feeble the most potent means when unassisted by that magical power which is stronger than bayonets or bayonets, or the most deadly instruments of war. Twelve months back, before the declaration of hostilities, Nicholas Bonaparte, who now lies a mass of clay in his imperial hall in the Nova, saw the most potent of the most powerful, and the most arrogant sovereigns of this planet; but this small interval of time has served to reduce him to a condition more pitiable than the humblest of his subjects, for in his nefarious attempt to subjugate a weak and a near neighbour, he incurred justice, provoked the hostility of the Western Powers, stirred up resistance throughout Europe to his dictation, and lived long enough to discover that the prepared strength of a long reign and an almost boundless empire, was utterly futile in the pursuit of a bad purpose. The most conservative ruler in the world fell almost literally by his own hand when he pushed his aggressions on the property of others beyond the bounds of endurance. The violation of the commandment which told him to respect his neighbour's property ended in his destruction,—in that prostration of the mental and the physical powers which superinduced apoplexy.

Although our enemy, it is useless to deny that the dead Czar was a great man as well as a mighty potentate. Notwithstanding the melancholy fact of a quarter of a million of human creatures having perished, one way or another, since this war began,—sacrificed, in point of fact, to the insatiable ambition of an unscrupulous ruler, yet he had many fine qualities of head and heart; and to such of the British nation as settled in Russia he was extremely partial, and always paid them the most marked attention. The lion prays not upon carcases. We can afford to do justice to departed worth even in the person of a foe, and it is not too much to say that if he had terminated his career without the Turkish aggression which produced this war, history would have enrolled him amongst the most illustrious and successful monarchs of modern Europe. Perhaps it is as well for the future peace of the world that this outbreak of Russian rapacity took place when it did, for guarantees will now be enforced which will effectually prevent its repetition. The flags of the world will be down, and the lesson which he has been taught will tell upon his successors for centuries.

The Czar was born on the 6th of July, 1796, and if he had lived until summer would have attained his 59th year. He died not of old age, but of a broken heart—of the disappointment caused by the utter failure of all his schemes of aggrandisement, the prostration of all his hopes,—a terrible example of the effects of unhallowed ambition.

Before a great event like this all the other foreign affairs of the week fade into insignificance.—*Liverpool paper, Mar. 3.*

CRIMEAN INTELLIGENCE

We are in the receipt of regular despatches from the Crimea to as late a date as the 16th of February. Telegraphic intelligence from the same quarter reaches to the 20th of February. From these sources of information we learn that the contemplated assault upon Sebastopol has still been delayed by the inclemency of the weather, and by the consequent impossibility of bringing up a sufficient amount of ammunition for the English batteries. Great progress, however, is making with the railway from Bala Clava, which, on the 16th, had already been laid down to the extent of an English mile, and was advancing with a rapidity perfectly astounding, and apparently incomprehensible, to the military engineers. The "Navvies," it is plain, are perfectly up to their work, and, acting under the direction of their own skilful officers, are executing it with the vigour natural to the British character when left to its own unthwarted and unimpeded action. The high health and fine condition in which the "civil contractors" have brought these sturdy fellows to the field of their labour, reflects the severest reproof that has yet been offered upon the gross and culpable mismanagement of the military and commissariat authorities; for whilst every regiment or fraction of a regiment hitherto landed in the Crimea has invariably afterwards been reduced to the last extremity of want, suffering disease, and death, the "navvies" have been visited

by a most trying calamity, but have immediately commenced to work with a much heavier equipment, unshaken and unbroken, as though nothing had happened, and were simply employed in the ordinary business of a railway in one of the healthy valleys of England. Such is the difference between military and civil engineering.

Whilst matters remain pretty much *status quo* before the walls of Sebastopol, intelligence, of the most gratifying description, has been received from the Turkish camp at Eupatoria. Our readers will remember that, during the last month or six weeks, a large Ottoman force, estimated at about 30,000 men, has been in the course of transshipment from Varna to the ancient Crimean port of Koslov, now better known as Eupatoria. These troops are the flower of the Turkish army—the same brave fellows who triumphantly withstood all the assaults of the Russian generals upon the banks of the Danube—at Kalafit, Citare, Oltuniza, and Siltistria. Transferred to the Crimea, they have lost nothing of the discipline and courage which distinguished them in Bulgaria. They are commanded by Omar Pasha in person, and are supported by a small body of the troops of France and England. The position thus occupied by the Turkish General is calculated to produce a striking effect upon the future operations of the campaign. It enables him to intercept the Russian communications between Perekop and the interior of the Crimea, and, at the same time, permits him to threaten or even to attack, the rear of the Muscovite positions on the northern side of Sebastopol. It was not to be expected that the Russian Commander-in-Chief would allow an Allies to occupy this important and commanding position without an effort to dislodge them. Accordingly, on the 17th of February, Liprandi's division, consisting of about 40,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry, and 70 guns, moved up on Eupatoria, with the intention of driving Omar Pasha into the sea. We are not yet in possession of the details of the engagement which ensued.

It is certain, however, that the Russian assault was victoriously repulsed. From the brief and fragmentary accounts which have reached us, it appears that the Russians presented themselves in force before the defences of Eupatoria, at six o'clock in the morning—that a heavy cannonade was instantly opened, and that something in the shape of an assault was attempted under cover of the 70 guns. At 10 o'clock, however, the Russian division was in full retreat, and shortly afterwards not a vestige of it was to be seen from the walls of Eupatoria, except the dead and wounded which it left behind. The Russian loss is roughly stated at 500, whilst that of the Turks did not exceed 50, or, as some of the accounts say, 15. It is probable that the lesser figure refers to the number actually killed, of whom, we lament to say, Solim Pasha, the Egyptian General, was one.

The regular of the Russians at Eupatoria is likely to be attended with the best results. It will restore the confidence of the Allies in the valour of their Turkish confederate, and it will convince the enemy that Omar Pasha has brought with him to the Crimea the same high skill for successful command which so signally distinguished him in the Danubian campaign of the last year.

What the next movement of the Allies in front of Sebastopol may be, it is impossible to conjecture. It is probable, however, that it will take the form of a reconnaissance, in considerable strength, in the direction of Inkermann, Baidar, and the country eastward of Bala Clava. The Russians have lately re-appeared in unascertained numbers upon the banks of the Tchernaya, and are supposed to be threatening the right of the Allied position. No assault upon the town or fortress could with prudence be attempted, while such a force was occupying the country in the immediate neighborhood. We presume, therefore, that we shall hear of an engagement in the field before we have tidings of anything in the shape of an assault upon the city.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

Joseph Hume, the Veteran Reformer, is dead. Sir John Burgoyne, Chief Engineer, has been recalled from the Crimea, and Major General Jones appointed in his place.

The Emperor of the French will take the command of the Army in the Crimea. 100 horses and a portion of his Staff have left Lyons.

Mr. Roebuck's motion for the appointment of a committee of inquiry into the condition of the army before Sebastopol, passed the Commons.

Sir J. Graham, Sydney Herbert, and Mr. Gladstone resigned their seats in the Cabinet.

The various assigned by the Political section of the Cabinet for retiring, was the last approval of Lord Palmerston to the appointment of Mr. Roebuck's committee. The committee are named. The Press are excluded during the enquiry.

The Government appointments have now nearly been completed. Mr. Roebuck's motion for the office of Attorney General for Ireland, and is succeeded by Mr. Keogh, and Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald take the Secretary Generals' office.

The Earl of Carlisle is the new Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. As Lord Northwick he filled the office of Chief Secretary, and was very popular. But the Attorney General and Solicitor General of Ireland are Catholics. This looks like a wish to keep Ireland quiet during the present crisis.

The places abandoned by the three leading Pacific deserters, have been distributed by the Premier in the following manner:—Lord John Russell succeeds Mr. Sidney Herbert as Secretary for the Colonies; Sir George Cornewall Lewis fills the place of Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer; and Sir Charles Wood becomes First Lord of the Admiralty in the room of Sir James Graham.

Sir Charles Napier will oppose Lord John Russell as a candidate for the city of London.

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE RUSSIAN EMPEROR.

LONDON, Friday Night.

This evening, in the House of Lords, Lord Clarendon rose and said: My Lords, I think it is my duty to communicate to your Lordships the contents of a telegraphic despatch which I received half an hour ago from her Majesty's Minister at the Hague, that the Emperor Nicholas died this morning, at one o'clock, of pulmonary apoplexy, after an attack of influenza. I have also received a despatch from her Majesty's Minister at Berlin, stating that the Emperor of Russia died at twelve o'clock this morning. An hour before this despatch arrived, I received accounts from my noble friend, Lord John Russell, at Berlin, stating that the Emperor of Russia was on the point of death, and I had already taken leave of his family. Although this event occurred so short a time ago as between twelve and one o'clock this morning, there can be no doubt, under these circumstances, of the authenticity of it.

In the House of Commons Lord Palmerston made a similar statement.

DEPARTURE OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

The Emperor set out on Wednesday, at one o'clock, for the camp of St. Omer. It is said that he will return in two days. A hundred of his Majesty's horses were to arrive at Lyons, as well as a strong detachment of the Imperial Guard. All doubts and hesitations as to the Emperor's journey to Sebastopol are now at an end. His Majesty will decidedly leave. Even the day is fixed for the departure—it will be at least, Monday, the 5th. The Empress will accompany him. A consultation of physicians has taken place as to whether or not it would be prudent for her Majesty to make the journey. The result, that her health is exceedingly good at present, she may safely undertake to go with the Emperor. The whole of the famous band of the Guides, so well known, and so much admired in London, has also received orders to set out.

DESPERATE FIGHTING IN THE TRENCHES.

An 88th man, who had been captured in a sortie, had made his escape from Sebastopol. His hands and arms were dreadfully cut from his having to climb for some distance along a wall covered with spikes and broken bottles. He reports that the mortality among the enemy is fearful, and that the dead lie unburied about the streets of the town. However, this story has been told too often to meet with ready credence now, especially as the man could give no reason for such a tremendous loss on the part of the enemy. A few nights ago, while the 4th were on duty in the trenches, two or three of the Russian advanced sentries made a sudden attack on two or three of the English. One of our soldiers, as his opponent advanced, caught him on the point of his bayonet and drove the weapon completely through his chest. Though mortally wounded the Russian nevertheless fought, and actually succeeded in getting our sentry down, and was on the point of wresting his firelock from him, when another of our sentries happily came up and decided the contest by shooting the Russian through the head. In night struggles in the trenches, such instances of desperate valour is common both among the allies and the enemy.

JUNCTION OF THE HORSEFLY BATTERS WITH THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

A regiment of Baskins has just passed through St. Petersburg: These troops have not been seen in St. Petersburg since 1812, when they carried bows and arrows. They are true Calmucks, with little eyes and flat noses, and eat horse-flesh. They are now armed with a musket.

RESOURCES OF THE ENEMY.

All the enemy's defences are in admirable order, and the general opinion is, that when we commence the attack we shall discover more ordnance in their works than now anticipated. For instance, two days since one of our guns in the left attack—from which we have not fired for some days past—was discharged at a group of Russians in a battery. To this unusual manifestation of hostility on our part, the enemy, in the course of a minute, replied with no less than twenty-eight shot and shell, some of which come from places which, up to that time, we had not supposed to mount a single gun.

MOVEMENTS OF THE ALLIES.

What the next movement of the allies in front of Sebastopol may be, it is impossible to conjecture. It is probable, however, that it will take the form of a reconnaissance, in considerable strength, in the direction of Inkermann, Baidar, and country eastward of Bala Clava. The Russians have lately re-appeared in unascertained numbers upon the banks of the Tchernaya, and are supposed to be threatening the right of the allied position. No assault upon the town or fortress could with prudence be attempted, while such a force was occupying the country in the immediate neighborhood. We presume, therefore, that we shall hear of an engagement in the field before we have tidings of anything in the shape of an assault upon the city.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS OF THE VICTORY AT EUPATORIA.

The following telegraphic despatch has been received from Lord Raglan:—

Before Sebastopol, Feb. 18.—A force, said to be 40,000 of Russians, with a large number of guns, attacked Eupatoria at daylight, on the 17th, and was repulsed with great loss by Omar Pasha. The Turkish loss is said to be considerable; but Solim Pasha, commanding the Egyptian brigade, was killed. The British man-of-war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect. The action terminated at 10 a. m., when the Russians retired a few miles.

THE TRIUMPH OF THE TURKS AT EUPATORIA.

The *Monitor* gives the following version of the battle at Eupatoria:—At six o'clock in the evening of the 17th, the Russians, to the number of 40,000, under General Liprandi, attacked Eupatoria. After a combat of four hours they were vigorously repulsed with considerable loss by the Turks, under the command of Omar Pasha. The Turks had 15 killed and 35 wounded. Suleyman Pasha, an Egyptian General, is among the former. The Russians had 500 killed, and a considerable number wounded. A battery served by the French lost four men. A French steamer which left Kamiesch on the 20th, had brought no important news up to that date.

The Queen has forbidden all fancy work at court, in order that Her Majesty and attendants may devote all their leisure time in making comfortable articles for the sufferers at the Crimea.

Of all the German Governments that of Hanover displays the most activity in preparing for the war. Great changes are being made by the Swedish Government in the general organization of the army.

The English Government has taken the resolution of immediately increasing the army to 150,000 men, divided in the following manner: Infantry, 100,000 men; Cavalry, 10,000; Artillery, 3,000; Marine soldiers, 2,000.

Colonial Legislature.

WEDNESDAY, February 22.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on consideration of the royal commission of the Patriotic Fund. Hon. Col. Treasurer in the Chair of the Committee.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman, the nature of the commission may induce some hon. members to suppose that this is brought before the House as a Government measure, and that the Government intend to take an active part in carrying a grant to the objects of the commission. Such is not the case; I am happy to say that there is no necessity of Government using its influence in this matter. There is no doubt on my mind that the House are disposed to vote a liberal sum, and the expression of public opinion, as manifested at the various meetings which have been held in different parts of the Island, shews very clearly that the people generally are desirous that this House should act with liberality, and give in proportion to the means at our disposal, as large a sum as any of the neighboring Colonies. Canada has given £20,000, Nova Scotia, £2,000, and New Brunswick, £4,000 sterling; and sir, I, as a member of the Government, responsible to the people, propose a sum nominally equal to Nova Scotia—viz., £2,000 currency. I do not consider that it is too much, considering the prosperous condition of the Treasury. This sum, though it may at first appear large, will not be found very great, when reduced to sterling money; but it will, when added to the private subscriptions, place the Island in a position in which it will compare favorably with the other Colonies, and thus give us a higher character in Great Britain. Some hon. members have intimated to me their opinion that £500 currency would be sufficient; but, sir, that amount converted into sterling would be hardly worth giving. We have now a surplus in the Treasury amounting to £8,000, and I feel satisfied that £2,000 of that will not be objected to, when we reflect that it is to go to relieve the necessities of those whom the chances of the war now raging in Europe may have rendered widows and orphans; and, sir, they who are to receive it are not all strangers to the people of the Island. They are the widows and orphans of Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen, who have many relatives and acquaintances among ourselves. They are fighting our battles, for, Mr. Chairman, believe me, our rights and liberties would not be as secure as they are at present if the arms of the Czar should be successful, and he should gain the ascendancy in Europe, which he seeks, and the desire for which has led to the present war. England is taxed to bear the burden of the military and naval expenses of the empire, and it is not to be expected that she should, unaided, provide for the widows and orphans too. I trust that on mature consideration of the use to which the money is to be applied, and the flourishing state of our revenue, no hon. member will consider the sum I have named too much for us to give. I will, however, move the resolution in blank; and before I sit down I must say, in my opinion, Nova Scotia has not done her duty in this matter. She has a large and increasing revenue. She has granted but the sum of £2,000, notwithstanding her great boasting and her braggadocios at the time of the celebrated Restook war, when she voted £100,000 in aid of New Brunswick. She should have given very liberally to this fund, for she has benefitted very greatly by the military and naval expenditure of the British Government, which, in fact, may be said to have built Halifax.

Mr. HAVILAND.—Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, and I hope that the blank in the resolution will be filled up with the sum he has named. This is no party question; it is a matter where all should meet on one common ground. All are equally interested, and the rights and liberties of us all, whether English, Irish or Scotch, or their descendants, are concerned; and, therefore, Mr. Chairman, do I trust that the £2,000 will be voted unanimously; that there will, in such a cause, be no paltry higgling about a few pounds in contributing our mite to support the Mother Country in this struggle for life or death in which she is engaged. Some hon. members may not regard the war in that light, but I ask them, if the Emperor of Russia should be victorious, what institutions would be introduced into Europe? Some may think that we, in this Island, have no concern in the result of the contest, and cannot be affected by it, whichever way it may terminate. I think, sir, that a little reflection would lead them to a different conclusion. If once the Russian eagle float in triumph over Constantinople, liberty ceases to exist. One despot, then, would control the whole of Europe. Let it be borne in mind, that in this case there is no dictation. We are merely invited to join in the national offering. We are bound, in honor and in duty, to act liberally, and, in doing so, we are but discharging a debt we owe to the people and government who have so long protected us. More particularly incumbent is it upon us to signify, by a liberal grant, our sympathies with Great Britain in the conflict in which she is engaged, when we consider that the great Republic near us manifests her feelings in favor of Russia, in the hope that, should the Czar triumph, she may grasp us. Now, let us give proof of our opinions by voting as large a sum as we can reasonably afford. I, for one, have no hesitation in voting for £2,000. In doing so, I feel I am but doing my duty; and with that conviction I will set even at the risk of my seat in this House, if my constituents should not approve my conduct.

Mr. COOPER.—Mr. Chairman, the purport of the commission, as I read it, is a request for charitable contributions. Now, sir, the people themselves have voluntarily subscribed, with great liberality, and it is unjust to take the money of those who have already contributed. The neighborhood in which I reside has been very liberal, and I do not think we can be charitable at others' expense. When the people were applied to, they gave freely and generously, and we should not now take from them for charity their money, which is required for public purposes, such as roads, bridges and schools, and should not be voted away for such objects as the present.

Hon. Mr. WRIGHTMAN.—I agree, Mr. Chairman, with the remarks of the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Haviland), that this is a matter in which party feelings should not interfere, and that it is desirable that the vote on the resolution should be unanimous. As to the amount to be granted, I think £1,500 or £2,000 would be a very liberal sum for us to give. Canada may well give her £20,000. She has a revenue of eight or nine hundred thousand pounds, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have each revenues much larger than ours, and I think we ought not to go beyond £2,000 at the farthest.

Hon. Mr. PALMER.—Mr. Chairman, I cheerfully give my vote for the sum named, although it is larger than I anticipated; but hon. members voting for it will be justified, in the opinions of all right thinking men. We have, sir, a flourishing revenue, and the country generally is in the enjoyment of a high degree of prosperity, and, at a time like this, we should bear in mind the long and beneficial participation our country, though small, has enjoyed, in the paternal consideration of the British Government. That Govern-