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Secretary's Office, Kent Street, August 5th, 1853.

NEWS OF THE WAR.

OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM THE ALLIED CAMP.

Marshal Vaillant, French Minister of War, has received the following report, dated Dec. 23, 1854, from General Canrobert.

"Monsieur le Marechal.—The bad weather has been prolonged until now, with rare and brief intervals of improvement; nevertheless we continue as much as possible the work of enclosing the place with our trenches, and although the rains make the movement of vehicles difficult, all the siege works are growing to completeness and consolidation.

"The two armies reciprocally assist each other. To the English army I am indebted for the conveyance, by water, of nearly all the cavalry at my disposal in the Crimea, and on my part, I have placed at Lord Raglan's disposal sumpter-horses for removing his sick to Balaklava, and teams for the conveyance of his supplies. These exchanges contribute to keep up the excellent relation and perfect cordiality between the two armies.

"Hardly a night passes in which our advanced works are not attacked in a sortie of the enemy.—These attempts generally cost the assailants dear. Yesterday, at 2 o'clock in the morning, the Russians, after making a sortie against the third parallel of the English, who vigorously repulsed them, made a similar demonstration against the centre and left of our works. Received with a very lively and well-directed fire, they retired before our soldiers, who pursued them with the bayonet. The enemy left a great number of dead upon the field.

"In order to render the protection of the trenches more efficient, I have organized a corps of volunteers whose peculiar duty it is to reconnoitre the approaches to our work during the night. This institution completes that of the sharpshooters (francs-tireurs) organized at the commencement of the siege, and who do duty by day in our trenches themselves. They have already done a great deal of harm to the enemy.

"As I have already announced to you, our works now extend to the bottom of the Quarantine bay. The enemy shows, that he is not inattentive to our progress on that side, and his guns hotly dispute the ground with us, where we are obliged, as we are nearly everywhere, to dig into the solid rock. But our progress is not the less real, and we remain in possession.

"I have already informed you that the enemy has withdrawn his left, and evacuated those points in the valley of Balaklava where we had previously seen him in large masses. The day before yesterday, wishing to ascertain the situation he had taken up in that direction, I sent out a force consisting of a cavalry brigade, under the command of General d'Allonville, to reconnoitre as far as the village of Tchourgouna. Behind the village of Kamara they fell in with a few hundred sharpshooters, whom they drove back into the ravines. Some groups of cavalry, accompanied by their artillery, and a few battalions of infantry appeared on the flanks of the party making the reconnoisance, but they did not attempt to offer any opposition to the operation of the latter, which was most successfully executed.

At the same time, 1,000 foot soldiers, Highlanders and Zouaves, left Balaklava to the right of our positions, and explored the heights that extend towards the valley of Baidari. They only met a posse of Cossacks.

"In fine, I think that on the left bank of the Tchernaya the enemy has only a few soldiers posted to observe our position at a distance. A movement has evidently been produced in the Russian army, the probable cause of which is the debarkation of the Turkish troops still going on at Eupatoria. I shall soon receive positive information on this head.

"Although the number of the sick has slightly increased, in consequence of the constant dampness in which we live, the sanitary state of the army is satisfactory, and the moral spirit of the troops is perfect.

Although the soldiers have been heavily inconvenienced by the rains, there has been no cold weather; the snow, which for a long time past has covered the tops of the mountains in the interior, has not appeared on the hill-plains we occupy and the thermometer has not once fallen below zero. These general conditions are improved by the care we take of our soldiers; and, thanks to the prudent foresight of the Emperor and his Government, the army enjoys a relative degree of comfort that makes it gaily support with a lighter heart its fatigues.

"The number of the sick in our military hospitals at Constantinople amounts to 3794, of whom 1387 are wounded. Out of this total 266 are Russians. I have established a convalescent depot in the Crimea, near the Bay of Karatch. Here the men who leave the army ambulances, and who only require a little repose before they return to their duty, will have their recovery promoted.—This measure will diminish our draughts to Constantinople.

"H. I. H. Prince Napoleon, still detained at Constantinople by the illness that compelled him to leave the Crimea, wished to come and rejoin us. I was bound to oppose this return, which compromised the health of the Prince.

"Accept, &c., The General-in-Chief
(Signed) "CANROBERT."

PRUSSIAN OVERTURES.—A private correspondence says, that the Prussian note of December 19th, sent to London and Paris, says that Prussia has examined the Treaty made by the envoys in three separate conferences on the 16th. Prussia sees with satisfaction that the Protocols of the Vienna four points are respected therein, and Prussia, although she did not take part in the exchange of notes on August 8th, gave it her moral support, consequently Prussia is still in diplomatic concert with the Allied Powers, and has even engaged, under certain eventualities to military co-operation. Prussia is therefore disposed to join new stipulations of pacific tendency. Prussia adheres to the general scope of the treaty of Dec. 2, and is willing to conclude an analagous arrangement, but an exact and precise interpretation of the meaning of the guarantees will be the pivot on which all Prussia's diplomatic measures will turn.

ITALIAN TREATY.—It is generally stated, that a treaty is actually signed between France and Austria—France guaranteeing Austria's possession of the Italian Provinces, but the London Times disbelieves the existence of such a treaty.

WINTER QUARTERS FOR THE ALLIES IN THE CRIMEA.

The disposal of the enemy we must leave to the best wisdom of the allied commanders. The disposal of our own defenders for the winter is a subject of too deep and close an interest not to be discussed at almost every fireside in England. Supposing that the contents of Sebastopol harbour are so treated, as to make all safe there, we should hope that a considerable part of our navy would winter in the harbour of Theodosia, which never freezes, and is in all respects admirable. Special engineers are gone out to the East with apparatus for blowing up the sunken Russian ships at the mouth of the harbour of Sebastopol, to make room for some of ours.—Others may be well sheltered at Balaklava? but Theodosia has the best climate and other qualities of the three. As for the land of the Crimea, it consists of three kinds of scenery—Russian plains, Tartar defiles, and the south coast for whoever can get and hold it. The Russians cannot hold their plains in winter; and those plains, it must be remembered, stretch from far in the interior to Simferopol. The Tartars who live in the defiles, building their villages on the shelves of the rocks, like wild bees setting up their honeycombs in a hollow tree, hate the Russianswith the deepest hatred, and certainly will not make them welcome to their perilous strongholds. There was a day when every reigning Prince of the various Russian states had to go to theGolden Horde for investiture, and to do homage for his dominions to the Tartar Khan. In those days when the Tartar Khan sent his tribute-gatherer to these Princes, each one had to lead the collector's horse by the bridle, and feed it with oats out of his cap of State. The Tartars know to a man that there was such a day, and they regard the Russians accordingly. They have shown their willingness to help our armies to food and horses from the time we landed, and so conspicuously, that the Russians are hanging every Tartar who can be detected in or suspected of, supplying provisions to anybody but themselves. These Tartars know, and will readily tell, what food there is stored up in their valleys. The others are Germans, with a good many Bulgarians, who, if once tempted so far by the prospect of gain, prove themselves a wonderfully gainful people. The neigbors say of them that they work like horses, scrape together like magpies, and live like hogs; in other words, they have stores of produce ready for our market. Along the coast there are fishermen, who catch mackarel enough in their autumn plumpness to send into the very centre of Russia, to the point of encounter with the fish of the Baltic.—Many of these fishermen are wrecked mariners of all nations, who will be pleased to deal with our soldiers while the Russians roads are stopped. There is an immense quantity of game in the forests in the valley and on the slopes under the precipices. These gray precipices are capped with snow at a height of 4000 feet above the level of the sea, when below the pastures are green, and the vines and pomegranates need fear no injurious frost. The daws, owls, eagles, and smaller cliff birds come out and sun themselves at the mouths of their holes, when the Scythian north wind is blowing out to sea over their heads; and the small game and sheep, goats, and cattle below, know nothing of winter. Now, it is under these precipices that, in spots properly chosen, handy and prudent men may winter perfectly well. The beech woods and other forest trees abound sufficiently to afford shelter and fuel for as many soldiers as will want to be there.

The weather is fine enough there, up to Christmas or later, to allow of the building of huts to any extent required. If care be taken to choose the dry summer slopes, instead of swampy valleys, the men will have a better chance of health, than they have had ever since they left home. Good winter clothing is on its way to both armies; and there seems to be no reasonable doubt, that stores of food could be laid up, or obtained when wanted. There are granaries in various parts of the Sea of Azoff, always full when exportation is checked, because the roads become impassable too early to allow of the corn being sent back into the interior.—These ports surround a sea which is usually as calm as a lake—its depth being no where more than 42 feet. With half a dozen granaries set round a little sea like that, Anapa forsaken, the Black Sea our own, and craft of all sorts at our command, it is inconceivable that resources enough in addition to those of a singularly fruitful country, should not easily suffice for the support of as many men as are wanted to hold the Crimea through the short and mild winter which makes the south coast so curious a contrast with the steppe which lies behind it.—*London Daily News.*

Two Turkish commanders, who behaved badly at Balaklava on the 25th of October have been publicly degraded at Constantinople and transported for seven years with hard labour.

Negotiations respecting the conference at Vienna had not been concluded. The Austrian, French and English Plenipotentiaries met in the apartments of the latter, and drew up and signed a minute of the exact and precise interpretation which their Governments unanimously attach to the four points. The Austrian Minister then carried this document up stairs to the apartments where Prince Gortschakoff was waiting, in company with Counts Arnisor and Manteufel, as representatives of Prussia. In their presence, the Austrian Plenipotentiary communicated to Gortschakoff these propositions of the Allied Powers, and asked him whether he was prepared to accept them without modification or reserve. Gortschakoff replied that his instructions did not go so far. His orders were only to negotiate respecting the four points, but he would send off a courier, and hoped to receive further instructions in three days.

One informant says, that the terms proposed to Gortschakoff were neither hard nor humiliating. There was no intention of the razing of Sebastopol, nor of a reduction of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea. Gortschakoff requested fourteen days' delay to obtain instructions from St. Petersburgh, which were granted. Consequently it will be a fortnight ere anything can be decided. Hostilities will continue in the meantime. It is said that the Russian interpretation differs but little from the allies, thereby affording a chance, although slight, for peace.

NARROW ESCAPE OF LORD CARDIGAN.—Corporal John Robinson, of the 13th Light Dragoons, in a letter addressed to a friend in Doncaster, dated November 2, thus describes the narrow escape of Lord Cardigan in the cavalry charge at Balakalva, and the part he took in his lordship's rescue:—"Just as I was upriming one of the enemy's guns, and passing another, there were three pairs of horses in it, and there was one man mounted on the centre pair: he was in the act of dismounting, when I galloped past him and gave him a cut and a draw across the throat, which I thought was the quickest way of getting rid of him. I did not ride many yards further, before I saw our commander, Lord Cardigan, very neatly thrust off his horse, and if it had not been for me, the old boy's life would not have been worth a row of pins. I saved him, for I directly saw a Russian had marked him, for he drew his lance and made at his lordship, but I was too expert for the rascal. I parried the well-meant stroke and then he bolted, as if Old Nick was after him."

NICHOLAS EXCITING THE GARRISON OF SEBASTOPOL. ST. PETERSBURG, DEC. 23.—By an order of the day, of Dec. 18, his Majesty the Emperor, desirous of manifesting his gratitude for the exemplary bravery, the zeal, and the signal services of all the land and sea-troops forming the garrison of Sebastopol, since the 25th of Sept. last, has deigned to order, that each month of their service in the "cadres" of the said garrison shall be counted as one year of service, with all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging. His Majesty the Emperor has deigned to extend this favor similarly to all the officials in the civil service that form part of that garrison.

QUARREL BETWEEN PRINCE GEORGE CAMBRIDGE AND LORD RAGLAN.

The following is from the *Daily News* correspondent at the Crimea:—Long before this letter reaches, you will know much more than we do of what is here generally spoken of as the "row of the Duke of Cambridge." His royal highness is now on board ship bound for Constantinople, and as some say for England. It is asserted that he quarrelled with the Commander-in-Chief, in consequence of the battle of the 5th. The Duke resented the manner in which the Guards were cut up, and it is asserted he said some very smart words to Lord Raglan about the manner in which the Guards and the Second division were left exposed to the assault of the Russian army. What Lord Raglan replied is not known, but the end of it was (thus it is whispered in the camp) that the duke went off in high dudgeon, intending to proceed to England and tell them all "about Lord Raglan and the army." As for the position which the Russians attacked, the Commander-in-Chief has already confessed his fault, and made the *amende honorable* in the face of the whole army. On the very next morning after the battle in obedience to orders received from headquarters, the engineers commenced fortifying the position, and this afternoon, the redoubt thrown up by them, was mounted with two 98-pounders, two 22-pounders, and four 8 inch long guns. No apology in general orders could be more satisfactory, and, let me add, more honorable to Lord Raglan, than this very practical acknowledgment of one of the most fatal errors which it is in the power of a Commander-in Chief to commit. The correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on the 13th from before Sebastopol, says:—"The Duke of Cambridge has gone on board of ship. Throughout the battle of Inkerman he distinguished himself for his coolness and gallantry; he was slightly wounded, and his cloak tattered by bullets! but when all was over, the severe loss experienced by his brigade was too much for him, his spirit sank, and he felt it necessary to leave the scene of the slaughter for a time. True, six Russians fell to every Guardsman, but still our loss was quite heavy enough to deeply grieve the Duke and make a retreat to quiet most necessary. I should not be surprised, if he were to winter in England and come out again in the spring."

Since the Eastern question has led to a formidable war, the Sublime Porte has made great sacrifices in order to supply his troops with what they require. It is understood that the brave army of Omar Pacha, their chief, has not been neglected, and this is why they have displayed in face of the Russians a gallantary that has won for them the just sympathy of entire Europe. Some persons of late have thought proper to spread abroad the rumour that the army of the Danube was in the greatest and most pressing want; nevertheless his Excellency Riza Pacha has never ceased occupying himself with all possible activity in providing every kind of provision necessary for the army, and he sends to Varna on all occasions provisions, ammunition, winter clothes, and whatever in short is indispensable. Very precise orders are at the same time given to the proper parties for their being forwarded without delay to his Excellency the Generalissimo, Omar Pacha.

Jan. 12th, 1855. en

A. & J. DUNCAN, Co.
Charl tetown, Jan. 9, 1855. Isl. 1m.