

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE WAR.

The telegraph announces in brief but explicit terms a great victory gained over the Russians by the Turks in Asia Minor, led by Omar Pacha. The battle, it is alleged, lasted five hours, and the enemy suffered severely. The details of the battle are as follows:—Ingruz, the passage of which the enemy disputed with 20,000 men, but the Turkish Generallissimo forced it at four points, and pressed on to Kutais. Advice from Trebizond four days anterior to this engagement, state that the Turkish army, coming from Kars, in the direction of Alexandropol, the greater part of their baggage, and that they were about to raise the blockade of Kars. This last-named intelligence is rather contradictory of the fact of a great battle having been fought at the point mentioned, which is on the road through Omar Pacha and his troops would have to pass on their way to the relief of Kars. The fear some ago was, that the season was too far advanced for Omar Pacha to complete his enterprise; but if the intelligence which has now come to hand be confirmed, the position of the Russians in the trans-Caucasian provinces will be even more critical, than in the Crimea. With a more successful career than that of the late great victory which it secured a couple of months back, under General Williams, ready to march out on the instant, and with the Turks under Omar Pacha in their rear, the Russian situation in Asia Minor must be a very serious one. The details of the war are too meagre to enable us to conjecture eventualities; but enough has transpired to prove, that it will require all the skill which Mounaveiff, the ablest of the Russian Generals, is said to possess, to get out of the trap in which Kiburn is involved. The allies are reported to have applied to the Shah of Persia for leave to march an Anglo-Indian army through his territory into Asiatic Turkey, but, assuming the correctness of this battle and victory of the pass before the present, the Shah's views are summed before its arrival. The Shah of Persia is not a very reliable personage; but as the fortune of war is against the Czar and the Shah, it is far more likely to confer a benefit than a detriment.

The detailed accounts from the Crimea state that a belief prevailed in the camp of the allies, that a battle there was impending; but the assertion rests on very unreliable authority, that of a Russian cadet, who described an account of some trifling punishment. According to this youth's statement, the Russians, 70,000 strong, were preparing to attack the lines of the allies from Tcherzoug, and if the attack did not succeed, the army had orders to evacuate the Crimea and retreat upon Kiburn, the Czar's chief. This contemplated attack, however improbable, was regarded in the British army as a thing that might be, and, in corroboration of its likelihood, it is mentioned, that the Russians had burned the trenches and abandoned the fort. When they are encamped, the better to facilitate their movements. It was conjectured that the attack would be made on the 6th or 7th instant, but as twelve days have passed, the intention, if it was ever entertained, has probably been abandoned. At the same time, it will be remembered, that when the Russians attacked the French and Sardinians in July last, with such melancholy results to themselves, information of the attack was communicated by deserters to the allies' commanders, who might have anticipated before it was made. The motion was ridiculed at the time, and it was probably the recollection of this circumstance, which has induced a belief in the cadet's story. But we incline to the belief, that the statement is true, and that the British army will be enabled and the Russians to retreat the more easily. In these kinds of tactics, the Russians are untrival.

Nothing has transpired respecting the success of General Canrobert's mission to the King of Sardinia, but it is believed that he was most graciously received by that monarch and that the leading personages about the Court strongly favoured the alliance. If Sweden should join the Western Powers, the war would increase in intensity, and it may be feared also in duration, for, willing as Russia may be for peace at the

present time, against the dismemberment of her Northern Empire she would fight with redoubled fury. Nothing is so likely to bring about a complete and permanent concord as the adhesion of Sweden, but against the restoration of Finland, the price of the alliance, the Swedes will have to consider the position in which they will be placed if never Russia regains strength enough to be aggressive. To protect Sweden, now and hereafter, the Western Powers are willing to bind themselves by treaty; but Sweden will probably remember, that though she can rely upon England keeping her faith, the instability of the French throne presents a possibility of her doing the same. In the meantime, ample preparations are making for commencing the attack next year in the Baltic and the Black Sea with redoubled vigor. Gun and mortar boats of the highest possible draught of water—some of them only drawing two and a half to three feet,—are being built, not only in the Royal dock-yards of this country and France, but by many of the private shipwrights in both countries, and the fleet will be in the spring well equipped for the campaign to open. To the Emperor of the French, according to the *Monitor*, credit is due for the mortar boats recently used at Kiburn, from which shot rebounds as hail does from marble, and all the new weapons are on this principle. But Russia is not idle. She is bracing her nerves anew for the conflict, and as winter in that country affords the best means of rapid travelling, the interval will be devoted to the concentration of all her powers. That she is not overdoing it, we are not unduly strained, there can be no doubt, but her resources are yet vast, and while English writers wonder how she can sustain the expense of the war, few of them have the foresight to perceive, or the candour to acknowledge, that her superabundant war is the real source of her strength. The *London Times*, one of the strongest bulwarks in the kingdom, was compelled the other day to confess, that a neutral basis in time of war was not essential to the success of the cause. The passage is so remarkable, and affords such striking evidence of the truth of the views which we have recently taken of the currency, that we cannot avoid transcribing it:—

"For the purposes of internal trade, paper money is a large substitute for the precious metals without distress to the people; and it is evident that, the more they are disconnected from foreign countries, the more they are independent of the world, which is necessary for international dealings."

This admission, it is only fair to state, leaked out somewhat reluctantly, in an article professionally devoted to the subject of Russian resources; but we apprehend, that what is true in this case of Russia, is equally applicable to England. Many a merchant and a man of business in this country, who has been sorely pressed to meet his engagements during the last few months, owing to the dearth of money,—who, with abundance of assets, has been unable to procure accommodation by the stringency of the Bank of England, has passed some dreary sleepless nights, and undergone credible torture, may well ask, why this easy method of international dealing is not had recourse to by us, at a time when the absence of gold from the coffers of the Bank of England has been so very much declared, and Chapman's "year of ruin, and its every dayling others?"

**RUSSIAN TRADE.**—The letters from St. Petersburg state, that in consequence of the facilities of transport during frost, it is contemplated to resort to the export of considerable quantities of linseed oil. It was also thought, that the general exports after the commencement of December would be sufficient to produce a rally in the rate of exchange. According to the reports of the consular agents, it is expected that it appears that great quantities of sulphur, saltpetre, and other articles contraband of war continue to be sent over the frontier to Russia. The parties engaged in the traffic undertake for a very small premium to insure the delivery of the goods on the Russian soil.

INTOXICATION IN THE ALLIED CAMPS.

The Crimean correspondent of the *Daily News* writes—"Intoxication has greatly increased among the troops since the grant of the field allowance of 6d. per diem in addition to their former pay. Moreover, the men are earning sums of money per now, which they are converting into spirits, and in relation to the amount of intoxicating liquor which can be purchased by their means. These sums are obtained by them either from being employed as artificers, or as laborers in such public works as roads, and from the sale of private contracts with officers who are permitted to engage a limited number of soldiers to assist in building huts, stables, or to help in other camp occupations. It does not require to notice the increase of ailments in all directions, or to watch the clustering of half-tipt men at the wine and beer shops, to become aware, that a great amount of this money is spent in drink. Some of the drunken scenes about the camps of late have been described in the *Standard* in various parts, and towards the time when the soldiers are supposed to return to their respective camps, one might almost suppose, there had been an action with the enemy, from the number of men to be seen lying about in a state of absolute insensibility, and in some instances. On the evening of the 4th inst., two privates of the 33rd Regiment were carried home to their camp in such a state of insensibility from drinking, that notwithstanding the use of the stomach-pump, and every means that medical skill could attempt to devise, neither could be restored. Both of these men died in the unconscious and brutal condition into which they had plunged themselves of their own free will. On the afternoon of the 6th inst., one of the sergeants of the 6th Regiment of the Company of the Coughnut Rangers, by name Robinson, a non-commissioned officer who had seen long service with the regiment, and who had several times been conspicuous for bravery, delicately committed suicide, and it is feared he would have attempted the same had not indulgence in strong drink for some days previously, was the exciting cause of the dreadful act. He selected a time when all men were away from the hut which he occupied, excepting one, and with one he got out of the hut and purchased some trifling article. He then deliberately took off the boot and stocking from his right foot, and having planted the muzzle of a loaded firelock, which he grasped firmly with his hands, aimed against the upper part of his throat, he pulled the trigger with his left of his bare foot, and the contents of the weapon passed through his brain. There seems also to have been a marked increase in intoxication among the French troops since the termination of the siege, much more so, than can be accounted for simply by the relief from trench duties. Formerly it was a very rare occurrence to meet a French soldier insensibly drunk; his habit seemed to be to halt at the stage of intoxication, and to stop there, and to exercise his vocal powers was excited, and then at certain hours of the day, the tunes of French chansons and satches of Italian waltz, with wonderful roulades, and variations, all fortissimo, were heard on all sides. At the present stage of intoxication far beyond the singing stage, it is by no means uninfrequent. Perhaps the prizes drawn from the ruins of Sebastopol may have had something to do in causing this change, for the sales effected by the French Government, to purchase a good deal of ready money in the pockets of the soldiers, ready money supplied at the English canteens, they have free access to them. It is a mistake to suppose, that the French soldiers are so temperate as they are generally considered to be in England; intoxication is nearly as common among them as among our own men, but is not usually carried to the same degrading excess. Indeed the French Zouaves, like our own Highlanders, have the character of being hard drinkers, and may carry well a large quantity of liquor; and it is the regularity of their habits, and the regularity of their habits which have been serving in Algeria exhibit a tendency to the same distinction. The native Algerian Zouaves, like the Turks and other Mohammedan troops, are examples of the opposite extreme of temperance."

FORGIVEN.

According to the best reliable authorities, General Canrobert succeeded admirably at Stockholm. In Sweden, a powerful feeling is decidedly in favor of an alliance with the Western Powers, and if we can believe the concurrent testimony of witnesses, Sweden has consented to conclude a military convention with the Western Powers, to take part in an invasion of the Russian territories on the Baltic in the ensuing spring—that, though England and France have repudiated territorial aggrandisement for themselves, their allies have made no such engagements. In Russia, which has broken through the treaties, by which the division of Europe is regulated, has forfeited her right to those Swedish provinces she acquired in virtue of them.

A letter from Odessa in *Le Vard*, dated Nov. 5, mentions the town of Mariopol, on the north coast of the Sea of Azoff, as having been bombarded by the English on the 31st ultimo; more than 100 balls, shells, and other combustibles were thrown into the town, and the first fire was effected in consequence of a merchant there hoisting the Austrian flag over his warehouses. Spain is improving her tariff,—liberalising her commercial policy. We learn that the prohibition at present existing against many articles of the first class is to be restricted in five years' time, and it is at once to be altered by the admission of some classes of the coarser kind, which are now excluded. Cotton twist is to be admitted to importation from and among No. 30 and upwards, and the prohibition against cotton goods is reduced from 25 threads to the quarter inch to those below 20 threads to the same measure.

Fears prevail at St. Petersburg. It is believed that, in the spring, the Allies will attack the capital, and this impression contributes to the general uneasiness.

A GREAT RUSSIAN ARMY FOR THE CRIMEA.

It is thoroughly believed by the war party at St. Petersburg, that Prince Gortschakoff will hold his position in the Crimea, and that the Russian Government, an army of 500,000 men, formed of the militia, is to relieve him, and drive the allies from the Russian soil. The recruiting, according to the extended age, as lately decreed, would produce a much larger number of men than the stated 500,000. A quantity of rifles had arrived from America, which have been distributed to the troops, with crosses said to be blessed by particular saints from Heaven. We hear, says the writer, that the Emperor is highly satisfied with the state of the army in the Crimea, and that he has given Gortschakoff orders to hold his positions, but not by any means to attack the allies until the spring army is at hand. The nobles are verbally promised great rewards. The tax on slaves is to be removed, but one believes much in these assertions. The public finance is in a worse condition than is generally known. A very large issue of paper money is expected to take place.

THE KING OF SARDINIA'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

—It is understood that the King of Sardinia will arrive in this country in the first week in December. His majesty's visit is, however, unavoidably limited. He will only be in the country, while in England. The Queen will receive the King at Windsor, where preparations on a scale of fitting magnificence are being made for his majesty's accommodation. The King, who is especially desirous of becoming familiar with England, will pass his month in London, through the streets and parks, by the same route that the Emperor Napoleon followed. The details of the visit have not yet been completely settled, but arrangements have been made for a visit to the City of London, to the Crystal Palace, and Woodhouse. When the King and his household will be conveyed to Belgium by an English vessel of war. His majesty will arrive at Dover in a French ship.

ILLNESS OF PRINCE PASKIEWITZ.

Accounts from Warsaw represent Prince Paskiewitz as seriously ill. The King of Prussia has sent Dr. Schloebien, the court physician, to the suffering veteran.