

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE RUSSIAN WAR. FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.

MEASURES TAKEN BY ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

On the 12th of March, 1854, the Emperor Nicholas vouchsafed to the terms proposed by the Western Powers this memorable reply: "That those terms required not free minutes' consideration." He, in fact, rejected them with contempt; and he addressed to his own Ministers and great officers that, before he submitted to such conditions, he would sacrifice his last soldier, and spend his last rouble. With this haughty decision—the general purport of which the electric wires sent flashing at once through all Europe—was borne to London and Paris by the overland couriers, the French and English troops began, though very gradually, to assemble in force at Gallipoli. It was a considerable time, before they had assembled on the little peninsula to the west of the Dardanelles about 14,000 French and about 7,000 English troops. The French had a shorter voyage to make; but they had more soldiers, and were better equipped, and more ready to transport. They arrived the first; and they disembarked and encamped with greater ease, promptitude, and order than our soldiers. They had, moreover, come so much better furnished, that, in all severe instances, they were their own defence; they helped, and greatly expedited, with the boats of their men-of-war, the landing of a much smaller body of English troops. Once on shore, they were almost imp-like agility of our gallant troops—their conduct, their discipline, their order, and good-humoured audacity, gave them still the advantage. The services which we could scarcely induce the Turks to render, after days, and sometimes weeks, of discussion, the French very easily, and very properly, exacted on the spot. They were, moreover, accompanied by a number of fair tools; while at least a portion of ours was sent by a different conveyance from that of its own. The French camp speedily resembled a colonial settlement; while Gallipoli and all the neighbourhood were Gallicised, as if by magic, both in name and in deed. "Office of the French Quarter-master-General," "Office of the French Commissary-General," "French Hospital," "Yours-true-street," "Street of the Posts and Mails," "French Light Infantry street," "Head-quarters of the General Engineer Office-street," "Army Office-office-street"—such, or similar and equivalent designations, couched in the French language, ad incised on conspicuous sign-boards, routed way and replaced the old Mahomedan signs, and indications, and introduced European method, and luminous, simple, and convenient clue into the intricate obscurity of the place. French names were established everywhere; and what is more instructive, *French prices*. A market tariff for every article of necessity was immediately fixed, and it was rigidly enforced. It was impossible not to be struck, at every step, by the characteristic proceedings of our vivid-minded and active allies; by their adaptability to circumstances—their resource and instantaneous effort to master their difficulties, and their great facility of acting together without confusion, and their really wonderful idea of military self-administration. The rapid measures we have enumerated are merely a part of those which both assisted and instructed our own troops, down to the very details of their camp. For instance, they hardly had been forty-eight hours effected, when, not only all that we have detailed, was accomplished, but a perfect system of French police was in its full action among themselves (and occasionally among the Turks) as if they had been in Marseilles or Algiers; and at the same time, it was stated, that our regimental surgeons had to borrow what they at first happened to want from the medicine-chests of these alert confederates; though we are bound to add, that, if this necessity existed, it lasted but for a very few days.

That so close an association, and so intimate an intercourse between the armies of the two great Powers of the West were certain to lead to much enlightenment on both sides, anybody can see. There are many points in that, we need not dwell on; but, as they have studied us with attention, and doubtless not without profit. On our parts, perchance, there was also something to learn. But, independently of this reciprocal advantage, and far above it in value, is the amount which has thus been furnished to the world, in the form of a grander and more just and equitable system of passive friendliness in less contentious intercourse could possibly have been. The two nations have heretofore shaken hands and embraced; and their love is on every witness, each in his antagonist, personal qualities of heroic valour and boundless generosity, which have excited a reciprocal and eternal admiration—a reciprocal and indestructible esteem. It was their warriors who represented the two countries in the quarrels of former days; and it is their warriors who now represent them in their enthusiastic and profound reconciliation. The chiefs and officers of the English expedition had, in Paris, met the chiefs and officers of the French expedition, and had been engaged in a long and friendly conversation, in which the most prodigal hospitality; the common soldiers, and the common sailors also, wherever they approached each other on their way to a

mutual war against the enemy of both, testifying their feelings, and exchanging a cordial greeting, in rapturous cheers and shouts, which awoke to their martial noise the echoes of many a strange and classic shore. And, at last, when on the strand of Gallipoli they met to conquer or to die, side by side, to share their hardships, their battles, and their glory together—the French and English troops—sailors and soldiers alike—almost threw themselves into each other's arms. Indeed, their reciprocal good-will was often testified in a ludicrous manner; nor was it always strictly observant of the proper bounds of discipline. The poor fellows, not content with contriving, out of the little they possessed, to exchange presents, would sometimes, when these failed, exchange, in moments which were only too convivial, their very dresses; and, one morning, a French Colonel, whose uniform was exceedingly perplexed to see among his men a soldier, whose corps he knew not; but who resembled, he thought, by his cap and feather, a Highlander of the British army. At precisely the same moment, the Colonel of the Highland Regiment was astonished to behold on one of his gallant men the yellow leggings and some of the other accoutrements of the Zouaves. The respective commanding officers soon found, that the apparent mistake was a French and an English soldier, both in English, in their fraternal composure, the night before, each soldier, vexed that he could not speak a word that was understood by his comrade, had resorted to this extraordinary method of demonstrating their sentiments.

This incident, though, doubtless, is trivial; but, historically, nothing ought to be considered trivial which both illustrates and proves far more authentically than could whole pages of dissertation—and, of course, with much livelier effect—some vast feelings of national sentiment, or the passions prevailing at a great crisis, and not slightly influencing great events. At home, the popularity of the war and the public enthusiasm in its favour, were sometimes illustrated by incidents quite as amusing as those which marked the brotherly cordiality subsisting between the French and English soldiers at Gallipoli. The remembrance of our readers will bear us out in this observation; and we will put one little occurrence of the kind on record. A gallant private, under orders for the war, spent his last night in a farewell feast with some dear friends, who induced him to drink more than was advisable. He parted from them so late, that he had to march fast, if he would re-enter his barracks in time, and he thought he could give himself fresh strength and add wings to his speed, if, near London Bridge, he took a pint of porter on the way. Entering a public-house he demanded this refreshment, placing the price on the counter. The publican saw that he had already drunk too much, and refused to serve him whereupon the soldier seized a pint belonging to some one else, and, holding the owner away at arm's length, drank it, saying that this was "Roossian treatment," and that he would have his money's worth by force, if not by favour. A scuffle ensued, the gallant soldier, signing his resignation, and then he was brought before a magistrate, and fined five shillings. He declared he had not such a sum in the whole world. He was told he must go to prison till he was forthcoming. But he simply rejoined, signing his resignation, "that he would not receive orders for the East—a fact confirmed by his sergeant, who, besides, praised the man's general character. Immediately, a good-humoured contest arose among the spectators, who should be the first to pay the fine. The soldier, with many signs of his resignation, said that he did not know, said they might rely upon his doing his humble duty; and he hoped that, with the help of his comrades, he should "thrash the Russians." Our readers will pardon these short anecdotes, for the sake of what they serve to commemorate so graphically.

In France, the same feelings everywhere prevailed; and the unanimity of the people strengthened and expedited the measures of the Government. The recruits for the new "conscription" came of their own accord to be enrolled; and the public sentiments were even more strikingly evinced, in connection with perhaps the most wonderful and original of the many wonderful and original measures of State by which Napoleon III. has signally distinguished his reign. It was the French Loan, issued to the community at large, on the 10th of March, 1854. He addressed himself not to speculators, bankers, and capitalists, but to his people themselves. He was convinced he could raise a larger sum, raise it in a shorter time, and receive it on better terms for the State; but, above all, he saw an opportunity of forwarding, by this bold appeal, one of his most cherished designs. He would give to France what England long possessed, a new class of loyal interests in the general stability; he would have thousands of public fund-holders all over the country; and when he had thus bid his people to yield hostages to order, he would have made one step more towards the accomplishment of his great mission, "the mission (we quote his own words of closing for ever the era of revolutions in his native land."

In a single week 310,000,000 francs were subscribed to his novel loan, and in an extraordinarily short time it was all at the disposal of the French Government.

It was in the same week, on the 11th March, that our Baltic Fleet sailed from Spithead, in the

presence of the Queen, who led it out to sea in her yacht, offering a most heart-stirring spectacle, which the present generation had ever beheld. The *Royal George* moved the first, under single-reefed topsails. Then in quick succession, obeying the signal "to weigh" of the Admiral—who stood, glass in hand, on the quarter-deck of the *Duke of Wellington*—came the *Impérieuse*, *Blenheim*, *Amphion*, *Princess Royal*, *Edinburgh*, *Ajax*, *Arrogant*, and *Hogue*. The paddle-ships, *Leopard*, *Vulcanus*, and *Dracon*, where the next and these completed the first division of England's Baltic Fleet. The Admiral himself led it, or rather followed it, in that stupendous floating fortress of 131 guns of the largest calibre, the *Duke of Wellington*, which throws a ton of shot, and has a distance unparallelled by any batteries on land or sea. Another great division was preparing for follow this noble fleet of sixteen war-steamer, of which eight were line-of-battle—two being three-deckers, and three carrying Admiral's flags: *Amiral Chateau*, in the *Edinburgh*, and Admiral Plumridge "in the *Leopard*, acting under Sir Charles Napier. Of these sixteen war-steamer, all but four were built on the screw principle. The only fault to be found with the fleet, was that the French frigates, *Arrogant* and *Dracon*, were too large and mazy, and of a draught too deep for the seas in which they were to act. About the time of these operations of the allies in widely separated scenes, the sympathies manifested towards Russia by a large part of the population in the United Kingdom began to excite our indignation. Indeed, it was found necessary, not very long afterwards to drop, while on their way to a wretched scene of action, a portion of the French contingents; and some six thousand of these troops landed accordingly near Athens, in order to bring a petty but troublesome kingdom to its senses. They landed the greater part of that number at the Piræus on the 15th of May. We mention this to save or abridge future digression from the more important events which will occupy the reader's notice. It was on the 27th of March that the formal rupture between Turkey and Greece occurred. The Greek Envoy, General Metaxas, received on that day, his passports at Constantinople. The Sultan had sent whatever troops he could spare to the frontier of Thessaly, under Achmet Pacha, to oppose the incursions of the Greeks who were endeavouring to organize a general insurrection of their co-religionists all over the Turkish Empire; the *foreign* Greeks thus abutting against the Divan's Greek subjects, to the profit of Russia; and no doubt, surnamed by Russia gold, and urged on by Russian instigations. On the 1st of April, the Turkish troops, near Janina, in Albania, obtained a small advantage over these marauding enemies, who, according to the laws of war and of nations, were little better than freebooters. A step taken by our Ambassador, about the time when the intelligence of this victory reached Constantinople, combined with that intelligence to elate the spirits of the Divan. Lord Stratford, and the British and other Consuls on the 6th of April, denouncing the Greek insurrection, and calling on them to disown its abettors, wherever they were found. The immense expenses to which Turkey was subjected by all these emergencies had induced the Sultan to adopt a very singular and unexampled measure in Moslem countries, an unprecedented expedient, which equalled in audacity, though not in bloodiness, his predecessor Mahmoud's massacre of the Jesuits. The Sack of the Island, or High Pontiff of the Monastery, was decreed, and all the revenues of the mosque were appropriated to the cause, and it was—to compare Christians with Pagan—not merely like a suppression of monasteries and a seizure of all their effects, but it was a confiscation of ecclesiastical property in general throughout the Empire. This also affected, he it observed, an immense amount of lay property, assigned, for the sake of stability, in turbulent and fanatical lands, to the ecclesiastical protection of titular owners, sacred in the eyes of State and people. It was not, therefore, a time for the Porte to make needless domestic enemies. But, transported by the nature of his high struggle, and encouraged by Lord Stratford's recent circular, the Sultan struck on both sides, and with both hands. He decreed that all Greeks, within a brief delay named, should quit Constantinople, and that the liability of the empire, and escheat to the Crown of their possessions, with the penalty of personal arrest added. But here the veteran soldier, General Baraguay d'Hilliers, Ambassador of France, interposed. He besought the Sultan to make a distinction between the disaffected Greeks, and there were faithful Greeks. The tie between the disaffected Greeks and Russia was exclusively a religious tie; it never had been national, and it never could, in any one respect, be so regarded. No, the religious tie was impossible between the Latinist or Roman Catholic Greeks and Russia, the religion of which was known to be disavowed and detested by such Greeks. Their loyalty to the Sultan was, besides, both proverbial of old, and manifest now. If these were expelled from their homes and occupations, and in so unconfounded—inocent with the guilty, patriotic with the traitors—and thus driven suddenly from Constantinople, he must reluctantly take his own departure from that city. No more was required; and the Sultan obeyed the suggestion which had been thus laid before his attention.

We have seen that, as our soldiers went to the East, so our fleet went to the Baltic, before either this country or France had yet formally declared war. The marvellous stand made by Omer Pacha upon the Danube was not, and could not be, foreseen. This will account for the choice at first in shortest way to interpose at Adrianople between the capital and the Russians, should these force Mount Haemus, and burst into Roumelia. Powerful works were even constructed from the Gulf of Saros to the Sea of Marmora, to render, in case of necessity, the Isthmus of Gallipoli a safe retreat behind a new Torres Vedras of the East; and this was the first serious occupation which the English and French soldiers undertook in companionship. But affairs changed in their aspect; and many of the regiments were sent up to Scutari; and some even beyond this, to Buyukdere, on the European shore, above Constantinople. After it was known that war had been actually declared by France and England, the troops were gradually collected in stronger and stronger positions—at Bourgas, and then at Vienna. When the insistent remark upon the last offers made to Russia (rather than answer to them) was known in Paris and London, all the forbearance of the Western Powers was fairly exhausted; and on the 28th of March, the war was officially proclaimed. Russia followed up the rejection of our conditions by some untenable proposals of her own, based on the same wild claims with which she had started originally. These last proposals were pronounced on the 7th of March, and were, quite inadmissible by England and France.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF RUSSIA.

We think it must be evident to all our readers, from the complicated and wide-spread transactions of arms and negotiation which we have now related, that Russia was, from the very outset, bent upon war—bent upon some desperate effort to achieve a new and predominate position in the comity of nations. She had not, however, for a considerable time husbanding her resources and preparing her means for some unusual exertion. In 1853, she had freed herself from the annual interest of certain old loans, by paying up the principal. She then withdrew her sums placed in the public Stock of France and England, and on the 28th of March, to meet the current expenses, and prohibited the export of the precious metals from her own territory. Still, her financial situation in a general way, such as that which she has so wantonly provoked, can never be sound. The ordinary revenue of Russia would perhaps be £32,000,000; but, allowing for the inevitable abatement caused by war in the proceeds of the Customs and Excise, it can scarcely amount to £24,000,000 at present; while the expenditure is enormously increased. No doubt the sums obtained just after the Hungarian war, under the plea of finishing the Moscow Railway, were not yet exhausted when this vast conflict commenced. But the stress of it is evident, from the financial expedients to which the Czar presently resorts, that the resources of the Empire are millions sterling of the bullion which forms the basis of the paper money; and at the same time, he issued four millions sterling of Treasury Bills. He also invited loans and accepted gifts (praising these in the latter) from various public funds, from the Clergy, and from the resources of the "Trusts of the empire; and when "the Dutch Loan" failed, he levied a forced loan, amounting to eight millions sterling, from his own subjects indiscriminately, and called it a voluntary contribution. By these means he realized, in a year and a half, nearly thirty millions sterling. But the resources on which he drew felt the pressure of the war, which renders much of the agricultural produce unsaleable, while it impoverishes the Boyard or land-owning class by the inordinate and unpaid drain of the most valuable part of their live stock, the poorer—swept off in conscriptions. Before the war, the metallic reserve of the Russian Government was worth twenty-one millions sterling; but the notes in circulation amounted to £50,000,000; and while the bullion reserve was nearly exhausted, the issues of paper have necessarily augmented. If we add to these grave facts three others—1st, that there is an immense Land and Banking Company guaranteed by the State, which company (it is said) "the Lombards" holds five millions of the scrip in paper; 2ndly, that the deposits of money held by all classes to Government, and *reasonable demand*, were, on the 1st of January, 1853, according to the official return of the Russian Minister of Finance, not under £125,000,000; and 3dly, that the funded debt of Russia amounts to £60,000,000 more, we shall be able to form some idea of the solidity of Russia's financial condition under the weight of a vast struggle like the present. The financial data which we have used in this sketch will be found in M. Leon Faucher's lately-published calculations of the monetary resources on which the Russian State can depend.

Very different was the financial situation of the two Maritime Powers. England required neither a loan nor any very crushing addition to the weight of her taxes; and as loans necessarily diminished, but a very brilliant and successful fiscal expedient; but a vast political measure which is likely to open an epoch in the social history of France. Nor was the French Government forced to resort to oppressive taxation to meet the interest which it

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