NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

BALAKLAVA, Aug. 1.—The duties of the trenches are now performed by entire divisions, and not, as formerly, by regiments in proportion. The scarcity of water which once threatened us has now, I think, been remedied by the suggestions mainly of Lieut. Elphinstone, Royal Engineers, who a long time back recommended that regiments should sink wells in parts of their encampments, where the locality indicated that water might be found. This, together with the frequent showers of rain which fall, has eased the pressure upon the main springs, from which, some time back, the whole supply was drawn· The health of the troops in general, from what I can hear, is favorable; deaths from cholera are rare in comparison to what they were, fever being the principal cause of death. At least I may, perhaps, be allowed so to judge from the state of the first division. The hospital number, under the head of sick, may perhaps appear large, and the number of deaths is increased by casualties in the trenches, all of which are included. The healthy condition of the army, I think, may be attributed in a great measure to the unlimited supply of hospital comforts which are freely issued, upon the application of a medical officer, to the various regiments. In one regiment of the Guards, only five deaths have occurred during the last month.

The supply of fresh meat is now daily, or nearly so. Vegetables are in plenty; but all are preserved with the exception of onions. The Guards have now a general hospital of their own, which is to be permanent. The huts which they vácated near Balaklava, on going to the front, are alloted for that purpose. The Land Transport depot, near Balaklava, is about to remove to the front, the present site being very unhealthy.

ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE SHIPPING AND POWDER MAGAZINES IN SEBASTOPOL.

The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* says :—" I mentioned a few days ago that experiments were making at Vincennes with a view to destroy the shipping and powder magzines, &c., in Sebastopol, by means of projectiles and carcases, to be dropped from a balloon; and also that, owing to the boisterous state of the weather, it had been as yet found impossible fairly to test the merits of the invention. Since then three more attempts have been made to carry the experiments to an issue, but fortune did not smile upon the subsequent essays any more than on the first. The balloon was filled each time at the gas works near the Barriere du Trone, and had to be taken down to the Plaine de St. Maur, about three miles off, but never succeeded in reaching it, the wind, the trees, and on another occasion a gate through which it had to pass, tearing it to ribbons. The inventor is, however, determined to go on; and the Emperor, determined to give him a fair trial, has ordered that pure hydrogen should be made on the field, to obviate the accidents which have taken place, so that a decisive result one way or another may be shortly expected. I was mistaken the other day, in stating the inventor to be an officer of Marine Artillery. He is only a non-commissioned officer in that corps—Sergeant Bourdonne—and the plan, whether feasible or not, does great credit to his ingenuity. The balloon, which is to be thrown up when the wind blows from the camp to the town, takes up several carcases and 13-inch shells, which are to be fired and dropped by means of electricity. The plan is, as I have said, extremely ingenious, but it is so complicated, that among military men its success is much doubted. The Emperor will be present when the experiment takes place."

INTERNAL CONDITION OF RUSSIA.

A private letter from St. Petersburgh mentions that great depression prevails among all classes in that city, owing to the duration of the war, which completely paralyzes all branches of commerce and industry. This depression has gained even the leading personage of the old Russian party, who were hitherto so warlike and so enthusiastic, but who are now beginning to despond. Nearly all labour is suspended in the manufactories, in consequence of the want of raw material, which no longer arrive from abroad, and also from the want of hands, all being employed in the defence of the empire. The produce of the soil has no longer a market abroad, and in the interior business is at a standstill. Articles of the most indispensable kind have attained an exorbitant price. Coffee, sugar, and salt, are luxuries which now are hardly to be seen, except on the tables of the great. The nobility support all the burden of the sacrifices in money imposed by the present circumstances, and the number of Boyards who will be utterly ruined by the war is beyond all idea. Add to this the grief of so many families, who have all to deplore the death of one or several relatives, and it will be easily imagined that the higher classes of the Russians are not over-disposed for amusements and *fetes*, and yet they are forced by superior orders to be gay. The summer season has not stopped the course of balls and *soirees*. The Emperor having one day said, in presence of his courtiers, that the nobles ought to invent some plan for preventing the commerce of the capital from feeling too severely the present state of things, and particularly the blockade of the Baltic, they forthwith set about organizing a series of *tableaux vivans*, the performers in which are persons of the highest class of society. As these *tableaux* represent the different episodes of Russian history at all epochs, the actors and actresses in them are obliged to make purchases of the richest stuffs for the suitable costume. *Tableaux vivans* for the relief of the suffering tradesmen are at this moment the fashion on the banks of the Neva, and each noble feels obliged to give at least one of these patriotic pantomimes to avoid incurring the anger of his master, when no more generous motives exists. The tradespeople of St. Petersburgh are relieved for the moment, but *tableaux vivans* on such a scale at length become onerous, and something else must be soon invented to alleviate the misery of the industrial classes.

THE CRIMEA.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* forwarded to that journal the following private letter from Vienna, dated the 7th instant:—" The telegraphic news from the Crimea received here is of the 4th from the allies, and of the 2d from the Russians. No important event had occurred up to that date before Sebastopol. The bombardment of the bastions 3 to 5 continues, with slight interruption, day and night. The Russians, who return it continually, are nevertheless unable to destroy the works of the sixth parallel, and it is even said, that it has become completely impossible for them to ascertain its position. This new bombardment is effected by the old redoubts, as the new batteries will not be unmasked, till the day of the general bombardment. On all the other points of the Crimea, considerable activity is observable. The Russians fortify Arabat and Genitchi on the land and sea side. These two places are the key for the ulterior operations of the allies in the Crimea and Upper Taurida. The light squadron from Marseilles will be perfectly suited to the taking of it. There is no very recent news from Kars. General Muravieff is at Kony-Keui, a village to the south-east of Kars, and his encampments are in a healthy country, furnished abundantly with water, wood, and forage. Waffik Pacha, being determined to defend himself in Kars, and not meaning to capitulate, the Russians are preparing to open on the 12th July their first parallel near Kony-Keui. It is believed here that Count Buol received yesterday, a declaration on the part of England and France, that they did not wish, by new negociations for peace, to interfere with or forestal the more decisive events of the war. The arrival of General Letang at Vienna is considered as being connected with arrangements relative to the opening of lines of march for the allied armies in the Principalities. It is rumoured here that one of the exiled French generals is expected at Frohsdorf."

The *Journal de St. Petersbourg* states that on the 14th of July a gunboat, carrying the English flag, approached Otchakoff, and threw a number of shells into the Russian batteries. Otchakoff commands, together with Kilburn, the strait by which the lagoon of the Dnieper communicates with the Black Sea, and must be passed on the way to Nicolaieff and Kherson.

A telegraphic despatch from Konigsberg states, that advices from St. Petersburg announce that the Russian commanders at Sebastopol are preparing for an eventual retreat from the Karabelnaia suburb. A bridge has been ordered to be constructed between Fort Paul and Fort Nicholas, so as to secure the communications between the northern and southern shores of the harbour of Sebastopol.

ODESSA, July 28.—The garrison of Odessa, now the head-quarters of General Lauders, was yesterday reviewed. It consists of 16,000 infantry, two regiments of light cavalry, and a few batteries of artillery. The telegraphic line from St. Petersburg to Sebastopol is now in operation throughout its entire extent.

We have advices from the Crimea, *via* Marseilles. The greatest secrecy was maintained in the allied camps respecting the position of the works, and no one was permitted to approach the masked batteries. General Pelissier was constantly inspecting the allied works at Kamiesch. General Canrobert's command had been conferred upon General Espinasse.

MARSEILLES, Aug. 11.—The accounts by the Sinai state that an immense quantity of projectiles have been conveyed to the trenches. There still remain some works to be executed. The *Presse d' Orient* states that 56 batteries have been prepared for the general attack on the left at a distance of from 50 to 120 metres from the enemy. Omar Pacha has not yet left the capital. The Turks are fortifying the Danube. The mouths of the Sulina are intercepted by brigands, and commerce calls for protection. Difficulties have arisen in the Principalities between the Turks and the Austrians. The latter pretend that they ought to have notice given them of any movement among the Turkish troops. Schamyl still remains in the mountains. Kars still holds out.

POLAND.

The meeting in favour of the organization of a Polish Legion and the restoration of Poland, was held on Wednesday, when the chair, as previously announced, was taken by the Earl of Harrington. The *Daily News*, which has taken the lead in this movement, says, in its impression of yesterday, " We are not ashamed to say that the result of the postponed Polish meeting has deeply mortified us. An opportunity was afforded to the inhabitants of the metropolis of doing real service to Poland and Europe, and nothing has come of it. The meeting was called upon solemnly to declare, that the claim of Poland to have its nationality re-established was indefeasible; and that, as a first step to the re-establishment of its nationality, the enrolment of a Polish Legion ought to be urged upon Parliament and the Government. But instead of these resolutions, the meeting, after a tedious scene of gesticulation, inarticulate noise and anger, voted that nothing should or could be done, until Lord Palmerston was turned out of office. As if the task of promoting the resuscitation of Poland were not in itself sufficiently arduous, it was resolved, that it should be linked with the task of bringing about a ministerial crisis in England. The advocates of such a policy remind us of Charles Lamb's legend of the Chinese, who, in the infancy of the culinary art, burned down a house whenever they wished to roast a pig.

The truth is, that although Lord Palmerston is a favourite with the middle classes in London and throughout the country, he is essentially unpopular, and always has been with the class below them—the majority of which class composed this meeting. This gathering of the friends of Poland could not do otherwise than act as they did, and hence the failure of the meeting, and the ire of the most democratic of the London journals. The whole opposition was previously arranged on the model of the old Chartist meetings, and as the hatred of the nearest relations is notoriously the most bitter, it was in the nature of things that this meeting should commence in ill blood and end in all but an outbreak,—as the squabbling at one time threatened to do.

The Administrative Reformers fared better on the same day, at the London Tavern, in the city. Previous to the speaking, a long report was read relative to the mode in which the Executive Government should test the capabilities of candidates for official situations, accompanied by suggestions of various kinds for the extinction of patronage, and of officers, the utility of which is more than questionable. Mr. Rowland Hill is in favour with the Administrative Reformers, who are of opinion, that if the office of Postmaster-General be not abolished, it ought to be conferred on him, Sir William Molesworth is also in favour with these progressionists, because he has distinguished himself in the field of colonial improvement; and the new judge, Mr .Willis, was declared to be the " right man in the right place." This kind of criticism may appear invidious, but it cannot fail to make an impression on the popular mind, and, to some extent, press forward the executive. Just in proportion as the new Association marks its sense of discreet appointments, will it be able to effectually resist bad ones, by concentrating in agiven direction, an amount of opinion which was previously unheeded, because it had discovered no adequate mode of expression. The Association has now arrived at a critical stage of its career, and a short time will test whether it has the elements of enduring vitality or not. The political has been combined with the administrative reform movement; Parliament is to be reformed as well as the public officers. We saw from the first that it must come to this, but the stage has been reached sooner than we anticipated. At the same time, we miss in this new Association the presence of the earnest, able, and indefatigable men whose talents and energy have successfully worked out modern popular movements. In Ireland, O'Connell and Shiel, in England, Cobden and Bright, were the types of model demagogues with heads to scheme and hands to execute their conceptions, and there may possibly be equally favorable specimens in the new institution; but certain it is that so far they have not made their power or their presence felt. The support, too, of the great morning organ, which was given so heartily to the Administrative Reform scheme in its incipient stage, is already wanting. In yesterday's *Times*, the " open competitive examination" principle put forward by the Association, is ridiculed in a half-bantering, half-serious spirit, for the purpose, it would appear, of bringing the whole thing into contempt, and the article on the subject concludes with this unmistakable sneer—" Indeed, we very much doubt whether the Administrative Reformers themselves, who have sanctioned this scheme, would like to have their banks, or their shops, or their warehouses filled by the possessors of the greatest number of marks [*i.e.* badges of merit.] The figure, the manner, the way of speaking, the connexions and all that makes the man, tell quite as much in mercantile establishments as in Government offices, and, of course, they would not be indicated by marks."

RUSSIAN NEWS FROM THE SEA OF AZOFF.

Loss of a Screw Gun boat in the Sea of Azoff.

The *Jouanal de St. Petersburg* contains the following news from the Sea of Azoff:—" On the evening of July 23, a screw gun-boat, belonging to the enemy, approached Taganrog and fired upon the city. While vespers were being chanted in the cathedral, a large-sized ball struck the wall, but occasioned no further damage than causing a piece of stucco in the interior to fall on and bruise the Archpriest Seboff. The Divine service was not interrupted, and not one of the faithful left the building. At nightfall the gun-boat went in the direction of the point called Krivaia-Kossa, and on approaching ran around within 40 sagenes of the shore. On learning this, Major Afanassieff went immediately to the spot with a sotnia of the regiment No. 70 of Don Cossacks, made his men dismount, and sheltering them by means of the ruggedness of the ground, opened a fusilade against the gun-boat, in order to prevent its crew from pushing it off. The enemy directed a cannonade against our Cossacks, but his fire was not of long duration. Owing to a violent east wind lowering the level of the water, the boat got more and more aground, and completely settled on its side. One of the enemy's large steamers then drew near to lend assistance, and approaching very near to the coast, opened a violent cannonade against the Cossacks, and made every possible effort to save the stranded boat. In the meantime Lieutenant-Colonel Demianoff, commander of the No. 70 Regiment of Cossacks, had brought two more of his sotnias to Krivaia-Kossa, and making them dismount, opened such a fire of musketry that the enemy could not keep at work on the deck of the gunboat. After a long fusilade, the crew, despairing of saving the boat, got into their small boats, without even being able to cary away their flags. Twenty Don Cossacks them threw themselves into the water, and, fighting against the billows, and in spite of a redoubled cannonade from the steamer, gained the boat, and after taking from it the flag and Union Jack, and two 24 pounder brass cannons, set it on fire, and it burnt to the water's edge. This gunboat had three masts, and was nearly 120 feet long. When the Cossacks reached it, the enemy's steamer left. The portion of the boat which escaped fire was soon covered with sand. The Cossacks tried to bring off the machinery, but there were great difficulties in the way. I have ordered that the two cannon be sent to Novotcherkask. Thanks to God we had only three Cossacks wounded during the affair. I send with the present report the flag and the Union Jack taken by our Cossacks."

FIFTY-FIVE BATTERIES READY TO OPEN ON SEBASTOPOL.

The latest official intelligence from the Crimea states that 55 batteries are in a condition to open fire on Sebastopol, some of which are within 50 metres of the enemy's works. Some portion of the work to be accomplished by the English was not yet complete. An immense quantity of *materiel* was being placed in temporary depot ready for action. The French have not pushed on their advanced work without some loss. The enemy has shown no disposition to economise ammunition. During the whole of the late operations, night and day, the firing has never ceased on the part of the Russians. There is every reason to calculate that when the allies od open fire the effect will be terrible. We know from Russian accounts that the affair of the 17th and 18th caused the death of many of the inhabitants of Sebastopol. At the present moment the non-combatants are moving to the north side, and under the shelter of fort Nicolaieff. In this direction, too, the public offices have beer removed, and all the trading population have left, it would appear, their homes also, for the north side of the town. The enemy, of course, is aware of the damage which the advanced artillery of the allies will create.