HASZARD'S GAZETTE

Wednesday, March 12, 1856.

THE ENGLISH MAIL arrived on Saturday night a little after eleven o'clock. We have gleaned the most important news, which we lay before our readers in a double sheet, instead of an Extra, as was promised.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE CONFERENCES.

The following is extracted from the letter of the *Times* Paris correspondent, dated Feb. 13, six p. m.:—

"Baron Brunow arrived here last night, at half-past ten o'clock, by the express train from Strasburg, and took up his quarters in the hotel of the Russian embassy, in the Faubourg St. Honore. M. de Bourquency has already arrived, but has left for Blois to bring up his family. It is to be hoped that Lord Cowley will, on his return to Paris, bring Lord Clarendon with him. The English plenipotentiaries are expected at the end of the week, the sooner they come the better. Count Buol will be here on Friday or Saturday, so at least it is given out. M. Cavour leaves Turin to-day, and will probably arrive on Friday, but the Sardinian minister, the Marquis de Villa Marina, is on the spot, and keeps a good look-out. Ali Pacha, the Ottoman plenipotentiary, will not arrive before the 18th or 19th. Turks do not travel by the electric telegraph like Russians. It is still doubted whether it be possible for the conferences to begin on the 20th.

"A very handsome table has been fitted up at the Foreign office for the plenipotentiaries to sit at during the conferences. It is covered with rich crimson velvet, and, together with the chairs, forms a handsome piece of furniture. It was at first only large enough to accommodate eight persons; but then Sardinia and Turkey had only one plenipotentiary each. Since the decision in favor of two it has had to be lengthened, and now is large enough for twelve. The two additional places are, no doubt, meant for Prussia, if Prussia behave herself as she ought. I have already mentioned that Count Walewski, as minister for foreign affairs of the sovereign in whose capital the conferences are held, will preside.

"It is said that one of the first acts of the Emperor of Russia, after the signature of the treaty of peace, should we be so happy as to see it, will be the formal notification to France and England of his accession to the throne. In diplomatic fiction, these powers, it seems, are supposed to believe that the Emperor Nicholas is still living."

Paris, Feb. 14.—Count Buol ought to have reached Strasburg to-day. He is expected at Paris this evening or to-morrow morning. Count Cavour arrived at Lyons to-day, which place he was to leave immediately for Paris. Aali Pacha left Constantinople the day before yesterday; it is thought he cannot arrive at Paris before the 22nd inst. It is supposed that the conferences will not open before Thursday next.

According to the Paris correspondent of the *Oesterreichische Zeitung* the three Powers have already agreed on the most important points to be adjusted at Paris, and one of them is, that Nicholaieff, not being on the coast of the Black Sea, is not to share the fate of Sebastopol.

PRUSSIA AND THE CONFERENCES.

A diplomatic despatch has been published, dated the 7th inst., and signed by the Prime Minister, which represents the views entertained by the Court of Prussia. Prussia accepts the five propositions, and is ready to take part in the Paris Conference if invited, Prussia engages to procure the acceptance of the Germanic Confederation, provided she is specially represented at the Conferences, so as to permit her to follow and appreciate the divers views which may be entertained by the different Powers. This is thought to refer to the fifth point, though that it is not stated. It is believed at Berlin that Austria proposes a middle course, and will be satisfied if the German Diet accepts the propositions with the omission of the fifth point; but there is no official confirmation of this.

TURKEY.

The following intelligence has been received under date of Constantinople, Feb. 4th:—"There are hardly any foreign troops here. There are 1000 French in camp at Malask, and two English battalions, with a small cavalry detachment, at Pera and Scutari. Mehemet Kiprisli Pacha acts for Ali Pacha, who will soon leave for Marseilles in the Ajaccio. Advices from Trebizond of the 28th January state, that the Russians have evacuated part of Turkish Armenia and retired to Erivan."

On the 2nd instant, the propositions of the Ambassadors for the amelioration of the condition of the Christians were submitted to the Great Council and accepted. In a few days the official acceptance is expected.

The Fourth Point may be thus regarded as settled in principle. The next point, relating to the organization of the Principalities, will be the object of the next conferences. It is intended to settle this point before the negociation in Paris begins, in order to have the project ready for discussion there.

THE RUSSIANS IN ASIA MINOR.

Baron Rosemadesque, a Frenchman who has lived a long time in Mingrelia, being attached to the household of the Princess Dadian, has arrived at Constantinople. The news which he brings is very re-assuring. Having been, until lately, with the Russians, his information about them may be trusted. He says, that the troops on that side, even if favored by the finest weather, could undertake nothing against Omr Pasha's army which is in undisturbed possession of the country up to Koloni, and has its communication open with Suchum Kaleh. The inhabitants seem to be, on the other hand, better disposed than they were before. They are beginning to bring in provisions, chiefly Indian corn, for sale.— *Times Correspondent.*

The Grain trade throughout the kingdom has been quiet, and the different provincial markets millers and dealers have practised the same caution which has characterised their operations for some time past, and the transactions generally have only been to meet the requirements of buyers. Holders of Wheat and Flour have ceased to press sales, and prices have been pretty well maintained, in fact, in some of the country markets, an advance of 1s to 2s per quarter on Wheat has been obtained. At Liverpool, there has been only a limited inquiry for Wheat, without much change in quotations. Flour moves off slowly at previous rates. Indian Corn has been comparatively neglected, and all descriptions must be quoted 1s per quarter cheaper. Oats and Oatmeal are each the turn cheaper, but Egyptian Beans are a shade firmer.

Mr. Gisborne is now in Egypt to make arrangements for the laying of the submarine electric telegraph from Constantinople to Alexandria to cross Egypt, and be hereafter extended from Suez to India.

The Dutch Government have concluded an important treaty of commerce with the Emperor of Japan, which gives them privileges from his Japanese Majesty denied to the Governments of England and the United States. By this treaty Dicjma is ceded to the Dutch, whereon to form an entrepot for their trade with the people of Japan, allowing them to land their goods and stores without paying any duty, or being subject to the inspection of the authorities, excepting when they trade with the city of Hangasaki, when a duty will be levied upon all kinds of merchandise.

DR. SANDWITH'S NARRATIVE OF THE SIEGE AND CAPITULATION OF KARS.

Dr. H. Sandwith, the only gentleman in the garrison of Kars, who has had the good fortune to regain his liberty, and return to England, related, the other evening, to a number of his fellow-townsmen at Hull, the story of the siege and capitulation of that fortress. The following is a summary of his narrative:—

"The details which Dr. Sandwith has given show how nobly the Turks maintained their position under adverse circumstances; how ably the English Commissioner acted the part of general; how vain were the repeated attemps of the Russians to storm the place; and how impossible it would have been to plant the Russian standard upon its batteries, had not their cause been powerfully aided by the peculation of rascally pachas, and indifference, trickery, or incapability on the part of the Turkish Government."

After showing how successful were the efforts of Gen. Williams, seconded by the co-operation of Col. Lake, Capt. Thomson, and Major Teesdale, in restoring the Turkish army to discipline and order, and in making Kars, once defenceless, impregnable to all but famine, the writer in the *Post* proceeds:—

"Then came the 29th September, the Feast of St. Michael, a favourite saint with the Russians. The whole force of the enemy bore down upon the city. The assault raged on all sides. Occasionally the Russians got within the batteries, but were as often driven out at the point of the bayonet. For seven hours, the roar and clash of battle went on; but the end came at length, and, with their infantry broken and destroyed, the foe beat a swift retreat, and Kars was safe. The want of cavalry alone prevented the Turks from annihilating the enemy's forces. The gallantry of that defence has not been exceeded by any event in the war on either side. It rivals Silistria and Sebastopol, and places General Williams in the foremost rank of English commanders.

"But dark days followed this brilliant triumph. The enemy's cavalry were ten thousand strong, and in perfect order and condition. These surrounded Kars, and all hope of communication with Erzeroum was cut off. A rascally pacha in the latter city kept holding out promises of immediate succour that never arrived. Then the work of death began. Gaunt hunger stalked in the streets. Women and children lay down by the roadside to die. Some reproached the troops—others besought them to take the children. The end was not long in coming. Three days' biscuit was all that remained—the army was faint and famishing. Against such an enemy there was no resistance. General Williams proceeded to the besieging lines with a flag of truce, and, after a brief interview with General Mouravieff, the Russians received the submission of their conquerors."

The narrative of Dr. Sandwith abounds with thrilling episodes. Here is one:—

"We rode for five or six miles to our outposts, consisting of about three hundred miserable cavalry. While observing the Russians, my eyes were attracted to a dark body looking through the gloom, and bearing down upon us. We watched them carefully, but they appeared to disperse. Nevertheless Colonel Lake commenced a quiet retreat, and the word was given, 'trot,' 'canter.' We had not proceeded far, before three whole regiments of Russian Dragoons swept like a whirlwind down upon us. There was the crash of carabines and the clash of swords, and they cut our little force to pieces, though, thank God! I am here to tell the story, but very few escaped."

This picture deserves a place beside Lord Cardigan's brilliant description of the Light Cavalry Charge at Balaklava.

The brave zeal of the Karsian populace is affectingly illustrated:—

"In the great assault on the 29th of September, every shopkeeper, tailor, shoemaker, and soldier in the place issued out armed with muskets and guns, and fired into the retreating soldiery. The very women brought us ammunition in their aprons, and assisted us in every way, crying out 'We pray for you; 'We will help you;' 'May God sharpen your swords.' Some of these devoted women, I regret to say, fell, but they fell gloriously, like true heroines, as they were!"

The sufferings of the Turkish soldiers from starvation were dreadful. Many dropped down at their posts from sheer hunger and exhaustion; but their public spirit was beyond all praise. In those terrible days of death, when scanty provisions for only three days were laid up in the fort, there was not a single instance of even a biscuit being stolen.

It was a cold snowy morning when General Williams left his hungry, yet staunch and mortified army to offer terms of capitulation to General Mouraviéff. The English General insisted upon certain terms of capitulation, the concession of which, on the part of General Mouravieff, was absolutely essential to the surrender of the place in its entirety. Had these been refused, he was prepared to destroy every gun and trophy, and leave the place a heap of ruins. According to Dr. Sandwith, the reply of the Russian Commander was most chivalrous.

"General Williams," he is reported to have said, "you have won for yourself a name in history; posterity will stand amazed at the courage, at the endurance, and at the lofty qualities exhibited by you in this siege. Yourself and your troops are covered with glory. I have no wish to outrage humanity by anything unbecoming me as a general, and the terms you ask I accede to."

Nothing then remained but for the wretched, hungry Turks to lay down their arms, and to defile before the magnificent array of Russian soldiers, the deepest grief bowing down the stern endurance of the famished defenders of the place, the women wailing from the house-tops, and the Englishman's heart burning with mortification at the gross mismanagement that had brought a devoted army to that woeful plight.

THE ALLIES AT KERTCH.

KERTCH, Jan. 24.—The ice having at length broken, on account of the prevalent strong southerly winds, we are now enabled to continue our landing of stores, and the transport fleet in the bay are obliged (much to their dissatisfaction) to have recourse to their boats and lighters once more, after having amused themselves for the past month in discharging their cargoes daily on the ice. We all hail with delight this change in the weather, for between the various daily reports of an expected attack from the Russians in our rear and the channel frozen over to the Taman side in our front (almost sufficient to allow the crossing of an immense army), our situation has been anything but comfortable, and, with the exception of our transport skippers, who rejoice in anything like demurrage, especially in Government employ, everybody seems in high glee.

We have received almost daily for the past month accounts from Tartar spies that a large body of the Russian army are entrenching themselves at Argin—the place where the 10th Hussars and Chasseurs d'Afrique had a skirmish with the Cossacks in September last. From this we can draw two inferences—either that an attack is meditated on this place, or that, the navigation of the Sea of Azoff being now rendered impracticable by our gunboats, the Russians are availing themselves of the "tongue of Arabat" in forwarding their supplies into the Crimea. The latter suggestion is thought the most probable, for since the Kinburn affair the enemy will prepare themselves for the loss of Perekop, and, having determined to "make hay while the sun shines," are thus taking advantage of the inclemency of the season. In the meantime, should their object be an attack upon us, they will find, that General Vivian has not been idle, and with the limited means at his disposal has rendered this place, in a military point of view, perfectly capable of resisting an attack by an army of 30,000 men. The only obstacle heretofore has been a want of siege guns to put into position, which deficiency has been in a measure attended to by the Commander-in-Chief before Sebastopol and the Serasskier at Constantinople, the latter having sent us some beautiful 32-pounder brass pieces from the foundry at Tophane.