Progress of the War.

ARRIVAL OF OMAR PACHA AND THE TURKS AT BALACLAVA.

To-day Omar Pasha, at the head of 15,000 Turks moved down to Balaclava, and relieved the Zouaves and French regiments at Kadekoi. The Turks looked fine troops, and are the same fellows who have just given so good a specimen of their courage at Eupatoria. At Kadekoi, the weakest garrisoned portion of our lines near Balaclava, 8,000 have been posted behind strong breastworks, which the Turks today still further defended by the addition of thirty pieces of artillery. These ought to secure our position at that point, if it is in the power of earthworks and guns to do it. While the transfer of the troops was taking place, the Russians showed in large force in the plains, and on the summit of Canrobert's Hill, where it is now again for the 50th time asserted that they are getting up guns. On one hill, however, the enemy showed for the first time today, and their presence there was regarded with some inquietude though any, efforts they can now make from that point must be quick indeed to be in time at all.

THE SQUADRON AT SPITHEAD.

Russell, 60, screw, Captain Francis Scott, arrived at Spithead on Tuesday evening, and has taken up her position to the eastward of the squadron. Spithead is again looking formidable, with eight line-of-battle-ships and four corvettes—the four sailing ships being flanked by the screws, making an extended line from east to west of about two miles, and moored as follows:—Russell, 60, screw; Pembroke, 60, screw; Calcutta, 84, sailing; Powerful, 84, sailing; St. George, 120, sailing; Neptune, 120, sailing; Howe, 60, screw; Hastings, 60, screw.

A despatch published in the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, of the 29th, confirms the death, by a cannon ball before Sebastopol, on the 17th of the Russian Admiral Istomine.

General Williams, armed with full powers by the Sultan, is pursuing his inquiry into the disordered state of the Turkish army in Asia. Several Colonels have been tried, and severe discipline was re-established.

Some of the French soldiers recently made a paper kite, to which they attached a French flag, and let it fly above Sebastopol.

Colonel Kelly, of the 34th, is a prisoner at Sebastopol, slightly wounded. Captain Montague, of the Royal Engineers is also a prisoner, and is not wounded.

The gallant Captain Vicars, who fell in resisting the late sortie of the Russians, was the brother of Lady Rayleigh, and his loss (says the *Chelmsford Chronicle*) has carried into the noble family at Terling the pangs of private sorrow, in which the country deeply sympathizes.

Andres Tillalon, lieutenant of engineers, and Ramon Fernandez de Cordova, lieutenant of artillery, in the Spanish service, have been authorized by the Emperor of the French to proceed to the Crimea, where they are to be considered as French officers in active service, and are to be allowed horses and rations like them. Letters of introduction are also to be given to them for General Canrobert, and to the generals commanding the artillery and engineers.

The Government are fitting up every available ship and steamer which has been lying idle in various ports, so that in about six months' time it will be, to a considerable extent, independent of the merchant and packet service, for war-transports. Already the charge for tonnage for war purposes is reduced. Large numbers of the present war-transports will, in a few months hence, be restored to the merchant and packet service.

A St. Petersburg correspondent, writing on the 31st ult., says, "To-day an ordnance has been published concerning the beards of the soldiers. The Emperor has deigned to order, first, that the soldiers who mount guard on week-days shall not be required to dye either their hair or whiskers; and secondly, on Sundays and feast-days they must mount guard with their hair and whiskers waxed and dressed."

The Washington correspondent of the New York tribune says, that the French Legation has intimated that should hostilities ensue between the United States and Spain, France will promptly support her European neighbor.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.—Events have verified the intimation, we first hazarded, that the object of the Hon Mr. Howe's mission to the United States was, to set on foot the enlistment of foreigners for British military service, in that country. The first detachment of the recruits, Mr. Howe has succeeded in procuring, arrived by the brig America, on Friday morning in 46 hours from Boston. This lot, numbering between 70 and 80, mostly Germans, landed at the Queen's Wharf, and was marched to the Garrison Hospital, escorted by a large crowd of boys through the streets. Having passed medical scrutiny at the Hospital, the recruits proceeded to Melville Island. With few exceptions, they looked very mean personally, and their toggery was shocking bad, but it is not beyond the bounds of possibility, that soap and water, brushing and combing, wholesome rations, neat uniform, and drill, may effect a great change for the better in their appearance. The U. S. press scolds most fiercely at the agents for the enlistment, but seems to know nothing of the chief commissioner and operator, as it does not, even once, mention Mr. Howe's name in connection with the affair. When he presented himself to Mr. Crampton, at Washington, with Sir Gaspard Le Marchant's despatches, that functionary was actually preparing to advise the Home and Provincial Government, that the plan of raising a foreign corps in the States was unfeasible. But Howe has established the confidence he is prone to put in himself, that he can effect anything he undertakes.—*Acadian Recorder.*

RUSSIA.

Advices from St. Petersburg of the 14th instant state that great dissappointment was felt there with the terms of the general amnesty lately published. For more than a quarter of a century nearly 400 families of the aristocracy had continued to deplore the absence of one or more members at the mines of Siberia, in the dungeons of the various fortresses, or in the ranks of the Caucasus, exposed to daily and even hourly combat with the semi-barbarous tribes of that country; and the rumors of the intended act of grace had diffused joy among innumerable domestic circles. The sad reality of the official Gazette soon dispelled these illusions. One twenty-fifth of their debt is remitted to all Crown debtors; and the same proportion is observed in the remission of political punishments. The tone of the addresses of the nobility is considerably altered; their warlike spirit is lowered, and there is no more mention of sacrifices ready to be incurred in obedience to the circumstances of the crisis. The nobility are beginning to see that the war is but now assuming its most serious aspect, and that the sacrifices already demanded are merely the precursors of others still more serious.

The Grand Dukes Nicholas and Micheal are now on their return to the Crimea; and considerable movements of troops are taking place towards he south.

The deputation of officers lately sent by the King of Hanover to express his condolence with the present Emperor of Russia, has among other things, brought the King back a sample of the granite of which the Cronstadt fortifications are built. These gentlemen, while staying in St. Petersburg, took a drive all round and about the harbour of Cronstadt in sledges, their road taking them from time to time, between ships of the line and frigates, with the guns of the fortress covering them at every fresh step. Of course, the said gentlemen are perfectly convinced of the impregnability of the place. St. Petersburg is represented as having been converted into one great manufactory of arms and warlike instruments. In the place of the Guards, that were formerly always stationed in the capital, there are now 36 battalions of the reserve of the Guard.

A pamphlet professing to contain the Russian official account of the battle of Inkerman has appeared at Berlin. One very interesting fact is contained in the introduction, but unfortunately comes to us too late to profit by. After the battle of the Alma and the march of Prince Menschikoff to Bakshiserai, the whole garrison of Sebastopol consisted of just four battalions and the body of seamen; at that time, also, none of the present outworks existed, with the exception of the wall of the town.

A young American Surgeon, now in Russian employ and stationed at Sebastopol, in one of his letters to his American friends, says:—"Some of the missiles thrown by the enemy (the allies) have at least the attractiveness of novelty. I saw at General Osten Sacken's a ball made of very hard wood, like those used in bowling alleys, weighing perhaps 12 lbs., sent over either by the French or English. One contrivance of destruction which they occasionally make use of is well worth mentioning for its droll novelty. It consists of the half of a cask or barrel, to the bottom of which is fitted a cylindrical piece, which just fits the calibre of a mortar. They fill this with small grenade bombs and send it over.

A VESSEL SUNK BY A WHALE.—On the morning of the 21st ult, as the British schooner Waterloo was plowing her way through the waters of the North Sea, on a short voyage from Lynn to Shiedam, a huge whale was discovered to windward swimming in the direction of the vessel. When about ten yards from the schooner, going at a tremendous rate, he dived slightly, and struck the vessel a fearful blow abreast the fore rigging. Then throwing his tail in the air so high, that according to the stories of the stories of the sailors it nearly touched the fore yard, he dived and was seen no more. The ship heeled and cracked with the blow and immediately commenced sinking. The long boat was cleared and all hands jumped into her without food or water, and pushed off. She capsized and disappeared soon after. The men, six in number, were picked up by a French fishing boat and kindly cared for. The leviathan who caused the disaster is supposed to have been a *Russian* whale, on a privateering cruise.

STRANGE AND FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—The city of Bristol, in England, has been startled by a frightful accident, a great iron bridge having been carried away by a collision with a steamboat. The bridge in question, which was of cast-iron, was of 160 feet span, and comprised a single arch. A steam-barge, laden with coal, and worked by a screw-propeller, with an engine of six-horse power, was descending the river, when she came in contact with the iron frame-work of the bridge, which rests on side piers.—The force of the collision was so great, that, notwithstanding the power of a very strong ebb tide, the steamer rebounded eight or ten feet, and the bridge immediately fell with a tremendous crash, carrying with it everything that happened to be upon it. Of the extent to which life was sacrificed, it is quite impossible to speak with any accuracy. Three or four persons swam to the banks, and were got out alive, but several other persons are missing. Two carts were thrown in, and one or two of the horses were drowned. It is thought probable that many bodies will be found among the heavy *debris* of the iron work.

UNITED STATES.

The Washington Cabinet is entirely harmonious upon the Cuban Question. Commodore McAuley's instructions are not such as to create a *causs belli*. He will resort to force only if a case should arise in which international law will fully justify it. The Administration is strongly in favor of pacific relations with Spain, and Spain is fully advised thereof. It is thought her Cuban indiscretions and outrages against our commerce arose from the deep seated conspiracies among the Islanders, which irritate and confuse Concha. But he knows that his assaults upon our citizens must be stopped at once, and the Administration think they shall stop them without the least danger of a war with Spain.

The Treasury department have allowed all the disbursements claimed by Lieut. Beale, late Indian Agent for California. The result is a complete vindication of Beale against the charges some time since made by the newspapers of delinquencies.

The Ericsson Experiment is at an end. The invention is conceded to be a failure, and poor Ericsson is a ruined man. He has spent all his fortune in building his caloric ship, and in the experiments he has made on the vessel. He has done more; he has spent all his wife's fortune, which is great, and she, too, is beggared. But the worst of all is that it has led to such recrimination and alienation that they have separated, never to be united again, perhaps. Had he been successful, his name would have been enrolled with that of Columbus, Newton, Fulton, and other men of illustrious renown. But he has failed; he has lost his all; he has introduced ruin into a once loving and happy home, and the world coldly looks on and says, "I told you so."—*Boston Journal.*

EXTENSIVE CONFLAGRATION IN BOSTON.—LOSS OVER HALF A MILLION OF DOLLARS.—*Boston, April 28th.*—A destructive fire broke out about half-past two P. M., in the north part of the city. It commenced in a wooden building at the head of Battery wharf, on Columbia street, and a gale blowing from the north-west the flames spread with great rapidity to Lincoln wharf and the People's ferry, also doing much damage in Constitution wharf. The space burned is about three acres, covered mostly by old wood buildings of no great value. The new East Boston ferry buildings have been destroyed also. A new block of three-story wooden buildings owned by Arnold Taylor, on Battery wharf, was swept nearly clean, including nearly 2000 bales of cotton and a large quantity of beef, pork, and other merchandize.—On Lincoln wharf, a large quantity of wood, coal and lumber was destroyed. The ship Pharsalia was burnt to the water's edge. The ship Diana, just from New Orleans, with a valuable cargo of cotton, pork, &c. was badly burned and cargo damaged. The ships Gen. Gerry and John Bertun were towed into the stream with some damage to masts and rigging. Schr. Robert Stone, from Wilmot, N. C., was nearly destroyed. Several other vessels suffered slight damage. Three engines and one carriage were destroyed; the fire-men being surrounded by fire on the wharf were compelled to escape in boats.

The *N. Y. Courier* chronicles a beautiful act of delicate munificence; it says, that on Sunday week, among the contributions at the Church of the Holy Communion to the funds of St. Luke's Hospital, was a roll of five one-thousand dollar bills. They were dropped so quietly into the plate, that not even the gentleman who received them knew from whom they came.

Governor Gardner, of Maine, intends enforcing the prohibitory liquor law to the very letter.

The Postmaster of New Orleans has been arrested on the charge of purloining from a letter the sum of $600.

Father Gavazzi is expected to arrive in the United States in a few weeks but not in time to attend the customary anniversaries.

A correspondent of the Scientific American suggests, that as a difficulty exists in getting white paper to print upon, black paper might be substituted, with white ink. White on a black ground is more distinct, and the eye is then relieved from the glare of rays from the white surface.

THE KNOW NOTHINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS.—BOSTON, April 23d.—The Know-Nothings of this State are about to publish an explanation of the objects and aims of their organization. It is said to be a document of much ability, and has been fully endorsed by the order of the present dominant party.

A family of six individuals in Clyde, N. H., were poisoned last night by using arsenic accidentally, instead of saleratus in the preparation of biscuit. None of them are dead, but their lives are despaired of.

Mr. Gillis of Salem, Mass., late from California, shot himself dead on Tuesday evening, on the steps of a gentleman's residence in Cambridge. He was in love with a young lady in the house who refused to marry him.

The *Scientific American* (which, by the way, should be taken by every club and literary association throughout the continent) says:—"In some sections of the State of Mississippi, the people, it is reported, have pulled down a number of miles of telegraph wires, because some learned ignoramus had demonstrated to the people, that the long drought in these regions was caused by these wires carrying off the lightning, which used to bring heavy rains."

New York was visited by a violent hail-storm on the morning of the 18th inst. The papers state that in several places hail-stones fell measuring seven inches in circumference.

Severe losses of lives and property were caused by storms in various parts of New York and adjacent States, about the 1st inst.

There are said to be at least 20 per cent more acres in wheat at the present time in Illinois, than in any previous year. The weather has been extremely favorable.

The American Government intend to send 4000 soldiers to the Western Plains to "chastise the Indians" for their numerous attacks and depredations on the whites.

The present prices of flour in the New York market are said to be higher than at any period during the last forty years. Within the past few days, a further advance of 25cents has been realized on all qualities.

Advices from Montreal to April 24, state that nearly the whole of the town of Vienna, between Hamilton and Beaufort C. W. has been laid in ruins by a great conflagration.

BERMUDA.

The Bermudian Islands were visited by a heavy gale on the 1st of April, which inflicted much injury on such of the fields of potatoes as lie in exposed situations. The Arrowroot crop is unusually short.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

MISSING VESSELS.—The Clipper ship *Alice*, Captain Clarence DeWolf, 399 tons, sailed from this port on the 17th of Feb. last for Liverpool, and by the latest accounts from that port she is not reported as having arrived. As she was a remarkably long and sharp-built vessel, and likely to make a very good passage, it is generally feared, that some accident has befallen her. She was loaded with deals, and had about seventy tons of ballast. Messrs. Gilbert and Company are the owners and Mr. John Thompson was the builder. The master was quite a young man, and much esteemed by a number of highly respectable families in this city, by whom he was well known—*St. John N. B. Courier.*

A Steam Bakery has been established in St. John, N. B., by a Mr. Rankin.

HALIFAX, May 3.—A murder has been committed near the Nine Mile House, Sackville, in a place of entertainment kept by one Dennis O'Brien. A man named Drinn, entered the House with a pistol, which O'Brien induced him to give up. Suspecting a colored man to have robbed him of a handkerchief, Drinn demanded the pistol, which he loaded with the intention of being revenged, and in his endeavor to shoot the colored man, he shot O'Brien in the arm, the ball passing through the back of his wife. Mrs O'Brien died on Wednesday morning. Drinn is in custody.—*Church Times.*