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EDWARD WHELAN]

This is true Liberty, when free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

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Literature.

IMPLORA PACE.

Up to the silent Heaven the cry ascendeth,
"Bid war and tumult cease!"
Solemnly with the midnight winds it blendeth,
"On earth let there be peace!"

Too long have yonder holy moonbeams glistened
O'er fields of strife and blood;
Too long have yonder starry watchers listened
To sounds of war and wo.

Too long in waiting at Bethesda's portals,
The Spirit's troubling wing
To heal earth's turbid waters, hapless mortals
Have lingered, wearying.

Bid that six thousand years of bloody story
Suffice life's mighty book;
Unfold one pitying page of peaceful glory,
Where seraph eyes may look!

One snowy leaf whereon recording angel,
With truth's own ray, may write
Deeds sympathetic with the great Evangel,
All pure and kind and bright.

O, dove of peace! as once in record old,
Brood o'er the surge's breast;
Spread wide thy "silvery wings and feathers golden,"
Till all be hushed to rest!

O printless footsteps! once at midnight stealing
O'er stormy seas at will,
Walk on the billowy waves of human feeling,
And bid them, "Peace, be still!"

(From the Edinburgh Review.)

THE TAURIC CHERSONESE.

1. *The Crimea and Odessa: Journal of a Tour, with an account of the Climate and Vegetation.* By Dr. CHARLES KOCH: translated by JOHNSON B. HORSNER. 8vo. London: 1855.

2. *An Historical Sketch of the Crimea.* By ANTHONY GRANT, D. C. L., Archdeacon of St. Albans, &c. 12mo. London: 1855.

It is almost impossible to cast one's eyes upon the map of Europe, without being struck by the remarkable geographical position of the Crimean peninsula. Projecting like an advanced bastion, into the midst of the Black Sea, completely commanding the mouths of two of the greatest rivers of Eastern Europe, the Don and the Dnieper, and lying opposite to the Danube and the Bosphorus, it seems destined to secure the dominion of the Euxine and to exert the most important influence over all the surrounding countries, both of Asia and Europe. At the present moment, when the eyes of the whole civilised world are bent on this remote corner of the Russian Empire, and the question of ascendancy between the East and the West appears about to be decided within the narrow limits of the Crimea, an inquiry naturally suggests itself as to the past fortunes of a region destined to play so important a part in the present contest. Has the Crimea never before assumed that position in history, for which its geographical advantages so eminently qualified it? or has it first emerged from obscurity since it became annexed to the Russian Empire? Probably all our readers are aware that before the reign of Catherine II, it was governed by its own Tartar princes, as a dependency of the Turkish Empire; and many of them will remember the combination of fraud and force, intrigue and injustice, by which its transfer to the Russian Crown was effected. But we suspect that there are few among them who have any acquaintance with its history in earlier ages. And yet indications are not wanting that it has a past history, and that it has not always been the abode of wandering tribes of Tartars, like those who have swept over the plains of the Ukraine and the Steppes of the Volga, without leaving any permanent traces of their occupation or record of their existence.

In Dr. Koch's pleasant, but somewhat superficial, little volume, and more fully in the older and more satisfactory works of Clarke and Pallas,—to which we recur for information concerning the Crimea, not to be found in more recent books of travels,—it will be remarked, perhaps not without surprise, that numerous relics of Greek civilization are still preserved on the shores of the Tauric peninsula; and it may be inferred, that the high-sounding Greek names of Eupatoria and Theodosia are not mere modern fictions, but really preserve the memory of that highly gifted race, which has left the indelible marks of its presence wherever it established its widely disseminated colonies. On the other hand, the Genoese castles, whose mouldering towers still crown the rocks of Balaklava as well as the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, remind us of a period,—much more recent indeed, yet now almost equally forgotten, when that active and enterprising commercial people were the undisputed masters of the Euxine, and the trade with Persia and India was almost wholly centered in the Genoese colony of Caffa. Even in the midst of the absorbing interests of the present, some of our readers may be glad for a moment to recur to the past, while we endeavour to present them with a brief review of the historical associations of the Crimea.

The establishment of the first Greek colonies on the shores of the Euxine belongs to a period before the commencement of authentic history. The greater part of those colonies were sent forth by the Ionian city of Miletus; and of the history of Miletus itself we know nothing, beyond the general fact, that it was in very early times one of the wealthiest and most flourishing cities of the Greek world, and that it was indebted for this prosperity to its extensive trade, and the commercial energy and activity of its people. It was, in fact, the Venice or Genoa of its day. But the greatness of Miletus had as completely passed away, as that of Venice or Genoa has now, before the period of Greek history with which we are most familiar. Even in the days of Aristophanes it had become a byword and a proverb for something altogether gone by. Hence we can scarcely expect any very accurate historical account for the foundation of its numerous colonies. But we know from the concurrent testimony of antiquity that it was to Miletus the Greeks were indebted for first opening to them the navigation of the long-dreaded waters of the Black Sea. Tradition had preserved the memory of the day, when that sea was still the terror of mariners; and when we remember the kind of mysterious apprehension with which it was regarded even at the outbreak of the present war, we certainly cannot wonder at the fears it inspired in the infancy of navigation. We are rather struck with admiration at the boldness and energy of the people who could, with such imperfect resources, explore its unknown extent, and penetrate to its inmost recesses. The legend of the voyage of the Argonauts, in the form that it has been transmitted to us, is evidently founded upon traditional tales of the dangers encountered by the first voyagers in the Euxine.

But the perils of the deep were not the only dangers, these early colonists had to fear. Vague and mysterious stories were current of the fierce character and savage habits of the barbarians who bordered the shores of the Black Sea. The Tauri especially, from whom the Crimea derived its ancient name of the Tauric Chersonese, were represented as sacrificing human victims to their deities, and offering up without mercy the unhappy stranger who was unfortunate enough to be cast upon

their shores. Herodotus speaks of this barbarous custom as if it still subsisted in his time; and there seems no doubt that it was really prevalent at the period when the Crimea was first visited by the Greeks. It thus became the basis of the well-known legend of Iphigenia in Tauris, to which the Greeks certainly gave a "local habitation" in the Crimea. The temple of the virgin goddess, in which the daughter of Agamemnon was believed to have officiated as priestess, was still shown in the days of Strabo; but the image of the deity was no longer to be found on its pedestal, according to the legend that it was carried off, together with Iphigenia herself, by Orestes and Pylades. The temple itself was situated within a few miles of the city of Chersonesus, on a lofty promontory commanding an extensive view over the sea; and its site has been fixed with much probability in the immediate neighbourhood of the monastery of St. George. It is a curious coincidence between the very earliest and the very latest records of this region, that the rocky headland from which the temple of the sanguinary goddess frowned upon the Greek mariner, should be the very same spot from which the wires of the electric telegraph have just been placed in communication with our own metropolis.

Well might the Greeks give to a sea fraught with such dangers, both real and imaginary, the name of Axine, or the "Inhospitable": it was not till the Milesians had in great measure dissipated its terrors, and peopled its coasts with Greek colonies, that it came to be known by that of the Euxine or the "Hospitable," which it has ever since preserved. So far as we can discern through the dim historical twilight of this period, it was as early as the seventh, if not the eighth century before the Christian era, that this process of colonisation took place. It is certain that before the close of the sixth, the whole circuit of the Black Sea was surrounded with a complete girdle of Greek towns, several of which were already engaged in an extensive trade with the interior, and had risen to a condition of opulence and prosperity; while they all had carried with them their language, their civilisation, their religious legends, and their republican institutions. Other cities had followed the example of Miletus; and the Greeks had made themselves at home on the shores of Scythia, as well as on those of Gaul and Africa.

There can be little doubt that the colonies along the western and southern shores of the Euxine preceded those on its northern coast. At a very early period a range of flourishing Greek cities already extended along the southern coast of the Euxine from Heraclea to Trebizond. The most considerable of these was Sinope, a name so familiar to us all from the recent catastrophe of the Turkish fleet, but equally well known to Herodotus and Xenophon as one of the most important commercial cities in the Black Sea. Eastward of this were Amisus (Samsun), Cerasus, and Trapezus or Trebizond itself: all of them either colonies of Sinope or founded directly from the parent city of Miletus. The cities on the west coast were of inferior importance and never rose to any great prosperity; but two of them may deserve a passing notice.—Odessus, which seems to have occupied the same site as Varna, while its name has been transferred by Russian caprice to the now celebrated city of Odessa; and Tomi, so well known to every schoolboy, as the place of exile of Ovid, from whence he poured forth his querulous elegies. We cease to wonder at the lamentations of the unfortunate poet when we learn that the place of his banishment was situated within a few miles of Kustendji, on the coast of the barren and insalubrious Dobruddesha.

But it is with the colonies established along the northern shores of the Euxine that we are now more immediately concerned. One of the most important of these—apparently in early times the most considerable of them all—was Olbia or Olbiopolis "the wealthy city," as it was called by its inhabitants, though better known to the Greeks in general by the name of Borysthene, from the great river (now called the Dnieper), near the mouth of which it was situated. Its position on the estuary of the Dnieper, just where it receives the river Bug (the Hypanis of the Greeks), secured to it very much the same commercial advantages with the modern city of Odessa, about fifty miles further west; and the rapidity with which this Russian port, which scarcely counts more than sixty years of existence, has risen into a great and opulent city, will serve to illustrate the manner in which the Milesian colony of Olbia attained to the prosperity from which it derived its name. It was visited by Herodotus in his travels, and it was there he collected the curious and valuable information concerning the Scythian tribes of the interior, which he has left us in the fourth book of his history. The extent and accuracy of his knowledge sufficiently shows how widely spread were the relations which the Greeks had already established with the barbarian nations from the banks of the Dnieper to the sources of the Don and the Ural mountains.

Next to Olbia, but inferior to it in importance, was the city of Chersonesus, or Cherson, as it was called in later times which was placed near the western extremity of the Tauric peninsula, in the immediate neighbourhood of Sebastopol, and on the very ground now the scene of contention between the French and the Russian armies. Its ruins were still visible, on the west side of the Quarantine Bay,* when the Crimea was visited at the beginning of this century by Pallas and Clarke, but they have now almost entirely disappeared. Dr. Koch complains that he could find but little of what had been described even much more recently by Dubois de Montperoux; and the last remains of this long flourishing and powerful city have been carried away piecemeal to furnish materials for the modern buildings of Sebastopol. An imperial ukase has, it appears, been recently issued—when the mischief was already in great part done—to prohibit such vandalism; but it has been obeyed as such decrees usually are when no one in authority is interested in enforcing them.

Chersonesus, which was not, like its neighbours, of Milesian origin, but a colony from Heraclea in Bithynia, was probably one of the later Greek settlements of these coasts; but it certainly became one of the most flourishing of them all. It was, however, unable—in early times at least—to vie with the rival city of Panticapæum, at the other extremity of the peninsula, a Milesian colony, situated immediately on the Cimærian Bosphorus and close to the modern town of Kertch. Here vast ranges of sepulchral mounds still attest the long duration of this powerful and opulent city, and have afforded to the researches of successive excavators an inexhaustible store of coins, gold ornaments, painted vases, and other objects of art—the unfulfilling accompaniment of Greek civilisation. From its position on the Cimærian Bosphorus—the narrow strait which forms the entrance to the Sea of Azoff—Panticapæum naturally commanded the whole commerce of that inland sea, and became almost the sole channel of communication with the barbarian tribes which surrounded its shores. Phanagoria, also a Greek colony from the Ionian city of Teos, was situated on the opposite side of the straits, in the peninsula of Tana; but seems to have early given way to the preponderance of Panticapæum, which was commonly known to the Greeks as "the city of the Bosphorus." Theodosia, on the southern coast of the Crimea, about fifty miles west of Panticapæum, and like that city, a Milesian colony, was a city of subordinate importance, and first rose to be a considerable place of trade after it had passed under the dominion of its more powerful neighbour.

But the Greeks of the Northern Bosphorus were not content

* Some remains are also to be found, or were so till very lately, on the south side of the Bay of Kamiesch. These, which are marked on several maps as the ruins of Cherson, are evidently the remains of the old city of that name, which was already in ruins in the days of Strabo, the inhabitants having quitted the site for that nearer Sebastopol. (Strabo, vii. 4, p. 308.)

† This author, who, in 1832, devoted two months to an elaborate examination of the ruins of Chersonesus, of which he has given us a complete plan and description, himself remarks that their destruction was going on with such rapidity, that he was in haste to take an account of what still remained, before they should have entirely disappeared. (Voyage autour du Caucase, vol. vi. p. 137.)

with thus commanding the entrance of the Sea of Azoff; and with the view of extending still further their commercial relations with the wild tribes of the interior, they at a very early period established a commercial station or factory at the mouth of the river Don or Tanais, which ultimately became itself a thriving town, and in the days of Strabo was inferior only to Panticapæum as an emporium of trade. The position thus selected was marked by nature as one of the chief points of communication between the East and the West. Tana, which in the middle ages succeeded to the Greek colony of Tanais, was still one of the chief centres of the trade with Asia when the Black Sea was frequented by the Venetians and Genoese; and after an interval of some centuries, Taganrog, founded by the Russians in the same neighbourhood, rose rapidly to great commercial prosperity, and has only been recently rivalled by the increasing trade of Kertch.

There can, indeed, be no doubt that the commercial relations of the Greeks with the semi-barbarous tribes of the interior, differed but little from those of the Venetians and Genoese eighteen centuries later; and even at the present day the trade of Taganrog and Kertch with the merchants of the Archipelago and Mediterranean, represents that of Tanais and Panticapæum in the days of Herodotus. The wants of a nomadic and pastoral people, as well as their productions, will always continue very much the same. "The mare-milking Scythians, dwelling in waggons," described by Herodotus, were probably scarcely to be distinguished from the modern Tartars; and the Argippæi of Herodotus are characterised in a manner in which it is impossible to mistake the ancestors of the present Kalmaucks.† The furs of the Ural mountains were brought down by the caravans to the Greek ports on the Euxine; and the slave markets of Greece were supplied from the wild tribes of the Caucasus. Salt fish and corn were then, as now, the staple productions of the southern provinces of the Russian Empire. The fisheries of the Palus Mæotis were already turned to account by the natives of its shores, under the direction of the Greek colonists, in whose hands they became the objects of a lucrative trade; and the pickled sturgeon and caviar of the Don and the Dnieper were among the favourite dainties of Athenian epicures.

But far more important than these was the trade of the same provinces in corn. From the earliest period at which we have any information concerning them, the countries north of the Black Sea were known as among the richest wheat-growing regions in Europe. Even in the days of Herodotus,‡ the peasants of the Ukraine were engaged in growing corn, not for their own consumption, but for exportation from the Greek port of Olbiopolis. The Athenians especially, whose scanty and barren territory was altogether inadequate to the supply of its numerous population, derived a large part of their support from the shores of the Euxine. In the time of Demosthenes this trade was almost wholly absorbed by the two ports of Panticapæum and Theodosia, both of them at that time subject to a ruler named Leucœon, who seems to have been fully alive to the value of these commercial relations with Athens, and gave a great stimulus to them by recruiting all export duties on the corn destined for that city. According to statistical returns quoted by the great orator, the quantity imported into Athens from this quarter alone, amounted, one year with another, to 400,000 medimni, or nearly 75,000 quarters.§ But in the year of scarcity it greatly exceeded this amount, and if we may credit the numbers given by Strabo,||—whose statistics, however, are far less trustworthy than those of Demosthenes—Leucœon on one occasion supplied the Athenians with no less than 2,200,000 medimni (415,000 quarters), within a single year.

This Leucœon was one of a dynasty of rulers, who governed the Greek colonies on the Cimærian Bosphorus during a period of more than a century. The existence in these secluded colonies of hereditary monarchy, in general so opposed to all the feelings and prejudices of the Greeks, is an anomaly, which we have no means of explaining. We learn, indeed, that, like the despots or tyrants of so many other Greek states, they retained the semblance of republican forms, and ruled over the cities of Panticapæum and Phanagoria, under the title of their chief magistrates, while they assumed the regal title only over the neighbouring barbarians. But one cause which undoubtedly contributed to the permanence of their authority, was to be found in their personal character. All accounts represent them as a series of enlightened rulers, distinguished for the mild and equitable spirit of their government. Besides fostering their commercial connexion with Athens,—a policy which seems to have been a hereditary tradition among them, having been commenced by Satyrus, the father of Leucœon, and continued by his son Parisadæ—they became the patrons of men of letters, and lived in habitual intercourse with the philosophers of their time. Some of these even took up their residence at the court of the kings of the Bosphorus, and were taunted by their adversaries with displaying a very unphilosophical eagerness for the wealth and favours which it was in the power of those monarchs to bestow. The speeches of Demosthenes, as well as those of his contemporary orators, contain numerous references to the little kingdom of the Bosphorus, and sufficiently show us how completely the Greek colonies in the Crimea, notwithstanding their secluded position, were regarded as constituent members of the Hellenic world.

This was probably the period of their greatest prosperity. Shortly after one of those unfortunate gaps occurs which so often interrupt our researches in ancient history; for owing to the loss of the later books of Diodorus, we lose sight almost entirely of the Greeks on the Bosphorus for a period of nearly two centuries. When they reappear in history we find them struggling hard with the northern barbarians, and on the point of being overwhelmed by hordes of Scythian invaders, who threatened to extinguish all traces of Greek civilisation north of the Euxine. Up to this period it is remarkable how little they appear to have suffered from their barbarian neighbours. We hear, indeed, of Parisadæ, the son of Leucœon, being engaged in a war with the Scythians in the time of Demosthenes; and it is impossible to suppose that such hostilities should not have occurred from time to time; but the great prosperity attained by the Greek cities, as well as the extent of their commercial relations with the interior, prove that such a state of things was not of very frequent occurrence. The tribes immediately bordering on the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff nearly acquired the first elements of civilisation, and occupied themselves with husbandry or with the productive fisheries at the mouths of the great rivers. The wild race of the interior, who preserved their primitive wandering habits, were content to leave these agricultural settlers and the Greek colonists themselves in the undisturbed possession of the more fertile districts, so long as they paid them a moderate tribute.

But this state of things appears to have undergone a great change at the period to which we have just referred; and it would seem as if in the interval during which we lose sight of the little kingdom of Bosphorus, some considerable movements had taken place among the wild tribes of Scythia. The Sarmatians, a people who in the time of Herodotus dwelt exclusively to the east of the Tanais, had crossed that river and spread themselves over the broad plains of southern Russia, from the Don to the Dnieper; and with them we find associated the name of the Roxolani, a people who now appear for the first time in history, but who have a special claim upon our attention as being in all probability the ancestors of the modern Russians. Contemporaneously with the pressure exercised upon the Greek colonies by these new hordes of northern invaders, there had arisen within the Crimea itself a power more formidable than any previously existing. The Tauri, a tribe long remarkable only for their ferocity and barbarous

customs*, would seem to have at length imbibed to a certain extent the habits of their more civilised neighbours, and were consolidated into a regular kingdom by a chief named Scylurus, who soon became a formidable neighbour to the Greeks of the Chersonese. It is clear that this monarch possessed more than the ordinary resources of barbarian warfare, as we are told that he hemmed in the Greeks of Chersonesus with a chain of fortresses; against which they in their turn erected a line of wall, fortified with towers, and extending from the deep inlet of Balaklava across to the head of the bay of Sebastopol. The remains of this fortification, which was repaired and strengthened long afterwards by the Byzantine Greeks, were still extant in the days of Pallas, and may perhaps still be traced, whenever the Russian artillery shall leave the valley from Balaklava to Inkermann open to antiquarian investigation.

While the inhabitants of Chersonesus were thus hemmed in by Scylurus, at one extremity of the peninsula, the Sarmatians were pressing equally hard upon those of the Bosphorus at the other. Parisadæ, who then ruled at Panticapæum,—probably a lineal descendant of the earlier monarch of the name,—had in vain sought to buy off the formidable invaders by offers of an increased tribute; and at length saw no other resource open to him than to sacrifice the independence of his country, by calling in the aid of a monarch who had recently founded a powerful empire on the southern shores of the Euxine. It was thus that the little kingdom of the Bosphorus became merged in the dominions of the great Mithridates.

That remarkable man, one of the few eastern sovereigns in ancient times who have earned for themselves an enduring place in history, had succeeded at a very early age to the throne of Pontus—the name given by the Greeks to the mountainous province which occupies the south-eastern shores of the Black Sea, and extends from the waters of the Euxine to the cold and dreary highlands of Armenia. Here, after the dissolution of the empire of Alexander, a petty kingdom had arisen, governed by a race of native princes, who had already ruled the same territory as satraps under the Persian Empire. They claimed to be descended from the royal House of the Achaemenides, to which the kings of Persia had belonged, and asserted their lineal descent from one of the seven Persian nobles, who had conspired with Darius Hystaspes against the Magi. But for a considerable period their dominions were limited and their names obscure. Pharnaces, the grandfather of Mithridates the Great, was the first who annexed to his dominions the city of Sinope, at that time the most flourishing and important of all the Greek colonies on the southern coast of the Euxine, and which became thenceforth the capital of the kings of Pontus. Mithridates the Fifth, father of the more celebrated monarch of the name, had still further extended his power by entering into an alliance with the Romans, and assisting them in their war against Aristonicus, the last of the kings of Pergamus. The all-powerful republic had already begun to dispose of the kingdoms and provinces of Asia according to its sovereign will and pleasure; and the consul Manius Aquilius rewarded the services of the king of Pontus with the extensive district of Phrygia. But the senate refused to ratify his acts; and though they did not disturb the elder Mithridates in the possession of his newly acquired territory, they soon after took advantage of the minority of his son to wrest from him the province thus bestowed upon his father. The young prince was in no condition to resist. Left at the age of eleven years in nominal possession of the sovereignty, he found himself surrounded by unfaithful guardians and exposed on all sides to the designs of treacherous foes, whose machinations had already brought about the death of his father. But the difficulties and dangers by which he was thus beset only served to call forth the latent energies of his character, and became the means of training him up to future greatness. Early acquiring the habit of profound dissimulation, so essential to an eastern despot, he pretended to be indifferent to the cares of royalty and insensible to political ambition. Devoting himself with ardour to the pursuits of the chase, he plunged into the wildest and most secluded mountain districts, and frequently resided there for considerable periods of time, braving all kinds of dangers, while he inured his bodily frame to hardships and privations. At the same time in his intervals of repose he cultivated with assiduity all the branches of a Greek education, for which his capital of Sinope afforded him ample opportunities. His powerful memory gave him a peculiar facility in the acquisition of languages; so that we are told that in the days of his greatest power he could speak the dialect of every tribe that was subject to his rule, and converse with the deputies of twenty-five nations in their several native languages.

* One of these was very peculiar. Whenever one of their kings lost a friend or follower to whom he was much attached, he was expected to cut off a piece of one of his own ears, or the whole ear if the loss was such as to call for a very strong expression of grief. Kings have proverbially few friends; and in a country where such a custom prevailed, they would scarcely be disposed to extend the circle of them.

(To be continued.)

News by the last English Mail.

(From the London News of the World, September 2.)

THE WAR.

If the victory gained by the Allies at the bridge of Traktir, in the valley of the Tchernaya, on the 16th of August, has not been followed up by corresponding movements upon a large scale, with as much rapidity as we anticipated, we have still every reason to believe that the operations of the besieging army, in front of Sebastopol, are surely, though slowly, tending to the triumphant accomplishment of the great end they have in view. It is obvious, from every account that reaches us, that the condition of the Russian garrison, on the southern side of the fortress, becomes, hour by hour, more critical and desperate. Prince Gortschakoff, in his despatches to St. Petersburg, does not attempt to conceal the severity of the defeat sustained by his troops at Traktir; and, although he endeavours to make light of the ceaseless cannonade kept up by the Allies on the external line of fortifications, he is obliged to confess that their siege works steadily advance, in defiance of every resistance that the skill of his engineers, or the bravery of his soldiers, can oppose to them. It is impossible that this state of things can be continued for any much greater length of time, without leading to that final collision by which the fate of Sebastopol will, in all probability, be decided.

General Pelissier, in a despatch of the 24th of August, informs the French Government that, on the preceding night, a party of his troops had succeeded in carrying an ambuscade of the enemy upon the glacis of the Malakoff; that five hundred Russians sallied out to retake it, but were brilliantly repulsed, with the loss of about three hundred of their number; and that the work was held by the French, and turned against the enemy. At first sight this affair may not appear so important as it really is. In order to be properly appreciated, the locality upon which the conflict took place must be rightly understood. The glacis of a military work is that mass of earth which serves as a parapet to the covered way—in other words, it is the inclined plane immediately overlooking the ditch, that ditch being the only obstacle to the advance of an enemy after the glacis shall have been occupied by him. The affair of the 23d, therefore, proves the immediate contiguity of the adverse armies, and affords the gratifying assurance that the Allies now stand on the very edge of the ditch of the Malakoff Tower, which is confessedly the key of southern Sebastopol. As we have already said, this relative position of the contending armies cannot possibly be maintained for many days longer without leading to a fierce collision.

It must be confessed, that the Allied Generals do not appear to be in any hurry about delivering the threatened assault.

* Herod. Fr. 131, 132, ed. Didot.
† Herod. iv. 23. ‡ Herod. iv. 17.
§ Demosth. adv. Sept. p. 467, ed. Reiske.
|| Strabo, vii. p. 311.