

guns on both sides got into play, the Guards being in support of the Artillery—that is, immediately behind them—the enemy's shot and shell flying about in all directions. We were all obliged to lie down, not being in so much danger as if we stood up; we lay in this position about five hours, during which time many of our brave fellows lost their lives. This we considered hard lines, because we could not return the fire of the enemy, they being out of the reach of the Minie rifle. Had I stood up I should have been killed a dozen times, as the Irishman said; while I lay down I am sure some of the enemy's shots passed within a foot of me. One poor fellow, just on the left of me, was seized with cramp in the leg; he stood for a moment—and only a moment—when a ball struck him, knocking him to some distance; of course the poor fellow died instantly.

News by the English Mail.

SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

ABANDONMENT OF THE HEIGHTS OF BALA CLAVA BY THE RUSSIANS.—It is said that the corps of General Liprandi has abandoned the heights of Bala Clava to rejoin the Russian army to the north of the Chernaya, which has overflowed its banks. The *Nouveliste*, of Marseilles, contains the following:—"A rumour was prevalent at Constantinople, which, if it should turn out true, would certainly be of great importance. It was said that the Chernaya, the river which falls into the port of Sebastopol, having overflowed its banks, General Liprandi, with 22,000 men, was cut off from the frontiers, and that three French divisions were on their march to fall on him. Should this intelligence be confirmed, an idea may be formed of the position of General Liprandi, having the Chernaya behind, 30,000 French on his left flank, and 20,000 English on his right."

SUSPECTED SORTIE BY THE RUSSIAN FLEET.—A letter in a French journal says:—"It is remarked that the Russians have begun to arm their ships in the harbour of Sebastopol, whilst a portion of the English fleet is thought to be at Sanope, and a part of the French at Constantinople. It was surmised that the Russians were meditating a dash by sea, to try what chance there was of an attack on our diminished squadrons."

PACIFIC AT ODessa.—EXPECTED BOARDING.—A despatch from Odessa says that a perfect panic reigns in that city. The garrison is weak from repeated drafts to the Crimea. All the trading establishments are closed. Some families have departed for the interior of Bessarabia; others to the Ukraine. The troops which Omar Pasha has embarked at Varna are expected, as well as a bombardment squadron from the Allied fleets.

THE AUSTRIAN MESSAGE TO THE CZAR.—The Cabinet of Vienna has sent to St. Petersburg to notify the treaty of December 2. Count Francis Zichy, who lately passed through Warsaw, where he paid a visit to Prince Paskiewitch. The visit became a long conference, at the end of which the Prince set out for St. Petersburg with the Count. This latter is in great favour with the Emperor Nicholas. He is married to a Russian lady of large property, was imperial commissioner to the Russian army in the Hungarian war, and there became intimate with the principal Russian generals. It is for these reasons that he appears to have been selected for his present mission, in order to impress on the Czar and the persons about him the absolute necessity which exists at present for Russia to make concessions, and to give positive proofs of that love of peace which the Czar has so often spoken and written.

EXPECTED ASSAULT ON SEBASTOPOL.—Private letters received from the French camp before Sebastopol speak of the assault of that place as an event that may be soon expected. From several points of observation everything that is done within the besieged city can be seen. The second line of fortifications is described as very strong. The Russians have availed themselves of every point where resistance can be offered, and what is called the Promenade is not the worst prepared to oppose the allies. The difficulty, however, is not so much to take Sebastopol as to keep it, for we shall be unquestionably exposed to severe fire from the heights and fortresses on the north side. Sebastopol will probably be a complete ruin before we can get in.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 7.—From the 28th of November to the 3rd of December no guns were placed in the newly constructed batteries, the weather being so bad, and the mud so deep. The Turks had arrived at Balaklava, and it was found very difficult to procure food for them. The Russian army had quitted the valley for the heights commanding the Tchernaya. Deserters say that the Russians suffer much. Every evening the garrison opens a fire of artillery on the French position, and makes sorties, which are always repulsed with loss. During the day the enemy's fire is slack. The soldiers are constructing huts. On the morning of the 2nd the Russians attacked an advanced guard of the 50th Regiment, which retired. The Rifles advanced to its assistance, drove back the Russians, and forced them to quit their positions. The Turks are suffering from sickness. The cholera has re-appeared among them. Omar Pasha had orders to send 30,000 men with all speed to the Crimea.

CRIMEA, Dec. 3.—The cause of the Russians cheering yesterday morning is now ascertained. They had received a reinforcement of men and of provisions, and according to the statement of a deserter, both were much needed. The supply must have been very small indeed, for it escaped our observation, and any large body of men or waggon must have been seen entering the city. They also cheered in the morning before they came out to attack a party of the 50th Regiment, posted in the Orens—the caves in the rocks to the left of and below our left attack, in a ravine near the neck of the harbor. As four men had been out in the wet all night, they found their rifles would not go off, and the enemy being very numerous, they were forced to fall back, and the Russians once more established themselves in the Orens. These were soon, however, made too hot to hold them, for a party of the Rifle Brigade was at once pushed down, and speedily dislodged them. We lost two men killed, and two severely wounded, eight men slightly wounded, in this affair. Three men are supposed to have deserted to the enemy—one from the 77th, one from the 23rd, and one from the 88th. It is not true that any man of the 79th deserted.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 6.—Omar Pasha has embarked for the Crimea, with a considerable part of his army. Ismail Pasha commands in his absence the Turkish forces on the Danube. Prince Napoleon has experienced a relapse, and cannot yet join his division.

The *Morgen Post* of Vienna states, under date of Odessa the 14th, that the Russians are transporting their treasures and archives from the Pruth into the interior. General Liprandi has been deprived of his command for a fault committed at Inkermann on the 5th of November. The roads of the Crimea are impassable.

According to a despatch from St. Petersburg dated Wednesday, December 20, nothing of importance has occurred before Sebastopol, up to the 15th of December. Some small sorties had been made with success; in one of them the Russians captured in the trenches of the allies some small mortars, and spiked some others of larger dimensions. The fire of the allies was feeble, and the Russian loss very light.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The following despatch has been received from Admiral Hamelin, addressed to the Minister of Marine: "BAY OF KAMIESCH, Dec. 12.—Four thousand three hundred men arrived on the 10th, with ammunition.

A brick cannonade has been kept up for the last two days. The enemy made some vigorous sorties on our own and on the English lines.

They were driven back by our musketry, and in some instances at the point of the bayonet, after a fierce resistance.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.—A letter from Odessa of the 4th December, states that from the 12th to the 30th November last the army of Prince Menschikoff had been reinforced by two divisions, consisting of from 28,000 to 30,000 men.

The report circulated in some journals the other day, to the effect that 60,000 men passed Perekop to join the Russian army in the Crimea, is, we learn from a good source, entirely untrue. From 15,000 to 16,000 men is the greatest number that the Russians can receive for some weeks.

TRUCKS FOR THE CRIMEA.—Bucharest, Dec. 7.—Mussa Pacha starts on Monday or Tuesday. Thirty or forty thousand Turks and a hundred guns are to be embarked at Varna, or Baltschik under his superintendance. Next week Omar Pasha, too, will start for the Crimea. The troops will most probably be disembarked at Eupatoria. The prospect of engaging in a campaign at this season is not very pleasant; but, taking it for all in all, it is the pleasure for me than this stupid life at Bucharest. I have no doubt Omar Pasha's army will redeem the character of the Turks. Under his eye they are ready for anything, which shows what they would be were they generally well officered.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* says that the intention of the British Government to raise a Foreign Legion had produced a great sensation in that capital. The fears of the Russian sympathisers are awakened by apprehensions of the moral link and example. Not a doubt can exist that the greater part of the German Government will strain every nerve to hinder their subjects of all classes from enrolment; but notwithstanding this it is not doubted that with care there will be no lack of good and trustworthy men who will flock to the British standard.

COMFORTS FOR THE WOUNDED IN THE CRIMEA.—Our readers will be glad to learn that Mr. Hooper, of Pallmall East, had the honor of receiving an order on Wednesday to submit his water cushions and mattresses to the Queen and Prince Albert, and that Her Majesty was pleased to make a selection of different sizes, to be sent to Miss Nightingale, to relieve the suffering of our wounded soldiers who have so nobly shed their blood for their Queen and country. These excellent appliances have been in general use in Her Majesty's naval hospitals, infirmaries, asylums, and unions for some time, as well as by the Hon. East India Company and the emigrant ships; and we confess we cannot understand why the army alone should be denied the comfort they afford, and which we learn from our chief medical authorities is greater than can be well conceived.

(From the London News of the World, Dec. 23.)

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

Our latest accounts from the Crimea reached us as usual through the medium of the electric telegraph. The information conveyed by them is not of a very precise, nor, we must confess, of a very satisfactory character. For several weeks past the siege works before Sebastopol appear to have become almost wholly suspended in consequence of the severe and continued inclemency of the weather, whilst the condition of the allied troops has, from the same cause, been miserable in the extreme. The trenches have been full of water, the roads between Bala Clava and the camp completely cut up and impassable, the camp itself a mere quagmire or sea of mud. A large proportion of the horses belonging to the Allies have died from exposure to the cold, the men in some instances have been upon half rations, and a large mortality has occurred in the ranks of the newly-arrived troops from a renewed visitation of the cholera. These are dismal tidings; yet, in the midst of circumstances of so trying a nature, it is gratifying to learn that the army bates no jot of its high heart and hope—that the men are cheerful and contented under all their privations, and that the commanders are still as sanguine as ever as to the ultimate success of their operations.

Although the bombardment of the town has latterly been much slackened in consequence of the extreme difficulty—not to say perfect impossibility—of bringing up ammunition to the batteries, the Allies, it seems, have not been idle in constructing new works, and in preparing for a more formidable fire upon the Russian defences as soon as the weather shall permit. It will be remembered that when the sailing vessels of the fleet quitted the coasts of the Crimea for the safer anchorage of Sinop and the Bosphorus, they left a considerable number of their heaviest guns behind them. These guns have since been carried into the Allied camp, and are now turned against the walls of Sebastopol. The French have constructed a new battery on the heights of Inkermann, on the extreme right of the British position, and have mounted upon it ten of the ships' long thirty-two pounders. "Great hopes are entertained from this battery," says a correspondent, writing from the spot, "and certainly not without reason. Situated on a most commanding eminence on the north of the valley of Inkermann, it looks down on every house in the town and every ship in the harbour. The rear of the Russian works it will injure—the shipping it is almost certain to destroy. Yet, as I have seen batteries from which even more was expected than from this Inkermann Battery, turn out complete failures, I do not allow myself to be over-sanguine as to the results. On one point, however, I am much pleased with this battery—namely, that it is, though far from the town, on the north side of the valley of Inkermann, and this is one more step towards the complete investiture of the whole place." Other batteries of a similar description have been raised at other points of the line of assault, and will open their fire as soon as the state of the roads will permit a supply of the requisite ammunition. General Canrobert, in communicating with the French Government upon the subject of these new works, expresses much confidence in the results to be anticipated from them.

It has been more than once stated that the Russians have latterly exhibited a disposition to abandon their works on the southern side of the town, and to retire to the second and stronger line of defence on the north. No sufficient evidence has yet reached us of the authenticity of this statement; and we confess we are not disposed to attach much credit to it. The Russians may, probably, have circulated a rumour to that effect in the hope of betraying the allied generals into a rash assault upon the town, when every preparation would be made to receive them with a deadly resistance. We do not anticipate that either General Canrobert or Lord Raglan will be deceived by the ruse. They know the enemy they have to deal with, and will not permit him to betray them.

In the midst of the brilliant exploits of arms performed by the British and French troops since their landing in the Crimea, the very existence of the third party to the alliance—the Turks—seems to have been forgotten, or to have been only remembered by their disgraceful conduct at Bala Clava. It is probable that they will now assume a more prominent, and it is to be hoped a more creditable, part in the great drama in which their own fate as a nation is so deeply concerned. We are positively assured that Omar Pasha, with 40,000 of the victorious troops of the Danube, has sailed from Varna for the purpose of establishing himself at Eupatoria. If this be true the movement must be regarded as one of the highest consequences and value; for, with such an army, and such a general, occupying the country between Eupatoria and Sebastopol, it will be utterly impossible for

the Russian forces now in the Crimea to derive any further supplies or reinforcements by the way of Perekop. Already the condition of the Russian troops at Bakshai-Serai, and even in Sebastopol itself, is said to be deplorable enough; their supplies of all sorts having fallen to the lowest ebb. Should any further supplies be prevented from reaching them, their fate would almost seem to be sealed. We do not doubt that Omar Pasha, holding a separate and independent command at Eupatoria, will keep himself fully on the alert, and will be eager to avail himself of any and every opportunity to vindicate the fame of the Turkish soldiery from the slur unhappily cast upon it by the miserable cowardice of the Ottoman battalions at Bala Clava. We shall be glad, therefore, to hear of the safe arrival at the point where his great skill as a commander may be employed to so much advantage.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., JANUARY 15, 1855.

We are enabled, this week, to give further, though not very important intelligence from the seat of war—the English Mail having arrived on Tuesday evening last, with dates to the 23d ult. Parliament was sitting, and had been much engaged in discussing the prospects of the war in the Crimea, the opponents of Government censuring the Cabinet for not prosecuting hostilities with greater vigour, while the Ministry and their adherents contended that they had neglected no opportunity of securing success to the arms of the Allies. The House of Commons had unanimously passed a vote of thanks to the armies in the East; and a Bill for levying foreign troops was under discussion at the latest dates, and was creating considerable excitement both in and out of Parliament.

The operations before Sebastopol were almost suspended at the latest accounts, owing to the great severity of the weather, but large reinforcements had arrived, and "the fall of Sebastopol" seemed to be as much as ever the war cry which ruled the expectations of the European public; and until that event takes place, and the Allies have buried half their numbers in "storming" that city, it does not appear probable that the world will be satisfied. Now, it has been all along questionable whether this was the most desirable means of securing the success of the campaign. If the assault had been given, and had been successful, the entrenched heights on which the Russian army is, as it were, canted, must then be attacked, and could not be carried without immense loss.

It has all along been our opinion that the allied forces should have placed themselves between the Russians before they were reinforced and the Isthmus of Perekop, by which alone they could receive supplies of men, provisions and munitions of war. That this view of the subject is now strongly impressed upon the allied generals is evident from the sailing for Eupatoria of 40,000 Turks under Omar Pasha, by which the communication of the Russians with their resources may be effectually cut off, and will produce a better effect than all the assaults of Sebastopol, and with much more certainty and much less sacrifice of life. We will not say that Sebastopol will not be stormed—indeed the accounts by the last Mail intimate that that event was likely to take place about the 23d December—but if it should be stormed, we are satisfied that it will be in connection with the operations of Omar Pasha's army in the rear of the Russians—a movement which will do more to conquer the Crimea than all the valor of the British and French troops can accomplish without it, and is more in accordance with all systems of warfare of which we have ever read, than anything that has yet been done. The truth is, that the attack of Sebastopol was from the very first designed by the French and English Cabinets, and had not the cholera deferred its commencement, it probably would have succeeded almost as a *coup de main*; but we very much question its policy in the face of a reinforced army, and fortifications multiplied during the time which was lost to the Allies. As we observed on a former occasion, the place was never regularly invested, but open to receive reinforcements and supplies of every description during the whole period of attack. In fact it has been an anomaly in all the history of sieges. But the increasing numbers of the Allies have at length enabled them to complete, or nearly to complete the investment. The Russians—defeated in all their sorties, and unable from the outside to shake the steady resolution of the Allies, threatened too in their communications—must inevitably abandon the Crimea, whether Sebastopol be or be not assaulted.

In Omar Pasha's being enabled to lead from the Danube and the Pruth so large a force, we immediately recognise the faith reposed in the Austrians by the Allies; and whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the precise meaning of the treaty lately concluded with them, this is certain, that the defence of the Principalities, and consequently of the Pruth and Danube, is considered secure in their hands—thereby enabling a large part of the Turkish force, with all the prestige of success and victory under their veteran leader, to settle scores with the Russians in the Crimea. All these combinations reasonably promise success to the operations before Sebastopol; and though no doubt much suffering has ere this been endured by the Anglo-French army, the prospect of eventual victory was never before so well assured.

The Grand Jury of this County brought their official duties to a close, somewhat prematurely and unexpectedly, on Monday last—that sapient body having applied to the Court for dismissal on the ground, that there was not a sufficient number of jurors in attendance to proceed with the business before them. *Hazard's Gazette* informs us that "there were only thirteen who answered to their names on the first day of the Court, so that the absence of one rendered the remainder incapable of transacting any business." Whether this insufficiency of jurors is owing to any defect in the law, or to want of good management on the part of the Sheriff, we are not prepared to say; but certain it is, that the high and responsible duties which the late Grand Jury were summoned to discharge were left unfinished, there being some Bills of Indictment undisposed of at the time of their dismissal; while there were some duties which they could have very easily discharged, in the performance of which they were obstructed by the obstinacy of two jurors. We allude to the fact that the application for tavern-licences was in every instance refused, or at least the certificates required in such cases could not be issued, there being, as we before stated, only thirteen jurors assembled, two of whom were Sons of Temperance, who, of course, had conscientious scruples against encouraging "the traffic," leaving eleven jurors, utterly powerless to act. The tavern-keepers, therefore, who took out licence this time last year—and we presume they are a very large proportion of the tavern-keepers of the whole County—must either shut up shop, or become illicit traders, if they cannot afford to take out a £10 licence; while a considerable sum of money is lost to the public treasury, with no corresponding benefit to the morals of the community. We have a flourish of trumpets from *Hazard's Gazette* about this "determination" of the Jury, as if the whole Jury had concurred in it; "it is another gratifying proof of the spread of temperance principles," says our cold water cotemporary, "to see a body so influential as the Grand Inquest of the most populous county in the Island coming forward with

such decision to its aid;" (that is, we suppose, to the aid of "temperance principles.") Now we beg leave to assert, as our firm conviction, that the public opinion of the "most populous county in the Island" is not represented in the silly decision of the Grand Jury. In the first place, *top of the* Jury are residents of Charlottetown or its suburbs, and no more represent the opinion of the distant parts of the county than we represent the opinion of the city of London. In the second place, four of those gentlemen are more or less engaged in the liquor traffic themselves, and we are convinced that they could not have lent themselves to the decision in question without great insincerity, if not positive hypocrisy; and in the next place, only two out of the whole Jury are known to be favorable to the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The question then arises, ought those two—responsible to no authority—from whose decision there is no appeal—be permitted, without remonstrance, to twist and pervert the law to suit their peculiar predilections? It was certainly not the intention of the Legislature, in passing the amended Licence Act, that the Grand Jury should have the power of withholding licences, when applicants conformed to the requirements of the law; and if the act is so defective, as we fear it is, that it may be thus misinterpreted with impunity, it will become the duty of the Legislature, on their re-assembling next February, so to amend the law, that no irresponsible Grand Jury—no matter how respectable and influential they may be—shall have any pretext for setting aside the intentions of Parliament. Indeed, we doubted from the first the propriety of conferring upon that body the power of granting or withholding licences. We find now that that power has been abused, through the mistaken zeal of two individuals, who, think, no doubt, they have performed a very clever feat in attempting to force upon the community, by a side wind, the principle of the Maine Liquor Law. But we apprehend they will discover that they have overreached themselves in this matter; for the theory which they love not wisely but too well will be rather retarded than promulgated by the arbitrary exercise of that authority with which they are invested, as we feel assured the Legislature will not much longer leave the tavern-keepers at their mercy, so long as the trade of the tavern-keepers is recognized by the law, and they comply with its provisions. It may be all very well to say that trade is a pernicious one, and ought to be put down. If it be pernicious let public opinion bring its influence to bear upon the Legislature, and let the Legislature put it down. We have no objection to hear the prohibitory principle, as applied to the liquor traffic, fully discussed on the floor of the House of Assembly, and decided there to the entire satisfaction of the adherents of that principle; but we have a decided objection to see a Grand Jury, who have no political or moral responsibility—who represent no considerable portion of the community—who are, in fact, nowhere as soon as their functions cease with the short term of the Court—usurping a power which belongs to the representatives of the whole country and of the Crown.

THE NEW MAIL CARRIERS AT THE STRAIT.

SOME time ago the Islander positively asserted that no passengers would cross the Strait with the new Mail Carriers, until their capacity for the difficult service was fully ascertained. That the Islander's assertion was about as correct in this respect as in many others, may be seen from the following certificate, which we have been requested to publish. It was given on the occasion of the first trip made by Messrs. McRae and Muttart:—

"We, the undersigned, most respectfully tender our heartfelt thanks to Captains Samuel McRae and Lewis Muttart, the Mail Carriers, and the gallant crew, for their kind attention and persevering efforts to effect a safe and speedy passage across the very dangerous and almost impassable Strait of Northumberland, which was effected in two hours and forty minutes.

WILLIAM H. MCKAY, Capt., from St. John's, N. F.  
JOHN MCINTYRE, Capt., from Halifax,  
RODERICK MCKRAE, Capt., from Liverpool, G. B.,  
JOHN S. SUTHERLAND, from Halifax,  
ALEXANDER NELSON, New Brunswick,  
ROBERT D. McLAREN,  
J. C. LOUGHTON, Massachusetts."

SUPREME COURT—HILARY TERM.—The following sentences were pronounced by the Court at the close of the Hilary Term on Saturday last:—

- The Queen vs. Thomas Kennedy—larceny. Sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. Ellen Kennedy—for receiving stolen goods. Twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. Robert McCann—larceny. Six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. Charles Edmonds—larceny. Three months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. James Fitzpatrick—deceit. Two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. William Bridges—larceny. Three months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. John McGear—larceny. Two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. William Warren—larceny. One week's imprisonment.
- The Queen vs. Bridget McKenna—larceny, (two cases.) Four months' imprisonment in all, with hard labour.
- The Queen vs. Arnold—assault with intent to rescue. Four months' imprisonment.
- The Queen vs. George Coles—assault. Fined £15.
- The Queen vs. Dennis Reddin—attempt to rescue. Fined £35.

PUBLIC MEETING IN AID OF THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Prince County, holden at the Court House in St. Eleanor's, on Wednesday the 10th day of January, 1855, called in pursuance of, and in compliance with a Requisition addressed to the High Sheriff of Prince County:

The Under Sheriff opened the meeting, and explained that in accordance with the Requisition he then held, addressed to the High Sheriff, the meeting was convened.

James C. Pope, Esq., was then requested to take the chair, and Thomas Hunt, Esq., to act as Secretary.

The chairman having briefly explained the object of the meeting, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:

- 1st. Moved by James Yeo, Esquire, seconded by Arthur Ramsay, Esquire—  
Resolved, That this meeting sincerely desires to express its sympathy on behalf of the widows and orphans of those gallant men who have fallen in fighting the battles of freedom against the Despot of the North, by aiding in so philanthropic a cause.
- 2d. Moved by the Rev. Mr. Read, seconded by James Craswell, Esquire—  
Resolved, That the brilliant success which has attended our arms in the East calls for devout thanksgiving to God, to whom alone victory must be ascribed.
- 3d. Moved by James Muirhead, Esquire, seconded by William Jamieson, Esquire—  
Resolved, That an Executive Committee be appointed to make arrangements for soliciting contributions throughout the County.