

**THE RUMOURED PEACE.**

(From the London News of the World.)

This peace bubble appears to have burst. Some one, however, is still to be seen persisting to this hour in singing their pacific peans; but the Paris *Constitutionnel*, long the leader of the optimistic party in both countries, is at last fairly forced to own that no propositions of any kind whatever have been made to either of the belligerents, what indeed we have never doubted or denied, that Austria is very busy in her efforts to bring about a renewal of negotiations; but this clever and frequently well-informed journal no longer attempts to do so, and it is to be feared, therefore, that Austria has any warrant, direct or indirect, from the Government of St. Petersburg for her advances towards the Western Powers. We find the old story revived of Austria's determination to impose peace on conditions; if her pacific proposals are not accepted; but how can such a story be made to square with the reduction of her army? To deprive oneself of the means of putting a threat into execution is to render the threat absurd, if not obviously so. In Prussia, it is said, the Emperor has issued a *manifesto*, which once kept Austria in a dignified affliction of activity, may now be felt, and with like effects, on account of the attitude of some of the shipwrecked German Powers. Sardinia has sat an example and taught a lesson to minor States, which seem likely to be of little heart. The secret by which importance is to be acquired has been learned, and is found to be as simple as it is encouraging. Sardinia has by her bravery and honour attained to a dignity which she might have attained to in any other way. We are assured, a growing disposition on the part of the German States of minor order, to take those independent views to which they are invited by the Emperor Napoleon in his memorable speech on the 22nd of October last. The Emperor's symptoms of independence are not lost sight of by Austria, and hence it is that she again attempts to re-enact the miserable negotiation of last year. No doubt she must vary her language, if she hopes to secure any success; but she must hence those intonations of hypothetical hostilities with which the public have been amused during the last three weeks. Until Russia herself shall authorize overtures in her name, there is nothing which Austria may do which will not be regarded as a mere ploy into account. Will Russia lend her sanction to any step of that nature? The declaration of the Belgian *Le Nord*, a journal notoriously employed as the organ of the Russian Government, may be taken as a certain pronouncement. *Le Nord*, in a recent number, says: "The Emperor's peace, yesterday favourably received, is to-day regarded with incredulity. Owing to what has been published in England and France about the exhaustion of Russia, the public opinion is quite disposed to believe that Austria will not be long in making good fully and completely defend herself. Undoubtedly Russia would prefer peace to war; she would gladly accept peace to war; she does not see it as a beggar. Russia, on whom Austria is inflicting heavy losses, is ignorant of the Emperor's intentions dear, and she feels in herself a genuine earnest quite adequate to the preservation of her full vitality, notwithstanding the blows now being, or about to be, levelled against her. She does not underestimate the strength of her aggressor, but she knows her own strength of resistance, a strength increased tenfold by the feeling of national honour, by the enthusiasm of a people, and an army fighting in defence of their native land, in sight of God, whom she trusts and who supports her, and for whom, who blesses them. Russia has done nothing, has said nothing to authorize the belief that she will now go beyond the concessions she made at Vienna for the sake of securing the peace of the world. If, in the absence of reasons for her peace, she indulges in conjectures, they should at

least venture only on such as are probable. The public mind runs the risk of getting bewildered in the midst of this medley of rumours, and the journals take their pains to collect, and the person can be a gainer by the bewilderment of public opinion in a jumble of suppositions or by its creating hopes one day which the next destroys. We repeat, and we do so without growing weary, that the journals take their pains to collect, and the person can be as long as the Western alliance shall not have categorically laid down what the conditions are possible, in its opinion, will render peace which."

What have our peace-mongers to say to this?

**PROPOSALS FOR PEACE.**

Count Esterhazy left Vienna for St. Petersburg on Sunday, bearing despatches, containing propositions for a pacification, on terms which had been finally resolved on. The following are the main points of the proposals.—First.—The liberation of the Black Sea by the exclusion from its waters of all ships of war of all countries and all deminorations, with the complete dismantling of all fortifications of whatever kind on the coasts of the sea, and within its limits.

[If all the ships of war are excluded, the ships of war of the Sultan, we imagine, are meant to be excluded to. The "annihilation" of the Russian fleet in the "Annexation" does not seem to extend to its "extension" in the Bug, or the Danube, or the Sea of Azoff. Nicolaeof, on the Bug, will be the new Sebastopol, and a very pretty float may be built there and floated down to the confluence of the Bug and of the Danube, where it might ride at single anchor, and be of use to the Euxine. New armaments for new wars will be gunboats and mortar-vesels, propelled by screws, and with a light draught of water. These formidable floating batteries may be accumulated in the Sea of Azoff, ready to reach the Straits of Kertch, and threaten the coast of Turkey. The "annihilation" of the Russian fleet in the Euxine means the destruction of these.]

Second.—The reception of consuls, of whatever nations may desire to establish consulates, in all the ports of that sea, in order to make it that the former conditions be faithfully fulfilled.

Third.—The cession by Russia of such portions of Bessarabia as embrace the mouth of the Danube, so as to place the navigation of the lower part of that river once more under the exclusive authority of the Porte.

Fourth.—The surrender by Russia of all claim of authority in the Danubian Principalities.

If, it is added, "these terms be accepted within a reasonable time, then the Austrian Government proposes an armistice, and negotiations for a permanent peace; but, if these terms be not accepted within a reasonable time, which is calculated at about a month from the present date, then Austria will employ the Universal Exhibition for the benefit of the widows and children of those brave men who have fallen in the Crimea."

The Turkish Ambassador in Paris has just announced to Prince Napoleon, by order of the Sultan, that His Royal Highness is at full liberty to call all the forces known, now for the first time, that it was by Sir Colin Campbell's disobeying orders, that the English army escaped annihilation at the battle of Balaklava; or rather, it should be so said, that by countermanding an order of the Sultan, and by the aid of the British land battery, he prevented the enemy seizing on the town, which it was their object to possess.

Why is a cricket on the hearth like a soldier in the Crimea?—Because he often advances under brisk fire.

**MEDALS FOR THE ALLIED TROOPS.**—At the Mint, 370,000 medals are being made for distribution among not only the British but the French, Sardinian, and Turkish troops, and are nearly all in the shape of a crown, or five-shilling piece, the material being virgin silver, or silver without alloy. On the reverse of the medal is executed the representation of an ancient Roman soldier, in classic costume and equipments, and the word "Gloria." Fame is depicted as encircling with the wreath of laurel the helmet of the crown, "Crimea" is inscribed at the side. On the obverse side there is a large medallion head of Queen Victoria, the ornamental work of whose crown is delineated with the greatest artistic delicacy and finish.

**NEW MORTAR BOATS.**—The new iron mortar boat *Capit*, recently built by Mr. John Laird, and now under construction at the Government dock, has given him an order for several more, which are being rapidly proceeded with in Liverpool and Birkenhead. These boats are of iron, and are of the length of 100 feet, and will be painted sea green. They will be of 100 tons' measurement, 60 feet long, 20 feet broad, and 6 feet deep. The *Capit* was completed and got ready for sea in less than three weeks.

It is affirmed in advices from St. Petersburg, that the main force at Odessa will be removed to Nicopolis, and a concentration of forces on the strong positions of the Black Sea and the Baltic.

Other letters state, that it was always intended to send a half Squadron of the 17th Hussars, and that it is not presumed that the fall of Kars will make any change in this plan, but that the "Montenitzi" will make that place his winter quarters.

There is, it is reported, still some talk of Austria's laying reparation before the Frankfurt Congress, and the satisfaction.

A despatch received at Marseilles from Constantinople, to the effect that after a battle Omar Pasha had taken possession of Khoni, a place on the coast of Asia Minor, which had been found in the place 12,000 furs—and that he had pushed on to the banks of the river and made preparations to attack Kutais. The prevalence of the cholera, and the reports which have taken place is not given, but in all probability it is the same event referred to in a communication from the Emperor to the Sultan, which is to the effect that "Omar Pasha was on the banks of the Marnal, three and a half hours' march from Kutais. From that station he had sent a detachment of his troops in possession of the Turks. The security of the roads was obtained after Omar Pasha had taken possession of the village of Kappa, where eight thousand men were stationed. He had also found 12,000 winter coats and other articles of equipment, which were quite a godsend to the Ottoman army."

In a despatch from Berlin it is asserted, that the Grand Duke Constantine has ordered the Captain of every vessel in the Baltic Fleet to be put on the alert, and to be especially to note those articles not furnished in sufficient quantity. This order is said to have been caused by the wrecked state of the *Crews*, concerning which the most incredible tales are told.

**BUSINESS, Wednesday.**—A treaty of defensive alliance has been concluded by France and England, and it is believed that a treaty of offensive alliance will be put into operation in the spring.

**WASAW, Dec. 13.**—An order of the Superior Council of Administration enjoins all the inhabitants of the kingdom to offer gifts to the defenders of Sebastopol.

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.**

**BERLIN, Monday Evening.**—Great arrangements are being made for the ports on English account for victualling and providing for the next spring.

Contracts have also been made in Sweden for the construction of a new fleet of iron ships, with an accompanying arm.

Fresh attempts have been made in connection with the affair of the despatches abstracted at Posen. Intelligence from Russia confirms the difficulty of maintaining the paper money in circulation. The "Patriot girls" toward the expenses of the war are principally made in paper, so that the Treasury gets its notes returned to it. The Emperor's General Order, proposed at Odessa, Nov. 20, mention a large fire at the military settlements, from which the cavalry have been destroyed. Vast stores collected by the Emperor for men and horses have also been destroyed.

**AUSTRIAN AND PRUSSIAN NEGOTIATIONS.**

Since the arrival of Goltzschmidt, Tuesday Evening. Prince Goltzschmidt, who denied the existence of any attempt at peace negotiations have altered their tone.

The contents of the autograph letter the Count brought from the Czar have not been authorized to transpire.

It is reported, however, that they are expected to be published, and that they are expected to conclude the publication of a fresh convention, concluded between the Allied Powers and Austria.

Attempts towards negotiation, made by Austria and Prussia are not concerted, or coincident in terms.

It is rumored that Austria is ready to be more active in negotiations, in case of a treaty. The Allies will consent to erect the Danubian Principalities into an independent state, with the view of the Austrian Imperial family as chief.

**KINBURN.**

A letter from Kinburn, of the 20th ult. in the Press I (read, says)—"We are busily occupied at present in preparing our contracts for the winter, as the cold begins to be pretty sharp. The sea is covered with floating ice, and the vessels at anchor off Ochakoff have their lower rigging and sides covered with ice. When the five or six buildings within the fort shall have undergone the most urgent repairs, we will be ready to quit the fort. I speak of the officers and *engineers* of the administration; as to the soldiers, a number of them are lodged in the casemates; one battalion occupies the barracks, and another the casemates of the fort, and the remainder are under canvas. As however, all are well supplied with warm clothing and camp equipments of all kinds, those even who are in the casemates will be able to brave the rigors of the season. We are expecting 200 wooden luts from Kamiesch, which will be very useful. Gulls, duck, and other water fowl are abundant, and are much to be desired, but unfortunately, many of them when killed are lost for want of dogs to fetch them out of the water. The gulls were very well able to do nothing in the Mediterranean are very delicate eating here. I have them several times a week. A good dog would be worth its weight in gold."

**FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.**

**PARIS, Thursday, Dec. 13.**—According to a report from Berlin, the Emperor has issued an energetic note to Prussia, requesting that a stop be put to exports contraband of war to Russia, otherwise the allied fleets will blockade the Prussian ports.

**RUSSIAN BATTLE OF THE KUBAN WITH THE THERKESSES.**

The *Invalide Russe* contains the report of the Cossacks of the Black Major-General, at Lipson, on the expedition sent on the 22nd of Oct. last against the Tcherkesses, an independent tribe of the Caucasus, who had invaded to the south of the Kuban, and which made continual incursions into the Russian territory. Anly-Yentsoukai, the principal village of these Cossacks, situated on the banks of the Kuban, with some prisoners and three hundred of cattle, they were constantly harassed by the mountaineers; several times, in fact, the Tcherkesses had attacked the Cossacks, and obliged them to cut their hair. In one of these attacks the chief of the natives, Hadji-Hakoi Hadji, is said to have been killed. 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