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NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

From the European Times, April 14.

Respecting the Vienna Conference, all is uncertainty. A metropolitan contemporary, which, notwithstanding its fashionable tendencies and its Conservative politics, is supposed to speak through the inspiration of the Prime Minister—for when he was at the head of the Foreign-office, he bestowed an important foreign appointment on the then editor,—declares, in its impression of Thursday, that there is still a chance of peace resulting from the Conference, although the chance is a weak one. This authority, which is evidently well-informed on the subject, declares that, during the forthcoming visit of the French Emperor and Empress, the news of peace or the necessity of an European war of great vigour and uncertain duration will be received at the English Court, and the extreme limit which the Journal in question has put on the receipt of this intelligence is the 20th instant, but it may possibly arrive on the 17th or 18th. The ninth Conference met on Easter Monday, and we are told that it was short and unsatisfactory. The shortness of the sitting is no proof that the result was unsatisfactory, for we are told in the same breath that the final instructions of Prince Gortschakoff had not reached Vienna from St. Petersburg, which would account for an early breaking up of the meeting of the diplomatists. If France has a complete reliance on Austria, that all parties were awaiting the arrival of decisive news from Sebastopol and that the Russian Court had instructions to pursue a policy contingent upon the character of that news. There was evidently time enough, in the interval of a few days, to convene the Emperor and his meeting on Monday last, to put Prince Gortschakoff in the fullest possession of the views of his Government—if indeed, he had not previously received a complete assurance of the assistance in the article to which we have referred is the explicit statement as to the good understanding which continues to prevail between Austria and the Western Powers respecting which serious doubts have been expressed in several well-informed quarters. It is added that, if peace be not restored by the 15th instant, the Emperor Francis Joseph will immediately declare war against Russia, and will push the war with a vigour most likely to obtain, with the least sacrifice of time, the ultimate object of the allies. On the other hand the same authority assures us, that the King of Prussia has written a long and explicit letter to the Czar, telling him, if peace be frustrated by unnecessary obstacles, Germany will take part with the Western Powers, and that these are veritable statements, they argue well for the future; but certainly, Russia shows no symptoms of acting upon them, if she is not restrained by the Convention of Frankfurt for carrying on the war. For the forthcoming campaign in the Baltic, she is girding her loins; has prepared 200 gunboats to complete the fleet; has increased the number of her 150,000 troops in the Baltic provinces, and is dividing her maritime strength between Cronstadt, Swaborg, and Revel. So at least are the most recent letters from Warsaw; but our observations were doubtless arranged long anterior to the present date, with a view of making the most desperate resistance in the event of war.

A very important article has appeared in the *Monitor* during the present week, and, appearing in the recognized organ of the Government, it demands our necessarily attracted considerable attention. This article is an elaborate exposition of the operations of the Western Powers, and of the measures which have arisen out of the war, done in a very enlightened spirit, with an evident view to an influence on public opinion both at home and abroad. It is a most judiciously and evidently deemed some formal explanation necessary, to satisfy his own subjects, respecting the present position and the future prospects of the war. The article is long, and the subject is entered upon by the *Monitor* in a tone, which must satisfy all reasonable expectations, although there are several

points in the article which military critics might successfully call to pieces. The acts of the commanders are criticised not in an ungenerous, but certainly not in a complimentary strain, for mistakes are confessed by the official organ, which shows an air of ingenuously over the whole production.

What we have often shown is here apparent,—namely, that the skill of the Russian engineers has proved more than a match for their rivals, the allies; and a branch of science, in which the Western Powers were supposed to be pre-eminent has been still better studied by the foe. The influence of the late Emperor Nicholas on his time and age was prominently demonstrated in the fact, that scientific skill of all kinds, and more especially military engineering, always found during his reign, encouragement and a home in Russia,—and against the talent thus exported from Western Europe we have now to contend. How this article in the official organ will please our versatile neighbours we have not very ample means of knowing, for the French press extends its name, and the English correspondents in Paris endeavour to get into the most prominent points which may displease the Government; but the more sanguine and erratic portion of the French people cannot fail to draw unfavourable comparisons between the military operations of the hero of the first empire and those upon whom has devolved the task of conducting the existing campaign. It is to be regretted that the article in the *Monitor* will be to the advantage of Louis Napoleon, for it exhibits him and his Government in a pleasing and satisfactory light. It cannot, however, fail to increase his popularity in this country.

We are weary of narrating the events before Sebastopol, and the public must participate in the feelings already expressed in our columns on the increase. The accounts which come to hand from the Crimea are so tantalizing and so illusory, that all speculation is useless. We feel that the troops are in excellent health, that the weather is extremely fine, that the railway from Balaklava to the camp is in the most satisfactory condition, and that something decisive may be shortly expected, the old story; but respecting this "something" which is to happen we are left in the dark. The telegraphic addresses to the 5th and 6th divisions, and the opinions which prevail at home, the siege is more likely to be raised, than to be persevered with—no lamentable commentary on the strategic skill of the commanders. 10,000 Egyptian troops had been sent to Eupatoria, and Omar Pacha, we learn, occupies two villages already in the neighbourhood of the place. The capture of three hours had been given to permit the belligerents to bury their dead, when it was found that the French and the Russians had suffered severely in the night attack. The Russians are now declared, to have had at least 2000 men put *hors de combat* by that affray. Lord Raglan's despatches, which were so high-sounding in the month of March, and which, in our opinion, have now sunk to the mere commonplace, and had it not been for the ample communications of the special correspondents of the *Monitor*, we should have been obliged to sketch in the private letters, our information from the seat of war would have been too scanty to warrant criticism. The days of great statements are passed, as some assure us, those of great soldiers have evidently passed away also. The Russians deny, that Prince Menschikoff is the author of the 22d of March. Indeed, if the Tartar accounts are to be credited, he has already reached it. But the war does not dispart like the instruments which we have seen in the hands of the Emperor, it may be enabled to gage its probable duration.

THE BATTLE BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.
The account of the battle of the Cosmopolitan at Masselies confirms the statement that a skirmish or engagement of more than ordinary importance had been fought under the walls of Sebastopol on the 22d of March. The Russian English led Colonel Kelly, of the 24th; Captain Browne, of the 7th; and Captain Vieux, of the 97th.

The French lost 300 in killed, wounded and missing. The French set fire to Sebastopol in two quarters, on the 25th, and on the 26th. Between 11 and 12 o'clock at night, columns of Russian infantry came suddenly upon the men in the advanced trenches, and rushed in upon them on the right with the bayonet. When they were first discovered, they were close at hand, and on being challenged, they replied with the universal *ah-ho-ho's* "Basta basta!" In another moment they were bayoneting our men, who had barely time to match their arms and defend themselves. The attack seemed to have been general along the line. At half past 8 o'clock the French batteries began to shell the town, while their rockets were poured every five minutes in streams into the place.

At 10 o'clock, our parties in advance of Chamerley and the 9th, the 24th and the 97th Regiments were assembled in front of the works. The 90th, 21st, and the 57th Regiments were in the trenches on the left attack, and they were, to a certain extent, prepared for the assault of the enemy. About the same time, the French on the right of our right attack, which is separated from the left attack by deep ravine, were assailed. As our lines were hardly pressed, orders were given to advance the troops in a portion of the trenches, consisting of a part of the Light Division, to their support. On the left attack, the Russian advancing with impetuosity through a weak part of the defence, penetrated the third parapet, and took it in reverse. They killed and wounded some of our men, and had advanced to our second parapet. When the covering party and the men in the trenches of the batteries came down upon them and drove them back to the second parapet, the 90th Regiment lost 5 men killed, 6 wounded badly, and 3 missing. The 57th lost 3 killed, 5 wounded and 18 missing. The 21st lost 3 killed, 5 wounded, and 10 missing. As the Russian advance, it is to be ascertained, but it is probable that some of the missing men will turn up, as these regiments have not yet come out of the trenches. The attack was found outside the trenches, and sudden. Our men had been ordered out to the support of the French from one part of their lines, and while they were away, the Russians came up to the flank of the works, and took them in reverse, so that they had to fight their way back to get to their position. The gallant old 7th Fusiliers had to run, but managed to force the enemy when they drove back to *la fourchette*. One brave young fellow, Mr. Cavendish Browne, of the 7th was killed. Two or three musket balls passed through his body, and that the army will not long be deprived of his services. After an hour's fighting, the enemy were driven back, but we have to deplore the loss of the following brave officers, killed or wounded, or severely wounded: Colonel Kelly, Regiment killed; Lieutenant Jordan, 97th Regiment, killed; Capt. Cavendish Browne, 7th Regiment, killed; Capt. Montague, Royal Engineers, wounded; and Major Gordon, Royal Engineers, missing. Two Greek or Albanian chiefs, in full costume, were killed, and a number of our men among the killed. The town was set on fire in two places towards the west; a part of it—at least one large house—was burning till twelve o'clock on the 26th. The British soldiers, Captain Campbell, and afterwards went through the trenches. The bodies of twelve men and of one officer remain in the trenches, and the Russian dead are covered with their dead, mingled with the bodies of the French. A Zouave officer is distinguishable on the slope, close up to the

abatis of the Round Tower, where the gallant soldier fell, as he led on his men in pursuit of the Russians.

More heroic conduct of our soldiers—recapture of the Mortar Battery from the Russians.

Camp before Sebastopol, March 26.

The affair of Thursday night and Friday morning last was not serious for us as was at first imagined. Our loss is instead of being nearly 100 killed, wounded, and missing, did not amount to much more than half that number. When the Mortar Battery was carried by an enormous force of enemy, they held it for about 15 minutes, and were dislodged by a handful of men, who displayed the utmost gallantry and daring. Our men do not relish night fighting. They would sooner meet 10,000 Russians by day than 2000 in the dark, but the circumstances attending this act evince the greatest coolness and bravery on the part of the men and officers engaged in it. At the time the heavy fire between the French and Russians was going on, a portion of the 90th Regiment were employed on fatigue-duty on the right of the now advanced works on our right attack. They were in the act of returning to their posts in the forward batteries, when the heavy firing on the right laid off, when a scattered irregular fusillade commenced in the dark on the left of their position close to the Mortar Battery. Captain Kelly, who commanded the party of the 90th, ordered his men to advance along the covered way to the works, and to be ready to fire, as he found the Russians in complete possession of the Mortar Battery. The 90th Regiment at once opened as heavy a fire of musketry as they possibly could, and the Russians, who were in the greatest haste and steadiness of our men were giving us the advantage, when an alarm was given that our men were firing on the French; but the mistake was speedily discovered by the enemy's fire being poured in with more deadly effect, and the small party of the 90th were thrown into great confusion. Captain Vaughton, at this moment shouted, "Men of the 90th, be brave!" and Sergeant Henry Clark, Sergeant Brittle, a sergeant of the 7th Fusiliers, about the middle of the 30th, and a few of the 10th, dashed out of the confused ranks, and rushed right into the Mortar-Battery. In a few moments these brave fellows drove the enemy beyond the first traverse, and at the narrow way leading into the second traverse they made a stand and opened a heavy flanking fire on the parapet, over which the Russians were making desperate efforts to come upon them. The narrow pass was meantime defended by the sergeants and a few men, delivering fire as fast as they could, and the Russians were gradually repulsed by the fire. With a loud "hurrah!" the gallant little band sprang with the bayonet upon the enemy, who at once precipitately retired, and were followed by the 90th with musket balls, which were poured in upon them incessantly till every round in the men's pouches was expended. In order to keep up the fire, the men of the 90th were ordered to reload, and exhausted all the cartridges they could find in the enemy's pouches. At the first charge of the men of the 90th, the Russian leader, who was an Albanian Cosaque, and whose gallantry was most conspicuous, fell dead. As an act of justice, the names of the officers and men of the party of the 90th, who distinguished themselves in this affair, should be recorded. They are—Clark, Brittle, and Essex (sergeants), Carruthers, severely wounded (corporal), and the following: Captain Vaughton, Nash. Captain Vaughton received a severe contusion in the affair. The corpse displayed by Captain Cavendish Browne, of the 7th, in the most graphic and affecting manner. He was severely wounded at the commencement of the attack, but he refused to go to the rear, the nearly fainting from loss of blood, and he lay on his back, with his arms and gesture, to the front. When his body was found, it lay far in advance of our line, with his arms raised, and his feet against the wall. Many Albanian chiefs there were with the Russians, but certainly the two who were killed led them with intrepidity and ferocious courage. One of them, who struggled into the