

laid upon the road. Above the Col. the main trunk proceeds over the plateau of Sebastopol, following nearly the direction of the railway, crossing the Woronzoff road up to the camp of the light division, on the extreme right. Here the difficulties are of a different character, and the surface and geographical formation changes from deep clay valleys and plains and carboniferous limestone rock hills to a comparatively uniform surface of a very plastic retentive clay; on examination Mr. Evans found this did not exceed an average of 18 inches deep, and that underneath there is a light rubble oolitic limestone rock, similar to that in the neighbourhood of Stroud, Gloucestershire. The whole of the clay was raised to a width of 32 feet, and a solid foundation was found, upon which a road is securely constructed by paving and metalling it with the parts of the oolitic rocks which had become harder by exposure to the weather, and for the worst parts hard metal has been brought from the other districts. It was opened on the 48 days from the time of its commencement. There was no gradient upon it worse than 1 in 17, and it is intended to erect mileposts, and, if possible, to affix lanterns to them, which will be found very useful in the dark wintry nights which are approaching.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8.—A dreadful gale passed over us last night. Many huts and tents were blown down all over the camp.

SURRENDER OF KARS.

We have just received intelligence from St. Petersburg, dated the 16th instant, which places beyond doubt the perfect correctness of the information, exclusively announced by the Morning Post, of the fall of Kars.

The following is the Russian despatch:—"Kars surrendered to General Mouravieff on the 28th November. Vassef Pacha, other Turkish Pachas, and General Willing, together with the whole of the garrison, are prisoners of war."

News received at Constantinople from the Turkish Division, under Selim Pacha, which had been sent off to the relief of Kars, states that the division had not been able to advance.

The table lands of Armenia were covered with snow.

Despatches brought by a courier from Omar Pacha's army announces that the Generalissimo had not yet attacked Kutais, and that the quarters of the army had been removed to the environs of Kales.

The troops now under Omar Pacha's command number 40,000 men, but the transport service was found to be very difficult on account of the season.

Mingrelia and Gouriel are entirely occupied by an Ottoman army of 40,000 men.

Another despatch says, that Omar Pacha's plans may be considerably modified by the fall of Kars. Independently of his army, the Turks have only 21,000 men in Asia.

The Russian Gazette publishes a letter from St. Petersburg, containing extracts from the Caucasus and the Tiflis Blatt, both published at Tiflis, relative to the siege of Kars. The writer says, that early in November the blockaded garrison voluntarily surrendered 15 Russian prisoners and one officer, obviously for the purpose of diminishing the number of mouths to be fed, although at the risk of exposing the extremity of their condition. He then praises the happy audacity of General Susslow's advance upon the Dreen Dagh, which so "imposed" on the Turkish commander, Vely Pacha, that he abandoned the hope of relieving the garrison. It would have been, says, very easy to relieve Kars soon after the 29th of September, but the attempt was deferred, until Mouravieff had had time to recruit his army. The St. Petersburg correspondent, who necessarily writes in ignorance of the fall of Kars, concludes thus:—"Should Kars however, be compelled

to surrender, the enterprise of Omar Pacha will have fallen to the ground General Mouravieff will not have gained any great renown, but the moral effect on the Turkish army and its foreign officers, so helplessly abandoned by the authorities at Constantinople, will be immense. That army, however, may take to itself credit for having held the Russian army of Asia in check, until a season when it must suspend the further prosecution of its plans.

The park of artillery at Kars, when it surrendered, numbered 120 field-pieces, and a few siege guns. The garrison is believed to have been about 16,000 strong. The defiles between Kars and Erzerum are held by the Russians.

*Galguin's Messenger* says:—"The town of Kars itself is but a congregation of huts and squalid dwellings, dominated by an ancient Genoese citadel, long since in ruins and unsusceptible of defence. The Russians would obtain no pleasure, if the inhabitants are poverty stricken. The companion of Krotz will probably have been General Colmen, formerly chief of the staff in Hungary, who replaced General Guyon in the capacity of head of the staff at Kars. This officer is one of the best tacticians of the day, as Kmetz is one of the bravest and most brilliant of infant commanders. The only other Hungarian officers who would incur this danger of being delivered up to Austria by the Russians are Baron Schwartzburgh and Major Tascher. The latter has probably accompanied the two generals in their escape provided such has really taken place; whilst the former, who is expelled from the army, in the animosity of the enemy under his Belgian nationality."

THE PEACE RUMOURS.

The following despatch, dated Vienna, the 17th inst, has been received:—"Count Esterhazy left Vienna yesterday (Sunday) for St. Petersburg, and is expected to return immediately, should the Austrian propositions, of which he is the bearer, not to be accepted by the Russian Government."

The Times Paris correspondent states that the difference which existed between the French and English Governments relative to the conditions on which they would make peace with Russia, are terminated. The propositions which Count Esterhazy will have to communicate to M. De Nesselrode are such as are considered acceptable by England and France. Opinion is divided as to the result of the mission, but the majority incline to the belief, that Russia will not accept the propositions; and if she perseveres in the determination expressed not many weeks since, the Times correspondent fears that that opinion will prove to be correct. Not long since, the Prussian Minister at St. Petersburg had a long interview with Nesselrode, and urged an arrangement, but was unsuccessful. Nesselrode replied, Russia will never treat while there is a single foreign soldier on her territory.

MR. EDWARD OLIVER'S AFFAIRS.—We understand that, the statement which has been going the round of the papers to the effect that Mr. Oliver's estate will only pay 26 d in the pound is perfectly erroneous. The creditors have already received a dividend of 2s 6d in the pound; and, in addition, we may remark that all the debts of the estate, whether sold, and purchased with his (Mr. Oliver's) bills at 10s in the pound, were purchased with a 20s bill of exchange, and the 20s bill of exchange, if the estate pays 7s 6d, and 5s, if it pays 5s in the pound. There is also to be taken into consideration the fact that the freights earned by the government employ in the Black Sea have yet to be handed over to the trustees. In addition to this, there are also several ships belonging to the estate yet unsold.

An establishment has been formed at Serrai, as a branch of the War-office, for the purpose of examining and auditing the accounts of the Turkish Government.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

Russia has put forth this year, part of the whole, at least the greater part of her strength and of her military resources. Her army ready for activity consisted of more than 1,100,000 men, 250,000 of which were either in the Crimea or upon the Danube, 150,000 occupied the Caucasus, 250,000 were disseminated in Poland, 150,000 in Finland and on the Baltic coast, and 250,000 held the garrisons of the interior. To these should be added 40,000 or 50,000 sailors and marines, and the Cossacks of the line. The losses amongst these troops are set down as follows:—"The cholera and other maladies have carried off nearly half the men who occupied the Danube. The Caucasian army has suffered greatly, not alone by war, but from the want of sending reinforcements to General Mouravieff, who complained of being left to wait both soldiers and provisions, and who especially called out to the home government for artillery. A proof of the immense losses in the remainder of the army is to be adduced from the fact, that the students of the university, having been authorized to take officers' rank at once, and without passing any examination, went successively through any inferior grades up to the higher ones, or receiving any education in any of the military colleges of the empire."

REPORTED CONSPIRACY IN RUSSIA.

The Paris *Paris* says, that to the external difficulties she has to contend with, Russia is about to become a prey to internal dissensions of a most serious nature. Private information enables the *Paris* to state, that a conspiracy has broken out in the heart of the empire to overthrow the government of the Czar. Members of the first families are, as usual, to be found among the conspirators. The *Paris* not indicating the source from whence this intelligence extracted, it is, however, to be regarded with the greatest caution.

The gunboat flotilla for next year's campaign in the Crimea, is to be commanded by the Hon. H. Keppel (Commodore), Captain George Elliot, Captain Yulverson, and Captain Key.

The *Press* d'Orient states that the Czar, on looking on the ruins of Sebastopol, exclaimed—"Peace, now, is impossible."

The Emperor of the French has received a letter from the President of the republic of Costa Rica, congratulating his Majesty on the taking of Sebastopol.

Each of the captains selected to command the gunboat and mortar-boat flotilla for the ensuing year's campaign will have a line-of-battle ship armed on file, as a store and depot ship, attached to his squadron.

Five steam-gunboats, lately launched, are fitting out for the East India Dock. They are named the Victor, Emanuel, Wanderer, Intrepid, Griper, and Emerald.

Mr. Laird, the shipbuilder of Liverpool, has received an order from government to build fourteen gunboats, ten of the class 230 tons and 100 feet long, and four, 212 tons and 100 feet long.

The most opulent of Tarin states, that the number of males lately bought in Piedmont for the British Government was 4300, and that 3000 were actually shipped to the Crimea.

In recently digging out foundations in the Crimea for huts, a good many snakes have been discovered, some six or eight inches long, in colour white, bluish, small tails, and flat-headed like the "bush-master."

The office for enrolling volunteers in the Anglo-Silesia Legion was opened at Hunnington in May last, has already enlisted 2200 men. The office is established at the Hotel du Corbeau; the English flag waves over the house.

During the siege of Sebastopol the French army also fired 1,600,000 shot; and their trenches were 200 miles long, and in their construction 800,000 gabions and 1,000,000 earthen saugs were expended; and during the siege 1500 cannon of all sizes and mortars were used.

Cardinal Wiseman contradicts the report of his appointment as librarian of the Vatican.

RETURN OF FRENCH TROOPS FROM THE CRIMEA.—MARSEILLES, DEC. 12.—Troops continue to return in large numbers from the army in the Crimea. The American clipper *Titan* entered the port this afternoon, having on board 1150 men of various regiments whose period of service has expired, and who have received their discharge. They cheered heartily as the ship entered the harbour. The *Titan* sailed from Kamiesch the 13th of November; Constantinople, the 16th; and Malta, the 19th. It was the first of a regular and speedy passage; there is not a sick man on board. The American clipper *Edward Stringer* arrived yesterday, with 1000 men of the 59th Regiment of the line. They are in good health, but they appear to have been severely worked and not over-fed. The British steamer *City* of Washington arrived from Kamiesch on Sunday last, with the staff and 750 rank and file of the 97th Regiment of Infantry. The 97th is one of the regiments which suffered most severely during the siege of Sebastopol. When they marched through Marseilles on Monday, and displayed their colours, riddled with Russian shot, they were loudly cheered by the people.

On Wednesday, 500 artisans, handicraftsmen, and navvies, very carefully selected for the duties which they will have to discharge, embarked with their officers on board the *James* steam transport, and proceeded to an embarkment on *Baud*, and sailed to the Crimea. They form a portion of Sir Joseph Paxton's army works corps.

Miss Nightingale has been in the habit of sending home weekly considerable sums (often as much as £200 or £300 a-weekly), made up of small ones of 20s or 30s which soldiers begged her to remit.

General Todleben met with an enthusiastic reception on arriving at St. Petersburg a few days since. He was greeted by the Duke Nicholas and the generals and officers of the army at Sebastopol, who happened to be staying at the moment in the capital.

We have a reserve force at Malta to reinforce the army in the Crimea of upwards of 10,000 effective men, to which place alone infantry regiments are sent, inasmuch as the rest, with the exception of the Guard, who go direct to their brigade.

The *Genoa Gazette* announces that on the 11th a French steamer entered the port of Spezia, on her way to Marseilles with a prize, having captured a Russian vessel of Ioghorn, sailing under Tuscan colours.

The Duke of Argyll has decided to send out immediately instructions to the officers of the army post office in the East, to open money-order offices in the Crimea, by the transmission of money to the United Kingdom, at Constantinople, Serrai, the head-quarters of the army, and at Baltalava.

The Emperor of Russia, it is said, in his late journey to and from the Crimea, discovered, both in the military and civil departments, a great deal of corruption and dishonesty, added to irregularities of every kind.

A VENERABLE young gentleman, four years old, recently threw his maternal relative into a fit of admiration by the following speech:—"I like 'im most all kinds of cake—pound cake, sponge cake, and jelly cake, but I don't like stomachache."

Men are not attracted by highly-accomplished women, so much as they are attracted by well educated to be able to speak and write accurately, and sufficiently childish not to despise common things.

A DELICATE HINT TO THE FEAR SEX.—The best illustration of a woman in a hurry is undoubtedly a lady in a bustle!

"Ma," said little Wilhelmina, "I don't think Solomon was so rich as they say he was." "Why, my dear?" said her astonished mother. "Because he slept with his fathers; and I think if he had been so very rich he would have had a bed of his own!"