THE RETURN FROM SWEABORG.

Nargen, Aug. 20.—We are resting quietly on our oars after the glorious and successful bombardment of Sweaborg, feeling confident that so important a blow at the pride and power of the enemy will be appreciated throughout Europe, and that our services will be rewarded by the authorities at home. We have not as yet been able to arrive at the extent of the damage done; we can only make a rough guess, from seeing the arsenal, storehouses, magazines, and other important public buildings in a blaze, that it must have been enormous. A heavy shower of rain the day after we left was, without doubt, of great service to the enemy, and most likely stayed the havoc of the devouring element. Sweaborg must, indeed, be in a pitiable state now. The shot and shell fell round us like hail. One red-hot shot went into the magazine of a French gunboat, and lodged between two cans of powder; fortunately the cans were of metal, and that, although the shot absolutely bulged in the outer coating, they had time to extract it before it could do any harm. The Exmouth has gone to Cronstadt. Admiral Seymour will take command of the fleet there, and Admiral Baines rejoins the Commander-in-Chief. It is reported that he (Admiral Baines) is to go to the Gulf of Bothnia, and that Admiral Dundas is about to make a tour of his station in the Duke, accompanied by one or two ships and some gun-boats. The weather is breaking up fast, and everything portends an early winter. After this grand triumph of mortars and gun-boats, I suppose we shall make preparations to give the "Rhoossians" another dose next year with similar weapons. There is no question but that if we had plenty of this class of vessels we could make the Emperor shake in his shoes, even at St. Petersburg. For this season we have nothing more to do, except to keep up the strict blockade we have hitherto maintained, and live in hopes of getting home in pretty good time. The Tartar has been destroying 19 more vessels in the Gulf of Bothnia, and has taken a small steamer; certainly the enemy must wish us anywhere out of this, for in every hole and corner, both in the Gulf of Finland and Bothnia, they are harassed and annoyed most excessively. From Cronstadt we hear that the Russian gun-boats make frequent sorties, under the cover of their batteries, but take good care to make all haste into harbour when any of our vessels make a move. A shell from Risbank struck the Bulldog the other day, when she was chasing these vessels back into their port. Whenever a telegraph appears, it is knocked down. The Russians declare tauntingly, that we are afraid to land. I think we may justly reply to such a taunt by asking them why, in these dark nights, with 35 steam-gunboats at their command, they do not annoy us, the more particularly so as our gunboats have all been withdrawn lately? I have just heard that the Cornwallis, Pembroke, Hastings, and Amphion, are to take a couple of gun-boats each, and go to different parts of the Gulf, there to be stationed until the break-up of the season. It is reported that the Duke goes to Baro Sound and Led Sound; and, lastly, to the neighbourhood of Stockholm, where the admiral is to have an audience of the King. The mortar boats have all gone home; the Euryalus and the Magicienne take them clear of the Baltic and then return. The Basilisk and the Princess Alice are also gone home. The officers of marine artillery, who have by their intelligence and energy so mainly contributed to our success, are gone home, or rather one half are gone in the Basilisk, and the others follow in the Calcutta, which sails in a day or two. The Eolus and Volage are under orders to start immediately for England. The Cuckoo also goes to-day; so you see our "small fry" are fast breaking up.

THE CRIMEA.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 31.—Prince Gortschakoff writes from the Crimea, Aug. 28th: —The enemy continues to fire briskly. No new facts.

Turin, Au. 30.—The latest despatches from Gen. La Marmora state that the Piedmontese are fortifying their position on the Tchernaya.

THE VICTORY OF THE TCHERNAYA.

The Russians chose for their attempt the Feast of the Virgin, which is one of the greatest festivals in the Greek Church. The religious ceremonies were invested with extraordinary pomp, and the preachers appointed endeavoured to excite the zeal of their hearers to fanatical fury. Fresh troops, who had felt neither the effects of labour in the trenches nor of the valour of their opponents, were picked as far as possible, for the occasion. They marched out to the combat about 50,000 strong, their force consisting of forty odd battalions of infantry, and six or seven thousand horse, with 250 pieces of cannon. With these superior numbers the Russians directed their attack against a point where they would meet with but three divisions of French infantry, and General Morris's cavalry. One of these divisions was that of General Mayran, which suffered so terribly in the assaults of the 7th and 8th June, and should, therefore, barely reckon as half a division, as the vacancies in its ranks had not been filled up. in fact, the French had only 12,000 effective men to resist an army of 50,000, which had chosen its own battle-field, and leisurely made its preparations. The Russians again tried their Inkerman tactics. Then they tried to cut off a portion of the English army; they now endeavoured to break the French line, by first separating General Morris from the infantry, and then making a path into the intrenchments. Not for a single moment, however, did success smile on them. The movements of the French and Piedmontese were as vigorously executed as ably planned, and in three hours the Russians were in full rout. The enemy have now learnt, by the severest experience, and after repeated trials on their part, that their soldiers and their generals are inferior to those of the allies in the open field, and the effect on the spirit of their troops and on the convictions of the whole Russian empire, must be proportionate.

THREATENING ATTITUDE OF AUSTRIA TOWARDS PIEDMONT.

The jealousy of the Cabinet of Vienna is such that orders have been given not to publish any news favourable to the arms of Piedmont. The war is spoken of with enthusiasm by the Italians, but the Austrian officers are to a man Russian. It is irritating to hear them laugh at the Governments of France and England for supposing that Francis Joseph would ever draw the sword against the Czar. A new loan and a fresh drawing of conscripts are spoken of as likely to take place in Lombardy before the end of the year. A large camp is forming at Somma, near the Piedmontese frontier, at the foot of the Lago Maggiore. The excuse given for the large number of troops in the Italian provinces is this camp, which is an annual affair. So far there is truth in the apology; but last year the camp was not formed on account of the cholera, which is worse this year than last in the country towns of Lombardy. The Austrian Government of course opposes the formation of our Italian Legion by every means in its power. The rich are threatened with sequestration; the poor are refused passes to move from one province to another, and, if very much suspected, are shut up in jail.

RUSSIA.

A Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* writes: We are assured in private letters that we can form no idea of the strain of the war upon the Russian people during the last six months. The enrolment of the new militia of the empire or levy *en masse* has had a terrible effect. The organisation of this new corps has been pushed forward with a haste which tells volumes on the condition of the regular army. Although the first line of troops which stood opposed to Austria six months ago has been withdrawn, it has been necessary to order to the Crimea about 30,000 of the new troops, who can hardly yet have learned their drill. 17 Drushines, each of the nominal strength of 1000 men, entered the north camp of Sebastopol on the 16th, amid the ringing of bells. The order of the day by which Prince Gortschakoff greeted them is most instructive. Theirs is no ordinary case of conscription. As the Prince remarks, they have left behind their wives and children, houses and goods, and marched down to the extremities of the empire. The process is being repeated, and before long 100,000 families will have lost their heads. Did the safety of the country demand this? and if so, what has become of the great army which has for generations repressed the inspirations of the half of Europe, and been the hope and comfort of its despotic princes?

The *Invalide Russe* publishes a long report from General de Berg of the bombardment of Sweaborg. General de Berg states the loss of the Russians during the bombardment to have been 44 men killed, two superior officers, three subaltern officers, and 110 men wounded. In addition to this, 11 men were killed on board the man-of-war Russie, and one subaltern and 88 men wounded; and one sailor wounded on board the Ezechiel.

RUSSIAN CIRCULAR NOTE.

It is stated at Berlin, that Count Nesselrode has addressed a circular note to all the Russian ambassadors, in which the Count repeats the willingness of the cabinet of St. Petersburg to accept honorable propositions of peace.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of *La Presse* remarks, that the Government has formed this Imperial Militia instead of ordering a war recruitment as a concession to the landed proprietors. Serfs taken for the regular army are bound to serve for 25 years, and surviving that term, become freemen. Serfs taken for the new militia are to be restored to their proprietors, if living at the end of the war.

Bribery in Russia.—There is one thing that, so long as it lasts, will prevent Russia from taking her rank among the great civilized nations of Europe, and that is the vast system of bribery that is carried on in all the public offices. It may appear strange to say a system of bribery, but so it is. Bribery forms the rule, and honesty the exception, in all matters relating to the law or the Government, though, doubtless, there are some few honest and honourable men to be found in the Russian empire; but the number is very small. Peculation is again another very prevalent sin, and generally practised throughout the country, otherwise how could men live upon the miserable pittance allowed them by the Government for their services? All this, however, is not considered as a stain upon men's characters: on the contrary, as it prevails universally throughout the country, there is no dishonour attached to it. A man, a staff officer in the military service, holds a situation, the salary of which is about £70, and to be able to retain his place, he is obliged to pay for the protection of another man, £1,000 per anum!! This he not only does, but keeps up a large establishment of servants, horses, &c. It will be naturally asked, how can he do it? Why, by bribery, which renders his place worth to him about £4,000 or £5,000 a-year. Nobody ever thinks of inquiring about the salary attached to any office, but how much can be made in it?

FRANCE.

Disappointment at the British Embassy in Paris.—Great and expensive preparations had been made at the Chapel of the British Embassy, as it was understood her Majesty was anxious to set an example before her British subjects of publicly repairing to hear the Litany of the Church of England where, alone, it was read under authority. But the fatigue consequent on her late arrival from Boulogne in the first place, and the incessant strain upon her time in the various hospitalities extended to her Majesty by her gallant and imperial host have prevented her fulfilling her intention.

The internal repose which France has enjoyed under the existing dynasty has been disturbed by an insurrection at Angers so serious that it had to be put down by the military, and human blood was shed on the occasion. The accounts from the French metropolis state, that the prefect of police had been blamed for allowing an account of the transaction to appear in the newspapers of the department, and the Paris journals had been cautioned not to discuss it in their columns. Louis Napoleon has not out-lived, it seems, his dread of newspaper criticism. This gagging of the press is the worst feature of his rule, and the act to which his enemies constantly point, as showing the utter absence of anything like practical freedom under his sway. Considering how amazingly France has advanced in material prosperity since the present Emperor ascended the throne, we should have thought the time had come, now that he finds his power consolidated, to relax the stringency which he deemed necessary, in the outset of his regal career, to impose on the literary mind of France.

The number of orphans now receiving relief from the Royal Patriotic Fund is upwards of 2200.

THE CRIMEA.

Prince Gortschakoff reports from Sebastopol, under date of the evening of the 26th:—The enemy's fire is slack. Nothing new." And again, dating August 27, he states that "Nothing fresh of importance had occurred."

From the Crimea there is nothing worth recording. The opinion gains ground that the resources in Sebastopol are daily diminishing, and that the place must speedily fall. Preparations for the bombardment are constantly going on, and any hour may bring us intelligence of the final assault. A little affair on the slope of the Malakhoff was very creditable to the French arms, and our allies will give a good account of themselves when the last effort takes place. In the meantime ample preparations are being made for another winter campaign in the Crimea. Huts on a large scale have been sent out, with an ample supply of winter clothing, and the timely cautions thus taken will prevent, it is to be hoped, a repetition of the fatal suffering which marked the events of the last winter. These preparations may possibly be anticipated by the fall of the fortress, in which case our troops would winter within the city, but the surest means of success in war is to be prepared for every possible contingency—the best and the worst.

We hear of renewed negociations in the Austrian capital on the basis of the four points, but the time for entertaining nonsense of this kind has long passed away; and there will be no renewal of negociations until the allies are in possession of Sebastopol. Lord Palmerston, who can intuitively guage the national pulse, is much too shrewd, now that he has success within his grasp, to pause until he has secured it, and the language recently held by the French Emperor indicates his belief that we are at the beginning of the end. We can readily understand that Russia is weary of the war, and would be glad to patch up a peace on terms much more humiliating than those which she so scornfully rejected four months back; but as the English Foreign Minister declared in his place in the House of Lords, terms so favorable as those which the enemy refused to entertain will not be offered again. In the meantime large reinforcements of men and munitions of war are daily leaving the French ports for the Crimea, and the energy and determination which the allies are exhibiting contrast favourably with the efforts of the enemy to protract a losing game.

From India come accounts of the insurrection of a mountain tribe called the Southals, inhabiting the district of Ragmahal, in Bengal. Descending with great force into the plain, they committed the direst excesses, and robbed and murdered a considerable number of Europeans. A force had been sent forward to restore order, and punish the offenders. As a set-off to this unpleasing piece of intelligence, it is gratifying to state that the commercial position of India is improving. The import and export trade was expanding, and affairs in other respects wore a healthy and even cheering appearance. China continues to be torn by the rebellion, which is carried on with the ferocity of savages. How lamentably the Chinese are deficient in the higher traits of civilization will be gathered from a record of the butcheries recently perpetrated on the captured prisoners at Canton. The mere reading of these horrid and superfluous cruelties disgust and sicken, and a dynasty which could enforce them cannot be far from annihilation.

Spain has published the correspondence with the see of Rome, and challenges the judgment of the world respecting the conduct of Government in the matter of chuch property, out of which the dispute has arisen. The protest is spirited and to the point, and the Spanish authorilies make out a strong case against the Papal Court. The diplomacy of Rome, in thus solicting a conflict with Spain, the opprobrium of which country is, that it has always been ultra-Catholic, appears weak and shortsighted. The tidings from Rome itself are of the most painful kind. Arrests are constantly taking place, and the country is overrun with brigands and assassins. Another explosion cannot be distant.