

European Intelligence.

[From the European Times, Feb. 16.]

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Lord Clarendon leaves London this morning for Paris to attend the approaching Conference, and will arrive in the French capital the same evening.

If we may judge from the tone of the St. Petersburg papers, the Czar is sincerely desirous of peace, and his organ in Brussels breathes the most pacific intentions.

In our own Parliament, it must be admitted that great discretion has been shown on this delicate subject since the commencement of the session. All parties have carefully avoided saying a word which could complicate the difficulties which it is the object of the conference to settle, and this wise course will no doubt be pursued until the matter has been brought to a satisfactory close, or hostilities have been renewed.

The chances are greatly in favour of a lasting peace; but the preparations for the next campaign are pushed forward with an energy which knows no abatement. The gun and mortar boats, which ought to have been ready twelve months back, are now fully equipped, and this determined attitude will aid materially in inducing Russia to listen to the terms which the Western Powers will dictate.

THE AMERICAN DISPUTE.

Every arrival from America continues to be looked to with great interest, caused, of course, by the present unhappy differences between the two nations. The Times says, "Every thing has been done which usually precedes the first irrevocable blow—the great letting out of the waters of strife."

This is an alarming state of things; but we cannot believe that the President and his Attorney-general will push matters to extremities, nor do we think that if they were to do so they would be supported by the American Senate.

The discussion in the Senate respecting the Nicaragua treaty is not without interest, and the course proposed by Mr. Seward has produced considerable controversy, namely, that a year's notice be given to Great Britain, after which the United States Government will take possession of the territory in question, and keep it.

Hon. Mr. Wier reported on the petition praying remuneration for a horse killed by the falling of the Telegraph wire. Could not recommend any grant.

Messrs. McFarlane, Morrison and others spoke, and the debate was adjourned till 3 o'clock on Monday.

has been admitted as our right, though we would gladly surrender it if it could be decided that the right was in the United States."

LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE.

The time is fast approaching when another fierce battle between the religious public and the less strict observers of the Sabbath will be fought. The clergy are already in arms, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and they have waited on the Premier, begging that he will not allow the Crystal Palace to be opened on Sundays, nor the British Museum, the National Galleries, and the other public buildings belonging to the nation.

[By Magnetic Telegraph.]

PARIS.

THE CONFERENCES.

The following is extracted from the letter of the Times Paris correspondent, dated Feb. 13.

"Baron Brunow arrived here last night, at half-past ten o'clock, by the express train from Strasburg, and took up his quarters in the hotel of the Russian embassy, in the Faubourg St. Honore. M. de Bourquency has already arrived, but has left for Blois to bring up his family. It is to be hoped that Lord Cowley will, on his return to Paris, bring Lord Clarendon with him.

"A very handsome table has been fitted up at the Foreign office for the plenipotentiaries to sit at during the conference. It is covered with rich crimson velvet, and, together with the chairs, forms a handsome piece of furniture. It was at first only large enough to accommodate eight persons; but then Sardinia and Turkey had only one plenipotentiary each. Since the decision in favour of two it has had to be lengthened, and now is large enough for twelve. The two additional places are, no doubt, meant for Russia, if Prussia behave herself as she ought. I have already mentioned that Count Walewski, as minister for foreign affairs of the sovereign in whose capital the conferences are held, will preside.

"It is said that one of the first acts of the Emperor of Russia, after the signature of the treaty of peace, should be so happy as to see it, will be the formal notification to France and England of his accession to the throne. In diplomatic fiction, these powers, it seems, are supposed to believe that the Emperor Nicholas is still living."

According to the Paris correspondent of the Oesterreichische Zeitung the three Powers have already agreed on the most important points to be adjusted at Paris, and one of them is, that Nicholas, not being on the coast of the Black Sea, is not to share the fate of Sebastopol.

DESTRUCTION OF THE SEBASTOPOL DOCKS.

The Gazette of this evening publishes a despatch from General Codrington to Lord Panmure, enclosing a report of Colonel Lloyd, Royal Engineers, giving details of the operation for the destruction of docks at Sebastopol, which have now been completely destroyed.

ASIA.

Accounts from Tiflis state that General Williams was unwell. 100 brass guns taken from Kars have been mounted in one of the squares of Tiflis.

JAPAN.

The Dutch Government have concluded an important treaty of commerce with the Emperor of Japan, which gives them privileges from his Japanese Majesty denied to the Governments of England and the United States.

DR. SANDWICH'S NARRATIVE OF THE SIEGE AND CAPITULATION OF KARS.

Dr. H. Sandwith, the only gentleman in the garrison of Kars who had the good fortune to regain his liberty, and return to England, related the other evening, to a number of his fellow-townsmen at Hull, the story of the siege and capitulation of that fortress. The following is a summary of his narrative:—

"The details which Dr. Sandwith has given show how nobly the Turks maintained their position under adverse circumstances; how ably the English Commissioner acted the part of general; how vain were the repeated attempts of the Russians to storm the place; and how impossible it would have been to plant the Russian standard upon its batteries, had not their cause been powerfully aided by the peculation of rascally pachas, and indifference, trickery, or incapability on the part of the Turkish Government."

After showing how successful were the efforts of Gen. Williams, seconded by the cooperation of Col. Lake, Capt. Thompson, and Major Teesdale, in restoring the Turkish army to discipline and order, and in making Kars, once defenceless, impregnable to all but famine, the writer in the Post proceeds:—

"Then came the 29th September, the Feast of St. Michael, a favourite saint with the Russians. The whole force of the enemy bore down upon the city. The assault raged on all sides. Occasionally the Russians got within the batteries, but were as often driven out at the point of the bayonet. For seven hours the roar and clash of battle went on; but the end came at length, and, with their infantry broken and destroyed, the foe beat a swift retreat, and Kars was safe. The want of cavalry alone prevented the Turks from annihilating the enemy's forces. The gallantry of that defence has not been exceeded by any event in the war on either side. It rivals Silistria and Sebastopol, and places General Williams in the foremost rank of English commanders.

"But dark days followed this brilliant triumph. The enemy's cavalry were ten thousand strong, and in perfect order and condition. These surrounded Kars, and all hope of communication with Erzeroum was cut off. A rascally pacha in the latter city kept holding out promises of immediate succour that never arrived. Then the work of death began. Gaunt hunger stalked in the streets. Women and children laid down by the roadside to die. Some reproached the troops—others besought them to take the children. The end was not long in coming. Three days' biscuit was all that remained—the army was faint and famishing. Against such an enemy there was no resistance. General Williams proceeded to the besieging lines with a flag of truce, and, after a brief interview with General Mouravieff, the Russians received the submission of their conquerors."

The narrative of Dr. Sandwith abounds with thrilling episodes. Here is one.

"We rode for five or six miles to our outposts, consisting of about three hundred miserable cavalry. While observing the Russians my eyes were attracted to a dark body looking through the gloom, and bearing down upon us. We watched them carefully, but they appeared to disperse. Nevertheless Colonel Lake commenced a quiet retreat, and the word was given, 'trot,' 'canter.' We had not proceeded far before three whole regiments of Russian Dragoons swept like a whirlwind down upon us. There was the crash of carbines and the clashing of swords, and they cut our little force to pieces, though, thank God! I am here to tell the story, but very few escaped."

This picture deserves a place beside Lord Cardigan's brilliant description of the Light Cavalry Charge at Balaklava.

The brave zeal of the Karsian populace is affectingly illustrated:—

"In the great assault on the 29th of September every shopkeeper, tailor, shoemaker, and saddler in the place issued out armed with muskets and guns, and fired into the retreating soldiery. The very women brought us ammunition in their aprons, and assisted us in every way, crying out 'We pray for you; we will help you; May God sharpen your swords.' Some of these devoted women, I regret to say, fell, but they fell gloriously, like true heroines, as they were!"

The sufferings of the Turkish soldiers from starvation were dreadful. Many dropped down at their posts from sheer hunger and exhaustion; but their public spirit was beyond all praise. In those terrible days of death, when scanty provisions for only three days were laid up in the fort, there was not a single instance of even a biscuit being stolen.

It was a cold snowy morning when General Williams left his hungry, yet staunch and mortified army to offer terms of capitulation to General Mouravieff. The English General insisted upon certain terms of capitulation, the concession of which, on the part of General Mouravieff, was absolutely essential to the surrender of the place in its entirety. Had these been refused, he was prepared to destroy every gun and trophy, and leave the place a heap of ruins. According to Dr. Sandwith, the reply of the Russian Commander was most chivalrous.

"General Williams," he is reported to have said, "you have won for yourself a name in history; posterity will stand amazed at the courage, at the endurance, and at the lofty qualities exhibited by you in this siege. Yourself and your troops are covered with glory. I have no wish to outrage humanity by anything unbecoming me as a general, and the terms you ask I accede to."

Nothing then remained but for the wretched, hungry Turks to lay down their arms, and to defile before the magnificent array of Russian soldiers, the deepest grief bowing down the stern endurance of the famished defenders of the place, the women wailing from the house tops, and the Englishman's heart burning with mortification at the gross mismanagement that had brought a devoted army to that woeful plight.

Prince Gortschakoff and the French and English Ambassadors were present at a grand dinner given by Count Buol a few days ago.

The King of Denmark has summoned his Parliament for the 1st of March.