

take the place; others, "when we thought of going away." Some congratulated the allies upon the excellent opportunity they had of getting a good look at Sebastopol, as the chance of a nearer view, except on similar occasions, was not, in their opinion, very probable. One officer asked a private confidentially, in English, how many men they sent into the trenches? "Begorra, only 7000 a night and a wake covering party of 10,000." was the ready reply. The officer laughed and turned away. At one time a Russian with a litter stopped by a dead body, and put it into the litter. He looked around for a comrade to help him. A Zouave at once advanced with much grace and lifted it, to the infinite amusement of the bystanders; but the joke was not long-lived, as a Russian brusquely came up and helped to carry off his dead comrade.

In the town large bodies of soldiery were seen in the streets, assembled at the corners and in the public places. Probably they were ordered out to make a show of their strength. The Russians denied that Prince Menschikoff was dead, but they admitted that Admiral Istomin was killed. He was one of the principal officers engaged in the destruction of the Turkish fleet at Sinope, and the Czar had rewarded him by giving him an order of St. George of higher distinction than that worn by Prince Menschikoff, and of a class which is generally accorded only to successful generals who have conducted an army and closed a triumphant campaign. A distinguished looking man who complained that he was likely to be deprived of his cruise in his yacht this year by the war, was pointed out as Prince Bariatsinski. Owing to some misunderstanding or other, a little fusillade began among the riflemen on the left during the armistice, which caused a little alarm for a moment, but it was soon terminated. General Bosquet and several officers of rank of the allied army visited the trenches during the armistice, and staff officers were present on both sides to see that the men did not go out of bounds. The armistice was over about three o'clock. Scarcely had the white flag disappeared behind the parapet of the Mamelon before a round-shot from the Sailors' Battery went slap through one of the embrasures of the Russian work, and dashed up a great pillar of earth inside. The Russians at once replied, and the noise of cannon soon re-echoed through the Ravines.

THE ADVANCED SQUADRON OF THE BALTIC FLEET.

The advanced squadron of the Baltic fleet arrived at Elsinore on the 1st of April, but, owing to the masses of drift ice and strong current, were unable to remain there—three (the *Arrogant*, *Tartar*, and *Cossack*) having parted their anchors; so they all got under way and proceeded to Landskrona, where they were joined by the *Amphion* on the 3d instant, one of the "lame ducks." The *Archer* had not made her appearance. The *Amphion* got on shore near the anchorage, through the ignorance of the pilot; but it was not supposed that she had injured herself, as the mud is very soft. The *Imperieuse* and *Euryalus*, being of too much draught of water to pass through the Sound, parted company for Kiel, leaving the squadron under the command of Captain Yelverton, her Majesty's ship *Arrogant*. Some of the colliers sent out to supply the squadron with coals have fared but badly—one having foundered, and two or three others more or less injured, when trying to pass the Sound. Landskrona is a very snug little harbour, and it is expected that the ships will remain there till the Sound is entirely clear of ice.

A letter from Cherbourg says:—"The screw line-of-battle ship *Austerlitz*, which had been preparing to convey the Emperor and Empress to England, have received counter-orders, and is to proceed almost immediately to the Baltic, to operate with the English squadron. Four other line-of-battle ships has been ordered to proceed to the Downs to serve as an escort to their Majesties in crossing the Channel, after which these vessels will also join the Baltic fleet."

A letter from Elsinore states that a Russian merchant vessel is lying there "which came in the autumn to take in a cargo of salt, and which got locked up in the ice. There are others similarly situated at Gothenburg and on different points of the Coast; all of them came for salt, which appears to be wanted in Russia. They will probably be all captured by the English."

The Russians appear to be adopting the same mode of resisting invasion in the Baltic as they did in the Black Sea. The approaches to Abo, Helsingfors, and every town on the coast from Wyborg up to Tornen, have been rendered impassable by the sinking of vessels in the sailing channel; in Abo, Bjorneborg, and other towns,

the inhabitants have formed themselves into sharp shooter corps, and armed themselves with double barreled rifles. On the southern coast of the Baltic the conviction is general that Riga will be the first point attacked in the coming Baltic campaign. On the sea-side vessels and large blocks of stone are being sunk at the entrance to the bay, so that the shallowest-going craft will not be able to pass Dunamunde. At the further end of the bay there have been several heavily armed batteries erected, in a semicircular form. On the land side a fortified camp is being formed, capable of containing two divisions of Russian troops. The Baltic army, which was to be brought up to 10,000 men by the late Emperor, is now about to be raised to 140,000 men.

PERSIA.

The Honble. Mr. Murray arrived in Teheran towards the latter end of February. The camp at Sultanieh was decided on, and 40,000 to 50,000 men, with 100 pieces of artillery, were to compose the force. The Government has ample supplies of provisions and ammunition; but the great sinew of war—money—is very scarce. The pressure on the treasury is to be remedied by an increase of taxes, which are ordered to be levied in the shape of capitation money. The Persians are impatient to see what the true intentions of the Western Powers are as regards their country. They would willingly pick a quarrel with the Russians, and declare war in favour of Turkey, if England and France would guarantee the restoration of the province of Karabagh, lost in the last war. On the other hand, if Russia offers her co-operation in taking the shrines of Kerbella from the Turks, there is not the least doubt that they would side with her. Much will depend upon what takes place in the Crimea. So long as the prestige of Russia remains uninjured, as is the case at present, Persia will naturally lean to the side of its powerful neighbour.

RUSSIA.—We learn from the *London News*, that private letters from St. Petersburg, received by mercantile houses, state confidently that the fanatical war party has completely got the upper hand, and that Alexander II's throne would not be worth a week's purchase if he were to attempt to thwart the current of national feeling. The rich nobles who in their hearts long for peace, and will be the greatest sufferers by the war, are compelled to swell the popular cry. They offer large contributions, in the hope of averting a sweeping *ad valorem* property tax, amounting to confiscation.

FIGHTING A RUSSIAN GUN.—This morning a heavy gun on the left embrasure of the Mamelon was opened on No. 3 battery, in the right attack. The electric telegraph has now been completed between Lord Raglan's head quarters and all the trenches, and by this a message was sent informing his Lordship of the opening of the gun, and asking advice. The reply was "fight it," and preparations were made accordingly. A long 68-pounder gun, from the *Terrible* was found to bear upon the precise spot, and this, therefore, was the gun selected to fight the Russian one. The practice made with it was perfect—never was better fighting seen since the siege commenced. The very first shot tore away one side of the Russian embrasure and laid the enemy's gun completely open. The next struck the gun full in the muzzle, shattering and dismounting it within five minutes after the order had been given to fight the enemy's gun. Lord Raglan was informed by the telegraph that it had been fought, and was then dismounted and broken. Orders were then sent back for the same 68-pounder to fire every half hour in the same spot for the rest of the day. Before the day was half over the greater of the earth-work was quite destroyed, and what seemed most strange, after their gun was dismounted, not a single Russian fired a shot in reply to ours. This unusual circumstance no one could account for.—*Letters from the Camp, March 25.*

THE BALTIC FLEET.

The *London Times*, in commenting on the Baltic Fleet which has just left the shores of England, and on its probable achievements, has the following significant remarks:—

At any time the sight of so many huge machines sent out with the message to kill and destroy may well subdue the most frivolous. Even a naval review, with its mimic thunders and its programme of triumph, becomes a scene of horror exactly in proportion as we realize its true import. What we now see, however, is ambitiously and industriously grander, sterner, grimmer, more deadly, and more real than any like spectacle on these or on any seas. The Baltic fleet of this year is in all respects stronger than the last; it has more steam

power, more guns, a new class of gun-boats and floating batteries, adapted for creeks and shoals, and, what more than anything marks a resolution to do something—a new commander. Sir Charles Napier has ceased to command the Baltic fleet, not from any deficiency in skill, in courage, or in temper, but simply because he did less than the British people expected to see done. We have ourselves been ever ready to do justice to his actual achievements, which are not to be denied or depreciated; but, when we send out the finest fleet in the world, we naturally expect it to do more than shut in a third-rate naval power, and assist an army to destroy an unfinished fort. The new commander, Admiral Dundas, has before him the services of Admiral Napier, and, whatever his instructions, if any, no doubt he knows that he has to do more than Admiral Napier. If he does not accomplish more, he will certainly find himself next November under orders to lower his flag, with small prospect of ever hoisting it again. Such is the mission of the fleet the Queen sends on its fatal errand. It is to attempt more, to run more risk, to follow further and closer, to care rather less for losing ships and men, and rather more for inflicting losses and disgraces on the enemy. In a word, the force is stronger and the duty more terrible than last year; and, if the scene should attract a smaller crowd of gazers than last year, they will doubtless see it less as a holiday spectacle and more as an operation of war.

THE TURKISH EXPEDITION IN THE CRIMEA.—The *Journal de Constantinople* of March 22 contains the following items of news respecting the Turkish force under Omar Pasha:—

"The Turkish army at Eupatoria now reckons about forty thousand men, with one hundred and fifty guns. The sanitary condition is excellent."

"Omar Pasha having learnt from prisoners that the Russian infantry employed in the last attack had retired upon Simpheropol, came to the conclusion that an opportune moment had arrived to extend his position. After having provided Eupatoria with formidable fortifications, one of the advanced works of which swept all the whole field of attack with its great guns, he pushed his troops forward about two thousand metres, occupied two villages, and ordered the vast camp to be entrenched."

"The advanced posts of the Russian cavalry have retired, without any serious resistance, beyond the reach of the guns of the advanced posts of the Turks."

"By this operation Omar Pasha makes Eupatoria the centre of his position, and avoids, by the extension which he has given to his new position, all those encumbrances the consequences of which would be extremely dangerous. The Russians have now a large circle to watch, which will require a large number of troops, and thus diminish the density of their lines. Henceforward, it will be comparatively easy to penetrate, at any desired point, the enlarged circle of the Russian advanced posts. The results of this operation on the part of Omar Pasha are excellent, and prove his great capacity for the direction of matters so important."

STATE OF AFFAIRS AT BALAKLAVA.—Private letters from the Crimea continue to speak cheerfully of the progress making there, both with the railway, the fortifications, and the fortifications at Balaklava. The railway is progressing most satisfactorily, and will soon be available for all the purposes of the siege. The ten-ton crane has been taken up to head quarters, where its great power will render it very useful in facilitating the unloading of the heavy materials required to carry on the operations of the siege. Foresight and energy characterise, in an admirable degree, all to whom the carrying out of the well-matured plans of the expedition has been entrusted. The men continue to enjoy excellent health, work with steady and hearty good will, and, with very few exceptions, give no cause for complaint as to their behaviour. The Earl of Durham, one of the vessels which took out the navies, was to leave for England on the 24th, and the *Tonning*, on the same day, for Constantinople; the *Candidate* has discharged her cargo, and the *Wildfire* was in the harbor, waiting to be unloaded. Rough weather had prevented the divers from doing anything further with the wreck of the unfortunate Prince, but calm and sunshine have succeeded, and the operations will now be resumed. The weather is now delightful, and crocuses, hyacinths, and a variety of other bulbous-rooted flowers, of the brightest colours, spring up profusely among the tents, while the notes of the lark and finch families resound through every bush and shrub. This agreeable change has produced a corresponding one on the troops; and if an opinion may be formed from the cheerfulness and animation that pervade every countenance,

it would seem that the calamities of the past are forgotten, and all are looking forward to the future with a determination to prosecute the siege with redoubled vigor. The clean, orderly, and comfortable appearance of the troops affords a striking contrast to the state of things which existed two months ago. The bastions and parapets are swept clean, the footpaths round the line have been paved, in anticipation of more wet weather, and the works around Balaklava present an aspect that would do credit to an old fortified town. Whether Sebastopol falls sooner or later, it is gratifying to know that all is safe at Balaklava, the lines of the allies presenting too formidable an appearance for the enemy to make an attack with the smallest chance of success. Under the management of Col. Harding the town improves rapidly; wharves are in course of construction, the harbour is comparatively clear of shipping, and the scavengers are in full occupation, both ashore and afloat. Should Balaklava be visited by pestilence, as some have predicted, it will not be through any neglect of the sanitary precautions within reach. So great, however, is the change that has taken place, that the prospect of such a visitation grows daily more remote. Routine has given place to common sense, and in almost every department one now sees a systematic application of all kinds of appliances to the furtherance of the great object in view.

GENERAL CANROBERT'S PLANS.—The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* writes as follows:—"A despatch has been received from General Canrobert, announcing that he would take the field on the 3d instant, and from another, in the *Freudenblatt*, it appears that the General had carried out his intentions by advancing across the valley of Inkermann, taking possession of the bridge over the Tchernaya, by which the Russian forces retired after their defeat on the memorable 5th of November, and threatening the Russian lines on the hill of Sapoun, which runs south-east on the north side of that valley. The plan of operations which the French General-in-Chief appears to pursue, bears great resemblance to one submitted to the Allied Governments and Generals by Behram Pasha (General Cannon). This plan is, I am informed, to leave at Balaklava and Kamiesch a strong force to continue the siege operations, and repel any attack the besieged might make upon the works; while another portion of the army, advancing northward, would attack the Russians in the field, and operate a junction with Omar Pasha, either at Eupatoria or Simpheropol. An entrenched camp would then be established at Perekop, and entrusted to the keeping of an army composed half of Turks and half of Europeans. The entrance of reinforcements into the Peninsula being thus put an end to, the allies and such of the Russian as still hold the field would fight it out on somewhat more equal terms than has hitherto been the case, and in the end Sebastopol must eventually fall by famine."

THE MILLIONAIRES OF NEW YORK.—The New York correspondent of the *Charlestown Courier*, makes the following mention of the millionaires of that city.

"William B. Astor is our richest man; he inherited his wealth. Stephen Whitney, five millions; owes his fortune to speculations in cotton and the rise in real estate. W. H. Aspinwall, four millions; came of a rich family, and gained vast increase of wealth in the shipping business. James Lennox, three millions, which he inherited. The late Peter Harmony, two millions; came to this city as a cabin boy, and grew rich by commerce.—The Lorillards, two millions; came from France poor, and made their huge fortune in the tobacco and snuff business. The late Anson G. Phelps, two millions; learned the trade of a tinner, and made a fortune in iron and copper. Alexander D. Stewart, two millions, now of the dry goods palace, began business in a little fancy store. Of those who are put down for a million and a half, George Law began life as a farm laborer, Cornelius Vanderbilt as a boatman, John Lefarge as steward to Joseph Bonaparte. Of the millionaires, James Chestman began life as a journeyman tailor, Peter Cooper as a glue maker. The same correspondent adds: "George Bancroft, Henry James, Professor Anthon, Tho. McElrath and Dr. Francis, are each stated to possess a hundred thousand dollars.—Edwin Forrest is rated at a quarter of a million; so is Sidney E. Morse of the *New York Observer*.—Wm. Noble it appears, has four hundred thousand dollars; and Dr. Mott, two hundred thousand. Barnum is put down at eight hundred thousand; Bennett at one hundred and fifty thousand. But perhaps the most remarkable statement of all this, is that Mrs. Okill of New York has made a quarter of a million of dollars by keeping school."