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English and Foreign.

PROSPECTS OF PEACE—With regard to the prospects of peace, we take the following from the leading article of the Liverpool European Times, a journal which is said to be in the secrets of the ministry;

"We have reason to know, from a source of unquestionable authority, that the British government are fully convinced of the sincerity of the Czar's desire for peace, and it is more than probable that the forthcoming Congress at Vienna may really settle the question. The pride of the Emperor Nicholas has been sadly lowered by his readiness to accept terms now which he rejected nine months back; and to do this while the allied forces are in possession of his own soil, adds, of course, to the humiliation. But the fact is undeniable that he desires peace, and will even go beyond the four points in order to secure it. He is willing, we have been given to understand, to exceed the four points by consenting to a large maritime reduction in the Black Sea, and to the presence there of a maritime force in the interest of the western powers. He desires, nevertheless, to retain Sebastopol; and if the allies now succeed in destroying that fortress, he will not pledge himself not to rebuild it.

"This information has reached us from a quarter so high that it may be relied on as the exposition of the Czar's feelings at the present time."

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH IN CAMP.

A soldier of the 3d Rifle Brigade, whose name and letter appear in the Bury Post, writes after battle of Inkerman:—"Dear sister, I am happy to say the officers and men all seem cheerful, and feel confident in taking the place; and every one puts great faith in our Commander-in-Chief, Lord Raglan. And this army is the pick of two powerful nations, and well disciplined before they took the field, and they act well together. I do firmly believe that a Frenchman would lose his life providing he could save ours, and we the same with them, they never seem happy unless they are with us, and they would give us anything. The common saying among our men is, 'O let the French get at them,' and they say the same by us.—What a good thing it is the two nations agree so well together. We must forget the past and look to the future, and England and France combined might conquer the world, if they wanted so to do. As for the Turks, they are good soldiers, provided they have any one to command them—for instance English and French officers; they have not the system of warfare like us, but with us they will do very well.

AN AFFECTING INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

We have been favoured with the following extract from a letter received by a lady resident in this neighbourhood, from a friend in Devonshire:—"I have just been reading a private letter from a young baronet in the Guards who mentions that on searching the person of his friend Lieutenant A—, wounded in the battle of Alma, (and afterwards died on the field of battle), he found a small Testament, which he had observed him reading the evening previous, as he lay wounded, and on turning over its pages he found bloody finger-marks on the 14th chapter of St. John's Gospel—'If my Father's house are many mansions.' This touching fact seemed more interesting, coming direct from the field of battle, written on the cap of a young baronet, possessor of large estates, and who is now without a blanket to cover him, or water for ablution, or change of linen since the battle of Alma, yet not one word of murmuring,

but sweet, loving messages home. Charles Dickens writes much of the nobility of feelings hidden in the bosom of the poor—the upper grades of society have mines of wealth hitherto unknown, but which the battle field is richly revealing."—*Macleodfield Courier*.

NEW ROAD TO THE CRIMEA—The Times in a leading article, announces the discovery that the Russians have constructed a new road to the peninsula, which makes them comparatively independent of the isthmus of Perekop. "It is possible," says the Times, "for troops advancing into the Crimea from the interior of the empire to leave Perekop in their rear, to march along the coast of the Putrid Sea, to cross the Straits of Genitsch, and then by toiling along the whole length of the dyke-like strip above-mentioned, called the Isthmus of Araba, to enter the Crimea a few miles north of Kaffa. This rout was actually taken by a Russian general in the last century, and it still forms a commercial road between the eastern parts of the Crimea and the continent. Some nine or ten years ago, however, a road was commenced upon bridges and viaducts, across the the Putrid Sea itself, and was completed, we believe, a considerable time before the outbreak of the present war."

POPULAR OPINIONS IN PRUSSIA—A Berlin journal notices, as an indication of the favourable tendency of public opinion in Prussia towards the Western Powers, the eagerness with which a number of Prussian subjects flock to the English embassy to enrol themselves in the Foreign Legion. On the other hand the recruiting for young men in Prussia for the Russian army has been attended with little or no success.

A letter from Erzeroum, 19th ult., in the *Moniteur* says:—"The Russian division, which had occupied the villages of Dadin, Ulch Kilisia and Kara Kilisia, in the neighborhood of Bayazid, has completely evacuated the Turkish territory, and retired to Erivan. In consequence of this retreat the road from Persia is entirely open, and the commerce of Erzeroum begins to resume its activity. This movement is attributed to the concentration of Turkish troops at Tapruk Kale.—The Russians before retiring burnt the neighboring villages, and desolated the country on all sides."

A letter from Cracow of the 2d, in the *Constitutional* says:

The recruiting amongst the Jews, and the carrying off for the military school of Jewish children aged from eight to ten, causes amongst that class of inhabitants in Poland indescribable terror and desolation. In all the towns and villages near Kielce nothing but weeping and lamentation are to be heard. Mothers tear their hair and beat their heads against the walls; and fathers sacrifice their last penny to buy off their sons. Recently an unfortunate, whose eldest son, though just about to be married, had been carried off, went to the chief town of the province to beg that a younger son, who accompanied him, might be taken instead of his brother, but the second son was likewise taken, and the elder was not given up. This gave such a shock to the father that he was taken ill, and in three days died. The manner in which unfortunate recruits are treated is really cruel.—Thus, for example, those assembled at Kielce were not long since, in spite of the cold, placed quite naked in rows in the streets to undergo medical inspection.

WARLIKE SPEECH OF THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER AT CONSTANTINOPLE—The *Morning Post* publishes the following under date of Constantinople, Jan. 4:

"At a great diplomatic dinner given by M. Bruck, Austrian Internuncio, M. Bruck gave as a toast, 'The Sultan and his brave army, who are the admiration of all Europe.'

"There," the Internuncio exclaimed, 'they have, in every action, defeated the Russians; they have taught the Russian Court that they were able gloriously to defend the rights of Turkey against Muscovite ambition. Like the western Powers, Austria was willing to fight for the rights of Turkey and of justice, whatever might be the result.' And he stated in conclusion, with remarkable energy, that Russia was no longer to be feared—she must yield.

"The emotion of the guests was extreme; and the Grand vizier warmly thanked the Internuncio."

THE CRIMEA—The *Moniteur de l'Armee* publishes the following extract of a letter, dated before Sebastopol, 19th ult.:

"Lord Raglan came this morning to our headquarters. He is a good rider, and does not appear to feel the want of the arm which he left at Waterloo. He looks well, has a good colour, with a beard little grey. He came without any ceremony, wearing a cap covered with oilskin. The English are the most free and easy men we know. The following, which occurs under our eyes will appear perhaps scarcely credible. In the trenches they light a fire, make their tea, and then sitting down on the back of the trench, quietly smoke. The sentinel now and then goes and looks over the parapet, and if he sees nothing, he comes down again amongst his comrades. A shell falls, but no one takes any notice of it. If one of the party should be hit, two of his comrades raise up and carry him away with the greatest coolness; the others do not stir. With us we are careful not to make any fire. We suffer more in the trenches from this circumstance, but we less casualties, as the smoke of a fire forms a good mark for the enemy's batteries. The engineers continue to surround Sebastopol with their trenches, which are now at 90 metres from the place. It is at this distance that the third parallel is placed.—We are prepared to establish ourselves by main force in Flagstaff bastion as soon as the English artillery shall be ready to support ours in silencing the cross fire of the enemy."

A Vienna despatch in the *Patric*, dated this day, says:—"Every corps of the Russian army, infantry, regular and irregular cavalry, are marching towards the Austrian frontier and the Crimea. A ukase has been published ordering the re-establishment of over the Pruth."

The number of troops who embarked at Marseilles from the 12th of November to the 31st ult., was 11,290 infantry and 1,966 cavalry, making a total of 13,256 men. 963 horses and mules were embarked during the same period.

SANDWICH ISLANDS—From the Sandwich Islands we have the important announcement that King Kamehameha died on the 15th December, and that his son, Prince Leholiho, had been declared his successor.

We learn that a disturbance took place at Katalan, an island adjacent Tahiti. One of the chiefs revolted against the King of the Island, and a battle ensued, which lasted five hours and resulted in the dispersion of the rebels, with a loss to the government troops of four, and to the rebels of eight killed.

We understand that M. H. Needham, Esq., is to be brought forward as Mayor of this City at the ensuing election. The experience which Mr. Needham has had during his service of Alderman in St. John, may be an additional reason why his friends wish to place him at the head of Municipal affairs in Fredericton; and it is said that the present Mayor resigns in his favour.—*Reporter*.

A TERRIBLE SCENE.

Rum marks its footprints in blood wherever it goes, the wide earth over. They who make and sell it as a beverage, literally hold in their hands the price of blood. It is no figure of speech to say that they send abroad a destruction, a desolation, and a curse, which are fully imagined only by the apocalyptic vials of wrath, as seen in vision by the revelator of Patmos. It is no violation of charity to add, that those who licence such traffic, or vote for men who will continue its legislation, are involved in the responsibility of all the evils that flow from it; and their arguments drip with the blood of its slaughtered victims.

Thurlow W. Brown, of the Cayuga Chief in his paper of Dec 26 thus relates a scene which fell under his own observation, and which strikingly illustrates the remark with which we commence this article:

"Speaking of grog shops brings to mind an incident which occurred at ——. A young, well-dressed, gentlemanly appearing man with a lovely wife and child had journeyed on the same train with us from Buffalo. At —, in spite of the earnest and tearful protestations of his wife, he would leave the depot as he said, 'on business.' From the wife's manner, we readily guessed what she thought his business was. For a long hour she stood with her boy in her arms awaiting his return, the tears, in spite of all her efforts, silently dropping upon the cheek of her sleeping child.—He came, just as the train started, drunk. He lurched towards the platform, fell upon the rail, and his head was severed from his body. Never in life shall we forget the expression of the wife's countenance as she stood a moment, her features pale and ghastly, and then fell senseless upon the gory and smoking form of her husband. The wail of the fatherless boy touched every heart, for not one who looked upon the scene could refrain from weeping. Had an assassin robbed the wife and child of a husband and father at such a moment the enraged populace would have lynched him on the spot. But he was killed 'by authority.' He died a legal death. The butchery was licensed. The price of blood was in the rum-seller's till. A few pence's worth of property was saved to him, but a husband, father and citizen destroyed. The crushing blow fell upon the innocent and defenceless among strangers. This butchery is but one of that host having record to the history of rum-selling. To put an end to it, we are told would violate the constitution, destroy property, and outrage the rights of the citizen and his domicile. We looked upon that woman as she was taken like a dead one from the headless corpse; her heavy hair clotted with blood that had just jetted from the pulsing heart, and felt fresh hatred against a damnable business and all its apologists and abettors.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE—The Legislature of the sister Province re-assembled on Saturday week, but the Morning Journal of last Friday says: Little of interest has occurred, the house being principally occupied in forming Committees and other usual business. The Hon. J. W. Johnston has introduced a Resolution respecting a Union of the British North American Provinces. The financial Secretary submitted the Revenue Generals' account current, exhibiting an increase in the revenue receipts of nearly £30,000 over last year.—*New Brunswick*.

The large steamship of 3200 tons, formerly called the *Demerara*, belonging to the Royal Mail Steam Company, and which received considerable damage in the river Severn, was launched a few weeks since at Bristol. She is now converted into a merchantman, and is one of the finest afloat. She is now called the *British Empire*; and is intended for the Australian trade—but in the meantime has accepted a guano charter, at a freight likely to produce over £24,500, for the homeward voyage alone.