

thing could better prove to me, sir, that with a little experience, you will be as calm in the presence of bears as you are, I am sure, in the face of an enemy."

English and Foreign.

RUSSIA.

In the last number of Blackwood's Magazine, there is an account of the internal sufferings of Russia from the war, which is an important contribution to the contemporary history of this great struggle for the control of the old Western Empire. The writer of this account, lived during the last ten years in the interior of Southern Russia, which he left during the summer just past; and although he avows that his heart "beats with a truly British enthusiasm," his narrative seems to be singularly free from acrimonious feeling and tinged in the least possible degree by prejudice. There is every reason to believe that his statements are those of a reliable eye-witness, and that his conclusions are drawn by one whose intelligence and opportunities for observation make them worthy of a high degree of consideration.

It appears that in Russia, the great sufferers by the war are the landed proprietors, while the merchants, singularly enough, are indifferent to its continuance or desirous of its vigorous prosecution. The manorial lords suffer in three ways.—First, on account of the occupation of the Black Sea by the allied fleets, and the consequent large decrease in the demand for their linseed, flax, corn and tallow for exportation, which is estimated to have cost them one-third of their income during the past year, although they have saved themselves from absolute ruin by the transportation of their wool overland to Germany. The late expedition to the Azoff it appears inflicted less loss upon the Russian government than upon individuals; for of the immense quantities of corn destroyed there, not more than one-fifth was intended for the troops, the remainder being private property.

The second oppressive effect of the war is felt through the conscription tax, which, always severe, (being at the rate of seven men yearly from every thousand serfs,) had been, during the past eighteen months, at the rate of thirty-six from every thousand. In addition to the loss forever of these men, the proprietor is obliged to pay about forty dollars for the outfit and arms of each recruit, a contingent, amounting to about once and a half their number, to provide for the rejection of the first as unfit for service.

The third source of the woes of war to the home dwelling Russian, is one infinite and various in its elements and is known under the name of voluntary contributions are made at requirement; and during the past year have been astonishingly large and frequent. They consisted, for instance from one estate on which are thirteen hundred serfs, of forty oxen for rations,—five wagons with a pair of horses and a driver each for the transport of troops to the Crimea,—thirty-six thousand pounds of biscuit, which were made and delivered in four weeks during harvest, requiring the labor of twenty oxen and drivers for four months,—ten waggon more with a pair of horses and a driver each,—\$450 in money, in place of more oxen for rations,—and finally of seventy-two thousand pounds more of biscuit. In addition to voluntary contributions at this enormous rate, proprietors, great and small, and free serfs are called upon to furnish means of transportation for all munitions of war through the country. This service the serfs are obliged to perform sometimes a hundred miles distant from their homes, cutting roads through snow from six to eight feet deep, and, as the tumbrils were put on wheels instead of sledges, furnishing twelve or fifteen horses to each tumbril, which number had to be doubled, and more than doubled when the road led over a hill.

From this service the peasants returned to find themselves literally "eaten out of house and home" by the troops who spread like locusts over the country, devouring and stealing everything wherever they went. The troops themselves suffered in a corresponding degree from the severity of the weather during the last autumn and winter, and from the fatigue and sickness inevitable upon such long and harassing marches through the same country and the same climate which destroyed Napoleon's army. Even the Sisters of Mercy, who set out from St. Petersburg about the middle of last November to attend the sick in the Crimea, although travelling with fifteen horses to each carriage, were unable to proceed after leaving Kharkoff, the capital of the Ukraine, until, after having doubled the number of their horses in vain they were dragged out of the mire by oxen, and then went on to their wounded compatriots at the rate of two miles an hour. To all these afflictions

are to be added the "vast system of fraud, peculation, and pillage" which "prevails throughout the empire," as we know from the present and many other reliable authorities. By this ruin is brought upon the tailors, shoemakers and mechanics of all kinds, who are forced to supply their wards to the army.

Of all that occurred, in relation to this war, either in the Crimea, in England, or in France, we have been informed to the minutest particular; but this is our first glimpse at the state of the interior of Russia, consequent upon the movements of the allies. We remember seeing it stated not long ago in the Paris correspondence of some one of our contemporaries, at home or abroad, that Louis Napoleon declared the expedition to the Crimea to be his own planning, and that the armies remained there with limited prospects of taking Sebastopol in pursuance of his design to bleed Russia to death and worry her out, by attacking her at her extreme outposts, and obliging her to transport every man, every gun, and every ration by land, hundreds, and almost thousands of miles across her dreary steppes and pestilential morasses. If such were his plan this account shows that he has again attained his object. The revelation is terrible; and although we have been obliged to give in these paragraphs the substance of a paper ten pages long, our readers will have seen that the writer is, in a great measure, at least, justified in this conclusion which occurs near the end of his article:—

"It will be seen by a careful perusal of the foregoing statement of facts, that all classes in Russia must ardently desire peace, as the only means of preserving them from ruin, to which the serf-owners are more exposed than any other class, from the continual drain upon their resources, already much diminished by debts. They are an improvident race. Many of the lower orders hoped for a great improvement in their position from the success of the allied armies; but they are disheartened by the length of time they are obliged to wait. They cannot define what they expect; but that they hoped for great advantages, I have no doubt, from several conversations I have had with intelligent men in the peasant class—men who can neither read nor write, but who, by the force of their natural shrewdness, can understand that a change must and will come. They looked upon the French and English as the heralds of this change. Had the war been pushed with sufficient vigor from the beginning, there is no doubt but that the power of Russia would have been humbled effectually by defeats on the frontier and internal dissensions."

THE FIRST BLOW IN THE BALTIC.

The head of the Colossus is at Helsingfors; its heart is at Cronstadt; its right arm rests upon Sebastopol. Such (quoting from memory) were the remarkable words of the remarkable pamphlet, "The Revision of the Map of Europe," which although suppressed in France, was attributed, by common fame, to the pen of no less distinguished an author than the Ruler of the French Empire. The head of the Colossus is crushed; his right arm is paralysed; what but a timid or over-cautious policy can now delay a blow at his heart?

Sveaborg is the advanced post of Helsingfors, the capital of Finland, as Cronstadt is of St. Petersburg. A chain of granite islands, almost touching one another, encloses the deep and noble bay on which Helsingfors is situated; and the only channel by which a large ship can enter is Gustaf Sound, not more than 350 yards across. These islands are towering masses of granite; and, on the face of the cliffs, batteries of enormous strength had been constructed, the guns, in successive tiers, sweep every approach to the harbour. The seven islands which compose Sveaborg were covered with fortifications, a vast arsenal and magazines, barracks, a dock-yard, and all the other requirements of a first-class naval and military establishment. Before the breaking out of the War, Sveaborg was said to be defended by 800 cannon, and to have casemates for from 6,000 to 7,000 small arms, and barrack-room for a garrison of 12,000 men. It is not improbable that it actually mounted 1,000 guns, and had a defending force of 20,000 or 30,000 men. The island which immediately commands the entrance of the bay, is Gustafsvard; and here, therefore, the batteries are the most formidable. But the second island, Vargoe, which is almost central to four other islands, is regarded as the citadel.

Last year, Admiral Napier pronounced Sveaborg as well as Cronstadt to be unassailable with the means then at his disposal; and he was justified in expressing that opinion, being deficient in precisely that description of force, the gunboats and mortar vessels, which Admiral Dundas has

been enabled to employ with such signal success. Having taken his measures with a combination of boldness and prudence, after a bombardment of forty-five hours, he has reduced 'the Gibraltar of the North' to a heap of ruins, and struck a blow the moral effect of which will be as great as the material loss inflicted.

It is with a melancholy satisfaction that we reflect upon this tremendous success in the work of destruction; but let us recollect what it is that we have destroyed,—the head and teeth of the Great Sea Serpent of the Baltic; fortifications not designed for the protection of peaceful commerce, but as the stronghold of an aggressive Power that defied and threatened Europe. Sveaborg came into the possession of Russia, with the Grand Duchy of Finland, as recently as 1809, and was a place of some strength under the Swedes. The works were commenced in 1748, but were not completely finished when acquired by Russia.—Helsingfors was first fortified by the Emperors Alexander and Nicholas. Cronstadt was taken from the Swedes by Peter the Great in 1710, and converted from a desert island into a fortified town and harbour. These fortresses, the memorials of conquest and the advanced posts of aggression, never could have been intended or required for the mere defence of St. Petersburg.—It has been well said, they tell their own tale.—The magnitude of their works and the incessant activity in the arsenals during the last half century, should have clearly warned Europe, that these huge fortresses were intended as a basis of operations against its liberties and the rights of its Rulers. It is the same with Sebastopol. Its construction was a menace; its object, a preparation for war. It stands on territory acquired by violence and treachery, as a stepping-stone to further encroachments. Russia without an enemy to threaten her in the water of the Black Sea, would never have lavished such immense sums upon arsenals, fortifications, and fleets of war, but with a view to carry out the long cherished purposes of a boundless ambition. Her entire policy is and ever has been aggressive, exclusive, predatory, devastating, destructive. The peace of Europe can be secured only by inflicting upon such a Power permanent incapacity of doing mischief,—by drawing the teeth as well as parting the claws of the Ursine Monster.—[Patriot.]

FACTS AND INCIDENTS OF THE WAR.

A RESIDENCE IN SEBASTOPOL.—The Odessa correspondent of one of the Paris journals furnishes the following, received from a Russian merchant, still a resident in Sebastopol:—

I was obliged to abandon my quarters for a cellar, whither I was driven by the shot and shell of the enemy. My house suffered from the beginning of the bombardment; the windows were broken and the roof knocked into holes, but we managed to hold on, though in a continual panic. However, about the middle of June two shells fell, one into the kitchen, and the other into the warehouse, and levelled them both to the ground.—The enemy recommenced a murderous cannonade on the 17th at 9 A. M. I was writing in my office when a ninety-six pounder from the French battery opposite Bastion No. 4 passed through two walls and the stove, and fell just at the third.—Ten minutes afterwards a shell of two hundred weight burst in the midst of the court. After that it would have been madness to think of stopping. In fact, by the evening the house was in ruins from top to bottom. Shot, shell, and rockets were crossing in every direction. Very many of the houses that survived the bombardment of the last nine months are now in ruins. A great number of the inhabitants were killed or wounded while hastily carrying whatever they could into mines and pits. The cellar in which I now am is dug out of the rock, has no windows, and but one means of egress and ingress. My furniture consists of a table, that is of a cask turned on its end, while a smaller one serves me for a stool. My bed is of primitive simplicity—a bundle of hay covered by a rug. The warehouses and shops are removed into Fort Nicholas. In short, the whole town has moved into Fort Nicholas.

The English are casting shells for the Crimea three feet through, and weighing over a ton each. They are now able to throw shot into Cronstadt at a distance of three miles, which is beyond the reach of the Russian guns. Mr. Nasmyth, the great founder, is also casting guns, which, with their carriages, will weigh fifty tons each. They require 225 pounds of powder for a charge, and will throw a ball of a ton weight four miles.

Admiral Fournichon, the commander of the French squadron in the Pacific, is a young officer of great energy and activity. His wife, an Irish lady, accompanies him in all his campaigns.

THE FRENCH "RIVER FLOTILLA."—The *Courrier de Marseilles* states that the French government has purchased all the river steamers which have heretofore plied upon the Rhone and Saone rivers, in France, with the design of converting them into an auxiliary fleet against the Russians. These two rivers supply ninety seven large side-wheel steam vessels, all of the greater part of which will probably proceed to the Black Sea. It is believed that those river steamers will be found invaluable there. Upon points where heretofore the allies have only been able to appear in a few light vessels, escorted by a small number of gunboats, carrying but a few hundred men, they may now unexpectedly show themselves with forty thousand troops, ready to disembark, if need be, in spite of shoals, and without lighters, or the landing apparatus. The smallest of these steamboats, it is said, can easily accommodate five hundred men, and mount four eighteen pounders, which will be fully sufficient to protect a landing without other assistance. They will be able to approach every Russian beach, and enter the mouth of every river, however intricate its channel. One of the steamers recently sailed from the mouth of the Rhone to Marseilles, against a strong breeze and a heavy sea, at an average rate of fourteen miles an hour.

THE BLOCKADE IN THE BALTIC.—A letter from Stockholm, in the *Cologne Gazette*, says:—"The blockade which the Allied squadrons have established in the Baltic and the Gulf of Bothnia is so complete this year that the trade which was carried on in 1854 between Russia and Sweden to a considerable extent is completely suppressed.—The presence of the Allied fleets in these seas produces this other effect, that it forces Russia to keep in the north three great corps d'armee, one of 90,000 men in the provinces south of St. Petersburg; the second in that city and in Cronstadt; and the third along the coasts of Finland."

A new war projectile, invented by Captain Disney, was tried on Monday in the grounds near Chelsea Hospital. The invention consists in fitting shells with a bursting charge of powder contained in a metal cylinder, and filling the rest of the space with a highly combustible fluid, which, upon exposure to the air ignites everything with which it comes in contact.

CONDITION OF ITALY.

(From the London Times)

Austria no longer threatens the Russian frontier—her troops are withdrawn from Galicia, and 200,000 or 300,000 men, it is said, released by the retrograded movement of our ally are to tour themselves into the Crimea. But a lover of Italian independence will hear with little satisfaction, that in proportion as Austria is weakening her forces on the Russian frontier, she is strengthening her army on the side of Italy. 150,000 men, at least are said to be concentrating under Marshal Radetzky and the attitude becomes every day more threatening. This is indeed, considerable cause for alarm both in the present position of the Austrian Government, the tendencies and aspirations of the Marshal, and the movements on the part of the Liberal party, which seem only awaiting the signal to break out. So long as Italy is governed by the civil tribunals, it is difficult for the military chief to assume absolute power, and the central Government, though always weak in its control over Generals in remote provinces, still retains over them some semblance of authority. But, so soon as martial law is proclaimed, all things pass under the dominion of the sword, and the substance of power is to him who wields it. The Field Marshal is well known to be Russian in his feelings and tendencies, and he and his staff are said to be seen constantly decorated with orders received from the court of St. Petersburg. Placed at the head of a numerous and well disciplined army, with no prospect anywhere except that of immediate enforcing his will at the point of the bayonet, the Austrian Marshal appears to be gathering up his strength as if to strike some mighty blow, and create on behalf of Russia some serious diversion. France is said only to retain 2,000 men to garrison Rome, and it is not supposed that Piedmont, with the flower of her army in the Crimea, could bring into the field above 18,000 or 20,000 regular troops. The crisis is made inviting, and might tempt a more scrupulous man than Marshal Radetzky has ever proved himself to be.

Accounts from Alexandria of the 28th ult. state that the viceroy had returned from his expedition against the Bedouins, who had made their submission.