

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From Wilmer and Smith's European Times, November 26.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

A very important change has taken place in the position of the armies of the belligerent powers during the past week. Our readers will remember that the troops of Omer Pacha had passed the Danube, and had more or less succeeded in fortifying themselves in advantageous positions in Kalafat, Giurgevo, Oltenitza, and Kalarach. At the passage opposite Giurgevo they encountered the most successful resistance by the Russians, whilst at Oltenitza a series of encounters, which lasted many days, attested the resolute with which the Turks attacked the enemy. To this authentic statement we add a rumour then creditably put forth, that the Turks had even captured Bucharest, after a severe bombardment, and that the Russians had fled over the mountains into the Austrian province of Transylvania.—This report has proved to be altogether incorrect. The precise course of events it is impossible to trace with any degree of certainty, but we know that the troops of Omer Pacha have re-crossed the river to the right bank, merely retaining possession of one or two points of vantage to keep the Russians in check. The precise reason which has induced Omer Pacha to take this retrograde step is not known, but military men seem to approve it.

It is said that the Russian forces were approaching the scene of action from Moldavia, in such overwhelming numbers that Omer Pacha prudently declined battle at any of the points so low down the river. However, it is beyond doubt that the Turkish General maintains his position at and near Kalifat, and we have very positive assurance that a detachment of this division of the army has defeated the Russians, and has taken the strongly fortified town of Krajova, the capital of Lesser Wallachia. This important advantage is reported to have been gained by the troops of Ismael Pacha, after a smart engagement with the Russian division under General Fischbock. The Turks were expected to fortify themselves strongly in the triangle comprised between Kalafat, Krajova, and Naraocat, (query—Kalarach?), all on the left bank of the river, thereby securing their communications with both banks of the river and establishing a base of operations to act in Lesser Wallachia. Prince Gortschakoff was at Bucharest on the 14th instant, and it is said that he would march to attack Omer Pacha in his position near Widdin, as the Czar had given orders to prosecute the war with energy and perseverance. But, as with all the efforts of the Russians, it now appears that Osten Sacken's corps cannot reach Jassy before the 10th December, the Turks may keep their position in Lesser Wallachia until the close of the campaign. The weather is becoming very cold at the seat of war, and soldiers are taken with their toes frost-bitten into the hospital, which are filled to repletion. The son of Prince Volordides, settled in the Principality has been sent to St. Petersburg in chains, for having secretly corresponded with Omer Pacha. Six Boyards here been sent to Siberia for the same alleged crime. In Asia the Turks have evidently gained considerable advantage, but these can have but slender effects upon the issue of the war. In truth, it has appeared that in all the encounters the Turks have manifested quite as much bravery as the Russians, but they have not succeeded in breaking the Russian lines. The Servians after some vacillation, have declared in favour of the Porte, and seem to be disposed to aid the Sultan effectually. As regards any negotiations for peace, we are still quite in the dark. Count Walewski the French Ambassador in London, has made a secret and rapid visit to Paris, but returned immediately. Of course there are many versions respecting the object of this visit; our own is, that a secret treaty is on the tapis, or has been actually concluded, between the French and English Governments, to regulate the precise conditions upon which the two nations propose to interfere with the belligerents to secure an honorable peace; and that this is the case, is proved by the ostentatious way in which the French authorities at Constantinople have advertised for supplies for the vessels in the Black Sea throughout the winter, which plainly indicates that the fleets will remain in that quarter until peace is definitely signed. General Baraguey d' Hilliers had not arrived at his post by the last accounts from Constantinople. At that capital all was quiet. The Greek population has wisely abandoned all projects, if they ever had any, of availing themselves of the Sultan's difficulties to overthrow his rule. It cannot be denied that the diversified population of both Asiatic and European Turkey have displayed an unanimity almost unexampled amongst Christian States in a like manner exposed to the danger of war.

As the campaign must of necessity soon close, it remains to be seen whether diplomacy can now take up the ravelled skein of events or whether the Gordian knot must be cut by the sword when the spring arrives. We are more than ever convinced that the Czar will never yield until he is satisfied that England and France will strike at him unless he gives up the Principality; but when he finds both nations in downright earnest to support the Turks, he has no choice but to yield. We hear that military executions by the Russians are of daily occurrence

in Bucharest. In fact the whole Russian system is one of terror. Their war steamer Senikale has gone down near Yalta in the Black Sea. The crew were saved.—The Russian Consul had hauled down his flag at Belgrade, and the Russian Consul-general at Alexandria had been ordered to quit his post. The energetic way in which the Viceroy had taken up his master's cause has been regarded by the Cabinet at St. Petersburg as an open rupture.

The long talked of event of the "fusion" of the two branches of the Bourbons has been effected. The Duke of Nemours the eldest surviving son of the late King Louis Philippe, reached Frohsdorf on the 17th instant, and was formally received by the Duke de Bordeaux, and by mutual visits the reconciliation between the chiefs of the Bourbon and Orleans families was completed. This event may hereafter have an important effect upon the destinies of France and of Europe, but in the present position of affairs there is not the smallest probability that these unfortunate princes will venture upon any hopeless enterprise to wrest the sceptre of their ancestors from the strong and ruthless hand which now yields it by the common consent of the French people.

The supreme Court has given its decision in the affairs of the foreign correspondents. It declares that the Perfect of Police is authorised to seize and open letters which have been entrusted to the Post-office.

We have to announce the demise of Donna Maria II. da Gloria, Queen of Portugal, who expired in childhood on the 15th instant. The King Consort succeeds as regent of the kingdom, until the majority of the Duke de Braganza, who is now in his seventeenth year. The Regent has issued his proclamation swearing fidelity to his son. There is not the smallest indication of any Miguelite insurrection, nor is there, as lately reported, the least prospect of an union of the Crowns of Spain and Portugal. Such an union, so distasteful to the Portuguese people would never be consented to by France and England, unless the united voice of the people of Spain and Portugal decreed it, which is the most absurd thing possible.

Under pretence of the Bank Bill, which has been rejected by the Senate by four votes, but really on account of the continued opposition of that body, the Sardinian Chamber of Deputies has been dissolved by the King. The new elections are to take place on the 8th December, and the New Chamber will meet on the 19th of the same month.

The emigration movement of Austrians to the United States continues, and in Bohemia it has assumed an important character. No fewer than 130 persons left the north of Bohemia, in one train, all having their destination to America.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

In the absence of any important news calculated to create excitement, or cause depression, monetary and commercial affairs remain in much the same position as last week. The Eastern question has presented no new aspect, save the circulation of a variety of reports that some new propositions on the part of the allied powers for the amicable adjustment of the question were proposed, and were proceeding favourably. Money has been in increased demand for general commercial purposes. Some discounts have been obtained as low as 4½, but these have been exceptional, and confined to very short dates, and every way first-class bills.—The general accommodation has not been under the Bank of England minimum rate of 5 per cent. At the present period of the year money is generally rather tight, and it is generally believed that the money market is likely to be characterised for some time by a degree of stringency, which may not experience much relief until the heavy Government payments falling due in January. Gold continues to be shipped in large quantities to the Continent—£300,000 having been withdrawn from the Bank of England for shipment to St. Petersburg—on account of the Russian Government, and further large shipments being contemplated, owing to the favourable rate of exchange with that country. The demand for gold for France also continues brisk. From the manufacturing districts the advices report little or no change for the better in the state of parties there. The "lock-out" at Preston and the neighbourhood continues, without the slightest prospect of an early settlement. Mill-owners seem extremely firm, and do not appear at all anxious to re-open their mills before Christmas, while the operatives are in the receipt of upwards of £2000 weekly of subscriptions from the provincial metropolitan trade associations. The markets in the interior are very quiet, and little or no business is being transacted. The circumstances which combine to restrict the demand for our manufactures are so many and important that we need not be surprised at our present dullness in the face of that great diminution in the production which is occasioned by the stoppage of so many mills through the unhappy contest between employers and employed. The China trade is paralysed by civil war; that of India holds out little inducement for further exports at present. The prospects which shippers have before them in the United States are darkened by monetary difficulties and numerous failures, arising there from excessive enterprise of various kinds; and the trade of the Levant appears to be indefinitely crippled by the war between Turkey and Russia, while in several other quarters markets of importance

are in an unsatisfactory state. In addition to these causes of depression, there is the dearth of food, greatly restricting the home demand for other things, as well as keeping alive an apprehension of a continued drain of gold. These facts and probabilities naturally induce a prevalent doubt about the maintenance of the existing range of prices. Had the present wide-spread "lock-out" not occurred, such a fall must have taken place as would have compelled a general resort to short-time.

The British funds, owing to the absence of any exciting news, have gradually advanced during the week. Money stocks continue to be more freely supplied for immediate transfer, and the quotation for cash is slightly lower than that for the account.

SUNDAY'S MAIL.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.—An Imperial decree reduces the duty on coals within the restricted zone from 50c to 30c.

On the 14th of September last, Captain Baudin the commander of the French station on the western coast of Africa, sent an expedition against the village of Boe, the inhabitants of which had plundered and killed several French merchants.—The village having been destroyed, the chiefs of the population sued for peace.

All the Russian residents in Paris have received orders from St. Petersburg to settle their affairs and to hold themselves in readiness to leave France at any moment, should it become necessary for them to do so.

PORTUGAL.—The King Consort has assumed the regency, and had issued the following proclamation:—"Portuguese, God has been pleased to call to his glory to-day at half past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the Queen Lady Dona Maria the Second, my much-loved and highly prized spouse—a severe loss, which plunges me and my dear children in the deepest grief, and fills the sensitive and faithful Portuguese nation with mourning. In these sorrowful circumstances, obliged to fulfil these sacred duties imposed upon me by the law of the 7th of April 1846 confirmed by the additional act to the constitutional charter to the monarchy, I take upon myself the exercise of the regency of these kingdoms, and, in conformity to the said constitutional charter, I swear to maintain the Roman catholic apostolic religion the integrity of the kingdom and to observe and cause to be observed the political constitution of the Portuguese nation and other laws of the kingdom, and provide for the general good of the nation to the utmost of my power. I also swear to preserve fidelity to the King Lord Don Pedro VIII., my above all much loved, and highly prized son, and to resign the government to him immediately on his attaining majority."

IRELAND.—The inauguration of the Catholic University, according to the Tablet, is to take place early in 1854. The losses by the late floods in Ireland are estimated at £60,000. A subscription of £800 has been raised at Cork. According to the Evening Post, endeavours are at length being made, on a comprehensive scale, to improve the sanitary condition of the Irish metropolis, more especially as regards the dwellings of the poor.

The Dublin Exhibition Building will be opened early in December as a promenade, with the accompaniment of military music of which the Dublin people are passionately fond. A large vessel full of labourers for the works on the Panama Railway has just left Cork for the Isthmus. The application from the Cork "navigators," it appears were too numerous to be accommodated by the captain.

The Duke of Bedford has become an Irish landlord. He has purchased a part of Mr Kirwan's property in Galway for £40,000. The total sum realised by the estate was £88,850, equal to 17½ years' purchase. It is said that a few days before the sale took place, a sum of £107,000 was offered for this estate on the part of the Duke of Bedford.

ENCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION.—There were three sales of estates on Tuesday the gross produce of which amounted to 31,400. The rates of purchase were variable property in the "model" county of Wexford realising but 13 years' on the net rental while the residue of the Galway estates of Mr Christopher St. George went at the rate of 22½ years.

BREAD IN IRELAND.—The Irish have become a bread-eating people at length. The consumption of breadstuffs is now enormous, notwithstanding the abundance and comparative cheapness of potatoes excellent in quality. Large quantities of foreign grain are ground in extensive mills near Cork and other towns, and forwarded to Dublin; and it appears that the railway company, for want of an adequate supply of goods trucks to meet their emergency are sometimes unable to take all the produce offered for transmission.

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.—Ireland's population is still decreasing, the average rate of increase being more than equalled by the hosts of emigrants who even at the present severe season of the year continue to leave their home for other lands. These however, are fast adding to the population of the United States and British colonies, taking with them those habits and tastes, the requirements of which must in the end benefit the manufactures of this country. Emigration from Cork for ten months ending 31st ult., amounted to 32,268, against 22,687 in the same period last year.— *Belfast Mercury.*

LATEST FROM THE CONTINENT.

France.—It has again been reported that

the Government are about to negotiate a loan of 16,000,000*fr.* as considerable difficulty will be felt in meeting the enormous expenditure incurred till spring.

On the 23rd the Council State voted 8,000,000*fr.* to pay the legacies left by the Emperor Napoleon, by the will which he made at St. Helena.

A Polish Legion for service in the Turkish war is being formed in Paris; and although the chiefs of it have got no direct countenance from the Government, they have been assured that no obstacle will be thrown in their way.

Russia and Turkey.—The Turkish army in Bosnia are about to march into Servia, and a bridge is being thrown across the Drina. The Servian population is much agitated, and preparing to defend the territory. The Turks continue to occupy the island of Rutchuk.

Letters from Constantinople, dated 10th instant, give some details with respect to the plans of Omer Pacha, which do not leave a doubt of the fact that the operations at Oltenitza where a mere feigned attack, intended to deceive Prince Gortschakoff as to his real intentions. The plan has perfectly succeeded; for while the Russian General has concentrated his troops round Bucharest, thinking that was the point threatened, Omer Pacha has very different objects in view. It is believed that he was combining his troops, so as to attack the division of General Luder in Bessarabia; and it is also believed that the object of the Ottoman Government in sending its fleet into the Black Sea is to co-operate with the land forces in that attack. It appears that the first success of Omer Pacha have added immensely to the hopes of the Turkish Government. With their successes the courage of the Turks rises, and it would now be more difficult to bring them to terms than it would have been a month ago. They not only declare their full determination to run all the chances of the war, but speak of the terms which they were lately ready to grant to Russia, as now being out of the question.

So confident does the nation now feel of success that it would require nothing less than a complete and irremediable disaster to induce them to accede to peace on any more mild terms than an indemnity from Russia, and the revision of all the treaties that have been concluded between Russia and Turkey for the last century—treaties which they consider as a primary cause of all their misfortunes.

Prince Gortschakoff has ordered a Roman Catholic chapel at Bucharest to be closed.

It has been stated that the Emperor of Russia, in reply to the enquiry of Austria, states that he will still enter into negotiations, if the Porte proposes a project of peace. Considerable reinforcements from the frontier of Poland are being sent to the Russian army in Asia.

A letter from Vienna announces that it is the intention of the Russians to attempt a great operation on the Danube by crossing the river at Rutchuk and Silistria. The road from those towns joins that which leads to Shumla, which is, with Adrianople one of the boulevards of Constantinople. This news may be considered as indicating an intention on the part of the Russians to attack Constantinople directly.

Messrs. Baltazzi & Co., of Constantinople, have advanced 30,000,000 piastres on account of the Egyptian tribute, and other bankers 5,000,000.

The Sultan was reported to have received from the English and French Ambassadors the assurance that it might, in the case of need, count on the effective cooperation of France and England; and that it could send its fleet into the Black Sea without fearing to leave the capital exposed to a coup de main.

The main force of the Russians is moving towards Lesser Wallachia, where it is said very stringent measures will be employed, as the people exhibit symptoms of an inclination to rise against their Russian protectors. Two corps of 5000 men each have been left near Oltenitza; the one at Negojeschi, and the other at Dobreni (not marked). Mention is also made of two extra batteries, four squadrons, and 1000 Cossacks being placed near Giurgevo. On the 14th, 15th, and 16th, the Turks made attempts, probably feigned ones, to land opposite Nicopolis, Sistow, and Rutchuk.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Coals have been very scarce this fall and winter, and some of our moneyed men have been rather cut, at not having got in their supply in time. \$7 has been the ruling rate for the last fortnight. On Friday there was none to be had and on Saturday two of three cargoes went off for \$8.

LOSS OF THE BRIG "MALAGA."—The brigantine Malaga, Henry Dolby, master, from Malaga, Nov. 25th., with a full cargo of fruit, wine, oil, &c., consigned to the house of Craghton & Grassie, of this city is reported by Electric Telegraph to have been totally lost at the Ragged Islands 1st inst.—The Malaga was nearly a new vessel, having been launched at Pugwash, Co. Cumberland, about twelve months ago.—The loss of this cargo of fruit will be much felt by the lovers of Christmas cheer,—the vivid having proceeded with her freight to a port in the United States, and the Kallopolah being bound to New York. No particulars of the loss of the Malaga have been received; her being to the westward of this port was (doubtless occasioned by her chronometer being in error.

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE.—Schooner Sylph, Dunn, which sailed from Quebec for Ragged Island and Liverpool, N. S., 19th ult., with a general cargo, was wrecked off West Point of Anticosti, about the 29th and all on board perished. The schooner was found bottom up, it is suppo-

sed was capsized during a squall. Some of the dead bodies found on board were much cut.—*B. N. American.*

The severe weather of the past two weeks has been very destructive to the shipping on the coast, as will be seen by reference to the notice of disasters in another column. Since our last issue, we have had the weather mild, with rain; followed on Saturday and Sunday with snow and frost; the snow is now about a foot deep, and the country every where has the appearance of February.

Brig Grand Turk in the Strait of Canso, ready for sea Thursday, 1st inst.

Sch. Chedabucto left Strait of Canso, 29th ult. for Richibucto; same day two barks, the Maxim and Standard, left for Buctouche and Pugwash.—*Pictou Chronicle.*

On Monday night, about eleven o'clock, the alarm of fire was given, and the flames shot up in the direction of Barrack Street. The unoccupied house owned by Mrs. M. Forriester, and rented by Mr Bossom, was discovered to be on fire. The building, notwithstanding the exertions of the Fire department and Military Force, promptly at hand, with that adjoining on the North, were destroyed. There was a scarcity of water—fire-plugs of no avail in the upper streets.

The origin of the fire, we believe, has not been accounted for. There is reason to suppose that a considerable quantity of powder was stored in the upper part of the building—so it was said at the time of the fire—with what truth, we are not prepared to say. The Insurance on the premises expired, yesterday at 12 o'clock.

We are surprised at the indifference of the thousands of citizens, lockers on, who refused to work the Engines, and assist in putting out the fire.—*Halifax Daily Sun.*

UNITED STATES.

JOHN MITCHEL AT BROOKLYN.—It would seem from the speech of John Mitchel, the Irish patriot, addressed to an immense assemblage of his countrymen at Brooklyn, as reported in the New York papers, that he is following the example of Kossuth, on his landing at the same place, in endeavouring to enlist the people of this country in the cause of a revolution abroad. After informing the assembly that he had come here to procure a verdict from the American people on the issue which was made in Ireland in his case, and decided by Lord Charendon and a packed jury in Dublin, in which he was charged with felony for asserting the rights of a nation of Irishmen—and after declaring that if he had wished only to provide for himself and his family he would have remained in California, he proceeded to make the following declaration, as reported by the New York Times:

"But I came here to know the decision of the American people in my cause—the cause of Ireland. You here to-night have given it to me, and my heart is filled with hope. I shall ever prove true to that cause. It cannot be brought to a successful issue by the use of nice language only—it must be attained by horse, foot and artillery—may I rely on your support? (You may, you may.) And now, gentlemen, you must excuse me from speaking at greater length at this time. I thank you—sincerely thank you. Good night."

We hope that some friend of Mr Mitchel, will advise him that it is lawful in this country for one to say what he pleases, of the policy of the British government, and the decisions of English and Irish Courts, but it is not lawful to raise troops of "horse, foot, and artillery," for the purpose of putting down that government or reversing those decisions. Perhaps he did not mean to say that his language seems to imply. He might have intended merely to express, by an emphatic figure of speech, his gratitude to his countrymen for approving of his own course. We cannot suppose that he purposes to enlist the American people, or even his countrymen on this side of the Atlantic, in the cause of Irish emancipation, and to excite them to take up arms in support of it.—*Boston Advertiser.*

CANADA.

Since Wednesday last the weather has been really wintry. Thursday and Friday were intensely cold for the season, the thermometer having been as low as 2 deg. below zero. On Saturday the temperature became milder, and it snowed lightly, but yesterday the severe cold returned again. The river St. Charles was frozen as far as Dorchester on Friday, and the St. Lawrence has abounded in floating ice. The steamers between this and Montreal have stopped running, and the mails are now transmitted by land; last year the river navigation was open until the 19th December.

Rumours have been afloat in town for some days, that Dr. Rolph will be obliged to leave the Cabinet before the meeting the Parliament, and that Mr Couchon will take his place.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

NEW BRUNSWICK.

MORE EMIGRANTS.—The Lady Bruce, which arrived from Liverpool on Sunday, brought out 29 men to work upon the Shediac branch of the Railroad.

The Master of the Rolls granted an injunction yesterday, in favour of the Albert Mining Company, which will restrain any prosecution against them.—*Morning News.*

WEST INDIES.

The Packet brigantine Lady Seymour from Bermuda, put into Barrington on Friday: The following is the substance of a despatch received from Captain Conrad, at the Reading Room. Fever still bad at Hamilton and Ireland Island.—No new