

ort to repressive means. Dissatisfaction assumed a religious character—the difference of creeds furnished the pretext. Every public excess appeared as the consequence of misgovernment, yet was nothing more than the effect of mal-administration altogether personal and not systematic. These real plagues of Turkey were mitigated wherever Omer Pacha was at the head of a military expedition.

Such was the civil capacity Omer has displayed. In the midst of so many labors, he ran through all the degrees of the army:—Kol Agasi, (Aide-de-camp,) Bim-Basci, (commanding Major,) Miralay, (Colonel,) Liva, (General of Brigade—a degree he gained on the battle-field under the walls of Sainid'Acre,) Ferkin, (General of Division,) Muchir, (Marshal,) Ser-Asher, (Field Marshal,) and now Serdar-i-Ekrem, (Generalissimo,) the highest rank in the Ottoman army. Invested with the great decoration of the Nichani-iftikhar by Sultan Mahmud; with that of the Mejidie by Sultan Abdul-Medjid; and, lastly, presented at Shumla with a sword of honor, he could not avoid making bitter enemies. Old Turkey was continually watching him with envious rancor; but he shrewdly flattered its apostles when he thought it proper for his purpose: overpowered them with generosity, when an exchange of hostilities would have injured his cause; and openly set them at defiance when dissembling would have been weakness, and silence an act of cowardice.

At this hour he is the first general of the Ottoman army on the Danube, and more than two hundred thousand men, according to the latest accounts, are subject to his command, Millions of eyes anxiously turned towards him, and there is no man interested in the great question of the day, who does not wish to know how far his military talents may be depended upon.

If the past may afford a clue to judge of the future, the fortune of Omar Pacha has been constant for so many years as to leave no doubt of his ability. So brilliant, so important and high a position is not reached from the lowest condition, without one's being possessed of merit and that in an eminent degree. If Kosrew Pacha's favor was propitious to a young man full of hope of life and of courage, it would have sheltered a stranger though a convert, from mistrust and envy. The old Mussulman is proud of himself even to refusing to acknowledge any capacity superior to his own; and little does he expect that any information worthy of note can be derived from a foreigner. Men of such a description were often in his way, and he was more than once driven to suspend his services; but facts are convincing in spite of opposition, and they spoke in favor of Omar Pacha.

Omar's military capabilities, indeed, have had no decisive opportunity of showing themselves in the teeth of disciplined troops. It is, nevertheless, undeniable, that he has availed himself of an energetic discipline to double the power of his forces before the enemy, whom he has almost invariably beaten. When the enemy were only insurgents, it was but natural that they should not give occasion for a vast strategical plan, which on the contrary, would have proved very injurious to the kind of warfare he was called upon to wage. However the enemies he has now to confront are not altogether new to him. In Bosnia, in Montenegro, in Bulgaria, in Serbia, insurrections was always fomented by Russia, often by Austria, and by both it was assisted with arms and officers.

Independently of his ability—of which the successes he has obtained, the eminent military degrees he has won, and his actual position, are surely better proofs than our words—no one denies him a boldness of conception which never degenerated into rashness, a confidence in himself which he was able to inspire in his soldiers, and a military ardor that is proverbial among his officers. Under his command, as has been the case with all great generals, the soldier thinks himself braver, and confidently rushes to victory.

Omar's domestic life is very far from being tainted with the debauchery that is generally attributed, and often falsely, to the private conduct of the Moslems. He has had no more than two wives; and though he was allowed to have them contemporaneously, he did not marry the second until after his divorce from the former. This was a Turkish woman, daughter of an Aga of the Janissaries, who died in 1827, and was a pupil of his protector Kosrew Pacha. Emancipated from the severe restraint of the harem to the liberty of European customs, she abused it, and forced her husband to a separation. The second is a European, and was a very young maid, of a mild and virtuous character, when he saw her first, and married her at Bucharest, where she was exercising, at fourteen years of age, the profession of a teacher of the piano-forte. She is from Cronstadt in the Transylvania, and her name is Anna Simonich. He has an offspring but a natural daughter, born of an Arabian slave in Syria. A male child, the fruit of his new marriage, died at four months of age crushed under a carriage upset in the passage from Travnich to Sarajevo. He has therefore as yet no probability of being remembered in his adopted country but by his deeds. His habits are simple and frugal; he is active and indefatigable in business; of an upright, benevolent and gentle character, with a somewhat nervous and excitable temperament; often generous sometimes prodigal, always absolute, and little accus-

tomed to being contradicted in his opinions.—He is fifty-three years of age; he is tall and thin, has a martial bearing, an expressive and marked physiognomy, a quick and penetrating eye, a nose a little compressed a thick and grey beard, a large head—a perfectly Croatian type.

Engaged in all the struggles of the two parties during the most important period of their existence, the principal instrument of progress and of Young Turkey, he always regretted the necessity of drawing the sword against his fellow-subjects. It was farthest from his wish to tinge it with blood, even to impose what was, if not the common desire, the common advantage namely, the improvement of society in all its developments. But of these ill-omened seditions Turkish subjects were the arms, while the head was invisible, and kept itself in security from his blows, beyond the frontiers. Now for the first time, he finds that more real foe before him, and he has it in his power to oppose him with gigantic preparations, under most propitious circumstances, and is ready to come to a decisive encounter—an encounter expected with as impatient a longing as the drawing of a lot on which one has staked the whole of his fortune, and the moment of which he is anxious to accelerate, whether for good or for evil.

Often, even far from the noise of arms, he baffled the plots of the insidious enemies of Turkey. The most enviable of his bloodless victories was the cause of the Hungarian refugees, whom he met at Shumla, whither he had purposely repaired. He espoused their cause before the Sultan and the ministers of the Porte. The Sultan's sentiments regarding them were not less noble than his own; but his protection had for its object to neutralize the effect of foreign threats, lest by the Sultan's yielding to them, the cause of progress should be deprived of the most valuable accession of material and intellectual forces which the new comers might confer on it. His wishes, owing especially to the intervention of the English fleet, were crowned with success, and he succeeded in taking many of them under his command. The immigration, indeed, of Italians, Hungarians, and Poles, has been no inconsiderable help to the progress of Turkey in late years. The popular sentiment hailed by them, because they were the enemies of its enemies; and the accession of elements so free, so ardent and enthusiastic for the cause that drew them to exile, added an immense and rapid impetus to the reform party. They caused no little uneasiness to Russia and Austria, who, in every negotiation with Turkey, even in the last question, always insisted on the banishment of the political refugees to Asia. Russia fears only civilized men, and therefore she must be met by civilization dressed up in its full armour. Turkish civilization would give her the greatest annoyance; not to thwart it by every possible means would be an eternal remorse; and not to succeed in crushing it in the bud would be followed by the bitterest regrets.

The internal contest has now disappeared before the external. Omar Pacha beholds united under his banner both old and young Turkey. He found himself one day, belonging in an equal degree, to the one and to the other; it was on that day when both assembled under his orders on the Banks of the Danube. War, shouted forth with one voice, from all the corners of the empire, was a thought unbiassed by party views; it was the desire of emancipation from the influence, the thralldom, the arrogant pretences, the corrupting intrigues, of the foreigner.

So, in the actual crisis, they march hand in hand. The sentiment of independence, the integrity of the territory, and the sanctity of the cause, join them both. The hope of the one is restoration, the hope of the other is progress, fortified and bound together in an unbreakable bond. It is fanaticism for the former, patriotism for the latter; but it is ardor, sacrifice, and self-abnegation for both.

And can the victory, not only external but internal, be any matter of doubt? When Russia shall have paid to Turkey the ransom of her hypocrisy and ambition, the civilizing influence of the French and English armies, and of the men of all nations who are hastening to defend her, will have crossed the empire, from the Ararat to the Adriatic, and from the Danube to the Euphrates; the natural resources with which she has been blessed to such a degree by Heaven will be developed; and all nations will hail with one accord her regeneration.

THE SERFS OF RUSSIA.

The Marquis de Custine, in his recently published work on Russia, devotes a chapter to the Serfs. He says it is difficult to form a just idea of the real position of this class of men, who live in the possession of no acknowledged rights, and who yet form the nation. In many parts of the empire the peasants believe themselves to belong to the soil, a condition of existence which appears to them natural, even when they have difficulty in understanding how man can be the property of man. Not unfrequently the peasants, when about to be sold, send a reputation to some far off master of whose character for kindness reports have reached them, imploring him to buy them, their lands, their children and their cattle. And if this lord, so celebrated for his gentleness, be without money, they provide him with it, in order to be sure of belonging to him. In consideration, he exempts them from taxes for a certain number of years, and thus in-

dennifies them for the price of their bodies, which they have paid to him in advance, by furnishing the sum that represents the value of the domains to which they belong, and to which they have, as it were, obliged him to become their proprietor. The greatest misfortune which can happen to these vegetating men is to see their native fields sold. They are always sold with the glebe, and the only advantage they have hitherto derived from the modern ameliorations of the law is, that they cannot now be sold without it. The fortune of a wealthy man is computed by the heads of his peasants.

INCIDENTS OF THE WAR.

THE ALAND ISLES.

The group of Islands lying about 25 miles from the coast of Sweden, and 15 from that of Finland, in the Gulf of Bothnia, is known to the Finns by the name of 'Ahvenanmaa.' It consists of no less than 80 inhabited, and 200 uninhabited islets, the largest of which is about 18 miles in length by 14 in breadth. On this island the fortress of Bomarsund has been constructed by the Russians within the last 20 years and it is here that the French army of the Baltic, supported by the Marines of the British fleet, is now engaged in the first important operations of the war. The fortress itself is said to be large enough to shelter an army of 60,000 men within the range of its guns, and we are assured that 10,000 labourers were employed in the construction of the works during that portion of the year when it is possible to build in so severe a climate. We cannot, however, vouch for the accuracy of these numbers; but it is certain that the place is one of considerable strength and extent, capable of containing a large garrison, and not likely to be taken without the operations of a regular siege. The principal fortress consists of a double tier of semi-circular casemated batteries fronting the sea, mounting at least 80 heavy guns, but this fort does not appear to be armed on the side of the land. At a distance of about 1,000 yards from the principal fortress and from the shore, are three mounds or hillocks, two of which are fortified as detached works, mounting about 20 guns each. That to the north is called Fort Nottich, and is 130 feet high; that to the south is called the Tzee Fort; the central mound is used as a telegraph station. These works bear almost the same relation to the main fort of Bomarsund as the forts of Arab Tabia and Medjidie bore to the town of Silistria. To attack these works it is supposed that the land forces will advance in two divisions. The brigade from the north will consist of 2,000 French infantry, 100 sappers and miners, 600 marines, 16 heavy 32 pounders, four field pieces, and one rocket company, being the force destined to attack Fort Nottich in the first instance. The brigade from the south will consist of 3,000 French infantry and 30 heavy siege guns, under the command of General Banaguy D'Hilliers, in person, and will attack the Tzee fort. The interest of the position of the enemy and of the siege, consists in the reduction of these detached forts, and in this operation the ships can take no active part.

This fact establishes two points of considerable interest to our maritime operations in the Baltic. It is clear, in the first place, that in the shallow waters and difficult passes of that inland sea, our great three-deckers can hardly ever be brought sufficiently near to the enemy's works to bear upon them with effect. The block-ships and heavy frigates are alone able to go into harbours of this description, and it was not without reason, that on the occasion of the Baltic expeditions of 1800 and 1807, all the ships selected for that service were second or third rates. The use of such ships as the Duke of Wellington, the St. Jean d'Acre, and the Neptune, in the Baltic, is to keep the Russian fleet in check, and the manner in which these huge vessels have been handled by our masters and pilots, is such as to call forth the warmest eulogiums of the Russians themselves. But secondly, Admiral Napier has very wisely abstained from measuring the broadsides of any of his ships against the batteries of a granite fortress, and, in spite of all that has been said on this subject, the result of the experiments made in this war, is decidedly favourable to land fortifications against marine artillery. The opinion of the Duke of Wellington is thus confirmed, who said in the House of Lords, after the successful attack on St. Jean d'Acre in 1840, that it must not be supposed that ships were a match for well-defended batteries. The Admirals appear to have resolved to act upon this principle, and, although hollow shot and shell will be thrown against Bomarsund at a long range, it cannot be their intention to attempt the reduction of the place by breaching the sea front. We have no doubt this resolution is perfectly consistent with sound judgment and with the rules of war.

The operation is therefore converted into a siege by land, and that this was the intention of the allied Government is shown by the fact that from 10,000 to 12,000 infantry and artillerymen were embarked, that a battering train was sent, and that two of the ablest engineer officers of the French and English armies were reserved for this service. The troops were all landed on the 8th inst., on a part of the island distant about three miles from the fortress. The Russian garrison, which is supposed to consist of 3,500 men, made no attempt to defend the adja-

cent coasts, but retired within the wall, having first set fire to the woods, which might otherwise have supplied the enemy with timber, and to the villages, which might have furnished provisions. The islands, however, are said to contain about 14,000 head of cattle, and fish is most abundant in the creeks or bays. The French train of siege artillery arrived at Led Sund some days after the troops, and, in addition to these pieces of ordnance, some of the lower deck guns of the ships have been furnished with platforms, and prepared for use on land as was done with effect at the siege of St. Sebastian. We expect, however, to learn both from Bomarsund and from Sebastopol (when the attack on that place has commenced) that the nature of the soil will in both instances be found extremely unfavorable to ordinary siege operations. The Aland islands are nodules of granite, and it is probable that Bomarsund itself is built on a foundation of natural rock, and the detached forts on rocky mounds. At any rate, the ground is supposed to be too hard for the place to be easily approached by open trenches or covered mines; and, if that be the case, the besiegers must have recourse to the imperfect shelter of sandbags and abattis, and the place will not be taken without serious loss. If we are correct in these data, it may be a question for the engineers directing the siege, and for General D'Hilliers, the commander-in-Chief, whether an attack on one of the forts by escalade is not more likely to prove successful than a protracted siege.

THE FORTS OF BOMARSUND.

On the 4th instant I again arrived off these forts and beheld the most entire transformation in the locality surrounding it. What had before been a picturesque landscape, now looked a withered scene of desolation. Volumes of smoke and flame were bursting forth from the houses and huts in the villages; and as the fire swept along, nothing was left to point out the spot but the tall brick chimneys or the bare walls of the better class of residences and the smouldering remains of the peasants' huts. Night and day the flames poured out and illuminated the heavens with a red glare, and it was not until Sunday, the 6th inst., that the work of demolition was completed. The Russian commandant had been the instrument of firing villages, and whether the policy was in minute imitation of Moscow or to lay bare the place, and prevent shelter and defence in the advance of the allied armies, is at present a mystery.

LIFE IN THE BALTIC.

The following is an extract of a letter from Bomarsund:—At dusk I proceeded there, and rowing through narrow passages between the rocky islands soon came upon the French encampment. They had selected the shores of a large inlet, and pitched their tents upon a strip of land where the corn and rye were still standing in sheaf. This beautiful piece of water was dotted with innumerable islands and rocks thrown about in wild disorder. Indeed the scene reminded me much of Loch Katrine, with the pine and the silver birch covering the low land and eminence in profusion. The French camps were between the shrubs and in secluded spots and they seemed in the highest state of enjoyment. The men were employed in various ways, some scrambling over the rocks in search of wood and water, fixing tents, digging entrenchments, placing furze and earth around the base of their tents to maintain the warmth, fixing tripods for their swinging kettles, burnishing their arms, and making all snug for the night; and others had gathered around them a knot of 40 or 50 men, singing with much enthusiasm of the glories of the Empire. The burden of another song was "France and England combined will lead their sons to glory and victory," pointing to the forts. The men pressed about the singers, and energetically joined in the chorus. There was not a doubt that these musical effusions tended to keep alive in the men the fire of military ardour so essential to success in warfare. The vivandiere in their pretty double-breasted coats and large trousers were seated on a mound serving out to the men glasses of eau-de-vie and schnaps, at two sous a piece. It was quite dark when I left them, but the numerous watchfires blazing forth from the rocks lit us along the lake, and cast a wild and brigand character over the scene.

A RESTAURANT AT SHUMLA.

We repaired to a restaurant kept by a Hungarian to look for breakfast. This place during my former visit, one or two weeks previously had been thronged night and morning by all the travellers in the place, and all the foreigners in the Turkish service, and, as far as language went, bore no slight resemblance to the tower of Babel. The room and the court yard, in which the tables are likewise laid, resounded with all the tongues of Europe, and a great many of those of Asia. And what a melange of country, character, and occupation did the men present—officers in the Turkish service, officers who wanted to be in the Turkish service, but wouldn't be suffered; and foreign officers, following the operations, *en amateur*, to adopt the cant phrase now in vogue here; newspaper correspondents, speculating merchants, Italian doctors, roving English travellers, and a crowd