

## News of the Week.

## EUROPEAN NEWS.

**THE BATTLE OF GIURGEVO.**—The town of Rustchuk extends for a mile along the bank of the Danube, at an elevation of 90 feet; the banks are so steep as to render any fortifications unnecessary beyond bastions with earthen parapets to cover the guns, of which there are a tolerable number. On the land side it is surrounded by a rampart and ditch, with masonry revetments. The ground here rises to a small eminence, crowned with redoubts. A small bay near the centre of the river front, forms the harbour, where a steamer and plenty of boats were lying.

The opposite side of the river is flat for half a mile inland, when it gets slightly but abruptly elevated towards the village of Slobodshi. The town of Giurgevo is a mile and a half below Rustchuk, on the left bank, and still further down is the island of Mekan, which the Turks gained possession of on the 5th, killing twenty of the Russians. Opposite to the harbour and boats was the principal Russian battery; 100 yards in the rear of it a creek runs nearly parallel to the river. It is generally fordable, and loses itself at both extremities without joining the Danube.

After the siege of Silistria was raised, and the Russians commenced retiring, Omar Pacha proposed crossing the Danube at Rustchuk and Silistria, and sent 25,000 men to each of these towns. He expected to be at Rustchuk, where the first attempt would be made, about the 9th, and ordered everything to be prepared, but no further steps to be taken till he had arrived.

During the night of the 6th, however, the Russians withdrew all their guns, and so few men were to be seen on the left bank that Hussein Pacha, the commander of the forces in Rustchuk, determined at once to effect a lodgment. At half-past nine a. m., four companies of infantry under the command of Bekir Pacha, accompanied by Behram Pacha (General Cannon) and Captain Bent Royal Engineers, landed a little below the Russian battery without opposition beyond a musketry fire. General Cannon advanced with skirmishers along with Captain Bent who was the first Englishman to land; and they drove the enemy across the creek with considerable loss. But the Russians who in reality were 800 strong, here made a stand and the Turks had to retire on the river bank. They established their left in the battery; their right was in less danger, for the creek gets deeper in that direction. The Russians came forward very bravely, but the Turks defended the battery with determination, and after a few minutes' firing at very close quarters, the former retired among the reeds and brushwood, whence they continued their musketry fire with considerably effect.

General Cannon returned to consult with Hussein Pacha, who overlooked the whole field of action from the Rustchuk bastions, and he sent two battalions over, and ordered the gunboats to keep up a vigorous fire.

A quarter of an hour after the party under Bekir Pacha started, another body of 500 men commanded by Colonel Balfour Ogilvie, aide-de-camp to General Cannon, accompanied by Colonel C. Hinde, aide-de-camp, Capt. Arnold, 3rd Madras Native infantry, and Lieut. Meynell, her Majesty's 75th regiment, proceeded in the steamer for a mile and a half up the river, and landed on the left bank. Seeing during the passage, that Bekir Pacha was likely to be hard pressed, Col. Ogilvie determined to effect a junction with him. He threw out 50 skirmishers in front under Capt. Arnold. Colonel Hinde commanding the advanced, and Lieut. Meynell the rear guard. The enemy opened a severe fire of grape from two guns they brought up, and their infantry annoyed his left flank by an incessant musketry fire. After descending the river for a mile, the Turks took a Russian battery close to the bank, and Col. Ogilvie, finding that Capt. Arnold had got so much over the left front that he could not see him, as the ground was covered with high reeds, ordered them to wait if Captain Arnold should fall back, for he had given him orders to rejoin the main body at this point. After half an hour, however, Colonel Ogilvie, who could not see anything that was going on down the river, and being anxious to join Bekir Pacha, pushed on down the river, leaving Lieut. Meynell with 50 men to keep the position till Capt. Arnold returned. By this time the steamer had made another trip, and 200 more men came down the bank and joined Lieutenant Meynell. After a march of a mile and a half over ground occupied by the enemy, and commanded by their guns, at grape and canister range the gallant party under Colonel Ogilvie effected a junction with Bekir Pacha, and this timely reinforcement raised the spirits of the Turks. Capt. Arnold's detention was afterwards explained by the accounts of those who were in the Rustchuk bastions, and could see the whole engagement. He had actually advanced with his 50 men on a Rus-

sian battery more than 300 yards inland, in which there were two guns, driven them out of it (the enemy retiring with their pieces), and held possession till overwhelming numbers forced him back on Lieutenant Meynell. Here they retained their ground for about two hours, without any reinforcement being sent to the town, until three fresh Russian battalions came down the heights, one of which joined in the attack. At this point the Turks, now far outnumbered, were driven out of the battery to the river bank.—Captain Arnold and Lieutenant Meynell were both killed; their bodies were found in the battery which renders it evident that the gallant fellows had fought where they stood till the last.

The remainder commenced retiring down the river, under shelter of the bank, which is here about seven feet high, but the enemy, keeping above them, continued loading and firing, while our men, from their position, could offer no resistance. It seemed as if the whole party must have been destroyed, when 300 men under Lieutenant Burke, Royal Engineers, who had been landed from the steamer, commenced marching down the river, and the enemy drew up to attack them.—Here a repetition of the scene just described took place; the Turks found a tempting but fallacious shelter behind the bank, and the Russians, from above, stabbed them with the bayonet, or discharged their muskets, the muzzles almost touching the heads of the Turks. Most fortunately, the bank soon ended, and the ground became level with the river's edge. The Turks could now form line and face their opponents on equal terms. They slowly retired for 100 yards; and then, though much outnumbered, showed such a resolute front that the Russians durst not charge.

The attention of the generals on both sides were now directed to this action, for while Hussein Pacha despatched the steamer to bring over the men, 500 Russian cavalry and two guns descended from the village of Slobodshi, and galloped in the same direction. The Russians had the start, and the result was watched with great anxiety, when to the surprise of the Turkish general, the Russian cavalry halted a quarter of a mile in the rear. It was now expected that the steamer, which had two guns on board, would bring off the men without much difficulty, but she soon became enveloped in smoke and steam; one of the enemy's shot had rendered her totally useless, and she drifted back across the river. The position of the Turks was now to all appearance hopeless; one charge and they would all be driven into the river by superior numbers, when the enemy's infantry slowly retired behind the cavalry, and the whole of them proceeded to Slobodshi. Towards sundown the party were brought back without molestation. They lost about 70 men, among whom was Lieutenant Burke, who commanded the expedition.

All this time the firing was kept up at the battery where the first landing was made; a quarter of a mile below it the Russians had brought up two battalions and two guns, and made desperate but unsuccessful efforts to reach our boats and take the battery we were defending in the rear. By 5 p. m., the Turks had retrenched themselves, which would have been effected long before had proper arrangements been made, and a sufficient supply of tools been sent over.

About 3 p. m., Hussein Pacha, accompanied by General Cannon and his staff, went over to the other side. The Turks were busy completing and extending their retrenchments, all firing had ceased, and they passed the night there without any further attacks. In the morning the Russian infantry had disappeared; their cavalry, who were drawn up on the rising ground, drew off slowly an hour after daybreak, and the Turks commenced the melancholy task of burying the dead of both sides which were strawn over the battle field.

There were 200 Turks killed of those who landed highest up the river; in the battery opposite the town there were 30 killed; and on the extreme right 70. The wounded amounted to about 600; total 900. Of the Russians about 30 were killed up the river, 70 near the battery opposite the town, 50 on the extreme right and 40 on the battery taken by Arnold and by shell from the Rustchuk bastions: total killed, 190. Taking the wounded in the proportion of 4 to 1, this gives 760—total 950. The difference of the proportion between the killed and wounded on the two sides is thus explained:—The Turks who were killed when under the river bank were nearly all shot dead; the wounded had no means of retiring, and the Russians returned to massacre those who were still living. It is but justice to add that this shameful inhumanity might be partly owing to the exasperation, occasioned by the Turks having not yet entirely discarded the disgraceful practice of decapitating the dead.

In this hard-fought action, which lasted for nine hours, the soldiers on both sides displayed great courage. The Turks who made good their lodgment, and slept on the field, may with justice claim the victory; but it was an action for which no necessity existed

The Russians were evidently retiring from their position, and it cannot be considered good generalship to force the passage of a river 700 yards wide and gain two acres of ground at the expense of nearly 1000 men, when as many square miles might have been occupied the following day without firing a shot. Had the Russians been retiring in disorder, it might have been worth while to hazard something for the purpose of harassing their retreat; but in reality the Turks had no immediate intention of following them, and on the morning of the second day after the action, not a thousand more men had crossed than were there on the evening of the day it was fought. The passage was, moreover, effected without any preconcerted arrangement, and boatload after boatload crossed without engineer officers to mark out an entrenchment, or tools to form a parapet.

**Narrow escape of the Czar from being captured by an English war steamer.**—The Times in a leading article, gives an interesting statement of an incident which might easily have been turned to account in the capture of the Emperor Nicholas and part of the imperial family. An English yacht belonging to Lords Lichfield and Euston had ventured so near to Cronstadt that a Russian steamer put out to sea with the intention of cutting her off. A war steamer, seeing the danger to which the yacht was exposed, advanced with all speed to her relief, and soon obtained such a position that the yacht was saved. This being accomplished the commander of the English steamer put her head round, although the little Russian steamer could easily have been captured had he known that on board of this Russian vessel were the Emperor Nicholas, his son, the Archduke Constantine, the Archduchess, his wife, and the Russian Admiral.

Berlin, Friday. The Western powers have formally rejected the Russian proposals and have made their own, which will likely form the subject of a conference at Vienna; but it is improbable that Russia will accept them.

**Invasion of the Crimea by the Anglo-French and Turkish Army.**—The Times says, we are at length in a condition to present to the public something more than speculation and surmises on the movements of the allied armies in the East. About the time we write if not on this very day, a force made up of English, French and Turks, and amounting to between 80,000 100,000 men, will invade the Crimea, attempt to effect a lodgment on the heights commanding the harbour of Sebastopol. The preparations have been some time in progress, and the rumoured visit of Generals Brown and Canrobert to the Circassian coast, with 5000 men, was really to secure a landing on the Crimea. It is then with the greatest satisfaction that we now announce an enterprise corresponding to the dignity and resources of the two great western powers, England, and France, and so far justifying the confidence of Turkey.—A fortnight will probably elapse before any tidings of the result can arrive, but at an earlier date we shall learn from the East that all the disposable forces have embarked for the neighbourhood of Sebastopol. It is possible that the attack may degenerate into a blockade; and, if we only persevere, we must ultimately starve out the garrison of this proud fortress; but we hope to report an end of the affair long before it comes to that pass; and, with the forces at our disposal, there is no reason why every stone and every plank in the fort should not be at the mercy of the allied armies in a very few weeks or even days.—We may then if we please, hold the Crimea against the Russians as long as it may answer our purpose to retain a material guarantee.

**DEATH OF THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.**—Late foreign advices bring the intelligence that Abbas Pacha, Viceroy of Egypt, is dead, his death was sudden, said to be apoplexy, though possibly of poison. It took place on the 14th of July at Benha, a small town on the Nile. His age was 41 years. Abbas Pacha was grandson of Mehemet Ali, and succeeded to the Pashalic of Egypt in '49. He was a man of considerable Oriental learning; but according to English representation, was an eccentric, unsocial, narrow-minded and unpopular man. He seems to have cherished a dislike to Europeans, and avoided their society as much as possible, living much in the desert and away from Alexandria, in which latter place it is said he never spent a whole day after succession to the Pashalic.

The Mahomedan ulemas and the readers of the Koran were his favourite companions, next to pigeons, horses and dogs. The latter animals were his special pets; and he is said to have collected, at an enormous expense, a large number of every description, from various quarters of the globe: and with them he delighted to spend much of his time in some out of the way place. He is represented to have been a selfish, exacting and oppressive governor, his death will not be mourned by his people.

**The New Pacha of Egypt.**—The Constitutional has the following on the change that has just taken place in Egypt:—"The sudden death of Abbas Pacha has called to the government of Egypt his uncle, Said Pacha. According to European ideas of succession to the throne, it would have appeared that the Egyptian Viceroyalty should have belonged to the son of Abbas Pacha Hamee Pacha, who has just left Alexandria on a tour in Europe. Such however, is not the order of succession according to the patriarchal law as set down in the Koran.—The heir to the throne is always the eldest of the family. A curious example of this was seen at the time of the death of Ibrahim Pacha. Mehemet Ali left three sons—Ibrahim Pacha, Toussoun Pacha, and Said Pacha. After Ibrahim Pacha the Viceroyalty fell to Abbas Pacha, the son of Toussoun Pacha, who had died some time before and not to Said Pacha, for the reason that Abbas Pacha being born in 1813, and Said Pacha in 1822, the former was the elder, and consequently the chief of the race. At that period therefore it was the nephew who succeeded to the prejudice of the uncle, whereas now it is the uncle who succeeds to the prejudice of the nephew, in consequence of priority of birth. Said Pacha was born in 1822, and he is therefore 32 years of age, and not 36, as has been stated by a contemporary. As he comes to power in the prime of life, it may be hoped that he will govern Egypt for many years. He is a prince endowed with fine and noble qualities, and is highly esteemed by the enlightened part of the nation, who have always founded very sanguine hopes on him. His instruction is very remarkable; he not only has a well-grounded knowledge of the ordinary sciences, but he has studied with particular attention history and navigation.

He speaks with elegance and purity several living languages of the East and West, and particularly French, with the literature of which country he is perfectly conversant. Being of an enlightened and liberal mind he takes pleasure in encouraging a taste for intellectual knowledge in others. He has for this reason constantly supported at his expense in the different schools of Europe, numerous pupils belonging to the most distinguished families of the country. A prince of this generous and elevated character, who likes and appreciates France, the civilization and arts of which he has himself studied, and who has always given the Sultan proofs of the most unchangeable devotedness, will know how to maintain Egypt in the excellent path on which he has entered and will worthily continue the glorious work of his illustrious father.

**The Hero of Silistria.**—Major Nasmyth, the companion of Captain Butler, in a letter to the Times, gives the following account of the death of this gallant officer:—"Cannon and his division got in this morning, and on the 13th he and his English Officers accompanied Butler and myself to Yelani. While here, poor Butler was mortally wounded in the forehead while making a reconnaissance of the enemy's position for a sortie which we had arranged for that evening. At the time he received the wound, none of us thought it was more than a mere flesh wound, particularly as the ball had traversed part of the parapet before striking him. He lived eight days after this and I may say his death was universally regretted. He was a fine chivalrous fellow, and the garrison paid every respect they could to his remains. A company of infantry was told off as the firing party, and an officer from each battalion attended his funeral.

Lieutenant General the Hon. H. E. Butler, father of Captain Butler, has arrived in London, after a lengthened tour in Italy and other continental states. The gallant officer is deeply affected at the loss of his youngest son. He has two surviving sons in the army, one in the 55th, in Turkey, the other in India. It is proposed to erect a cenotaph to Captain Butler's memory in the church at Thomastown, County of Kikenny, where so many of his ancestors sleep.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

**HEALTH OF THE CITY AND PORTLAND.**—At length the pestilence seems to abate in virulence. The number of deaths though still large is less than it has been, especially in Portland, which has suffered so dreadfully.

The reports to the Board of Health show the number of deaths to be—

From Tuesday at 10 o'clock to Wednesday at 10 o'clock:	
In to City,	10
In Portland and Indian Town,	8
	18
From Wednesday at 10 o'clock to Thursday at 10 o'clock.	
In the City,	12
In Portland and Suburbs,	5
	17