

(June 1), which announced the determination of the Emperor of Russia to order his troops to occupy the Principalities, if the Porte did not within a week comply with the demands of Russia.

The despatch to her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, authorising him in certain specified contingencies to send for the British fleet, was dated the 31st May, and the order sent direct from England to her Majesty's admiral to proceed to the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles, was dated the 2nd of June.

The determination to occupy the Principalities was therefore taken before the orders for the advance of the combined squadrons were given.

The Sultan's Minister was informed that unless he signed within a week, and without the change of a word, the note proposed to the Porte by Prince Menchikoff, on the eve of his departure from Constantinople, the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia would be occupied by Russian troops. The Sultan could not accede to so insulting a demand; but when the actual occupation of the Principalities took place. The Sultan did not, as he might have done in the exercise of his undoubted right, declare war, but addressed a protest to his allies.

Her Majesty, in conjunction with the Sovereigns of Austria, France, and Prussia, has made various attempts to meet any just demands of the Emperor of Russia without affecting the dignity and independence of the Sultan; and had it been the sole object of Russia to obtain security for the enjoyment by the Christian subjects of the Porte of their privileges and immunities, she would have found it in the offers that have been made by the Sultan; but as that security was not offered in the shape of a special and separate stipulation with Russia, it was rejected.—Twice has this offer been made by the Sultan, and recommended by the Four Powers—once by a note originally prepared at Vienna, and subsequently modified by the Porte, once by the proposal of bases of negotiation agreed upon at Constantinople on the 31st of December, and approved at Vienna on the 13th of January, as offering to the two parties the means of arriving at an understanding in a becoming and honourable manner.

It is thus manifest that a right for Russia to interfere in the ordinary relations of Turkish subjects to their Sovereign, and not the happiness of Christian communities in Turkey, was the object sought for by the Russian Government; to such a demand the Sultan would not submit, and his Highness, in self-defence, declared war upon Russia, but her Majesty, nevertheless, in conjunction with her allies, has not ceased her endeavours to restore peace between the contending parties.

The time has, however, now arrived when the advice and remonstrances of the Four Powers having proved wholly ineffectual, and the military preparations of Russia becoming daily more extended, it is but too obvious that the Emperor of Russia has entered upon a course of policy which, if unchecked, must lead to the destruction of the Ottoman Empire.

In this conjuncture her Majesty feels called upon by regard for an ally, the integrity and independence of whose empire have been recognised as essential to the peace of Europe, by the sympathies of her people with right against wrong, by a desire to avert from her dominions most injurious consequences, and to save Europe from the preponderance of a power which has violated the faith of treaties and defies the opinion of the civilised world, to take up arms in conjunction with the Emperor of the French for the defence of the Sultan.

Her Majesty is persuaded that in so acting she will have the cordial support of her people; and that the pretext of zeal for the Christian religion will be used in vain to cover an aggression undertaken in disregard of its holy precepts, and of its pure and beneficent spirit.

Her Majesty humbly trusts that her efforts may be successful, and that, by the blessing of Providence, peace may be re-established on safe and solid foundations.

Westminster, March 28, 1854.

DECLARATION.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, having been compelled to take up arms in support of an ally, is desirous of rendering the war as little onerous as possible to the Powers with whom she remains at peace.

To preserve the commerce of neutrals from all unnecessary obstruction, her Majesty is willing, for the present, to waive a part of the belligerent rights appertaining to her by the law of nations.

It is impossible for her Majesty to forego the exercise of her right of seizing articles contraband of war, and of preventing neutrals from bearing the enemy's despatches, and she must maintain the right of a belligerent to prevent neutrals from breaking an effective blockade which may be established with an adequate force against the enemy's ports, harbours, or coasts.

But her Majesty will waive the right of seizing enemy's property laden on board a neutral vessel, unless it be contraband of war.

It is not her Majesty's intention to claim the confiscation of neutral property, not being contraband of war, found on board enemy's ships; and her Majesty further declares that being anxious to lessen as much as possible the evils of war, and to restrict its operations to the regularly organized forces of the country, it is not her present intention to issue letters of marque for the commissioning of privateers.

Westminster, March 28, 1854.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

A second supplement to the London Gazette, of Tuesday, contain three orders in Council, dated Wednesday. The first grants general reprisals against Russian ships and goods. The second forbids British ships entering and clearing outward from any Russian ports, and decrees a general embargo on all Russian ships and vessels now within, or which shall hereafter come into, any of the ports, harbours, or roads within any of her Majesty's dominions; together with all persons and effects on board the said ships or vessels. The third order contains exceptions to the second order. Russian merchant vessels, in any ports or places in her Majesty's dominions shall be allowed until the 10th day of May next, for loading and departing from such ports or places, and that such Russian vessels, if met at sea by any of Her Majesty's ships, shall be permitted to continue their voyage, if, on examination of their papers, it shall appear that their cargoes were taken on board before the expiration of the above term; provided that the Russian vessels had not on board any officer in the naval or military service of the enemy, or any article prohibited, or contraband of war, or any dispatch of, or to, the Russian Government. Any Russian merchant vessel, which, prior to the date of this order, shall have sailed from any foreign port, bound for any port of, or place in her Majesty's dominions, shall be permitted to enter such port or place, and discharge her cargo, and afterwards forthwith, to depart without molestation, and that any such vessel, if met at sea by any of Her Majesty's ships, shall be permitted to continue her voyage to any port not blockaded.

A royal proclamation follows the above orders, regulating the allotment of prize money among the officers and crew of the ships of the royal navy.

THE BALTIC.

SIR C. NAPIER AT COPENHAGEN.

Copenhagen, March 22.—The day before yesterday Sir Charles Napier arrived here in the steamer *Valorous*, Captain Buckle. The Danes were excessively pleased with him for taking off his hat on landing at the custom-house stairs. Sir Charles then paid a visit to Mr Buchanan, our Minister, and with him proceeded to pay his respects to the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is said that the King of Denmark refused to see the gallant admiral, on the plea of ill-health, but, in reality, from an indisposition to offend the Russian party, which is rather strong here. Yesterday morning Sir Charles Napier returned in the *Valorous* to Wingo Sound.

PASSAGE OF THE GREAT BELT BY THE BALTIC FLEET.

A telegraph despatch from Nyborg, given in the Cologne Gazette, states that a division of the English fleet, numbering 18 sail, passed the Great Belt on the morning of the 25th ult. A despatch from Kiel, dated the same day at noon, announces that six vessels of the fleet were in sight.

Kiel, March 29.—Yesterday the fleet sailed from Kiel for Kjøge Bay, near Copenhagen. On Monday the *Miranda* returned to Copenhagen, having reconnoitred as far as Revel.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS IN THE BALTIC.

The Austrian Lloyd contains information extracted from St. Petersburg letters of the 14th. The Russians appear to be fully convinced that, even if things go well with the allies, only a part of the fleet will be fit for service by the time it gets up to Cronstadt.—The sandbanks are numberless, and, in addition to these, the ships have all to contend with the Scheeren flotilla, which is likely to be very destructive to single vessels. This flotilla is stationed behind the Scheeren (the archipelago of islets and reefs or ridges of rocks which line the coast on both sides of the Baltic is so called), where there is not sufficient depth of water for larger vessels.—It is supposed that in the operations against Sweaborg, Oesel, and Revel, the allies will suffer severely. The greater part of the Russian fleet is at Cronstadt, "which is being fortified so as to bid defiance to all attacks." The island is connected with the continent by means of an artificial dam, which is covered with batteries. The strand batteries which command the channel leading up to the harbour have been doubled, and before Cronstadt can be attacked these batteries, which contain 800 guns of the largest calibre, must be destroyed. There are three artillery parks in reserve. A private letter of the 15th, from Stockholm, also speaks of the fearful preparations of the Russians for defence. The

Grand Duke Constantine had been a whole fortnight at Helsingfors superintending the works. It is generally believed the first hostile collision will take place at the island of Oesel, which may be considered as the advanced post to Revel. Sweaborg is so protected by sand-banks, reefs, and strand batteries, that an attack is almost impossible. "The Russian fleet is perfectly secure at Sweaborg, and it may render good service against the allies when they return." All the lamps have been removed from the lighthouses, and the buoys taken up, so that the most experienced Russian pilots would be at a loss to find their way up to Cronstadt.

THE EAST.

It is rumoured that, in addition to the late augmentation of the army, there is to be a further increase of 30,000, and that the first division of the expeditionary force at Malta, is now being rapidly moved on to Constantinople.

It is expected that gentlemen cadets will be allowed to join both cavalry and infantry regiments in conformity with the usual regulations.

An Admiralty notice has been issued, inviting tenders for the conveyance to Constantinople of 113 guns, weighing 342 tons, besides 59 tons of anchors and chain cables.

It was finally decided on the 25th to send the entire cavalry force destined for the East through France, embarking it on the Mediterranean at Marseilles. No other portion of the British contingent proceeds by that route.

The cavalry regiments proceeding to the East through France are each expected to occupy about nine days after crossing the Channel in proceeding to Marseilles. As the Railway communication between Chalons and Avignon is incomplete, about seven days will be spent on the march, and it is believed that this will be found a useful preparatory training both for men and horses before they enter upon active service. The large number of transports that would be required in conveying the force entirely by sea is, we understand, the chief reason for the selection of this route. Those who are anticipating a military display on the occasion of the English cavalry passing through Paris will probably be disappointed, as according to present arrangements the troops will proceed on their journey by squadrons.

GUN-BOATS.

We believe that the want of gun-boats has not been lost sight of, and that it is proposed to send half a dozen of such vessels as shall unite the two desirable qualities of heavy gun-boats and swift steamers, vessels probably of about 160 feet long, and 400 to 500 tons so armed as to be most formidable for the attack of anything, fixed or moveable, and so swift that nothing that the enemy has can catch them, with the means on board of dreadful destruction, and comparatively little in bulk to present to the enemy's fire. Half a dozen of such vessels would crush fifty of the old fashioned gun-boat like so many eggshells. These boats will most likely be ready in the course of a few weeks.

AUSTRIA.

Letters from Vienna state that the Austrian Government is concentrating, on the Turkish frontier, a much stronger force than has been mentioned in the official announcements on the subject. For a month past trains, filled with soldiers, or heavily laden with munitions, have left Vienna and Pesth for the south. The newspapers are not allowed to publish the numbers of these reinforcements, but competent persons calculate that including the permanent regiments of the military frontier, the Austrian force now located on the borders of Turkey and the three Danubian Principalities, cannot be far short of 150,000 men.

Vienna, March 28.—The news of the passage of the Danube and Sir Hamilton Seymour's despatches taken together have made a very painful impression here. It was believed to the last that the Czar would, from respect to Austria, confine his forces to the Principalities. Prince Gortschakoff's movement, and the contempt for Austria disclosed in the Czar's conversation with the British Minister, will hasten the decision of the Vienna Cabinet.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

The General-in-Chief of the Russian army has just published an order prohibiting the peasants and all the inhabitants of the Danubian provinces from keeping in their houses any scythes or other agricultural implements which may serve as weapons of war, and directing that they shall be delivered up to the military authorities within the delay of a month, on pain of severe punishment.—This shows plainly enough how the peasantry feel towards their invaders.

SWEDEN.

The Stockholm journals state, on the authority of letters from St. Petersburg, that the entire empire of Russia has been placed under martial law. The neutrality of Sweden is now formally recognised by all the states of Europe, with the exception of Greece and Tuscany, which have merely acknow-

ledged the receipt of the official communication of that neutrality. In the royal rescript to the Swedish Diet, it is stated that "the neutrality of Sweden will be a strict one, on an open and impartial basis and grounded also on perfect respect for the rights of all the powers." It is stated, moreover, in that rescript, that Sweden and Denmark have, by virtue of their treaty of neutrality, pledged themselves not to take any part, direct or indirect, in the contest that may arise; and that the ships of the belligerent parties will be allowed to come into the Swedish and Norwegian ports, the King reserving to himself the right of excluding war ships from entering Stockholm (within the Maxholm fortifications); Christiania, beyond the forts of Kahlmen; other ports on the Norwegian military station near Horten; the harbour of Carlserona, beyond the fortifications; and Stilo harbour, in the island of Gothland, beyond the batteries of Eneholmen. Privateers will not be allowed to enter any ports in Sweden or Norway. The vessels of the belligerent parties may provide themselves in Swedish and Norwegian ports with all they require except with war supplies.

PERSIA.

The Patrie says it learns from a private letter from Erzeroum, of the 2nd, that the Secretary of State, Bazilewki, attached to the imperial legation at Teheran, had passed through that town on a special mission to St. Petersburg. It was reported that Russia had again met with a final check, and that in spite of all menaces the Shah refused to declare war upon the Porte.

EGYPT.

We have accounts from Alexandria to the 20th March. No less than eight Turkish steamers had arrived from the coast of Roumelia with a very pressing demand for Egyptian troops, to assist the Sultan in quelling the insurrection of the Greeks in Macedonia and Albania. Upwards of 12,000 infantry are in readiness to embark, but the Egyptian Government are in a sad dilemma for the want of coal, there being none in the place to enable the steamers to put to sea.

Abbas Pacha has again been obliged to leave his place of retreat in the desert, and has come to Cairo to meet the Sultan's envoy, to arrange the preliminaries of the marriage of his son, who is sixteen years old, with the Sultan's daughter, six years old, and in honour of the event the towns of Cairo and Alexandria were illuminated for three nights, and the Pacha had a grand reception of all the officers of state, the European Consuls, and the grandees of the country. Abbas Pacha's expenditure on this occasion will be enormous, the sums his Highness has already presented to the envoy amount to upwards of £20,000, and he has to send to his son's bride a diadem of the value of £200,000 sterling. There is no doubt that this marriage has been proposed by the Sultan, in order to recruit his finances, for the war he is carrying on with Russia, and Egypt will be drained as much as possible in consequence. The removal of so many men from Egypt does immense harm to the country, which is in want of an increase of population. Under ordinary circumstances the army of Egypt does not exceed 30,000 men, while now there are 25,000 on the Danube and 75,000 men in this country, of whom 12,000 to 15,000 more are to be sent to fight the Greeks.

THE GREEK INSURRECTION.

The Trieste Gazette publishes reports from Athens which would imply that the Greek Government, army and people, had joined the insurrection. Besides the General-Inspector Zavelles, who assumed the command of the insurgents, General Hadji Pietro, the Lord Marshal Colocotroni, the ex-Minister Zaco Milio, Courmoussi, the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, and several hundred notables, are said to have joined their ranks.—The Queen, too, takes the most lively interest in the anti-Turkish movement, and it is considered *bon ton* to eulogise Russia, and rail at Turkey.

Advices from Corfu of the 19th state that 8000 Turkish troops were posted between Prevesa and Janina.

The *Nouveliste* of Marseilles says:—A letter from the Piræus, of the 17th, mentions the expected arrival of two envoys extraordinary from France and England with the last propositions of those powers to the Greek Government. It is stated that King Otho will leave Athens and proceed to the Morea, in order not to receive these diplomatists.

The Greek Government only exists by name in the provinces. No one pays any taxes; and when the collector arrives, the taxpayer is found cleaning his arms, and he replies to the demand of the functionary by saying, "What do you come for? We have given everything to the insurrection, and we are preparing to join it."

We find the following in the *Courrier de Marseille*: The Gomer, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Le Barbier de Finan, left Constantinople on the 16th for the Piræus. He arrived on the 18th at Syria, where he found the French charge d'affaires of Greece. The Gomer is, it is said, to proceed to the coast of the Morea and Albania, and from thence