

discord and the prospects of power overthrown and an empire obliterated.

From the London Times, January 14.

The intelligence which we published yesterday from the theatre of war, and that which was brought from Constantinople by the French steamer *Chaptal*, prove that important military operations took place in Little Wallachia in the last days of the year, and at the commencement of January, and that in these operations the Turks have again been successful; but it is not easy to extract from these accounts any connected statement of the event which have actually taken place. Our own special correspondent, who is with the left wing of the Turkish army at Widdin must have been within reach of these movements, and we have no doubt that he will furnish us with full particulars of what he has witnessed; but there is evidently great difficulty in transmitting any communications from the army to Western Europe. The Danube is closed, despatches sent by way of Constantinople are a month on the road, and although the distance from Widdin to Belgrade across Serbia is no great, no regular means of communication are established across that country. According to the information stated to have been transmitted by the Porte to the representatives of the Four Powers on the 1st of January, the Russian army numbering 30,000 men, had been allowed to advance into Little Wallachia until it reached the lines of Kalafat, and on its approach to that position the Turkish batteries opened upon its columns, while the Turkish reserve attacked them in flank from behind a wood, and caused them to retreat with loss. These particulars have not, however, reached this country in an authentic shape. The Russians must have known perfectly well that the grand object of the Turkish commanders since the beginning of November, has been to establish themselves in a strong position at Kalafat, and that extensive works have been constructed and armed for that purpose. It seems therefore, incredible that Russian generals should have marched unawares against that position, which has been skillfully chosen as the key to the operations on the upper part of the Danube, or that they should have ventured to attack it with inadequate forces. Other reports have been circulated as a successful attack by the Turks on Karakal, a place to the south of Krajova and Slantza, but this movement would imply that another detachment of the Turkish army had crossed the Danube at Rahova or at Nicopolis, and on this point we have at present no certain information. Our intelligence is to the last event of the 6th of January is far more complete and positive as to all that preceded it. The despatch from Belgrade has been confirmed from Vienna and Paris, and it cannot be doubted that the Russians have suffered a signal defeat. Their loss is stated at from 2,500 to 3,000 men, and the numbers engaged appear to have been far greater than any former engagement in this war. We feel in common with all our countrymen, and with civilized Europe, the greatest satisfaction that the Russian army should have been punished thus severely, by the Turks themselves for the arrogant and lawless invasion of the Danubian Principalities, and that the Emperor Nicholas should again be made to feel that the territory he has usurped has witnessed only the breach of his engagements and the humiliation of his arms. It is strange that not only was the force originally marched into these provinces insufficient to defend this "material pledge" against any serious attack, but, although more than two months have elapsed since the commencement of hostilities, no important reinforcement had arrived.

During the whole of that time General Osten-Sacken and the third division of the army have been on their march, and they are now said to be approaching Bucharest. But a Russian division can hardly be reckoned at more than 40,000 fighting men at any time, and this corps, which has had to make a long winter march over the bare, uncivilized country, must have suffered large diminutions. Between the defeat sustained by the Russians at Oltenitza, and the defeat they have just undergone at Tchetali, Prince Gortschakoff has not made a single move to improve his position, and it now appears that he has not even received reinforcements to increase his numerical strength. It will probably turn out that the Turkish commanders have succeeded in beating the fourth division of the Russian army under General Danenberg before the third division could come up to support it, and, if this should be the case, the Council of War at Widdin deserves the greatest credit for the sagacity and promptitude of its combinations, as well as for the gallantry of the army in the field.

We wish we could allow ourselves to believe that these successes of the Turkish forces are likely to conduce to the restoration of peace, or that they can be taken as a true criterion of the relative power of the two belligerents. But the Czar has been too much beaten to treat with honour, and yet not enough to surrender on compulsion. If this, however, has

been the result of his operations against one part of the Turkish army, which is by no means the principal portion of it, and does not occupy positions at all comparable to the great fortresses of Shumla and Varna, what has he to expect when he encounters the main body, commanded by Omer Pasha himself, holding a fortified and mountainous territory, and supported by the allied fleets on the coast? Already the effect of the entry of the fleets into the Black Sea has been to enable the Porte to despatch a convoy of 15,000 men to Batoum in order to join the army under Selim Pasha, on the confines of Armenia; and all the Russian reinforcements to the Circassian coast will henceforth be intercepted. The mountain tribes of that country have received the powder and arms conveyed to them by Mustafa Pasha, and these supplies will now readily be increased. The early spring will no doubt bring with it a general insurrection in the Caucasus, and the Russians will have the greatest difficulty in keeping their communications open, except by the Caspian Sea. No Power that has existed since the Roman empire has had to defend frontiers so vast and so remote as the present dominions of Russia. From Georgia, to Finland her troops must be arrayed to repel attack, fortresses must be armed, coasts defended, and stores of war provided—and all this without maritime communications. The Emperor Nicholas may be stubborn in his purpose, but every succeeding incident must convince him that it is impossible to succeed in an undertaking which the whole world is prepared to resist, and the terms now offered to him are more liberal than any he can hope hereafter to obtain.

It has been stated at Vienna, that the Emperor of Austria was about to start for Warsaw, to confer with the Emperor Nicholas on the present state of affairs, but our correspondent adds, with truth, that such a rumour is not likely to be correct. The Emperor Nicholas is not at Warsaw, but at St. Petersburg, and, from the conduct pursued by the Cabinet of Vienna in the last stage of the negotiation, there is no reason to apprehend that it meditates any abandonment of its engagements. On the contrary, the official correspondence of that Government expressly declares that Austria will insist on the fulfilment of the promise of the Emperor Nicholas to respect the integrity of the Ottoman territory, and that in any event of the war that territory is guaranteed. This moment would then, be strangely chosen for the young Emperor Francis Joseph to wait upon the Autocrat of the North, or to repeat the conferences of Olmutz. The course of events is too rapid and too strong to be arrested by such means, and those who have sown the storm must reap the whirlwind. Russia has let loose on Europe the elements of war and destruction—by resistance to Russia alone can peace be restored and public order preserved. This country, indeed, is the very last in Europe to seek a cause of war, or to plunge into hostilities. The responsibility of those deplorable consequences falls solely on the author of the evil, who has at least found no ally in his aggression, and no accomplice in his offence. But if war come, this country meets it without fear, and will carry it on without misgiving as to the result. The terms on which peace may be concluded are already defined, and on no less favourable conditions can this contest be brought to a close.

Communications.

TEMPERANCE PETITION.

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—It must be gratifying unto all who feel interested in the noble Temperance movement, which is at the present time arousing the moral energies and intellect of countless thousands, both in Europe and throughout the great Continent of North America, to learn that a great portion of the female part of our community in Chatham, have given expression to their views and feelings in favor of a prohibitory law, to prevent the importation, manufacture, and sale of all intoxicating Liquors within this Province, by affixing their names to a Petition which will be presented to our Legislature at its present sitting. This petition, which is alike honorable to their intelligence and moral sensibilities, exhibits their deep abhorrence of an evil which has been in every community the most prolific cause of inflicting upon the sex, in every form, all the degradation and bitterness of woe; evils that bid defiance to the most vivid eloquence to describe in all their monstrous deformity and fearful effects.

The Petition is indebted for its numerous signatures to the zealous effort of Mr George Johnston, of Chatham, and we are credibly informed amounts to the number of nearly six hundred and fifty, which will, we hope, entitle it to a courteous reception in our Legislative Assembly now in session, and also that it will be by them sustained as a sacred appeal to their sympathies, in all the hallowed relation in which they stand associated with the fair sex of New Brunswick.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1854.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Royal Mail Steamer *Arabia*, arrived at Halifax on the morning of Saturday last, after a very long and boisterous passage. Mr Kelly being at the Bend when the *Express* for St. John came up, he kindly brought on our mail, which reached Chatham on the morning of Tuesday last. The dates are to the 21st of January, and the accompanying summary of news we compiled from our papers, and published on Tuesday afternoon for the information of subscribers to the telegraph Despatch.

The latest intelligence which has been received from St. Petersburg holds out little prospect of a pacific settlement of the existing misunderstanding. The Emperor is evidently crazy; believes himself inspired by a Supreme Power to drive the Turks out of Europe; and regrets that he has suffered so many years to elapse without fulfilling his mission. The enthusiasm of the people for war is said to be boundless; the Emperor is lustily cheered whenever he appears in public; and all the Ministers of the Czar, with the exception of Nesselrode, are encouraging the war fever. If this information can be relied on,—and the Times in its second edition of yesterday endorses its truth,—the only means left to restore the Emperor to his senses are English and French bayonets.

The calumnies which have been uttered so earnestly and propagated so industriously against Prince Albert have at length received a formal and emphatic contradiction from the London Times. This is well, but it would have been much better if the denial had come a little sooner. In the case of a high personage it may be difficult to deal with floating rumours; but months have elapsed, since these rumours assumed form and consistency, and then was the time for the ministerial organ to have dispersed with its thunder the clouds charged with moral poison which have been hanging so long over the head of the Prince.

Lord John Russell, as the leader of the House of Commons, has issued a circular, calling upon the supporters of the Cabinet to be in attendance on the 21st inst., as matters of pressing importance will immediately occupy the attention of the House. The forthcoming Session will be in every respect one of the most important which has assembled of recent years, and it, unhappily, we are doomed to prosecute a war with Russia, the nation will support the Government with a degree of unanimity which has rarely been known on any previous occasion.

The battle of Citale, in which the Russians have been signally defeated, has restored the prestige of the Turkish arms, and has proved that the ancient valour of the Ottomans has not degenerated. The additional details received of this conflict, or series of murderous encounters, establish the correctness of the report we gave last week; and is the most conclusive refutation of those impeachments thrown out against Turkish self-reliance with which the Russo-Aberdeen journals have scared the public for several months past. The battle of Sinope was a surprise, but the merciless massacre of 3,000 Turks, overwhelmed by a vastly superior force—heavy line of battle ships against frigates—is now avenged by their gallant compatriots in the open field. It appears that the Russians meditated an attack on Kalafat on the 13th of January, but the Turkish general, Selim Pasha (Zedlinsky), anticipated the blow. On the 6th inst., before the Russians could bring up all their troops, he marched out of Kalafat with 15,000 men to storm the enemy's entrenchments at Citale, nine miles distant on the north. The battle lasted till the afternoon, and was a bloody struggle. On the 7th the contest was renewed, the Turks captured two redoubts, but lost some small pieces of cannon; on the 8th the battle was resumed, when the Russians were thoroughly defeated. They left at least 5,000 men killed and wounded on the field; General Aurep, who commanded the Russians, was severely wounded, as well as General Tainont. The Russians were driven back, but the Turkish commander prudently retired to his position at Kalafat.

Whilst these military preparations are going on, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, the Anglo-French admirals have entered the Black Sea, at the head of their respective squadrons. They were preceded by the Retribution and Caire frigates, which were despatched to Sebastopol to convey to

the Russian commander "a friendly message," in the term of the manifesto issued by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, which we published last week. The Russian commander in plain terms is told to give the requisite instructions to the admiral commanding the Russian forces in the Black sea, "so as to obviate any occurrence calculated to endanger peace."

Whilst however we thus cripple the power of the Russians to do mischief, it is reported that we have facilitated the transmission of 10,000 Turks with arms and ammunition of war, to succour the Turkish military forces on the Armenian frontiers. If this be true war cannot be avoided. Whether the combined squadrons, consisting of thirty-one sail, chiefly line-of-battle-ships, and vessels of great power, will presently bombard Sebastopol, remains to be seen. We earnestly trust they will, and keep the Russian fleet as "a material guarantee" until the Czar signs a treaty, stipulating not to meddle in Turkish politics; and, further, declaring the Black Sea, with the mouths of the Danube, and all the navigable rivers, open to the commerce and traffic of all the nations of the world. This is worth fighting for, setting aside the higher consideration of European peace and the balance of power so essential to its maintenance. The French and English Governments are preparing for the worst. Besides extensive arrangements for the embarkation of 4,000 men from the Southern ports of France if needful, the French Government has called into active service all the registered seamen between twenty and forty years of age. The Admiralty has invited seamen to enter the Royal Navy, and placards to this effect have been extensively posted in the metropolis. Admiral Sir Charles Napier has had an interview with Lord Aberdeen. The preparations of the Emperor of Russia are upon the most stupendous scale; but he cannot, with all his efforts, organise such a military and naval force as we can raise, as it were by magic.

From Austria and Prussia we have the same uncertain accounts of the neutrality of these powers as usual. They are both making very large additions to their military forces, but we continue of opinion, whatever may be said to the contrary, that neither of these powers would venture to oppose the settled determination of the great Western Nations. The defection of Austria and Prussia would be the signal for the restoration of the kingdom of Poland, under the guarantee of Great Britain and France.

TRADE.—In the absence of any definite news from Russia this week the public mind has been kept in a state of suspense, and the greatest anxiety is manifested to know the Emperor of Russia's reply to the ultimatum, presented by the mediating Powers. The prevalent opinion is that he will not accept the negotiations for peace, and, goaded on by the fanaticism of his subjects, will not pause ere plunging Europe in a Continental war. The rumours circulated daily have exercised a depressing effect upon the Funds, which closed to-night at 91½—the lowest point reached for the last few weeks.

Corn Market.—At Mark Lane dullness prevailed and had sales been pressed, little or no doubt was entertained that easier rates would have been accepted. At Lincoln and Nottingham, with slowness in sale, prices were barely maintained; but at Newcastle, Wheat declined 1s to 2s per qr; at Hull 2s to 3s; and at Ipswich 1s. At the Glasgow market Wheat advanced 1s per qr.

The Provision market has been marked with quietness, and in Irish Butter we have to notice moderate business, at previous prices.

The following description of the towns of Kalafat and Citale may be interesting to our readers at the present time:

"Kalafat, of which so much has been said lately, is a town of 2,000 houses—is surrounded with walls, has a quarantine, a town-hall, a custom-house, three churches, and a cavalry barracks. It is the chief place of a sub-administrator's district. The redoubts raised by the Turks are of great extent and very strong. They are partly raised on two high hills in the plain of Kalafat, about a mile distant from each other, and have a numerous artillery. All the neighbouring country is surrounded by these hills in such a way that no approach to the Danube can be made. In 1823 these hills were occupied and fortified by the Russians. Between Widdin and Kalafat the Danube is little less than a mile wide, and the course of it is very rapid. The island in which the Turks are fortified is situated near the left bank; it is partly covered with wood, and is defended by strong intrenchments in earth, bearing large artillery. Above Widdin the Turks have constructed a new citadel according to all the rules of art."

"Citale or Tchetali, is a place overlooking the valley of the Danube, about six miles higher up the stream than Widdin and Kalafat; and it is probable the Russians hoped to turn the Turkish position, and perhaps to cross the river, at or above this point. To have thus assumed the offensive, and attacked with success a Russian division in an intrenched camp, is by far the greatest exploit the Turkish army has performed since the commencement of the war, and we await with great interest the arrival of further particulars. It was clearly, however, of essential importance to the Turkish commanders at Kalafat to dislodge the Russians from a position which gave them the command of the upper portion of the river, and was doubtless intended to play an important part in the operations contemplated against the lines of Kalafat itself. The intelligence of this engagement comes through Servia, and reached the Servian authorities at Belgrade on the 10th."