

News of the Week.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Suspended for more than a quarter of a century, owing to what we shall term mismanagement, we are gratified to learn that, at last, there is hope that operations on the line of the projected Shubenacadie Canal will be renewed.

It is understood that Mr. Sandford, of Dartmouth, has made a proposal to complete the work for the sum of £25,000, being only £15,000, beyond the estimate of Mr. Fairbanks.

If we be correctly informed, Mr. S. will contract to perfect the work so far as Lake Charles previously to requiring the reimbursement of a fraction of the outlay of capital required, which is set down at 5,000, to which amount the gentleman will take stock in the company.

We give the above, if not in letter, at least in substance, as given by our informant.

Rowdism prevails among the cabmen of Montreal. Gentleman have been insulted and beaten for replying "no," when accosted with the usual cry, "Cab Sir."

It is stated in the New York National Democrat, that on the authority of a Member of the British Parliament, that Prince George of Cambridge, is to be appointed Viceroy of Canada, and the other British Provinces, always providing, however, that a Union of these Colonies, shall previously take place.—*Halifax Sun, December 31.*

A terrific south-easterly storm of wind, accompanied with rain, occurred on Friday night. A good deal of injury has been done to property; fences have been blown down, and several barns in this vicinity have been blown down or unroofed. A house at the Green Hill belonging to Mr. Thomas Blaikie was unroofed. St. James' Church, in this place, was also somewhat injured, the windows by the altar being blown in, and some of the furniture inside broken or damaged by the rain.—*Eastern Chronicle.*

Mr. William Annand has parted with his property in the Morning Chronicle, and retires from the Corps Editorial. "The reasons which have induced the gentleman to resign we are to be permitted to gather by and by from the tone of the Journal, which, the public is assured, has 'passed into able and energetic hands' and will in the future 'exhibit superior attractions'."

Fortunately the line of duty—duty to the Country—was never more clearly defined than at this time. There is at hand a contest aside for ourselves, to which the conflicts of the past will have been but a by-play. The Government and its forces, the Opposition Leader and his clan, are gathering and marching for an onslaught,—it may be a final one. The Liberals may be called upon to have their weapons for their offensive warfare. It were, however, as idle as unwise to underrate the pluck, skill, and determination of the enemy. There are no weakening intestine divisions in his camp. It is strong; it is compact. It may be well that all parties bear in mind that whatever be the ultimate result of the battle the day has passed when any set of honorable gentlemen, may seek successfully to serve and glorify themselves, while pretending to do the people's business.

UNITED STATES.

THE EPIDEMIC IN NEW-ORLEANS.—A pamphlet has been published in New-Orleans containing a list of all interments in the various cemeteries of New-Orleans, from the first of May to the first of November, with the names and ages of the deceased; their places of nativity, disease of which they died, date of interment, and name of cemetery in which interred. Of the 12,151 persons who died within the time mentioned, 3,532 were born in Ireland, 2,344 in Germany, and 1,280 in other foreign countries; United States except Louisiana, 661; Louisiana, 1102; Unknown, 3,232.

DREADFUL STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION, 15 LIVES LOST.—*Charleston, Dec. 22.*—The steamer *Marlboro'*, a river boat just starting for Cheraw exploded her boiler this morning killing the captain, the mate, the chief engineer, and twelve of the deck hands.

THOMAS F. MEAGHER. His departure for California.—Thomas Francis Meagher sailed from New York on Tuesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, for California. He will be absent three or four months. His object is to deliver a course of lectures in San Francisco and other cities of California.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES IN RELATION TO FILLIBUSTERING.—Washington, Dec. 21.—Government has transmitted strong instructions to all the officers on the Pacific coast, to use all their power and influence against fillibustering. General Wool is fully instructing in relation to illegal expeditions.

General Almonte is actively engaged in protecting the interests of Mexico.

NEW YORK FIRES.—The block of eight splendid buildings on Brooklyn heights, known as the Colonnade row, was entirely destroyed by fire at an early hour Tuesday morning, together with two or three adjoining buildings. They were all occupied by single families who were asleep at the time the fire

broke out, and the excitement among the inmates was consequently very great. No lives, however, were lost. The loss on the buildings is about \$100,000.

At half past seven, another fire broke out in a block of buildings in Washington street, near Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn. Three buildings were burnt, all occupied by families.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

STEAMER ANNA AUGUSTA.—We are sorry to learn that on Saturday night last the steamer *Anna Augusta*, while lying at Robinson's Cove, in the neighborhood of Indian Town, was so severely injured by ice drifting through the narrows of the River St. John, that she sank in spite of every effort to keep her afloat.—*Head Quarters.*

A company of men has been organized in New York, with the design of participating in the war now waged by Turkey against the Czar of Russia. They make an appeal to the public for funds to carry them to Turkey.

Hector Jennings of Sandusky, Ohio, has been notified by his attorney in London, that he is undisputed heir to one-half of the Jennings estate in England—about \$60,000,000.

Such has been the severity of the storms, east and west of us, within the last few days, that the Telegraph wires in Maine and Nova-Scotia have been prostrated for nearly a week past. It would appear that the gales have been much more destructive in Nova-Scotia, Maine, and Canada, than in New-Brunswick. We learn that through Maine, and in Canada, snow has fallen to the depth of five or six feet,—here probably, not more than two or three feet has fallen.—*Courier December 31.*

CALIFORNIA.

The mining operations were nearly over in consequence of heavy rains. There had been some excitement at James-town, in consequence of the miners insisting upon digging up the streets for gold. Many new diggings have been opened.

San Francisco markets glutted with all kinds of provisions and prices were lower.

Nothing important from Oregon. Dates from Sandwich Islands are to 5th Nov. 112 whalers had arrived at the Islands.

The small pox still prevails among the natives in Tintoyor.

The question of Free-Trade and Annexation to the United States was still being generally discussed.

DREAM OF A QUEEN.—A letter from London states that the recent death of the Queen of Portugal, singularly verifies a dream which Her Majesty Queen Victoria was said to have had last January, and which had rendered her extremely uneasy. It was to the effect that there would be a cold spring, a wet summer, a fine autumn, and a dead queen. "We shivered in the cold spring, anathematized the incessant rain in the summer, which prevented so many anticipated benefits and enjoyments, have been glorifying the remarkably fine autumn with which we have been blessed, and suddenly we find towards the close of the year the announcement of the death of the Queen of Portugal. The dream was as remarkable as its verification."

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

From English papers to the 24th December, received by the Canada at Halifax.

EUROPE.

BATTLE AT SINOPE.

The following account of the engagement at Sinope is forwarded by a correspondent at Malta.

A bloody action took place on the 30th of November, at Sinope, on the Asiatic side of the Black Sea. An Ottoman division, composed of four frigates, two corvettes, three or four small vessels, and two steamers, was in port, when a Russian force, comprising three line-of-battle ships and several frigates and corvettes, favored by the wind, entered, and the fight commenced. The struggle was dreadful, and sustained with heroic courage by the Turks. The batteries of the town were brought into play. The city was burning in two places. The *Taif*, which brought the news to Constantinople, reports that when she left Sinope the fight was continued with determined obstinacy. They saw on board one Russian liner go down. The *Taif* was attacked, had several bullets through her, and many men killed and wounded. It is added, that the steam-frigates *Retribution* and *Mogador*, one from each division, have left to convey assistance to the wounded, while a third steamer (English) has been despatched for precise details of the action. Impressed with the news received, Admirals Dundas and Lyons, with their French colleagues Admirals Hamelin and Jacquinet, left Beycos for Pera, on board the *Caradoc*. Lord Redcliffe, accompanied by the British Admirals, proceeded to the French Ambassador, General Baraguay d'Hilliers, and a conference between the Ambassadors took place, at which the naval officers assisted. The *Caradoc* was immediately despatched to Marseilles with the important news to the two Governments. It is also said

that the *Fury* and a French steamer are to be sent to Varna.

The Paris correspondent of the London Times gives the following further particulars:—

My private letters from Constantinople are of the 5th. They communicate some interesting particulars respecting the disaster at Sinope. It appears that for some few days certain sinister rumours circulated at Constantinople with reference to the flotilla under the orders of Osman Pasha; but that persons who were naturally most interested paid little or no attention to these sad presentiments. From what they could have arisen it is difficult to say, unless it be surmised that there were persons who were aware beforehand of what was to happen. The rumours gradually spread, and the population of Constantinople were in a state of much excitement, when the *Taif*, Turkish steamer, arrived and confirmed the rumours. It appears that about mid-day on the 30th November, a thick fog which had all the morning completely enveloped the port of Sinope gradually cleared off, and the first object seen through the mist was the Russian fleet, in overwhelming force, at a very short distance. The Turkish vessels, to the number of eleven, of which six were frigates, three corvettes, and two steamers, were at anchor. A Russian three-decker placed itself between a Turkish frigate, the *Misania*, and the Egyptian frigate *Damietta*. These two ships, before the enemy could open his fire, threw in their broadsides so close that the Russian three-decker was very severely injured. In the meantime another Russian ship-of-the-line attacked two corvettes, between which it succeeded in placing itself.

The rest of the Russian fleet quickly came up, threw in their fire together on the almost helpless Turkish vessels, and the combat became general. The *Taif*, foreseeing the disaster that was sure to happen, got its steam up, and, not without great difficulty and much danger, succeeded in gliding between the Russian ships, and made off, hotly pursued by two corvettes and a steamer. When it had got out of the reach of the fire, it was found that she had not less than 17 cannon balls in her, two men killed, and four wounded. It would seem, then, that the Russian fleet, composed of 18 ships, three-deckers, two-deckers, frigates, corvettes, and steamers, attacked the enemy's fleet lying at anchor and consisting of six frigates, three corvettes, and two steamers. No one denies that a complete victory was gained by the Russians, but those who are to judge of the political importance of such a victory are best able to appreciate its merits. As soon as the rumour was confirmed at Constantinople the English and French Ambassadors held a council with the Admirals, and it was decided that two steam-frigates, the *Mogador* and the *Retribution*, should enter the Black Sea. My letters add that the population was in an indescribable state of consternation and excitement, "and," says our correspondent, "they expect a great deal more than two frigates to be sent out." It adds, however, that the rumour was that the combined squadron was about to enter the Black Sea.

It is positively stated that the flotilla of Osman Pasha had nothing whatever to do with the Circassians. It was Mustapha Pasha (called the Englishman), from his having served in the English navy) that had succeeded in landing military stores at Batoum. Osman's flotilla lay at anchor in the bay of Sinope. I have seen a hurried sketch of the scene of that fight, if fight it can be called. The bay of Sinope is formed by a peninsula which juts out to the north and then turns to the east. From the extreme point of the promontory, at the entrance of the bay, the width is from 10 to 12 English miles to the coast; the bottom of the bay is about 8, and the length may be about 15. The flotilla was at anchor about midway, and was drawn up in three ranks—the one facing the entrance consisting of three ships, and the other two four each. The batteries that lined the peninsula towards the bay did not open their fire until the Russians (who were aided by the fog) were close at hand; and one letter states that the Russians had the English flag hoisted until they were ready to open their fire, and that this also was a reason for the slowness with which the Turkish batteries fired. Of the various accounts I have seen there are two which make allusion to the English flag. It is, I trust, unfounded. It appears that Osman Pasha and Hassan Pasha, an aged Egyptian admiral under his orders, had been warned by Mustapha Pasha, as he passed by Sinope to Batoum, of the danger of their position. The Russians came on them from the east along the coast.

Another letter, of the same date, confirms the statement that it was not at sea that the Russian squadron encountered the Turkish flotilla, and consequently that it had not given it chase to prevent its landing on the Asiatic coast troops and warlike stores. It was in the Bay of Sinope, where it had been detained for days by a violent north-east wind, that Osman Pasha was attacked by a Russian squadron. "composed," my letters says, "of six ships of the line, three of which were first rates, five frigates, and steamers. Such an aggression," it continues, "is entirely contrary to the repeated declaration of the Czar, that he was determined to remain on the defensive. It ap-

pears that the loss of the Turks was not exaggerated. The division of the Captain Pasha was composed of six frigates, three corvettes, and one steamer." This steamer," says another letter, "at the approach of the Russian ships, received from Osman Pasha the order to go out to sea and carry to Constantinople the news of the imminent danger which menaced the Turkish squadron. It was on the 30th of November between 11 and 12 o'clock in the day that the action commenced, and it was about midnight that the *Taif* heard in the direction of Sinope so loud an explosion as to lead those on board to believe that the Turkish ships had blown up rather than surrender.

"It is superfluous to observe," adds my letter, "that the news of the disaster has produced here general depression. The successes of Osman Pasha, his excellent position on the Tanube, the advantages gained by Selim Pasha, in Asia, are for the moment forgotten in this disaster, and the hearts and eyes of all are turned towards the English and French fleets lying at anchor in the Bosphorus." In a postscript my correspondent says—

"The two squadrons are preparing to enter in case of necessity, the Black Sea, with the Turkish fleet, which has received orders to weigh anchor at the first signal. We hope that the event of Sinope will prove to England and France that their diplomats are the dupes of the base intrigues and hypocrisy of Russia. I forgot to mention a rumour which circulates here, that it was an Austrian ship that gave information to the Russian fleet that the Turkish flotilla was proceeding to Sinope."

LATEST FROM THE CONTINENT.

Russia and Turkey.—The latest news from the seat of war, up to the time of the despatch of our express, is contained in the following telegraphic message:

Vienna Friday, 7, A.M.—"A reported revolt in the Crimea, in favour of the Turks is unfounded."

"The combined fleets are ordered to enter the Black Sea, subject to certain eventualities, and on a pacific understanding with Russia."

The massacre at Sinope still continues to form a prominent portion of the letters of foreign correspondents. A strong feeling of indignation at the wanton cruelty exhibited throughout the attack has been aroused everywhere. The *Patrie* contains the following contradiction of the Russian Admiral Nachimoff's account of the engagement at Sinope: "It is not correct that the Turks had in that battle three frigates of seventy-four guns, one of which carried the Admiral's flag, he commanded a frigate of 50 guns. It is not true that the Greek quarter at Sinope was spared. All the houses without distinction were burned. The town was not defended; and, nevertheless after the action ceased the Russian ships continued to bombard the town. It is a positive fact, moreover, that at the conclusion of the fight, the Russians sunk several unarmed transports, and ill-treated, in the most unworthy manner, the brave Turkish Admiral, who was desperately wounded."

It is positively asserted from Paris that orders were despatched simultaneously from that city and London on the 10th inst., for the combined English and French fleets to enter the Black Sea. The instructions given the admiral are to the effect that they shall stop all Russian ships from crossing in the Black Sea, and force them to Sebastopol, which port they will not be allowed to leave until the conclusion of a treaty of peace.

The Constantinople letter of the Vienna Wanderer says: "Even the Greek population asserts that there is a secret understanding between the British and Russian Governments. Lord Stratford still attempts to force the mediatory proposals on the Porte, but the Turks turn from everything English with disgust." The Trieste *Zitung* says that the highest functionaries, who speak with great bitterness of France and England, much fear that the allied fleets are only intended to act as a check on the Porte should it obtain any signal advantage over the Russians.

France.—Half the quantity of grain required to complete the deficit occasioned by the failure of the harvest in France is already got in.

The French Government is making quiet but efficient preparation for war. At the Ministère de la Guerre plans are being prepared for the organization of forty-two divisions, which will give an effective force of 600,000 men. One of the great difficulties is to find the money necessary to carry the matter into execution.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The Morning Herald of yesterday says—"It is positively asserted that Lord Palmerston has consented to return to the coalition cabinet. Should this be the fact, the noble viscount has of course obtained his own terms.—If orders have been given to the British fleet to enter the Black Sea with a view to active operations, and it is true that Lord Lansdowne and the Duke of Devonshire have threatened to withdraw their support from the ministry if the main provision of the intended Reform Bill are not given up, then it is not impossible that Lord Palmerston may have consented to return to the home office."