

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

Selections from late English Papers.

It seems that a Russian army of 75,000 men is advancing to the north, part of a greater camp forming at Kaminietz, in Podolia, east of Moldavia, threatening the Austrian territories of the Bukovina and Transylvania, whilst Austria, on the other hand, is making a corresponding movement to watch these operations, besides holding an immense army ready to cross the Save. These movements are the natural preludes to hostilities; and if Austria declares herself, Prussia must immediately follow her example, or submit to be "crumpled up." It is now declared that an increase of 49,000 is to be added to the English land forces, while a camp of 60,000 or 100,000 men will be formed at St. Omer, and another of 40,000 men near Marseilles. We always said that a land force would be despatched to the Baltic, and now that proceeding has been determined upon. The effect of this land force upon wavering counsels of Prussia will not be slight and the more decisively the English and French Governments strike the first blow in the north the shorter will be the conflict. The news from the Danube is less to be relied upon than ever. We, however, collect that the Russians give out that their evacuation of Lesser Wallachia is but temporary, and they threaten to return and punish any faithless Wallachians. The real case, however, seems to be that Prince Paskewitch finds his position even at Bucharest untenable. He is now forming a line of troops, down, as it were, from Fokiany to Silistria. A glance at the map will show the perilous position the Russians are in if the Anglo-French armies force the mouth of the Danube. The Russian army in the Dobrudzka would be cut off, whilst, in fact, the whole Russian army would be surrounded on all sides. It seems to us something like insanity for the Russian generals not to fall back. It is plain that they have been foiled at Silistria. At Chernavoda General Englehardt, after two unsuccessful attempts, has asked for reinforcements before he makes a third. At Karasu, situate midway between the bend of the River and the coast, the Turks maintain their position so that the whole line of the Trajan's Wall remains unshaken, whilst Omer Pacha remains calmly at Shumla, with a view to direct his army to the point where assistance may be most needed.

Her Majesty has intimated that Saturday, the 10th of June will be the day most suited to the royal convenience for the opening ceremony at the Crystal Palace.

It is rumoured that the Earl of Elgin is charged with a special mission to the Government of the United States, in reference to questions rising out of the present war. For this purpose his lordship will proceed to Washington on his return to his Government of Canada.

THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA.—Much sensation has been caused at Berlin by the rumour of dissensions between the King and the Prince of Prussia, relative to the present European war. The Prince is well known to be favourable to an alliance with England and France.

A telegraph despatch from Berlin, dated Wednesday, says that the Prince of Prussia has provisionally ceased to act as Military Governor of the Rhemish Provinces and of Westphalia.

GREECE.—The New Prussian Gazette says:—"At last the blockade of Greece has been officially announced to the Greek government, and it is said that it will commence in the course of this week. The ambassadors of the Western Powers have officially declared to the government that the admiral of the squadron at anchor in these waters has received orders to detain the three Russian men-of-war that was bought by the Greeks at Trieste, and which are shortly expected here." These three ships were supposed by the writer at the time he wrote to be at anchor at Calamata, a snug harbour in Dalmatia, but it is now thought they are at Navarino.

A letter from Athens, of the 2nd instant, in the Moniteur, says:—"The Chambers have been dissolved. The Insurrection has been beaten on every point. In Epirus the Turks have carried the camp of Peta, and in Thessaly, the town of Donoco has been freed from blockade with great loss to the Greeks; everywhere the volunteers are repulsed from the frontier. It is said that the expedition to Macedonia has likewise failed. However that may be, the Greek Government is organizing a new attempt, with the aid of a monthly subsidy of 1,000,000*l.*, which it is positively stated it receives from Russia.

The Moniteur publishes intelligence from Trieste, stating that two Austrian ships of war have received orders to proceed to Prevesa, and to come to an understanding with the commanders of the French and English ships. A declaration of war against King Otho is imminent. General Mamula, commanding in Dalmatia, is charged to concert measures with the Pacha of Scutaria, and to place the Austrian troops at his disposition,

for the repression of the disturbances in Albania, and the incursions of the Montenegrins.

It is credibly stated that the Austrian Minister at Athens has informed the Greek Government that if it was unable to maintain order Austria was prepared to do so.

The following letter from Athens is dated the 2nd instant:—"You are probably already informed by the telegraph that the Greeks, beaten by the Turks in Epirus as in Thessaly, have returned to their own country in great disorder. This intelligence have produced at Athens a most painful impression, and these defeats are regarded as a fatal blow inflicted on the projects of the insurgents. However grave the check be, the game is not considered by the party as completely lost. General Spiro Milio, Viscoperiles, and Gardikiotes Grivas have been named to proceed to the frontier. If the objects of their mission be to employ the funds intrusted to them to dissolve the undisciplined bands which are at this moment in the north of Greece, and to send each man to his home, we must approve the measure, and Greece, by thus repairing the fault she has committed, may resume her position among the nations. But there is every reason to fear that the real object of the mission of those general officers, is, on the contrary, to reorganise, in a more regular manner, the forces which have been expelled from Epirus, and to prepare, in the event of any success attending the Russian arms against the allied troops in the East, a fresh attack against Turkey, better combined and conducted than the first which has so signally failed."

MANIFESTO OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.—A supplement extraordinary to the Journal de St. Petersburg of April 11 (23rd) contains the following manifesto:—

St. Petersburg, April 11 (23).—

By the grace of God we, Nicholas the First, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, King of Poland, &c., &c., to all our subjects make known—Since the commencement of our difference with the Turkish Government we have solemnly announced to our faithful subjects that a sentiment of justice had alone induced us to re-establish the violated right of the orthodox Christians, subjects of the Ottoman Porte.

We have not sought, we do not seek, to make conquest, nor to exercise in Turkey any supremacy whatever that might be likely to exceed that influence which belongs to Russia by virtue of existing treaties.

At that period we already encountered distrust; then soon a covert hostility on the parts of the Governments of France and England, who endeavoured to lead the Porte astray by misrepresenting our intentions. Lastly, at that moment England and France threw off the mask, regard our difference with Turkey as a mere secondary question, and no longer dissimble that their joint object is to weaken Russia, to tear from her a part of her possessions, and to bring down our country from the powerful position in which the hand of the Supreme Being had exalted it.

Is it for orthodox Russia to fear such threats?

Ready to confound the audacity of the enemy, shall she swerve from the sacred purpose that has been assigned to her by Divine Providence? No! Russia has not forgotten God! It is not for worldly interests that she has taken up arms. She combats from the Christian faith, for the defence of her co-religionists oppressed by impracable enemies.

Let all Christendom know, then, that the thought of the Sovereign of Russia is also the thought that animates and inspires all the great family of the Russian people—this orthodox people, faithful to God and to His only Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

It is for the faith and for Christendom that we combat.

God with us—who against us?

Given at St Petersburg, on the 11th day of the month of April, in the year of grace 1854, and the 29th of our reign.

NICHOLAS.

THE BATTLE NEAR SIMNITZA.—A despatch from Vienna says, "we have now the details of the battle that took place on the 10th between Turnul and Simnitza. The Turks, 6,000 strong, headed by Sali Pacha himself, crossed the Danube by night, having previously cut a Russian picket guard to pieces, and in the morning they attacked in a most gallant manner the Russian entrenchments at three points. The enemy, completely surprised, retreated with great loss, but soon returned with a considerable reinforcement, not until the Turks however had destroyed two of their entrenchments. The latter then returned rapidly and in good order to the Wallachian side.

EVACUATION OF LITTLE WALLACHIA BY THE RUSSIANS.—Vienna, April 30.—Baron Meyendorff has officially announced the evacuation of Little Wallachia;—

ORSOVA, April 26.—The Turkish cavalry had advanced to the river, Scyl, without seeing the enemy. The Turks had not advanced beyond Kalafat and the neighbouring villages, but the greatest consternation prevailed at Krajova.

It was fully expected that the Russians would undertake important operations against Rustchuk, Nicopolis, and Rassova in a few days.

BELGRADE, April 29.—On the 24th the Russians evacuated in great haste their hospitals and magazines at Krajova.

VIENNA, April 30.—Credible despatches in the Presse, from Orsova, of the 28th of April, state that the Russians have retired beyond the Aluta by forced marches. All the stores not removable were burnt.

Craiova was evacuated on the 26th.

DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY UNDER GENERAL LUDERS.—Vienna, May 3.—The following report circulates in Bucharest:—

Omer Pacha advanced with 70,000 men towards the Dobrudzcha on the 18th or 19th of April, and a battle took place with Luder's corps between Silistria and Rassova. During the night, Omer Pacha had detached a division in the direction of the Black Sea, and, when the battle was at its heights on the next day, this corps attacked the Russians in their rear, causing unexampled confusion and consternation. Gen. Luders retreated towards Czernavoda, and it is said that the Russians lost many guns, ammunition, stores, and baggage wagons, and even their military chest. On the 20th a Turkish flying corps crossed the Danube below Silistria, in order to destroy the Russian strand batteries. They advanced to Kalarash, where there was hard fighting for some hours. The Turks fought like lions, but, being terribly overmatched, were ultimately forced to retreat.

Constantinople, April 25.—The Russian batteries at the Sulina mouth of the Danube have been bombarded by part of the fleet.—The French troops have not yet arrived at Constantinople.

Last year the issues for the Religious Tract Society were 29,000,000*l.* Since the foundation of the society they reached the enormous number of 630,000,000*l.*

The remains of the late Marquis of Anglesea were interred in the family vault, Lichfield Cathedral, on Saturday the 6th inst. A large concourse of people assembled to pay the last rites of respect to the dead warrior.

ILLNESS OF THE POPE.—Rome April 30.—The state of the Pope's health is still very unsatisfactory. His chest is considered to be affected, and the enormous enlargement of his person reveals a dropsical tendency, which is not likely to be much improved by the bleeding and Sangrado style of treatment prevalent here. On Monday his Holiness was anxious to be present at the funeral mass performed at the Sixtine Chapel in honor of the late Queen of Portugal, as is customary in Rome on the demise of any catholic sovereign, but he was not strong enough to do so.

A KING IN SEARCH OF A WIFE.—The King of Portugal is about to travel, having received legislative sanction to that end. It is said that he goes in search of a wife. The Miguelite party are offended at it, as they say the daughter of the duke Delafons was designed for him. Another party fix on a princess of the Belgian House of Coburg, and there are those who desire to see him espouse a British Princess, in order to give Great Britain not only more interest, but more authority to counsel the chief of the state in Portugal. A small flotilla is fitting out to accompany the King.

RUSSIAN TROOPS IN THE BALTIC.—A letter from Hamburg of 6th inst., contains the following account of the military force of Russia in her Baltic Provinces:—"Beginning with the towns of Abo, Sweaborg, Helsingfors, Broga, and Wiborg, in Finland I do not underrate their number by estimating it at 52,000 men 30,000 of whom can in case of need, be speedily concentrated on any point of Finland. I do not include in that number the new battalions formed at St. Petersburg since the guard has left that capital, and who, in a few days can march to the very heart of the Grand Duchy of Finland. On the southern coast of the Baltic, where the commercial cities of Revel, Riga, Mitau, and Narva, are situate, the effective force of the Russian arms amounts to 45,000 men, of whom 25,000 may, in the course of eight or ten days, be assembled at one point. There is besides, a corps of army of 30,000 men for the defence of Cronstadt, one-third of which may be detached, and marched to any part of the coast menaced by the allies."

CONSTERNATION AT ST. PETERSBURG.—A letter from the Baltic, of the 25th ult., in the Moniteur, says:—"The approach of the hostilities is strongly felt at St. Petersburg, and measures are being taken with a view to dangers which are profoundly apprehended, though denied. Four batteries have just been established at the entrance of the Neva. The metallic reserve of the fortress was sent 8 days ago to Moscow. From the 27th the command of the town will be divided between four military governors, and the state of siege will be applied in all its rigour. Many persons are leaving for the interior of the country. The departure of the Emperor for Peterhoff, where the court was to have gone on the 27th, is adjourned. His Majesty is in such ill health that he had been obliged to countermand twice a review which he had intended to pass. The displeasure caused by the policy of Austria was every day expressed more openly.

THE TURKISH ARMY AT SHUMLA.—Omer Pacha, the life and soul of the Turkish army,

is concentrating his forces at Shumla. The amount of labour (writes the correspondent of the Morning Chronicle) which he undergoes is immense. Day by day he is occupied, not only with riding along the vast chain of works, and in attending to the discipline of the army, but in looking at the quarters of the troops, and in visiting the hospitals. Along the heights above the town, a continuous breastwork for musketry, with a few field-pieces en barbette, has lately been thrown up, and the dense brushwood in front, which were it allowed to remain, would afford excellent cover for the enemy's riflemen and light troops is in the course of being rapidly cleared away. From the loose and friable nature of the soil, the works seem to stand in need of constant repair, merely from the effects of the weather, and are, with the exception of some of the larger forts outside the enceinte, which are riveted with stone, retained by revetments of wattles and gabions. On the 10th ult. there was a grand review of a part of the troops on the occasion of the receipt of the imperial firman raising Ismail Pacha to the rank of Mushir, and who will receive the command of one of the six corps d'armee, into which Omer Pacha proposes dividing his forces. It is not known yet on whom the command of the other five corps will devolve.

The correspondent of the Times writes:—Accounts from Shumla to the 16th states that the day before Omer Pacha had put his force into divisions, appointing general officers to each. He has 40,000 regulars and 15,000 irregulars, including redifs. This force is formed into six divisions—two for the plain, two for the heights, and one as a reserve in the town. The two Mushirs, Ismail Pacha and Hassam Pacha, command the first two divisions Mustapha Pacha the reserve. The three divisions on the hill are also allotted to separate commanders. It was expected that there would be some field days immediately, and the English were anxious to see the manner in which the Turkish soldiers would manoeuvre. On the 12th a ceremony of some interest took place. The firman was read conferring the dignity of Mushir upon Ismail Pacha. All the officers in Shumla were assembled, but their personal appearance did not favourably impress their European critics. Ismail Pacha is said to be a man of undoubted bravery, but no general; the commandant of the artillery is also a good officer, but the chief reliance must be on the foreigners who have taken service in the army.

Omer Pacha gives himself credit for the movement just completed, by which he has successfully concentrated his troops at Shumla. He is determined to remain in position there and await the Russian attack. He has every reason to believe that the Russians expect an offensive movement on his part in the Dobrudzcha. Had he advanced in that direction the enemy might have thrown 60,000 men over the Danube at Rustchuk, Shumla might have fallen, and the whole country passed into the possession of the Russians. As it is, no forward movement have been made by the enemy, and there have been reports that some of their battalions have recrossed the river. The number of pieces of artillery said to have been lost by the Turks in the late affair is stated to have been as high as 30. But even Turkish disasters, when spoken of, may be exaggerated by some persons.

Every day increases the conviction that at Shumla the stand against the Russians will be made. All the troops along the Danube will be marched up, excepting a portion of the force at Kalafat and Widdin, and the garrison of Rustchuk and Silistria. These latter places will certainly fall into the hands of the Russians should they attack them; the former will hold out for three or four weeks at least, and the latter for three months. It is considered that the time that will be thus gained for the concentration of the allied and Turkish forces will be quite equal to the sacrifice submitted to. Although the Russians are good at handling field artillery, yet they are very slow in their besieging operations. In that line they have had very little experience, except in attacking old Turkish towns and fortifications, which were not nearly as capable of defence as those of the present day.

REPORTED ENTRY OF AUSTRIAN TROOPS INTO WALLACHIA.—The Russians organ, the Independance Belge, gives a despatch from Vienna that certainly contains news wholly unexpected. Austrian troops are said to have either already entered Little Wallachia, or to be on the point of doing so. There was a rumour at Vienna that the Austrian armies had entered Servia, Bosnia, Albania, the Herzegovina, and Montenegro. The question is very naturally asked, what can possibly induce Austria to enter Little Wallachia, now that the Russian forces have evacuated it, and the Turks are resuming possession of it? This is the more singular, because the population has everywhere received the Turks with open arms.

THE TURKISH ARMY IN BULGARIA.—The army of Bulgaria consists of 140,000 men, regulars and irregulars. Of the former there are 95,000 men, including the garrison of Sophia. At Widdin and Kalafat there are 20,000; at Varoa, 8,500; at Rustchuk, 7,000; at Silistria, 11,000. At Shumla there are now 55,000