

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

NEWS BY THE ATLANTIC.—The London Times states that arrangements have now been made and will speedily be in operation for securing to the French and English governments a direct communication every other day from the Crimea to Paris and London.

Preparations are being made in England for the siege of Cronstadt, which, it is said, will be undertaken in the spring. 120 gun-boats are to be constructed, each carrying two heavy guns, and also 40 floating batteries, each carrying 70 guns. The fleet will be under the command of Sir Edward Lyons. Admiral Napier is sick.

The London Times justifies the refusal of the French Government to allow Mr Soule to pass through France. That paper also says that Messrs. Buchanan and Mason, the United States Ministers in England and France, regard this insult to Mr Soule as a national matter. It is rumoured that Mr Mason has demanded an apology, which the London Times says will not be conceded.—The affair has given rise to much newspaper discussion, and the belief is generally entertained that it will create a serious difficulty between the French and American governments.

FROM THE CRIMEA.—The intelligence of the commencement of active operations against Sebastopol, which was first received through a Russian channel has now been confirmed on unquestionable authority. The fire was opened simultaneously from the whole length of the French and English lines soon after mid-day on the 17th ult.—Just one month after landing at Old Fort.

The French batteries were leveled against the work on the south side of the harbour, situated to the west of the White Tower.—The French ships of war attacked the Quarantine Battery, which is situated before the entrance of the harbour on the south side, while the English ships attacked Fort Constantine, on the North side of the entry to the harbor, with the Telegraph Fort, which stands on a height behind Fort Constantine. The fire of the allies was so effectually maintained, that by the evening of the 19th, as we learn from a French despatch, the Quarantine Battery, mounting 51 guns, had been silenced by the fire of the French ships, which had also cannonaded Fort Alexander and Fort Constantine, and the Telegraph Fort had been considerably damaged, if not blown up, by the fire from the English ships. A despatch from Odessa states that the bombardment had been proceeded with up to the 23rd.

As to the land operations of the days succeeding the 17th, we have little more than very general information; but we learn from a telegraphic despatch from Vienna that the British troops effected a breach on the 21st, and that, according to a Russian report, the French had successfully stormed the church-yard on the 19th. There appears to be little doubt that the fortresses of Sebastopol are gradually falling to pieces under the well directed fire of the allied forces. Of the casualties suffered by the besieging forces employed on the land batteries, there is no account. The loss on board the fleets is stated in one account as 90 killed and 200 wounded.

The Ville de Paris—which carried the flag of the French Admiral—suffered severely from the bursting of a shell, by which one or two of the Admiral's staff are said to have been killed. The Agamemnon—carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons—is said to have suffered most among the English ships. The Retribution—Captain Drummond's ship—is said to have lost a mast.—On the Russian side, the despatch attributed to Prince Menschikoff, which announced the commencement of the bombardment, confesses to a loss of 500 men on the first day, and among them admiral Korniloff, the hero of Sinope.

Another account says:

"The preparations having been quite complete, the fire was opened on all sides on the 17th; and at the same time the French ships bombarded the great fort of the Quarantine, mounting 51 guns, and the fort Alexander, which lies further from the shore and below the town, close on the southern end of the boom that is placed across the harbour, and the sunken Russian ships behind it.—The British ships attacked the great fort Constantine, and the Telegraph Fort, lying on the left of the fleet, and to the north of the harbour, where the Russian reinforcements are said to be placed.

In this way the bombardment had continued—it is believed with little interruption—throughout the 17th 18th and 19th, when the accounts left. The result at that time was, that the Quarantine Battery was silenced, and the French attack was continued against Fort Alexander, and the loop-holed wall that defends the town of Sebastopol, on the south-western side. These being reduced, or silenced, the town itself was open to assault of the French army, whenever an

assault—to be concerted, of course was decided to be made.

It is stated Col. Upton (the son of the engineer of Sebastopol) has afforded valuable information in regard to the fortress, and no doubt was entertained that it would fall very shortly after the attack was opened.

The weather had become piercing cold, and the horses were dying rapidly. Much sickness prevailed in the camp of the allies. One correspondent states that out of 3003 effective bayonets in the guards brigade on the 20th of July, only 1740 are now available. And out of nearly 40 officers then attached to each battalion only 14 remain on effective list.

Summing up the despatches from Sebastopol, the London Times says editorially, "we are still without the means of adding any fact of importance to the intelligence previously received from the seat of war. The despatches forwarded by Lord Westmorland on the 27th, had been six days on the road from Varna to Vienna and it contains a very incomplete notion of the operations, which commenced on the 17th. Some ships of the French and English squadrons, including Admiral Hamelin's flag-ship, the Villa de Paris, and Admiral Lyon's Flag-ship, the Agamemnon, undoubtedly took part in the first attack and the combined squadrons lost about 300 men in killed and wounded; but we are left to conjecture the duration and real effect of this engagement. Unfortunately, the official telegraphic despatch, on which alone reliance can be placed, are so unskillfully framed that they rather increase than diminish the uncertainty under which we labour, and we must wait the arrival of our own correspondence and despatches.

Private information leads us to suppose that the "quarantine battery" reported to have been destroyed by the French, was an earth work which the Russians threw up during the 10th, 11th, and 12th October, and from which they threw shell with annoying effect into the French trenches.

The Constantinople correspondent of the Times, says:—"The chief enemy is one against which all courage or skill can prevail, sickness still continues its ravages, and though them in have now received their tent and are no longer exposed to the chill and damps of an autumn bivouac, yet the state of the army is far from satisfactory. It is said on good authority, that the effective British infantry does not now exceed 16,000 men.—The probable loss in our part of the invading force from cholera, fever, and the sword of the enemy, is about 5,000 men since the expedition sailed. Not, indeed, that such a number are dead, but there are so many disabled by wounds and weakened by disease, that the force of the army is lessened by nearly a fifth.

The new screw steamer Jura (Cunard) left the Mersey for Cork on the 22d, to embark troops for Varna. Government has also chartered the Canadian screw steamers Octava and Cleopatra to convey troops to the East; the prices are reported to be £3 sterling per ton per month.

The Jura sailed from Cork on 26th, with 13,000 troops.

The Marseilles journals of the 27th announce the arrival in that city of Miss Nightingale, with 42 English ladies and six French Sisters of Mercy, on their way to the East. Several English surgeons and officers accompanied them.

Among the nurses who go out with Miss Nightingale, to the hospital at Scutari, are the Hon. Miss Erskine and other ladies of high social position.

The grand concert in the Sydenham Crystal Palace in aid of the fund for the wounded, had passed off with eclat. The amount realized was between £4,900 and \$5,000.

The loss by the recent fire in Molyneux's warehouse, Liverpool, is set down at nearly £200,000 sterling.

During the performance of worship in the South Parish Chapel, Cork, recently, a cry arose that the gallery way falling. A rush was made for the door, and twenty-eight persons were badly injured by being trampled upon.

THE LINES OF SEBASTOPOL.—A SORTIE AND DEFEAT.—From a diary or journal in the Times relating to the progress of the siege, the following extracts will interest the reader.

The writer describes the extent of works opened on the night of the 11th, and thus proceeds:—"It was intended that a party of similar strength should be employed on the left and centre, but owing to one of those accidents unavoidably occur in night work, the sappers and miners missed their way, and got in advance towards the lines of the enemy. They were perceived by an advanced post, which seems to have been the van of a sortie. The Russians opened fire on them at short distances with rifles, and wonderful to relate, missed them all. The battalions of Russian infantry, were moving silently on towards our works, and the alarm was given to the division in the rear.

At 1. 25 a furious cannonade was opened by the enemy on our lines, as they had then ascertained that we had discovered their approach. The Second and Light Divisions

turned out, and our field guns attached to them opened fire on the enemy, who were advancing under the fire of our batteries. Owing to some misunderstanding, the covering parties received orders to retire, and fell back on their lines—all but one company of riflemen who maintained the ground with tenacity, and fired into the columns of the enemy with effect. The Russians pushed on field-pieces to support their assault. The batteries behind them were livid with incessant flashes, and the roar of shot and shell filled the air, mingled with the constant ping-ping of rifle and musket balls. All the camps were up. The French on our left got under arms, and the rattle of drums and the shrill blast of trumpets were heard amid the roll of cannon and small arms.

For nearly half an hour this din lasted, till all of a sudden a ringing cheer was audible on our right, rising through all the turmoil. It was the cheer of the 88th, as they were ordered to charge down the hill on their unseen enemy. It had its effect, for the Russians, already pounded by our guns, and shaken by the fire of our infantry, as well as by the aspect of the whole hill side lined with our battalions, turned and fled under shelter of their guns. Their loss is not known; ours was very trifling. The sortie was completely foiled, and not an inch of our lines was injured, while the four-gun battery (the main object of their attack) was never closely approached at all. The alarm over, every one returned quietly to tent or bivouac.

CALIFORNIA.

LOSS OF THE STEAMER YANKEE BLADE.—BATTLE BETWEEN THE ALLIED FORCES AND RUSSIANS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC.—The steamship North Star, with California mails to the 16th October, arrived at New York on Thursday last. She had nearly \$1,700,000 in specie, and 526 passengers.

Steamship Yankee Blade, which left San Francisco, Sept. 30 for Panama, was lost on the following day. She had on board 8000 passengers and her crew and firemen. She struck on a reef of rocks off Point Arguello, 15 miles above Point Conception. About 15 lives, and all the specie on board, about \$150,000, were lost. The ship was a total wreck, and in a day or two was broken up by the sea and washed to pieces. A dense fog hung upon the coast, and the captain supposed the ship to be twenty miles from land when she struck. Some terrible scenes of pillage, and it is said, of murder took place on board the vessel after she struck and before the passengers were rescued by the steamer Goliath, plying between San Francisco and San Diego. The following are all the names of the lost given in the San Francisco papers:—Four children of Mrs. Longston, Mrs. Brennan and child, Mrs. Sumner and child, Mrs. Smith and child, wife of Mr. Smith, firm of Smith, & Co; Mrs. Moore and child, Mr. Frank Mitchell.

The French fleet, consisting of three frigates and sloops of war, had arrived at San Francisco. They had, in conjunction with the English fleet, made an attack on the Russian town and fort of Petropaulouski, in Kamschatka, from which the allied fleet were repulsed with a loss in killed and wounded of 209 men. The British rear Admiral Prince, who commanded the allied fleet, was killed by a pistol shot during the engagement. It is supposed that he accidentally shot himself. Two Russian ships were captured by the allies. The British ships afterwards sailed for Vancouver's Island.

The great topic of discussion in the California papers seems to be the Schuylerising operations of Henry Meigs, and the sudden departure of himself and brother John Meigs. The Chronicle says the following may be taken as a moderate approximation of his liabilities:—Amount of failure in his proper business, \$800,000; Comptroller's warrants forged, \$500,000; forged or over-issued stock of California Lumber Co., which concern he was president, \$250,000; forgeries on different mercantile firms, \$50,000.—Total, \$1,600,000. The forged warrants and stock had been hypothecated for advances. It is supposed that Meigs may have received upon them nearly \$400,000, upwards of one half of which sum it is estimated, he has taken away with him. The two brothers were connected in the forgeries. They secretly left on the 3d, on board the barque American, which had been bought provisioned, manned and armed for the occasion, and which was cleared in the Custom House for ports on the Pacific.

The State Supreme Court has decided that the Chinese fall under the meaning clause of the Constitution of California, which says that no black or mulatto person shall be allowed to give evidence in favour of, or against a white man.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

On Wednesday the nomination of candidates for the vacant representation of the city was to take place, and as usual several persons attended, to hear what was said and see what was done; but no candidate appeared except Mr Tilley, who between 11 and 12 o'clock addressed the crowd assembled outside the Court House. From three to four hundred

persons were present. He spoke of his taking office; stating, as is the fact, that he was most unwilling to take place and only consented to do so on the very day the administration was formed. Some of the papers said he was a young man and had no ability to fill the office; he felt all that and acknowledged it; but the office was forced upon him and he would labor to the best of his ability to discharge the duties faithfully. Some, he knew, thought the office desecrated, because the mere seller of physic held it, and showed what they felt. He was the son of a mechanic and he felt proud of his position on that day, holding as he did the highest office of the government that a layman could hold. By the sweeping away of the old government, and the formation of the present administration, they had proved that now at length the highest offices in the country were open to all without distinction, and that the carpenter, the smith, the farmer, or the shoemaker, if they had the necessary qualification, may entertain the hope of one day filling those offices, if they could gain the confidence of the people. The old system that would confine all honours to a few families had now received its death blow; there is no longer a privileged class; all men are now equal in fact as in theory, and merit and the favour of the people alone can confer honours. It appeared that little was expected of him and he could therefore scarcely disappoint their expectations; but more was probably expected of the new government than they would be able to accomplish. If, however, they do not do all that the people could fairly require at their hands, he hoped the people's representatives would tell them they had no confidence in such a government; add that they would then leave their places cheerfully and manfully, not whining or begging sympathy because they had lost their offices. They were, he believed, for the most part men who did not care for office; and to whom it was in a pecuniary point of view a loss to be in office. He felt it would be so to him. Not one principal would they sacrifice to retain office, and he hoped they would cease to retain power when they failed to use it for the public welfare. Mr Tilley, after alluding to the vote putting the pay of members at 20s. per day (a motion opposed by himself and those who acted with him) concluded by expressing the wish that if there should be a contest it would be carried on in the spirit of good will, &c.

There was no contest however, and at 2 o'clock he was declared duly elected and the court was closed.

TRIAL FOR MURDER.—On Monday, Robert Reynolds was tried, for the murder of Samuel Fanjoy, in Carleton, on the night of the 15th of May last. The case occupied the court all day and during the whole time the court house was crowded to excess chiefly by young men, who manifestly felt much interest in the case.

The Jury, without leaving the box, returned a verdict of not guilty.—*St. John Freeman.*

The Great Storm which commenced on Saturday night, and continued up to Tuesday morning, has been productive of great damage in various parts of the Country. So great a storm has perhaps never been known here.—The rain came down incessantly for upwards of fifty hours, and the rivers and streams have overflowed their banks and deluged the low lands in every direction. The great Marsh in the vicinity of this City presented an extraordinary spectacle on Tuesday, being completely under water, in some places to the depth of several feet, and all travelling was consequently suspended. The Paper Mill of Messrs. Philips, near the Reservoir has been partly carried away, and the Reservoir itself has been so much damaged that a supply of water cannot be obtained for the city. Messrs. Reed's Flour Mills at Little River have also been considerably damaged. The Colbrook Mills of Messrs. Estabrooks & Ring have been completely carried away, and the dam at the Nail Factory of Messrs. Scovill also damaged. The new saw Mill at Musquash has also been much injured and the road over the Musquash Bridge is rendered completely impassible. Messrs. Hawkes & Power, at Black River, had several thousand logs swept out of their dam by the rush of water, which were carried down to the shore. The Bridge over Hampton River is swept away; and the Saw Mills of Mr William Davidson, at Salmon River, have also shared the same fate. Mr D. has also lost a large quantity of logs.

Bridges have been carried away in every direction, and the travelling both East and West is suspended except by water; consequently the Mails are all behind hand.

On the lower part of the River St. John a good deal of damage has been done by the overflowing of the low lands, and large quantities of hay and lumber have floated away. In the upper part of the Country the rain was not so heavy, and we hear that no damage was experienced at the Oromosto or higher up the River. We fear however, that we shall have to record a great many more disasters.—*New Brunswicker.*

WEST INDIES.

BERMUDA.—The particulars of the terrific