

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

The Principalities.—The *Presse* of Vienna, of the 19th, says:—"A telegraphic despatch from Galatz, through Bucharest states that the Russians are fortifying the positions of Reni, and the other positions of the Pruth. Prince Gortschakoff was on the 9th at Ismail, and on the 10th continued his journey to Odessa. The works of fortification of the Turks, near Tultcha and Jaktch, are not yet terminated. Omar Pasha arrived on the 12th at Schumla, where he remained some hours, and then took his departure for Varna."

A letter from Bucharest, of 6th instant, in the *Wanderer*, of Vienna says:—"It is said that the Princes Ghika and Stirbey have resolved to form a Moldo-Wallichian corps, which will be placed at the disposal of the Sultan. It will be composed principally of cavalry, and will provisionally be 20,000 strong. The Princes have themselves furnished the greater part of the funds necessary for the organization of the corps, so that the public treasury of the provinces will only have to bear the remainder. The expense of keeping up this corps will be, during the war taken from the funds which from the tribute due to the Porte."

Conjectures about the fall of Sebastopol.—The following is an extract from a letter dated Paris, Wednesday evening:—

Some English officers from the Crimea, who are invalided, passed through Paris yesterday. They expressed an opinion that the English troops would eat their Christmas pudding in Sebastopol, and there are letters from French officers in the camp in which it is stated that the fall of Sebastopol before New Year's Day is certain. It is said in the political saloons that the Emperor Napoleon has expressed the same opinion, such, however is not the general impression here nor do some of the superior officers of the army in Paris, who receive letters from the Crimea, believe that it is possible, after so many disasters from the season of the year, and the long and heavy rains which have retarded the operations of the allies, for the allies to become sufficiently formidable for the speedy reduction of this great stronghold of the Russians. On the other hand there can be no doubt that the army of Prince Menschikoff is in a very bad condition. Even the Soldier's Friend of Vienna, which had systematically related everything favourable to Russia and unfavourable to the allies, has changed its tactics, and now tells us, that Prince Menschikoff has informed his government that he is unequal to resist any very serious offensive operations by the Anglo-French army.

Constantinople, Nov. 28.—A small body of the allied troops have taken possession of the mouth of the Katcha.

This morning an important mutation took place in the Ottoman cabinet, which is generally expected by Europeans to lead to most beneficial results. Rehid Pacha is named Grand Vizir in the place of Mehemet Pacha, and the celebrated Aalia Pacha takes charge of the portfolio of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The appointment of Reshid Pacha, which will give great satisfaction in the West, was long anticipated. He was truly wanted as Grand Vizir to place the Porte on an European footing, which, without him, was defective. The Sultan may be sincerely congratulated on this selection, which will, it is trusted, again restore Turkey to the favour of popular opinion on your side.

Russians preparations for next year's campaign in the Baltic.—St. Petersburg, Dec. 8. It ought not to be supposed in England that because Russia remained entirely passive this summer in the Baltic, and allowed her ships to be cooped up at Cronstadt and Sweaborg, that she intends to follow a similar course in the ensuing campaign in the Baltic. It may with truth be asserted that the declaration of war took Russia by surprise and that, with all the gigantic resources she possesses, neither the army nor the fortresses were at all prepared for active warfare.—The same may be said with regard to the navy, and to a much greater extent, both in the Baltic and the Black Sea.

But the extensive preparations now making in the imperial arsenals for putting the Baltic fleet in a condition not only to carry on a defensive war, but even to assume the offensive, are of such vast magnitude that they ought not to be overlooked in England, or thought lightly of. The most important of these measures is the immediate formation of no less than 26 reserve companies of sailors or ships crews, to replace those that may be swept off by British and French cannon-balls next summer. According to the Russian system, the Baltic fleet is divided into three divisions, the head quarters of the first and second being at Cronstadt, and of the third at Sweaborg. The new companies or crews are to be formed of those sailors or furlough and those whose time of service expires on the 13th January next.

The old line-of-battle ship *Andreas*, 84, is

to be converted into a block ship in lieu of the *Arsis*, 74, which will be fitted for active service. The new screw three-decker building here is to be called the *Emperor Alexander*, and is to be ready for service by the end of March next. The impracticable old ship *Emgeiten*, 84, is to do duty only as a harbour ship, and will be replaced by the *Natromnia* 74 and receive the 8th equipage or crew. The old line-of-battle ship *Empress Alexandra*, 84, the frigate *Prosperine*, 44, and the brig *Kasauky*, 20 are to be broken up as being perfectly unseaworthy.

The steamers which left Sweaborg for a cruise on the withdrawal of the British fleet, were the *Kamtschatka*, 16, 540-horse power, carrying the flag of Vice-Admiral Tirinow; the *Smiloi*, 12, 400-horse power; the *Olaf*, 16, 450-horse power; the *Grossaschi*, 5, 450-horse power; the *Chabroi*, 6, 300-horse power; the *Gremiaschoi*, 6, 400-horse power; the *Ruris*, 6, 300-horse power; the *Otwaschnoi*, 6, 400-horse power; and the *Bogatyr*, 6, 300-horse power—all paddle-wheel steamers.

Since then another squadron has left the port of Sweaborg and been out on a cruise, consisting of the line-of-battle ships *Procher*, 84, with the flag of Vice-Admiral Rumjonzow the *Pultawa*, 84; the *Brienne*, 74; and the *Valadimir*, 84—towed respectively by the steam-frigates *Olaf*, *Gremiaschof*, *Rurik*, and *Smiloi*. At the completion of their cruise they proceeded to Cronstadt, where they remain for the winter. They are, therefore, 4 line-of-battle ships and four steam-frigates less now at Sweaborg than there were in the summer.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 17.—The proposal made by the Minister of Finance to raise the price of salt from 28 to 44 eboeks has been accepted by the Czar as a profitable financial measure.

A despatch from Odessa says that a perfect panic reigns in that city. The garrison is weak from repeated drafts to the Crimea.—All the trading establishments are closed.—Some families have departed for the interior of Bessarabia; others to the Ukraine. The troops which Omar Pasha has embarked at Varna are expected, as well as a bombardment squadron from the Allied fleets. Several of the enemy's steamers are in sight.

On the 30th Nov. an insurrection broke out at Latakia in Syria, among the mountaineers.

The Governor marched against them with 2,000 men, and, being killed by a shot, the soldiers retreated.

Russian Loss on the Sea of Azoff.—Berlin, Sunday.—A communication from Warsaw of the 8th has been received, to the effect that in an unpublished portion of Prince Menschikoff's despatch of the 24th ult he states that near Cape Berdjanskaia (on the north coast of the Sea of Azoff,) a hurricane had literally demolished the breakwater, driven on shore 35 Russian vessels, and dashed to pieces five others.

Russia.—The advanced corps of the Russian Guard already touches the Austrian frontier.

The Empress of Russia is very ill. A Vienna paper gives us a communication from Galatz, that a Cossack detachment had crossed the Pruth, and in presence of the Austrian troops, destroyed the supplies of hay and straw, which had been prepared for the Austrian army in Moldavia.

Prussia.—The *Patrie* publishes the following telegraphic despatch:—

Hamburg, Dec. 10.—A despatch from Berlin, dated this day, announces that measures had been taken to place the Prussian army on a respectable footing. An order is issued to increase the artillery by 72 pieces. The *National Gazette* had been seized.

Austria.—Cracow, Dec. 4.—Ordnance tumbrels, and baggage waggons, are continually arriving here. Twenty-two redoubts, each armed with seven guns, have been erected round the town; four citadels also have been built, which in some measure supply the place of ramparts, and will enable the troops to maintain the defence. In the immediate neighbourhood a fort has also been erected on the hill Krakus has now a wall round it.—The old royal castle on the hill Wawel is being strongly fortified and supplied with barracks and magazines.

Lord Cardigan at Balaklava.—A friend has furnished us (*South Eastern Gazette*) with the following particulars of Lord Cardigan's share in the heroic charge of the Light Cavalry Division at the battle of Balaklava, from a private letter written by his lordship himself. When he (Lord Cardigan) had ridden through the Russian lines, and was near the muzzles of their guns in an earthwork battery, he was unable to see what to do next. Observing, however, that the embrasures were not high, he put his horse at one of them as he would have charged a fence in Leicestershire. The horse took the wall, and alighting on the gun they fell together. Lord Cardigan got up as quickly as possible and flourished his sword, when, to his astonishment and relief, he saw the Russian artillerymen running away. Knowing that he had no support, he retired with the rest of the division who were fortunate enough to get back to their own lines.

SOUTH AMERICA.

ERUPTION OF THE VOLCANO OF COTOPAXI.—For some time past, says the *Panama Star* of the 11th inst., this stupendous volcano has been in a state of eruption, and the cause of much alarm to the inhabitants of the surrounding country. After having giving frequent indications of activity for more than a year, it has at length thrown out over the plains of Callo enormous masses of rock, torrents of brackish water, and burning lava.—The waters have broken down the bridge of Cunchi, and carried off in their course much property and many cattle, but the buildings in Latacunga and other towns in the neighbourhood have not been injured. By the last accounts the alarm still continued, as the volcano is still in a state of activity, and vomiting out fire day and night.

Cotopaxi is the highest volcano in the world, having an altitude of 18,875 feet.—The town of Latacunga has been destroyed eight times already, and fears are entertained that in the present eruption the city will again suffer, the inhabitants having fled in the greatest consternation. The eruption of 1742 was attended by loud reports and noises and an immense issue of burning lava that flowed down on all sides and made the mountain look like one mass of fire. In 1768 it threw out an immense quantity of fine ashes, some of which fell a hundred leagues distant, producing a total obscurity for some time.—The eruption was accompanied with earthquakes, which were felt as far as Guayaquil and Popayana.

It frequently happens that during the most violent explosions the earthquakes are not felt in the vicinity of the mountains, though violent shocks are experienced at some distance.

UNITED STATES.

RACINE, (Wis.) December 18.—Sinking of the Propeller *Westmorland*—Seventeen Lives Lost.—The schooner *Whirlwind* arrived here to-day, with a part of the crew of the propeller *Westmorland*. She reports the sinking of the propeller in twenty-five fathoms of water eighteen miles this side of "Sleeping Bear," and the loss of seventeen lives.

Boston 29th.—The Board of Steamboat Inspectors reported relative to the collision between the steamships *Canada* and *Ocean*, that no blame can be attached to Captain and Pilot of the former and revoking the license of the latter.

CANADA.

We have intelligence of considerable suffering among the crews of different vessels ice bound in Lake Erie, of Malden, and between Point au Pelle and the shore. They are supposed to be suffering from hunger.—Flags of distress are flying from many of them. All efforts to get a steamer to them through the ice have as yet proved unavailing.—Means are now being taken to reach them in small boats.

We have to record this morning one of the most serious calamities which has ever befallen Toronto.

Jacques & Hayes' great Cabinet Factory, the largest establishment in Canada, has been entirely consumed by fire. About half-past 10 o'clock last night a man specially employed to watch the premises, named Tilley White, going his rounds discovered fire in the painting and harness room in the extreme southerly end of the third story of the old factory.

From Mr Jacques dwelling house which lies close to the old factory, the wind not blowing in that direction, by the exertion of the workmen a quantity of furniture made up and in process of manufacture was saved together with some tools but the greater part of the stock, and the fine and valuable machinery shared the fate of the building.

The destruction of property is variously estimated but we presume it cannot be less than £20,000. It may be much more. We deeply regret to state that to meet this immense sum Messrs. J. & H. were only insured for a very small amount. We are not aware of the exact sum but are informed that it will not cover one tenth part of their loss.

It is the oldest manufactory establishment in the city on a large scale. It was by far the largest work of the kind in Canada and was known far and wide over the Province. It employed over 200 hands. Upon their labor a very large portion of our population depend for their support.

We are sorry to say that while fighting the flames Mr Jacques was seriously burned.—*Quebec Morning Chronicle*.

Halloway's Pills.—Debilitated Constitution.—The wonderful power possessed by these Pills, is such, that they perform the most astonishing cures by restoring health when all other means fail: cases of debilitated constitutions by their use are completely invigorated, the delicate and weak are made strong. The daughter entering into womanhood, or the mother at the turn of life, alike derive unspeakable benefit by the use of this mighty medicine. It is also confidently recommended as an effectual remedy for general derangements of the system.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

From papers received by this mail, we copy the annexed paragraphs:

UNITED STATES.

At a meeting of the working men in New York Park, Mr. Wm. B. Carpenter was introduced amid considerable applause. He said:—

Fellow mechanics, what has brought you together this evening in such numbers? Is it because you want bread? (Cries of yes, yes?)—Now the question arises, how are we to get it? (Excitement.) Shall we go to the storehouses of the rich and take it? If not what are we to do? We will not starve? (No, no!) There is no famine in the country—our granaries are full and we should not want for bread. We must have some, or we will perish. But how are we to get it? If there is no other way, we go must and take it from where it is stored up, for it would be a shame for American citizens to starve when we are surrounded with plenty. The rich tells us we save nothing in good times—but how is it possible to save at the present rates of rents and provisions? Let us take council together, and do something to better our condition. (Loud applause and excitement.)

Destitution in New York.—The *New York Commercial Advertiser* gives a frightful account of the condition of the poor of that city. It says that hundreds of families have sold or pawned the last article of furniture or apparel to procure food, and are now left on the bare floor, without bedding or fuel, and not knowing where they may get the next mouthful to eat. Persons in those circumstances (many of them sober, industrious people) are thronging the Five Points Mission House daily and from stern necessity many are denied relief. This state of suffering is increasing daily, and the starving must be fed.

The Directors of the Mission House have assumed the task of providing not less than one thousand loaves of bread daily to keep the destitute from suffering with hunger.

Starvation—Suicide.—A melancholy evidence of the distress at present prevailing in New York, came to light on Saturday. A man named John Murphy, who has a wife and five children, committed suicide on account of their distressed condition, and while the coroner was holding an inquest on the body, intelligence was received that the youngest child had died of starvation, having had nothing to eat for two days.

More Heavy Failures in the United States.—Harrisburgh, Jan. 2.—The failure of Belcher & Co., at St. Louis for \$2,000,000 was announced this afternoon. It has caused the failure of two houses in this city, namely: Foster and Stephenson, ship owners and bankers for \$300,000, and Winthrop Gray, stock broker, to the extent of \$220,000.

Some Boston houses are also said to be affected to nearly a million of dollars.

Pittsburg, Jan. 2.—The Banking house of Gen. Larimer, failed to-day.

New York, Dec. 30th.—Canada Flour firm at \$9½; Mess Pork, \$13. Money cannot be raised at 2½ per cent. per month, by giving Flour as security.

The distress among the unemployed workmen in New York is so great that a meeting has been held at which they threatened to demand food rather than starve. The authorities have set on foot a movement to raise \$20,000 to be expended for their relief.

The steamer *Pacific* left New York last week for Liverpool, taking home over 67,000 letters, being the largest mail ever taken. Several hundred gentlemen, Most of them Englishmen assembled on the wharf to take leave of Lord Elgin, who goes home in this steamer.

CALIFORNIA.

New York Jan. 2.—The steamship *Star* of the West reached her dock shortly after 2 o'clock. She connected with the *Sierra Nevada*, which left San Francisco on the 9th. The amount of specie on freight is \$625,885.

The British frigate *Vestal*, in leaving Greytown for Jamaica, grounded and was towed off by the *Daniel Webster*.

A nugget of gold weighing seventeen pounds had been found near Sonora.

Rich gold placers some twenty miles in extent had been discovered on the east fork of the Carson river.

BY TELEGRAPH.

TO MIRAMICHI GLEANER OFFICE.

Saint John, January 12.

New York, January 11.—Baltic arrived.—Dates to December 30.

The Sarah Sands had put into Cork for repairs, and would sail thence for Portland.

News unimportant. Louis Napoleon made a warlike speech to French Chambers, which slightly depressed French and English funds.

Sebastopol holds out. Frequent Sorties, in which Russians claimed advantage.

Allies reinforced 18,000 men.

Foreign Enlistment Bill has become Law.

Parliament has adjourned.

No quotable change in Markets.