

News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 28th October.
EUROPE.

NEWS BY THE ASIA AT HALIFAX.

DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS AT KARS.

The following despatches have been received announcing the total defeat of the Russians in Asia:—

The Minister of Foreign Affairs at Constantinople to the Ottoman Ambassador at London.

Constantinople, October 13.

An official report of the Commander-General of Kars, September 29, makes known to us the following facts:

The Russians have this day attacked Kars. The action lasted eight hours, and in the course of the contest, which was of the most desperate character, the enemy with all his force several times entered some of our batteries, but was each time driven back with considerable loss.—After displaying great efforts, the Russians were compelled to give way before the courage of our brave soldiers, and retire completely routed.—In addition to the dead and wounded carried away during the action, the Russians have left in the trenches and the environs of the fortress 4,000 dead, 100 prisoners, and a gun. Our losses consist of 700 to 800 men; amongst them we may deplore the death of many superior officers. The Russians are preparing to retreat and abandon the siege.

A despatch from Lord de Redcliffe, at Constantinople to the English Foreign Office, states, that the Russians attacked Kars on the 29th of September, and were repulsed after a conflict of seven hours, with a loss of 2,500 killed, and twice that number wounded. Upwards of 4,000 muskets fell on the field. Loss of the Turks about 700 killed and wounded.

The Moniteur of Monday, contains the following:—

Constantinople, Oct. 13.

On Sept. 29th the Russians attempted a general attack on Kars. The combat lasted seven hours with extreme desperation. The enemy at length were repulsed, and his retreat became a complete rout. On the 30th they had already buried 4,000 dead, and the field of battle was strewn with dead bodies. The loss of the Turks is only about 1,000 men.

The Russian general Muraveff, reports to his Government, that he attacked Kars on the 29th of September, and that several chiefs of the enemy were killed and wounded. At the beginning the attack was successful, but the position and superior force of the enemy compelled us to withdraw. But notwithstanding this and a heavy loss, our troops took fourteen banners and a stand of colours. The blockade of Kars is re-established on its former footing.

A private despatch has been received at Hamburg from an authentic source, which gives some details of the Russian defeat before Kars on Michaelmas-day, the substance of which is this:—The battle lasted for more than eight hours, and was carried on with the greatest desperation on both sides; the Russians appearing determined to take the place, and the Turks manfully resolved to keep possession of it. At one time the Russians succeeded in taking two batteries; but before they had time to turn the guns round, or even to spike them, the Turks rushed upon them with such vigour as not only to gain possession of the batteries, but this movement being effected suddenly, to decide the fate of the day. Being repulsed with such fury, the Russians were quite taken by surprise, and fell back upon their comrades, who were thrown into confusion. The Turks then rushed out of the fortress, and massacred an enormous number of the enemy, before they had time to form their ranks and recover from their surprise. The despatch (which is from a Russian source) adds that although a great number of killed and wounded were carried off the field of battle during the action, more than 4,000 were left dead upon the walls of the fortress.—A couple of hundred Russians were made prisoners, and some pieces of ordnance fell into the hands of the Turks. In consequence of this disaster, adds the despatch, the Russians determined to raise the siege, and when the courier left they were preparing to carry this resolution into effect.

Those who are wont to sneer at the decay of Turkish power and valour, may compare now the part lately played by our own army under its blundering aristocratic chiefs in the Crimea with the successful achievements of the Ottoman troops at Kars. There, on Asiatic soil—almost abandoned in the opinion of Europe—a handful of Turks has for many months kept at bay the overwhelming forces of the invader, beaten off three minor assaults, refused surrender under the most trying circumstances, and at last routed the aggressor in a desperate battle, which cost the Russians a number of dead almost twice, or, perhaps, even thrice, as large as the number of men which the French have lost at the Malakoff. If ever there was a fortress that might have surrendered without prejudice to the honor of the besieged, it is Kars, with its weak garrison and exhausted provisions. Yet its defenders have held out with heroism, and finally added a splendid victory to those of Kalafat, Citate, and Skestria, where Ottoman bravery has also, single-handed, repelled the tide of Cossack invasion. The fortress once invested, famine seemed imminent. Indeed, so short was Kars of necessary food that the commander, unable to feed all his troops, at last sent a portion of them right into the Russian camp, to be killed there. Under such circumstances, other garrisons might have broke out in open

mutiny, and forced the commander to capitulate. Not so the troops at Kars—a part went out tranquilly to meet a certain death, the others remained to feed on scanty rations of horse flesh. The moment had almost arrived when even this supply would fail: this was the time when the gallant Muraveff, believing the defenders of the place to be utterly demoralized, ventured his great assault on the 29th September. For the space of eight hours a desperate struggle raged, during which the besiegers entered several times with all their force into some of the batteries; but the issue of the contest was the utter route of the assailants. Not reckoning the dead and wounded carried away during the action, four thousand slain Muscovites are said to have covered the ground, and a hundred prisoners were led into Kars. The famous strategist Muraveff, who was to supercede and outshine Gortschakoff in the Crimea, had been beaten by a handful of famished Osmanlis. On that day the star of Muscovite supremacy waned in Asia Minor. Were we right, then, when we defended the cause of the Ottoman power against the calumnies levelled at it by those who plot for a partition of Turkey under pretext of her decay?

The victory of Kars was not shared in by the most eminent general that Turkey now possesses. Omar Pasha had had the misfortune of being absent when Sebastopol fell, and only arrived at Batoum when the Russians were defeated in Anatolia. The fault, however, does not rest with the Ottoman generalissimo, but is owing entirely to the intrigues of the European courts.

It is, in fact, Turkey's greatest merit, that on two paramount occasions she has turned the scales to the disadvantage of Russia. In the first instance in 1853, when Constantinople seemed all but lost, and the Czar's agents boasted that the Muscovite double eagle would soon extend its wings over the cupola of St. Sophia, Turkey declared war, notwithstanding the contrary advice of Anglo-French diplomacy, and for a whole year astonished the world by her valiant resistance, and finally triumphed at every point. Again, in 1855, when men who understood the importance of Armenia as a key to Persia, and as a stepping-stone towards our Indian possessions, saw with anxiety the Russian advance upon Kars, Turkey once more proved worthy of the position she occupies, and to her must now be ascribed the fact that the commercial highway to Persia is yet free, that the Sha of Persia is prevented from making an alliance with the Autocrat,—nay, perhaps even that India is spared the inconvenience of other troubles than those resulting from the Santhal insurrection. Thus, both in Eastern Europe and in Asia Minor, the Osmauls has been victorious at a most critical juncture.

But great is the event at Kars in a political sense, it is equally glorious in a military point of view. If statistics published some months ago can be relied on, the whole Turkish force in Anatolia, when it was most efficient, scarcely reached 30,000 men. Of these but the half was available for the defence of the Armenian fortress. The Russians on the contrary, were 40,000 strong, well disciplined, well fed, well ammunitioned, and sat down to invest a place the fortifications of which have been hastily erected while the character of the country favoured more the besieger than the besieged. The following figures will show the strength, or rather the weakness of the Ottoman forces in Asia Minor. The corps at Kars under Mushir Vassif Pasha and General Williams was lately said to consist of four divisions—viz., the division of Ismail Pasha, 4,500 strong; that of Ismail Bey, 3,000; a division of 4,000; and another division of 3,500—total 15,000. The corps of Erzeroum, under the command of Governor-General Mehemed Pasha, was computed to consist of three divisions, viz., that of Erzeroum Proper, under Tahir Pasha, under 1,500 irregulars; that of Kopri-Koi, under Veli Pasha, 10,000 irregulars; and that at Olti, under Ali Pasha, 3,000—total 14,500. Now, for all practical purposes, the Bzeroum force, composed almost exclusively of irregulars, was of little avail. The chief brunt of the battle, therefore, fell upon the Kars garrison, which was attacked by a Russian army of more than 40,000 men, viz., thirty-two battalions of infantry, one battalion of riflemen, one battalion of the engineer corps, three regiments of Dragoons, two regiments regular Cossacks, some Bashibazouks, from Shirvan, a corps of Armenian militiamen, and eight pieces of artillery. This Muscovite force was led by ten generals, distinguished in the Czar's service, and commanded by Muraveff, who is acknowledged as one of the first strategical talents in Russia, and renowned, too, for his knowledge of the territory, the different modes of warfare, the various national characters, and the military situation of the Caucasus, the Caspian and Aral countries, as well as Asia Minor.

THE CAPITULATION OF KINBURN.

The following is the official report of Admiral Bruat, describing the bombardment of the forts, and the capitulation of the garrison, of Kinburn:—

Kinburn, Oct. 17.

On the morning of the 14th October the squadrons left the roadstead of Odessa as soon as the strong easterly winds, which had checked their operations since the 8th of October, had ceased. In the evening of the same day they anchored off Kinburn.

In the night five French gunboats—the Tiralieuse, Stridente, Meutriers, and Mutine—sent by Rear Admiral Pellion, under the orders of Lieut. Allemand, of the Cacique, got through the strait of Otchakow, with five English gunboats, and entered the Dnieper.

The next day, Oct. 15, at daybreak, the

troops were landed at about 4,500 metres from the place, to the south of it. In the afternoon the mortar-boats opened their fire, but were obliged to suspend it when night fell, on account of the swell, which rendered their aim uncertain.

The entire of the 16th was nearly lost to us, as the wind had veered round to the south-west. The troops were occupied in entrenching themselves and making reconnaissances towards the south. The gunboats in the Dnieper were alone able to annoy the place.

The wind having shifted to the north during the night, we were engaged early in the morning, Admiral Lyons and myself, in carrying into execution the plan of attack arranged on the previous evening, agreeably to the soundings taken by Captain Spratt, of the Spitfire, and Lieutenant de Vaisseau Cloue, of the Brandon, assisted by Messrs. Ploix and Manen, hydrographic engineers. At twenty minutes past nine the three floating batteries, the Devastation, Lave, and Tonnamte, opened their fire.

The success they obtained on this day has answered all the hopes of the emperor. The rampart they battered presented practicable breaches very speedily, and at several points.

The French and English mortar-boats opened their fire at forty five minutes past nine. Their aim, rectified by the signals of the avisos, was most admirably directed. I attribute to them in a great measure the prompt surrender of the place.

The five French gun-boats, the Grenade, Fleche, Mitraille, Flamme, and Alarme, supported by six English gunboats, took up their position nearly at the same time as the mortar vessels. Their fire ricocheted very advantageously the batteries a *barbette*, which were attacked by the floating batteries.

As soon as the firing of the place had slackened, our gunboats advanced, at a signal given by the Captain of the Grenade, M. Jaureguiberry, in a line with the floating batteries. They were accompanied in this movement by the English gunboats.

Precisely at noon, the ships followed by the frigates, corvettes and avisos, got up steam. The ships formed in a front line, casting anchor and lying with their broadsides to the forts at a distance of 1,600 metres, in twenty-six feet and a half of water. At the same moment, six English frigates, commanded by Rear-Admiral Stewart, and three French frigates under the orders of Rear-Admiral Pellion—the *Asmodee*, *Cacique*, and *Sane*—made for the Strait of Otchakow in order to take the forts of Kinburn in the rear. The English ship of the line *Hannibal* advanced to the middle of this strait.—Generals Bazaine and Spencer brought up their riflemen and field-pieces to about 400 metres from the place.

These bold manœuvres and the imposing front presented by the nine French and English ships, broadside on and bowsprit to stern, thundering with all their guns, had a decisive effect. At thirty-five minutes past one, observing that the fort of Kinburn fired no longer, although the northern works continued still to make use of their mortars, Admiral Lyons and myself thought it right to respect the courage of the brave fellows we were fighting against us; consequently we made the signal to cease firing, and hoisted a flag of truce, sending a French boat and an English one to the shore.

The forts accepted the capitulation offered.—The garrison left the place with the honors of war, and rendered themselves prisoners. Our troops occupy all the Russian works.

The capitulation stipulated that the place should be given up to us in the state it then was. We take possession, therefore, of the enemy's stores and munitions. Admiral Lyons and myself are sending the surgeons of the two squadrons to tend the Russian wounded, amounting to about eighty.

The number of prisoners is from twelve to fifteen hundred. We are going to form a strong establishment here.

NOTE ON KINBURN.

The waters of the Bug and the Dnieper fall into the sea in one stream. After forming a lake, where their waters blend, the two rivers flow together, between Otchakoff on the north and Kinburn on the south, through a narrow channel of variable depths (fifteen feet the minimum,) much nearer Kinburn than Otchakoff.

Otchakoff, on the right shore, is built on the top of a cliff of moderate height, advancing in an acute angle straight to the south, and throwing out a low flat, on which rises an old fort of Genoese origin, in rather a dilapidated state.—A battery of nine guns of large calibre, recently erected on the cliff outside the channel, taking it in enfilade, but at a long range, completes the defence of this side, and does not present any serious obstacles.

On the left shore, on the tongue of sand formed by the alluvial deposits of the two rivers, is built the citadel of Kinburn, commanding the passage much nearer, as its guns can reach both outside and inside—constituting, in word, the sole defence of the mouth of the Dnieper.

The citadel of Kinburn is hornwork of masonry, with parapets of earth, surrounded by a foss wherever it is not washed by the sea, and containing barracks and other buildings, the roofs and chimneys of which are visible above the ramparts. It is armed on all its faces, having one tier of guns covered and garrisoned, surmounted by a battery *a bar bette*, the whole presenting some sixty guns, half of which sweep the sea outside, from the south-west to the north-north-west.

Kinburn has the war-flag always flying—the sign of armament—and containing a garrison of 2,000 men, not including the military colonists

settled outside, in a village regularly built, to the south, and within range of the guns of the fort. Two fresh batteries have been lately erected to the south-west of the fortress.

ADDRESS OF THE CZAR TO THE INHABITANTS OF MOSCOW.

On the 26th, at noon, the Emperor Alexander, accompanied by the Grand Prince Michael, left Moscow and sent out for Nicolaieff, after issuing the following rescript to the military governor-general and A. D. C. General Count Cakrevski, for the citizens of Moscow:—

“Count Arsenius, Andacievitch,—From the time that I ascended the throne of my ancestors, it has been my heartfelt wish to visit the dear and trusted ancient capital of my empire—the city in which I was born and received baptism under the protection of the relics of the worker of miracles, St. Alexis of Moscow. Having now fulfilled this wish, I have experienced from the inhabitants of Moscow a reception which has caused great gladness to myself and my whole house—a reception such as Russia has at all times given to her sovereigns. I commission you to express my heartiest acknowledgments to all classes in Moscow. My happiness would have been complete had not preceding events clouded these fortunate moments. It is already known, by my order of the day, addressed to the Russian armies, that the garrison of Sebastopol, after an unexampled siege of eleven months, after deeds of prowess previously unheard of, after a self-denial, and the repulse of six obstinate attacks, has passed over to the north side of the town, leaving to the enemy only bloody ruins. Sebastopol's heroic defenders have achieved all that human strength could perform. Past and present events I accept as the inscrutable will of Providence, who chastens Russia with heavy hours of trial. But Russia's trials were once far heavier, and God the Lord sent down to her his all-bountiful and invisible aid. Wherefore let us also now put our trust in Him: He will defend Russia, the orthodox, who has drawn the sword for the just cause, the cause of Christianity. The incessant proofs of all and every one's readiness to sacrifice property, family, and the last drop of their blood for maintaining the integrity of the empire and the national honour, delight me. It is precisely in these national feelings and efforts that I find consolation and strength, and from my whole heart, indissolubly blended with my loyal and gallant people, I, with trust in God's help and grace, repeat the words of Alexander I: 'Where truth is, there also is God!' I remain unutterably well inclined towards you.”

“Moscow, Sept. 20.”

“ALEXANDER.”

The Emperor Alexander, by an order of the day of the 4th, has dismissed General Korff from his command, for having allowed himself to be surprised in the cavalry affair near Buzatoria, and has nominated Prince Radziwill his successor.

UNITED STATES.

Heavy Grain Operation in Chicago.—During the past week we learn that a single party in this city purchased about 600,000 bushels of wheat, the most of which, it is said, will go forward to Boston. At an average of \$1.50 per bushel, the gentlemen in question paid out nearly a million of dollars, all of which has passed into the pocket of the farmers of the country, and is so much added to the general wealth. Other parties, however, was actively engaged in buying throughout the week, and it is reasonable to estimate the quantity which changed hands during that time at fully two millions of bushels. This statement of the extent of operations in a single branch of business would convey some idea of the magnitude of the commerce of our city, and of the money facilities requisite for successfully conducting it.—*Chicago Press.*

Disastrous Railroad Accident at St. Louis Seventeen Persons Killed—many Wounded.

The magnificent train of cars which left our city yesterday morning, on an excursion to Jefferson city, to celebrate the opening of the Pacific railroad to that place, is now a mass of ruins, and infinitely worse than this many of the noble hearts that participated in the pride of the occasion, are now stifled in death.

The train, consisting of 14 cars, left the depot on Seventh street at 9 o'clock, crowded with invited guests, a half hour after the time advertised. By the time it reached Hermann this delay was fully recovered, thus showing the good condition of the track. After leaving Hermann the train proceeded with good speed, and without the least difficulty until they reached the Gasconade, when one of the most disastrous accidents occurred which has yet thrown the city into mourning.

The bridge across that stream gave way, and ten of the cars were precipitated a distance of 25 or 30 feet. The locomotive, from all appearances, had reached the first pier when the structure gave way, and in falling reversed its position entirely, the front turning to the east and the wheels upward. On the locomotive at the time were the President, Mr H. E. Bridge, Mr O Sullivan, the chief engineer of the road, and an additional number of employees.

Mr Bridge, it is supposed, is the only one saved of the individuals named. An hour after the disaster voices from beneath the wreck of the locomotive were heard asking for assistance and when we left the scene of the disaster active efforts were making to relieve the sufferers. It is possible—nay, it is to be hoped probable—that some of these unfortunates may have been rescued.

The road enters the bridge with a curve, and this circumstance, perhaps prevented the disaster from being more fatal, as the cars thereby