

The Politician,

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Times.

HOPE FOR IRELAND.

The English Government is omitting no opportunity of reinforcing the West India squadron, and thus interposing a powerful fleet between this country and the North American continent. At this moment North America is in profound peace with the whole world; yet it is not less true that in her ports are fitting out at this moment piratical filibustering expeditions, destined to carry war and bloodshed into the dominions of an unoffending neighbour. These expeditions do not receive the sanction of the American Government, are not equipped by its funds, will not be conducted by its officers,—but their preparations is, nevertheless, well known to the President and his administration, and receives no check from that quarter. This toleration, we are willing to suppose, proceeds from weakness merely, and would be exchanged for vigorous action, only that the power to act is utterly wanting. The American people are so free that they will not be controlled by a Government of their own creating, and, though laudably eager for the preservation of their own dignity and the assertion of their own rights, cannot bring themselves to tolerate an executive sufficiently strong to compel respect for the rights of foreign nations. It is because we see no hope of finding in the United States a Government capable of preventing its citizens from waging private war on their own account against the best friends and truest allies of the great republic, that we are most unwillingly compelled, even in the midst of the great European struggle in which we are engaged, to assume a defensive attitude, in order to trample out the first sparks of this fire, and prevent a conflagration which, if once allowed to spread, may cause incalculable misery to the human race. It is the misfortune of the American Republic that she contains within her borders so many desperate and lawless men; it is still more her misfortune that she does not possess an organization sufficiently powerful to crush these criminal attempts. That which she cannot do, we are compelled, at least so far as the lawless enterprises directed against ourselves go to do for her. We cannot wait patiently till these lawless emissaries of insurrection and plunder have set their feet within her Majesty's dominions, and encountered there the resistance which is sure to overwhelm their wild and desperate schemes. We cannot wait till we are placed in the terrible dilemma of either sparing men to whom clemency is cruelty to the human race of which they are the enemies, or of inflicting a just punishment, which may be the means of inflaming against us the passions of the the American people and leading to a disastrous and fratricidal war. We will, if it be possible, prevent the crime that otherwise it would be our duty most severely to punish, and this we do in the name and in the hope of peace. We cannot believe that those who are now engaged in enrolling unhappy men for these desperate and criminal enterprises really contemplate the success of a descent upon Ireland, for instance, as probable, or even possible. All they can hope is that the miserable fate sure to attend such wretched adventurers may be the means of inflaming the public mind against England, and stirring up the passions of the people to a point which might render war inevitable. This consummation it is the duty of the American Government, if it can, to prevent these expeditions from sailing, or intercept them in mid-ocean, we shall have done much towards averting the danger that must arise should they be carried out to their natural development. The course of action we have adopted is bold, but for that very reason we believe it to be prudent and safe. We are fully aware of the advantage that such a proceeding gives to those ever-active emissaries of discord, who are incessantly employed in every state of the Union in stirring up the feelings of the populace against their country. That which is a mere measure of self-defence against lawless force they will represent as an insult offered to the lawful Government of the country; they will declaim, they will distort, they will exaggerate, but we must not omit to prepare against real dangers because our preparations may be honestly misunderstood or designedly misrepresented. England has every wish and every interest to remain at peace with America. The immense trade which we carry on with her, the community of language and of blood, the absence of any ground of dispute or subject of rivalry, all plead forcibly in the same direction. How strange that under such circumstances we should be driven to arm merely because it is the will of a portion of the sovereign people to make war upon us, unsupported and unapproved, but also neither prevented nor arrested, by the Government! We desire above all things, a continuance of peace, but if it be the determination of any large portion of the people of the United States to force war upon us we shall know how to meet it and repel it, without relaxing for an instant our grip on the throat of the reeling and tottering giant of the north.

From the London Daily News.
THE RUSSIAN MODE OF WARFARE.

Surely those Russians are the politest enemies that ever an army had to deal with. They are always on the alert to save our men trouble. If a demonstration is made against their ships, instantly the vessels are sunk by their own hands. If indications are given of a serious desire to take one of their forts, it is blown up forthwith. It would not in the least surprise us to learn that, after blowing up the fortifications on Otchakoff Point, the Russian commander had despatched a flag of truce to express a regret that the laziness of his soldiers, or their uncertainty as to our wishes, had prevented their doings as much to the forts at Kinburn. These exploits of the Muscovites impart to their Emperor's visit to the southern parts of his dominions, a character unprecedented in history. We read of many kings and kaisers who have repaired to the theatre of war, to go through the form of receiving the submission of towns, fortresses, or armies, that had previously been reduced to extremities by their generals. But Alexander II is the first sovereign on record who has travelled so far to witness, with his own eyes, the dexterity with which his soldiers can destroy and evacuate their own defences. The Roman Emperor who went from Rome to the Belgian coast to witness a sham embarkation for the conquest of Britain, has hitherto been thought the most sublime ninny on record: his laurels must fade in comparison with the Russian Emperor, who has travelled from St. Petersburg to Odessa to witness an unresisted irruption into his own dominions. How the news of his passive exploits may be received at St. Petersburg it is not easy to conjecture. When the inhabitants of that capital learned that their Black Sea fleet had been sunk by the orders of Prince Menschikoff, and that their forts around South Sebastopol had been blown up by the orders of Prince Gortschakoff, they could console themselves by the reflection that these misadventures could only happen in the absence of their Emperor—their God upon earth. But their Emperor has gone to the scene of action, and matters go on in his presence exactly as they did in his absence. May not this shake their confidence in his miraculous power to protect them? And may not the consequent want of faith in him prepare an indifferent reception for his imperial majesty on his return? The reverence with which the Russians regard their sovereign borders on idolatry: but old chronicle tell us how the worshippers of idols have ere now, when tired with praying to their wooden gods without effect, tried whether they could not beat them into better behaviour. If the Russians have ever read the story of the man who, tired out with fruitless prayers to his idol threw it rudely down from its pedestal, and was rewarded by a stream of gold coin which, having been deposited in a cavity of the image, flowed from it when broken, they may be tempted to repeat the experiment upon their own flesh and blood divinity. But possibly the politeness of the Russians, in saving the allies the trouble of destroying their ships and forts, is the result of some deep laid scheme. We may read in the next number of the Journal de St. Petersburg that comes to hand, an exposition of the Machiavellian policy of its Government.

From the London Weekly Times.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The combined fleets in the Black Sea have performed another brilliant service, which rivals if it does not surpass in importance, the occupation of the Sea of Azoff. On the 17th inst. the strong forts of Kinburn, commanding the entrance to the estuary of the Bug and the Dnieper, surrendered to the English and French squadrons. Seventy guns with a quantity of ammunition and stores were taken, and a Russian general and fifteen hundred of his troops were made prisoners. This operation was carried out with great skill and valour, and reflects the highest honour on the fleets, in which the land forces must also share. The three forts on Kinburn Point were of great strength; they protected the approaches to Nicolaieff and Kherson; the Russians were long prepared for a visit from the Allies, and they had accumulated every means of defence. Yet in two days these important works were reduced, with scarcely any loss on our side. We are not surprised to hear that the news of this success caused the utmost consternation at St. Petersburg. The Russians must see that no part of their coast is safe, and they may learn wisdom from reflecting that not one of their ships now floats on that sea from which they claimed to exclude the navies of the world; that the whole military strength of the empire was ineffectual to save their southern stronghold from the courage and constancy of British and French troops; and that their great building arsenals are now within reach of the power that reduced Sebastopol. The uninterrupted success which has attended the allied operations during the year must be as depressing to the enemy as it is cheering to France and England. The Russians are an obstinate people, willing to fight for the integrity of their soil, and ready to make large sacrifices for their Czar; but there is a limit to the endurance of the most stubborn and the most patient. If hostilities continue and heavy blows fall upon them in quick succession, they will

feel the calamities of war pressing with greater intensity, until they persuade Alexander to make the submission which alone can restore peace to the world. The Czar must be framed of iron if he can regard unmoved the sacrifices that this war imposes upon his people. We have it as-erted on credible authority, that his losses in men amount to four hundred thousand, but deduct a fourth, and what a terrible carnage is represented by the remainder! It is calculated that more than half the able-bodied male population of Russia have been taken for the army, and a gentleman who has just traversed Russia from the Baltic to the Euxine informs us that everywhere he saw women and boys employed in field work, with scarcely a man amongst them. Food is plentiful in Russia, but money is scarce, and the drafts of animals for the army has interrupted agricultural operations over many large districts. The money taken from the Russian treasury for the war is probably very much less than the amount expended by the allies; but the levying of contributions in kind and of forced labour is more exhaustive than our system of paying money for everything, while industry is left to pursue its course without disturbance. The resources of Russia have been severely tried by two years of war, and every succeeding year of hostilities will find her weaker. The Czar cannot be ignorant of all this, and we are therefore not disposed to reject altogether a statement made on the authority of letters from St. Petersburg, that his mind is becoming affected. It is said that his train includes more priests than generals, and that he prays the whole day, invoking Providence to grant him a victory. His predecessor and namesake Alexander suffered under a religious mania, and insanity was attached to the Romanoff family, from Peter downwards. We notice this rumour not so much that we think it of any moment as regards the chances of war or peace, but that it throws some light on the conduct of the czar during his recent visit to Moscow. Sane or insane, he is, so far as the war is concerned, in the hands of others, and he must float with the stream. The state of affairs would not be improved by the passage of supreme power to his violent brother Constantine, who certainly is not religiously mad.

On the 8th inst. the allied squadrons cast anchor in the bay of Odessa, to the great consternation of the inhabitants of the town. The secret of the destination of the expedition was well kept, and it was supposed in the Russian capital, as well as in London, that the long postponed bombardment of Odessa had been resolved upon. For six days the Allies were detained by strong westerly winds, and on the morning of the 14th they sailed for Kinburn, off which place they anchored in the evening of the same day. The reader, looking on the map will see that the river Bug and Dnieper fall into a lake called indifferently the Liman of the Dnieper, or Kherson Bay. Here they join their waters, and flow on in one stream of varying but considerable depth to the Black Sea. On the south side is the narrow Spit of Kinburn, the point of which is fortified, and opposite at a distance of about three miles of Otchakoff, where also there was a strong fort. During the night of the 14th four French and five English gun-boats passed the straits of Otchakoff, and entered the Liman of the Dnieper. At day break on the 15th, the English and French corps were landed to the south of the forts in a position to cut off the retreat of the garrison, or to intercept reinforcements. A bombardment was opened in the afternoon from the mortar boats, but it was found necessary to suspend it when night set in, on account of the swell, which rendered their range uncertain. On the 16th, the weather was unfavourable, and only the gun boats sheltered within the Dnieper were able to annoy the forts. On the 17th operations were renewed; the French floating batteries were employed with great success, and the gun boats and mortar vessels made excellent practice. At noon the large ships closed in: six English and three French frigates passed through the straits, so as to take the Kinburn forts in reserve; and at the same time the English and French skirmishers and field pieces advanced to within four hundred yards of the place. 'These bold manoeuvres,' Admiral Bruat reports, 'and the imposing front presented by the nine French and English vessels, in close line, broadside on, thundering from all their guns, had a decisive effect. At thirty-five minutes after one, observing that the Fort of Kinburn had ceased to fire, although the batteries on the north continued to serve their mortars, Admiral Lyons and myself thought it right to respect the courage of the brave men we were fighting; we therefore made the signal to cease firing, and hoisted a flag of truce, at the same sending on shore a French and English boat.' The garrison accepted the capitulation offered, marched out with the honours of war, and surrendered themselves prisoners. The allied troops at the same time occupied the works. Marshal Pelissier in his despatch says, 'We are now in the full occupation of an important position, and no doubt it will be held as a basis for future operations. The Russians completed the success of the Allies by evacuating and blowing up the fort of Otchakoff on the following day. Of the subsequent proceedings of the allied squadrons we know nothing, except from a Russian dispatch received by way

of Hamburg, which states that up to Monday night nothing of importance had been undertaken. Gunboats had ascended the Bug and the Dnieper to reconnoitre, but had retired.

The possession of Otchakoff and Kinburn opens to the Allies the road to Nicolaieff and Kherson, but it may be doubted whether a land expedition against Nicolaieff will be attempted so late in the season. The place is strongly defended, and at the last accounts the Grand Duke Constantine was in person directing the progress of the new fortifications on which many thousands of labourers were at work. It was also understood that General Todleben, who had so skillfully constructed the defences of Sebastopol had been sent for by the Grand Duke. Kherson is more accessible than Nicolaieff, and not so strongly fortified. It is about fifteen leagues from the mouth of the Dnieper, and there is a medium depth of water of about twenty five feet. At Kherson the river is a mile wide and fifty feet in depth. It was stated on Russian authority that the straits of Otchakoff and the mouths of the two rivers had been rendered impassable by sunken vessels. The admirals do not report any such obstacle at Otchakoff, and it is probable the story is a pure fiction intended to deceive the allies. Kherson was formerly the seat of Russian commerce in the Black Sea, and also the only naval station. It has lost its military value since the building of Nicolaieff and Sebastopol, and its commerce has been transferred to Odessa. Still it is the great depot of provisions and supplies for the Russian armies in the south and the Crimea, standing, as it does, on the high road from the centre of the empire to Perekop. Its capture or destruction would prove a serious embarrassment to the Russians, and it is not improbable that the admirals will push on and destroy the vast barracks and magazines. Nicolaieff, if to be attacked, would be approached by land forces marching along the banks of the Bug, while a flotilla ascends the stream, each supporting and covering the other. Should the war continue, an arsenal of such vast importance to Russian power in the Black Sea cannot be overlooked. A siege of Perekop is amongst the operations which rumour announces as intended, and the presence of the fleets and troops will at least serve to keep the Russians alarmed from Odessa to the Crimea, and to impede the reinforcements of Prince Gortschakoff's army. We must notice a report coming from Vienna, on the authority of a telegraphic message from Odessa, to the effect that at the same time the allied fleets attacked Kinburn thirty thousand men were landed on the peninsula of Tendra, a narrow spit of land to the west of Perekop, and stretching towards Kinburn Bay. It is scarcely necessary to add that intelligence from Vienna generally requires authentication.

We have correspondence from the Crimea to the 13th inst., and the news can be brought into a brief space. The Russians who never relaxed a moment since the fall of South Sebastopol in the construction of batteries on the north side, had opened a heavy fire on the portion of the town occupied by the French, but without any effect beyond further ruining the ruins. The French replied from the mortar batteries, and caused some loss to the enemy. Without encumbering the reader with names, many of which are not to be found on the best maps, we may explain that the French and the Sardinians have made a forward movement. The French have definitively occupied the upper plateau of the Belbek. Large reinforcements were daily sent to Eupatoria. An entire French division under General de Failly and the British Light Cavalry Brigade had arrived. There was a report that Prince Gortschakoff contemplated falling back, and concentrating his forces at Simpheropol. His present situation is certainly envied with perils, for the French on one side are close to the Russian position at Albat and Aigral, where they must, if at all, make their stand, while from the side of Eupatoria his rear is seriously menaced as well as his communication with Perekop. We have it from German authority that the Russian Commander-in-Chief applied to his master for leave to give battle or to retire, and that the Czar had sent two generals to enquire and report.

The recal of General Simpson is home news, and the name of his successor has not been published, but we understand that the appointment has been made. We scarcely venture to hope that the Government has chosen a man with youth, vigour, and military genius. For the rest, the weather remained good, and the men relieved of night duty, were cheerful and in excellent health. If Prince Gortschakoff gives any part of the Allied army an opportunity of meeting him in the field, we have no doubt the result will be the same as on every occasion that he has risked a battle since the commencement of the war.

SCHOOLMASTER WANTED.

Wanted in the Burnt Church Settlement, a SCHOOLMASTER. Apply to

ALEXANDER MORRISON,
ALEXANDER LOGGIE.

Miltoni, October 24, 1855.

NOTICE.

All persons who have not paid their Parish Rates, are requested to do so within six days, if not they will be dealt with according to law.

CORNELIUS MCCARTHY,
Chatham, November 2, 1855.