

News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 17th March.
EUROPE.

Vienna, March 13.—The Wanderer of Vienna states that the Western Powers have sent instructions to their representatives, authorising them to declare that the death of the Czar has in no way modified their views with respect to the Eastern question.

Private telegraphic advices have been received, which are considered favourable to the prospects of peace. Prince Gortschakoff, who has at length received his powers in due form, had signed a public document, recognising generally the principles which are to serve as the bases of negotiations, and which it will be the business of the Plenipotentiaries to define and apply. Other private advices concur with the above, stating that the negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily.

Prussia.—A letter from Berlin of the 8th says:—

"The King this morning presided at a council of ministers, and it is said that very important matters were discussed. It is reported the Emperor Alexander II. has written an autograph letter to our King, in which he requests him, in the most affectionate manner, to assist him with his councils and support, in the present grave complications. It is rumoured that the Grand Duke Constantine is to come to Berlin, and that the Empress Dowager of Russia intends to take up her residence here."

Marseilles, March 14.—Despatches for government left at 1 A.M.
The number of deaths at Scutari has diminished to 20 per diem.

The news from Balaklava is to the 3d of March. The weather was fine, but frosty. Sickness was on the decrease.

The preparations for the bombardment were making rapid progress.

The railway now conveys ammunition the distance of three miles.

The Russians are approaching towards Inkermann from Malakhoff.

A truce of one hour was agreed upon on the 27th of February to bury the dead.

General Osten-Sacken commands at Sebastopol.

Our rear is now greatly strengthened. General Burgoyne has left.

Paris, March 14.—A despatch has been received here via Bucharest, stating that the French rockets had taken such effect in Sebastopol that when the intelligence came away a portion of the town was still on fire.

Paris, March 15.—The following despatch has been received from Vice-Admiral Bruat, dated Kamiesch, March 7:—

Information of the death of the Emperor Nicholas has just arrived.

"On the 6th instant we discharged some rockets upon Kamiesch, which set it on fire in several places.

"Two Russian officers have deserted to the English.

"The siege works are proceeding with the greatest activity."

Vienna, March 14.—The two Russian Grand Dukes are on their way home from the Crimea.

Prince Menschikoff has gone to Moscow.

Russia.—According to an Odessa letter of the 27th ult., in the Militarische Zeitung, the Russian troops are to be formed into two armies about the middle of this month—one under the command of General Osten-Sacken, occupying the banks of the Tchernaya; and the other, under General Read, operating against the Turks at Eupatoria.

The Russians before Eupatoria have been reinforced by a corps under General Paffioff, and by a division of Light Cavalry under Lieutenant-General Rusoff. A Dragoon corps passed the Isthmus of Perekop at the end of last month. The Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas went from Sebastopol to Simpheropol on the 21st, and returned on the following day. General Luders was at Odessa.

Vienna, March 15.—The Conference was formally opened this day, at 12 o'clock.—There were present Lord John Russell, the Earl of Westmorland, Baron Bourqueney, Count Buol, Baron Porges, Qeten Arif Effendi, Riza Bey, Prince Gortschakoff, and M. de Tisoff.

Its proceedings, so far, have been highly satisfactory. The preliminary bases of negotiations of peace have been agreed upon. Prussia is not represented in the Congress.

General Dagenfelt is appointed Minister of War.

Marseilles, March 14. The Cairo, which left Constantinople on the 1st has, arrived.

Preparations are being made at Constantinople for the visit of Nopce on the 11th.

The Journal de Constantinople gives details of a fight which took place on the 23rd of February before Sebastopol, a battalion of Zouaves carried by assault the plateau of Malakhoff Tower, and drove the enemy out of their trenches, retiring ultimately before a body of 3,000 Russians. In this heroic struggle 380 French were put hors

de combat. General Monet was wounded in both arms.

The Presse of Constantinople estimates the Russian loss at 1,000, and reduces the French loss to 250. Some journals say that General Monet received five slight wounds while dispersing a Russian column which attempted to cut off his retreat.

Count Zamoisky organises at Schumla a second regiment of Ottoman Cossacks, in which Poles will be incorporated.

The railway from Balaklava to Sebastopol will be finished by March 15.

Vienna, March 15.—We have received an authentic telegraph despatch from Bucharest, of the 11th, bringing intelligence from the Crimea to the 7th inst.

The allies had set the town of Sebastopol on fire in several places, by means of a new description of rocket. The fire was serious and extensive.

There was nothing seen that would seem to indicate that the death of the Emperor Nicholas was known in Sebastopol.

Berlin, March 15.—We learn from Konigsburg, under date of the fifteenth inst., that the Emperor Alexander has ordered that the part of the Crimea from Theodosia to Kertsch hitherto under the Command of General Chomutoff, shall also be placed under the military command of Prince Gortschakoff.

On the 8th instant the Prussian government prohibited the exportation of articles contraband of war; also of sulphur, saltpetre, and lead, if not the produce of States of the Zollverein.

Constantinople, March 6.—Lord Stratford de Redcliffe is alarmingly ill.

The allies have assumed the offensive.—The Russians are disorganised. Sebastopol has been on fire in several places for some days.

Vienna, March 15.—The Oesterreichische Correspondenz publishes Constantinople news of the 8th of March.

Omar Pacha was arming the Tartars with the weapons taken from the Russians.

During the affair of the night of the 23d of February (the attack on the redoubt by the French) the Zouaves lost 340 men, eight of whom were officers. General Monet was wounded in both arms.

New regulations relative to the Tranzimat have been issued.

Vienna, March 16.—The only thing known of yesterday's Conference is, that it began with a pacific speech on the part of Count Buol.

France, Paris, March 16, 8 30 A.M.—The Moniteur announces that General de Weyell was received yesterday by the Emperor.

Paris, March 15.—Intelligence was received this morning in Paris that the bombardment of Sebastopol was being carried on with the utmost vigour. It appears that a new description of rocket has been used with the most perfect success—so much so that many portions of the town had been burned down by their intervention; and when the despatch left there were many other houses still burning. It is further stated that several Russian officers had deserted over to the French camp, and their description of the sufferings of the besieged is appalling. The news of the Emperor's death had reached Sebastopol on the 6th.

It is stated in official circles here, on the strength of a letter from Vienna, which appeared in the Constitutionnel, that, in order to test the sincerity of Prince Gortschakoff at the Vienna Conference, the following combination has been adopted:—As soon after the opening of the Congress as the plenipotentiaries of the different powers taking part in the arrangements for peace shall have produced their powers, one of the representatives of the allied states will read the protocol of the 23th of December, adding to it the declarations which the contracting parties to the treaty of the 2d December afterwards exchanged, in order to determine the sense and bearing of the Third Point of guarantee demanded by them from Russia. The object of this reading is to fix in an irrevocable manner the basis of the preliminary negotiations for peace. The plenipotentiaries of Russia will then be called on to accept the basis thus determined on, by affixing their signatures to it, or at least by putting their initials to the protocol in which it shall have been set forth with the necessary explanations. Of two things, one—either the plenipotentiaries of Russia will accept the interpretations of the protocol of the 23th of December, with the comments annexed, and then they will soon be in accord on the remainder, and decide on the preliminaries of peace; or, Prince Gortschakoff and M. de Tisoff will decline such acceptance, in which case, to prolong the Congress becomes superfluous. It might happen, however, that the refusal of the Russian plenipotentiaries may be only conditional, and give rise to a double alternative, according as their objections may bear on a question of principle, or only on the details. In the former case, the negotiations would also be declared at an end. In the latter, the representatives of the allied powers, according to the importance of the modifications proposed to be made in the details, will either consent to their own responsibilities, or will re-

serve to themselves to refer them to their respective governments before coming to any definitive decision. As to Prussia, if the plenipotentiaries of the Emperor Alexander II. accept the protocol of the 23th of September, with all its consequences, it would be ridiculous to suppose that the cabinet of Berlin will be more jealous of the interests of Russia than the Russian Government itself. Prussia, on her side, will accede to the said protocol, and the European concert will be ipso facto re-established. If, on the other hand, the preliminary Conferences should have only a negative result, just as they will have taken place without the concurrence of Prussia, so the powers contracting in the treaty of the 2d December will prepare to act against Russia without her. Everything has been foreseen and combined for such a contingency, in which Austria and France would be forced to supply, in an equitable proportion, the deficit of those 200,000 men whom Prussia, in virtue of the treaty of the 20th of April, would have been obliged to set in line of battle against Russia, but whom, by a fatal blindness, she now wants to echelon along the banks of the Rhine.

Orders have been transmitted to India for the following regiments of infantry to be held in readiness to proceed to the seat of war, viz:—10th Foot, from Bombay; 29th ditto; the 1st Battalion of the 60th Royal Rifle Corps, from Bombay; and the 75th Foot, from Bengal.

The Prussian Correspondence states that the number of Russian deserters now in the Grand Duchy of Posen amounts to more than 13,000.

The funeral of the late Czar is to take place on the 20th.

Accounts from St. Petersburg state that the taking of the oath of fidelity to the new emperor, and in general all acts of homage to him, have been marked by a total absence of enthusiasm.

General Prince Andrew Gortschokoff died at Moscow on the 27th ult.

Turkey.—Some serious disturbances had taken place in Syria, and 1,500 men had been sent to Beyrout. Mahmoud Bey, of the Foreign Office, has been appointed Governor there.

A violent shock of an earthquake was felt at Constantinople on the 28th February.

The King of Denmark is seriously indisposed, and bulletins are issued daily, but it is not thought that there is, from the nature of his disorder, any immediate cause of apprehension.

Changes in the Russian Military Commanders.—A letter from Vienna, of the 7th says: Prince Gortschakoff yesterday informed Prince Windischgratz his brother, the general, had been appointed commander-in-chief in the Crimea, and that General Luders would succeed him in Bessarabia and Cherson. The writer adds that the Russians would fain make the world believe that Prince Menschikoff was recalled "because his health was so bad;" but the late Emperor was dissatisfied with the way in which the war was carried on, and enraged that the attack on Eupatoria had not been made before it had been so strongly fortified.

The Position of the Enemy's Forces in the Crimea.—The Militarische Zeitung reports the position of the Russians as follows:—

General Liprandi's division is stationed on the Inkermann road, with the centre in Tschargoun and the left wing in the Baidar valley. The right wing touches Osten-Sacken's corps, which is on the north side of the harbour of Sebastopol, its lines extending from the ruins of Inkermann to the north fort.—Sebastopol has a garrison of 40,000 men, and there are 20,000 men concentrated at Bakehi Serai, to be employed as a reserve for the support of either Liprandi's or Osten-Sacken's corps. Eupatoria is watched by three divisions, under Lieutenant-General Korff.

Sweden.—The following letter proceeds from a person entitled to respect, and who is well acquainted with Sweden, and the sentiments of the Swedish people:—

Stockholm, Feb. 27.—The great preparation now making on the part of the Western Powers for continuing the war in the Baltic with redoubled vigour show sufficiently how little the solution of the Eastern Question is expected to result from the operations in the Black Sea. It is evident to every thinking mind, that the balance of the power in Europe, and the future peace of the world, are equally endangered if the Russian supremacy is extended over the mouth of the Danube, or the Baltic suffered to become a Russian lake. The only rational means of stemming the torrent of Russian encroachment is by establishing a power in the north sufficiently strong to resist all attempt at conquest, or even intimidation. This outpost of civilization seems to belong by right to Sweden whose geographical position points her out for a trust of which her national character, private sympathies, and historical recollections render her most worthy. Before Charles the Twelfth's 18 long years of warfare had exhausted her resources, and from a power of the first order reduced her to comparative lowliness, Sweden had given laws to a great part of Europe at the peace of Westphalia,

and been the chosen umpire at that of Ryswick. Since then, though her civilization had kept pace with that of the most favoured nations, Sweden was left to withstand, alone, the growing might of a neighbour rising gradually to power and influence as she sank lower in the scale of nations. To this neglect of Sweden—this progressive weakening of a barrier so long insurmountable, may be attributed the spectacle Western Europe is now contemplating with dismay—that of a nation fired by the desire of conquest, inspired by traditional policy, backed by the countless hordes of Asia, waiting only the signal of the Czar to overwhelm Europe with resistless masses. One system of policy can alone repair the fault of the past, and that is to let Sweden resume her proper place in the Councils of Europe; then indeed, with the noble character of her people and their undaunted bravery, a bulwark may be maintained against barbarism. I speak from conviction based on a knowledge and historical experience, for at all times and under every vicissitude, while labouring under unmerited neglect, or distracted by internal changes Sweden has ever maintained her independence, and remained true to herself.

When the noble Armada of Great Britain is about to plough the waves of the Baltic, may we not be permitted to ask the British Government whether their sailor heroes and their chivalrous allies expect to meet with less resistance in the northern Islands than before the fortress of the Crimea? Would not the war assume another aspect if the Scandinavian army of 80,000 brave and disciplined soldiers joined the Western allies, and if their unequalled fleets were increased by the Swedish and Norwegian naval forces, including 300 gun-boats, which are so essential to the navigation of these shallow waters?—Might not Finland hail the blue and yellow flag which for centuries led her sons to victory? And might not the Finnish sharpshooter lay aside his deadly rifle at the sound of his mother tongue—the language of Sweden, in which his bible is written, and in which he lisped his first prayer?

Let the noble British nation reflect on the necessity of securing the independence of the north, and let it be borne in mind that no great power can with impunity separate its interests from those of Europe at large.

Belgian Politics.—Brussels, March 6.—Our Ministry has just resigned. We are in the midst of a crisis, a sort of parody of the comedy lately played in England. The apparent motives of the retreat of the late Cabinet are of secondary importance, but from the crisis there may spring complications which would throw us into serious difficulties. The two parties which dispute power, and which represent the two great sections of the country, the Liberals and the Catholics, differ not only on questions of administrative interest, but on questions of principle, in which are involved the most serious interests of the country. The great questions of the moment is, whether we shall abandon that neutrality which forms one of the principle bases of our political existence.

The Catholic party is favourable to the Western Alliance. One of its most influential organs, the Emancipation, edited by a member of a Chamber of Representatives, has been for some time urging the country to declare itself against Russia, and suggests the promise of an extension of boundaries on the Prussian frontier in support of its policy.—This journal is under the political and financial patronage of the Prince de Chimay, who plays just now the part of an ambassador marron, unaccredited to the Court of the Tuileries, but its articles find little response in the country. All the liberal journals have protested and the Minister of Foreign Affairs himself has replied in the Chamber in very energetic terms to the Catholic journal.

The late Cabinet was by no means favourable to the alliance, and on that subject it was even, I believe, at issue with the Chief of the State.

Denmark.—We learn from Copenhagen that, although there had been a thaw for several days, there is no alternation in the state of the ice. The Belts are both impassable, except with great danger and difficulty; they are still without any news from the south. But the Sound is completely frozen over, and a lively intercommunication with the Swedish coast, extending down as far as Malmo, is daily kept up by means of ice-ribs, waggons, and sledges.

Lord Dundonald and the Baltic Campaign.—Lord Dundonald, has just prepared a petition to parliament, urging that a searching inquiry may be made as to the practicability of his invention for destroying fortresses and ships by a cheap, and safe method, which, if adopted, his lordship contends, would spare thousands of lives, millions of money, great havoc, and uncertainty of results, and would easily surmount obstacles which our gallant, persevering, and costly armies and fleets have failed to accomplish.

The Cape of Good Hope.—Cape of Good Hope papers to the 29th January have come to hand, from which we take the following extracts:—

The Slambie Chief Umkye is dead, and is said, before his death, enjoined his son to

and been the chosen umpire at that of Ryswick. Since then, though her civilization had kept pace with that of the most favoured nations, Sweden was left to withstand, alone, the growing might of a neighbour rising gradually to power and influence as she sank lower in the scale of nations. To this neglect of Sweden—this progressive weakening of a barrier so long insurmountable, may be attributed the spectacle Western Europe is now contemplating with dismay—that of a nation fired by the desire of conquest, inspired by traditional policy, backed by the countless hordes of Asia, waiting only the signal of the Czar to overwhelm Europe with resistless masses. One system of policy can alone repair the fault of the past, and that is to let Sweden resume her proper place in the Councils of Europe; then indeed, with the noble character of her people and their undaunted bravery, a bulwark may be maintained against barbarism. I speak from conviction based on a knowledge and historical experience, for at all times and under every vicissitude, while labouring under unmerited neglect, or distracted by internal changes Sweden has ever maintained her independence, and remained true to herself.

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