

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From Reynold's London Newspaper of November 11.

THE WAR.

The intelligence from the seat of war is not very exciting. The allied armies are preparing for wintering in the Crimea, and the Russians are fortifying themselves on the northern side of Sebastopol, which city they prevent, by incessant firing, the allies from occupying. The *Ulm*, a French three-decker was set fire to the other day by Russian combustibles, but fortunately the flames were extinguished.

The Euphrate steamer has arrived at Marseilles, with accounts from Constantinople to the 29th. The Constantinople papers announce that the Imperial Guard will embark on the 5th of November to return to France, and that on the 10th Admiral Bruat is expected at Constantinople, on his return to France. Admiral Pellion is to keep up the blockade of Cherson and the Dnieper. Admirals Pellion and Stewart have gone up the Bug, and have ascertained that the river is navigable for heavy vessels.—Selim Pasha is to establish himself at Erzeroum with the Turkish Imperial Guard, whence he will threaten the rear of General Mouravieff, and be thus able to revictual and perhaps save Kars. Emin Pasha, Governor of Circassia, has brought to Omar Pasha several Circassian Chiefs, who have offered him their co-operation. Omar Pasha marched, on the 20th, on Kutai, at the head of twenty-two battalions.

Another despatch with news by the same vessel says:

General Levaillant has been named Governor of Sebastopol. General Bazaine, after having destroyed the villages on the peninsula of Kinburn, was preparing to return to Kamiesch. The *Presse d'Orient* estimates the loss of the Russians in the affair of Kars at 15,000 men, of whom 5,600 were killed, and that of the Turks at 1,300 killed and wounded. The Russian losses include several generals and 400 officers.

Kars is still closely hemmed in, but was expecting to be soon revictualled. Every preparation has been made for an obstinate defence. The price of wheat has nearly doubled at Tebizonde. Provisions and fuel are very dear at Constantinople.

According to *Le Nord*, Admiral Bruat has addressed a letter to the military authorities of Odessa, in which he compliments them very highly upon the heroic resistance made by their countrymen at Kinburn. For three days the firing against the three forts on the Spit was heard at Odessa—Kinburn being distant from that city only forty miles as the crow flies.

A Vienna paper, the *Fremden Blatt*, states that it learns from Prince Gortschakoff's head quarters that the Russian army in the Crimea has now a strength of 200,000 men. The Grenadier corps which lately arrived at Simpheropol was accompanied, says this authority, by 8,000 waggons drawn by oxen, so that the Russian army is provisioned for six months. Prince Gortschakoff will not expect convoys after November, as by that time the steppes will be covered with snow.

General Luders, with 50,000 men, has taken up a position between Nicolaieff and Aleschki. In this way he holds communication with the army at Perekop and the corps of General Helfrecht. Meanwhile the Grand Duke Constantine remains at Nicolaieff, charged by the Emperor to conduct the defensive works of that naval depot, and receive reports of the various army corps, which are disposed with a view of keeping open communications with General Gortschakoff. The Russians hold a strong position at Mackenzie's Farm (threatened by a French force), and the north forts of Sebastopol still exchange fire with the south. So matters remain, whilst the advancing winter must soon solve the problem—can the enemy hold all his present positions in the Crimea? The occupation of the northern forts, certainly, keeps a large number of men stationary in and about Sebastopol, and prevents the allies from fishing up sunken vessels in the roads.

Although nothing is certainly known in this country as to the purposes the allied generals have in view, yet it is not difficult to see that the circumstances in which both the Russian and the allied forces find themselves, do of themselves in great measure determine what the tactics on both sides must be. The Russian purpose is either that of extrication from the meshes that are fast hemming them in on all sides, or that of giving battle at the first favourable opportunity; or that of occupying the present quarters through the winter, in hope of defeating the allies, and regaining the Crimea in the spring. One of these it must be, for there is no other course left.

How is the Russian army to be extricated from the Crimea? It is known that the whole force is little short of two hundred thousand men. How is such a body to be moved at this time of the year, over bleak steppes, watery wastes, and roadless tracks? The transport service of the British army alone requires fifteen thousand horses and mules to be in daily operation. But supposing the means of transport to be sufficient, there still remains the difficulty of escaping the outposts of the allied armies. From the present position of the Russians to Perekop there are two roads—good military roads. On these they depend for everything—for the means of life, so long as they stay where they are; for safety in flight, when they find themselves compelled to move. But is it no part of the purpose of the allied generals

to cut off retreat and supplies by these two roads? We are not prepared to say that it is, but we have every reason to believe so. The reconnaissance effected by General D'Altonville has had this result—it has shown how far the Russians dare penetrate forage nor water can be got beyond a certain point, and since the enemy will be unable to carry forage and water with him, the boundary of his movements is pretty clearly defined by the nature of the country.—He must, therefore, keep the main roads; and the course and direction which, if he move, he has no choice but to take, seem to determine the positions which the allies ought to be prepared to occupy when the occasion demands.

What are the probabilities that the enemy will risk a battle?—and what the value of his chances of a victory should he resolve to do so? At the outset there is the question—Why should he fight? What can he hope to accomplish by an engagement? He cannot hope to drive us out of the Crimea, or to recover the south side of Sebastopol. The utmost that seems possible would be a victory over a division placed to intercept his retreat, and the obtaining thereby of a safer exit. But this is just the point at which we may relieve the allied generals will be even with him. Dispersed as the allied troops are, they are within easy reach of each other, and would be prepared to concentrate their strength on any point where the foe might choose to menace us. They now occupy the three points of a triangle with the sea for a base, and the Russians on the base, with their way out towards the apex. With Eupatoria on one side, and Sebastopol on the other, and the sea behind them, their only route must be such that the further they go the more closely must they be exposed on both flanks to the allies. The only chance of a fight, then, lies in their being driven, by desperation, to cut their way through these. That nothing but desperation will drive them seems probable from their recent conduct, when General D'Altonville sent forward four squadrons of Turkish cavalry against eleven squadrons of Russians, who fell back in good order when the Turks approached. We conclude, then, that there is no probability of an offensive move on the part of Russia, while the fact that they will not fight, even defensively, till compelled by distress, is a strong presumption against the chances of success.

But will they winter where they are? How can they? Their position, though admirable for defence, is destructive to live in through the winter, even if thoroughly supplied with every necessary. There is no sacrifice of human life which Russia would not make to retain possession of the Crimea till the spring.—By that time she hopes to reinforce the army with the results of the present conscription, and by pouring in a powerful force, to keep the seat of war where it is, and prevent our legions from penetrating, either by her rivers or her roads, further into the country. On the other hand, it is for us to obtain mastery over the Crimea, to destroy Simpheropol, and cut off communications with Perekop. This done, a liberal supply of gun-boats in the sea of Azoff, and around the coast, together with a tolerably strong corps d'armee at the Isthmus, would effectually retain the Crimea in the allied hands till the end of the war, and leave the greater part of the army at liberty to prosecute hostilities in other parts of the enemy's territory.

We have detailed intelligence of the fleet before Kinburn to Oct. 20. Immense rafts of timber for the Nicolaieff dockyard, valued at twenty thousand pounds, had been captured. As our strength at the mouth of the Bug would have been much diminished by the departure of many vessels, as well as of the French gunboats, Admiral Lyons sent up the *Industry* store screw steamer, and the *Charity* and *Zebra* screw transports, to do duty as dummy men-of-war. The latter two painted out the numbers on their bows and quarters, and did their best to look like the real thing. How pleased the Russians would be if they could but know the Bug was blockaded by two transports and a store-ship.

News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 11th of November.

EUROPE.

NEWS BY THE CANADA AT HALIFAX.

Admiral Peletta has had a steamer prepared for the voyage of His Majesty Victor Emanuel to Paris, the opinion of the medical men being that it would be fatiguing and even dangerous in the delicate state of his Majesty's health, for him to perform the duty by Mount Cenis, which is already covered six feet deep with snow.

General Bosquet arrived at Toulouse on the 2nd inst. by diligence from Montpellier. The crowd that awaited the general's arrival at the Hotel des Postes received with every mark of respect the noble soldier who covered himself with so much glory during the siege of Sebastopol. At Montpellier Professor Dupre examined the general's wound, and pronounced it not dangerous. His speedy restoration to health is expected.

RUSSIA.—St. Petersburg, Nov. 6.—Admiral Berch, Governor of Nicolaieff, and Admiral-in-Chief of the Black Sea Fleet is dismissed.—Vice-Admiral Mettlin is appointed in his stead, with the additional command of the flotilla in the Danube.

The *New Levy*.—A letter from St. Petersburg says:—The new recruitment has thrown the country into great terror. It is doubted if 400,000 men capable of service can be found.—The towns and districts furnishing the recruits will be obliged to provide them with fur cloaks,

which is a heavy burden, owing to the present high price of furs.

Russian Army in the Crimea.—The "Fremden Blatt," of Vienna, states that it learns from Prince Gortschakoff's head quarters that the Russian army in the Crimea has now a strength of 200,000 men. The Grenadier corps which lately arrived at Sebastopol was accompanied, says this authority, by "8,000 waggons drawn by oxen, so that the Russian army is provisioned for six months." Prince Gortschakoff will not expect convoys after November, as by that time the steppes will be covered with snow.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 7.—We learn here from a report of the Commissary-General that the Buxine fleet is still provisioned for eight months. A new editor has been appointed to the *Invalide Russe*.

Warsaw, Nov. 5.—A new conscription is ordered for Poland, independently of that for the whole empire appointed in the recent manifesto. The conscription will commence in December.

Stoppage of Supplies.—In a private letter from Odessa, of the 22nd ult. we read—"Since Kinburn has fallen into the power of the Allies, the communication kept up between Nicolaieff, Otchakoff, and Odessa by means of clippers has entirely ceased.

AUSTRIA.—The *New Minister at Vienna*.—The "Ost Deutsche Post" thus speaks of the new minister of Great Britain:—"The nomination of Sir Hamilton Seymour to the post as British Ambassador at Vienna is now certain. We learn that this choice appears strange to certain persons. There are some who like to find the principal source of the present war in the reports which the diplomatist sent from St. Petersburg to his government. The party of the "Kreutz Zeitung" has insulted Sir Hamilton Seymour with the name of pamphleteer.—That gentleman, however has done nothing more or less than his duty; he heard, observed, made notes, and reported with calmness, and without prejudice. If his government at a later period judged it apropos to give publicity to his report to the government, the responsibility belongs."

During the last few days (Nov. 3) Prince Gortschakoff (the diplomatist) had had long and frequent conferences with Count Bnol, at the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Alarming Accident to the Archduke Maximilian.—Vienna, Wednesday, Nov. 7.—The Archduke Maximilian, Chief of the Naval Department, was driving this morning in Trieste, when the horse took fright and ran away. The Archduke jumped out of the carriage, and falling on his head, injured the skull. His imperial highness is in danger, and the Emperor his brother, has just left this city for Trieste.

SWEDEN.—General Canrobert at Stockholm.—Nov. 5.—General Canrobert has arrived. He was received with the utmost enthusiasm by the entire population.

A Paris correspondent on this subject says:—"There is, I little doubt now as to the nature of General Canrobert's mission. It is to induce Sweden to join the Alliance next spring, and to try to effect a junction between her and Denmark; and it is added the restoration of Finland would not be refused to the former if made a condition of her compliance."

Hamburg.—A letter published in the *Frankfort Journal*, thus describes General Canrobert, and the impression produced by him in Hamburg:—"General Canrobert has by no means a martial air, but rather the composed countenance of a civilian. He is of short stature, mild expression, and lofty forehead. His simplicity of manner has charmed every one here. When he leaves his hotel it is only to take a short walk, and he cannot be prevailed upon to visit the Exchange. The English Envoy, Colonel Hodges, as also the Envoy of Sweden, Count Wrangel, and Consul General de Sterkey, have paid him a long visit.

DENMARK.—The *Sound Dues*.—There is reason to believe that Russia has accepted the office of mediator between Denmark and the United States, and proposed, as an adjustment of the difficulties, that Denmark shall cede her island of St. Thomas to the United States for the sum of \$5,000,000, and total exemption of American ships and cargo from the future payment of the Sound dues. Although the colony is of no value to Denmark in a pecuniary point of view, rather causing an expense than bringing in a surplus, yet Denmark is said to have declined the proposal, out of consideration to the Western Powers, to whom such an acquisition of territory on the part of the Americans, so close to their own West India possessions, cannot be desirable.

ASIA.—From Asia we learn that Omar Pasha with his army was preparing to march on Kutais. The Tunisian contingent had pushed forward, and had reached Tchuruksu; it had returned on account of an epidemic in its ranks. General Williams, who had received supplies, was preparing a formidable resistance. Kars is certainly invested, and a desperate attempt to invest it is expected before winter should close in.

Selim Pasha, with his Turkish Irregulars, is established at Erzeroum, and is thence threatening the force investing Kars. It is thought this movement may force Muravieff to raise the blockade—for it is hardly a siege. Emied, the Governor of Circassia, accompanied by several chieftains, have visited Omar Pasha, promising the Sirdar the support of the Tcherkesses.

TURKEY.—The *Turkish Contingent*.—That unlucky corps the Turkish Contingent, which seems destined to pass its whole time in steaming and marching to and fro, is not, we are assured to remain at Kertch and Yenikale. It is reported that the Russians are to be driven away from Kaffa, and the Turks to take up their

winter quarters there. The reason assigned for the change is the want of sufficient wood and water. The contingent now numbers 15,000 men, having had 7,000 added to it on its arrival in the Crimea. It is shortly to receive—at least it is promised—3,000 more, and then it will for the present be no further augmented.—*Letter from Constantinople, (Oct. 29.)*

UNITED STATES.

Our Relations with England.—The real cause of the increase of the British West India Fleet.

Washington, Nov. 19, 1855.—The trouble with England is not settled. It is thought that the administration is a little in doubt about its own position. It is given out that the Pacific brought assurances that the increase of the British West India fleet had nothing to do with the Central American question. This was merely to satisfy the public. The real cause of the increase of the English fleet on the American coast is to be found in the peculiar instruction of Attorney General Cushing to the District Attorney of Philadelphia. If any one will take the trouble to look at dates and facts, they will ascertain that within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the news in London of the trial of Hertz, in Philadelphia, the addition to the West India fleet was under sailing orders.—And I have information that when Cushing's two curious letters of instructions reached England, a demand for redress was made by the British government, and that demand is now before the Cabinet at Washington. This is a fact, and an important fact, too! Will England or the United States recede? That is the question—soon indeed, to be the engrossing question. More on this subject in a day or two.

Terrible Fire in Alexandria.—Fearful Loss of Life.

The terrible calamity in our sister city of Alexandria, on Friday night last, attended with such a fearful loss of life, has produced a most profound sensation among all classes of our citizens. Throughout the whole of yesterday the most intense anxiety was manifested to obtain reliable particulars in regard to the distressing occurrence. The most exaggerated reports were in circulation—in some instances the number of killed being placed as high as thirty-five. It is now ascertained that seven lives have been lost, and twelve persons more or less injured. The Alexandria correspondent of the *Star* furnishes the following account of the fire:—

At midnight the bells rang the fire alarm, and flames were found bursting from the upper windows of the large china warehouse of Jas. T. Dowell, late Hugh Smith & Co., on King street below Fairfax.

After most of the interior had been destroyed the flames began to yield; and, just as it was thought danger had passed, the Western wall fell in with a terrific crash, carrying most of the remaining flooring to the cellar, and burying under the ruins a large number of firemen.

The scene that ensued beggars all description. All battle with the fiery element ceased and every effort was directed to intricate the fallen from the wreck. With a slight pause, to give time for the removal of tottering walls, the work has continued until 11 o'clock this morning.

The pecuniary loss (\$15,000) is covered by insurance—\$3,000 on the house by Jas. P. Smith, and \$20,000 (reported) on the stock by J. T. Dowell.

Terrible Gale on Lake Michigan.—Loss of Life.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, Nov. 7, says:—We learn from Mr. W. W. Brown, who arrived here last evening by the propeller "Queen of the Lakes," from Sheboygan, that a tremendous North East gale raged there Monday, during which the propeller, Delaware, found down, with a full load of provisions from Chicago, was totally wrecked, with the loss of eleven lives, and the propeller "Omar Pasha," also bound down, with a load of 12,000 bushels of wheat and 400 barrels of flour, from this port, became water logged, but managed to get along side the Sheboygan pier, where she sunk.

There were three vessels high and dry, about seven miles this side of Sheboygan. Three men were lost from one of these vessels, and eleven from the propeller, making fourteen in all. Among those lost is the Captain of the "Delaware," who died from exposure in the rigging of his unfortunate craft. The life boat was got out, at Sheboygan, and some lives saved from the propeller Delaware. The gale is said to have been a terrific one. The Queen of the Lakes was obliged to throw overboard a portion of her deckload.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Destructive Fire in Carleton.—A fire broke out about 2 o'clock yesterday morning on the other side of the harbour, which proved quite disastrous. It originated in a house situated on King-street, occupied by Mr. Christopher Maleman, which was totally destroyed, together with several buildings adjoining to the Westward. The loss is estimated as follows:—

Christopher Maleman, two story dwelling house valued at £300, uninsured; Wm. Thompson, two story dwelling house, valued at £400, uninsured; Wm. H. Olive, stores and dwelling, £800, insured for £400; James Thompson, Store, occupied by T. E. Streek, as a store and dwelling, valued at £350, uninsured; John Cook, large dwelling and store, valued at £800, insured for £500. Another building in the rear of the one owned by W. H. Olive, and occupied by labouring families, and uninsured, was totally destroyed.

Large quantities of goods and household effects were placed in the streets, where they remain, and it is said that the occupants of the houses