

soners, rowed ashore, and was received at the landing-pier in the Quarantine by General Kensenstern, commandant of Odessa; Lieutenant-colonel Prince Mestschewsky, aide-de-camp to Count Stroganoff, the governor-general of Bessarabia; and the chief of police, with a numerous staff of attendant officers. As it was necessary that the documents connected with the exchange should be signed by Count Stroganoff, an orderly was despatched to his excellency, who resides in a country house on the outskirts of the town; but in the meantime the count came in, and was present during the remainder of the proceedings attending the embarkation. In the course of conversation at this interview, the commandant of Odessa put several incidental questions about the recent capture of Kinburn, and amongst others, inquired if any of our (English) floating batteries had been present. On receiving an answer in the negative—the French being the only one;—he replied in a tone that gave additional force to the expression of his uncomplimentary estimate of our allies' courage in naval operations, *"Il ne faut pas de grand courage pour un équipage caché"*—alluding to the shot proof construction of the batteries. He further inquired the names of the two admirals, and was informed that, in consequence of his recent promotion, M. Bruat, being senior in rank, commanded in chief; on which the general, turning to one of the others present, remarked in German, *"Ist es möglich!"* (Is it possible!) In the meantime the liberated prisoners were being taken on board a small Odessa steamer, and conveyed to the Colombe, in the roads, at the end of which operation Captain Methuen and his party returned on board their ship, much pleased with the courtesy they had received.

#### THE BRITISH BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

The 'Daily News' correspondent brings details down to the 27th. He says, speaking of

#### THE TALKED OF ATTACK.

The talked of attack against our position has not taken place, nor have there been any indications of movement on the part of that portion of the Russian army which can be observed from the heights above Sebastopol, and from those overlooking Inkermann. The working parties on the north side of the roadstead, immediately opposite to the town and suburbs of Sebastopol, have continued to be actively employed in strengthening the defences, and the number of guns mounted in the cliff earthwork batteries and shore forts would appear to be increased, if we may judge from the greater frequency and weight of fire directed against the south side during the last few days. The enemy have added rockets to the list of projectiles with which they have favoured us; they have fallen chiefly in the neighbourhood of the white public buildings in the Karabehnia, and have been sent with the object of burning these portions which have escaped fire hitherto. The design has not succeeded. The shot and shell—howitzer shells for the most part, though on Fort Constantine two mortars have been lately added to the large solitary mortar which was previously used—have been discharged in greatest number into the town proper, on the west side of the south harbour.

#### A FIRE NEAR FORT NICHOLAS.

On the 23rd instant a couple of houses were set on fire in rear of Fort Nicholas, near its east end, not far from the old landing place, by a shell, which was directed against the French mortar battery in this situation. They had escaped as well as a large group of outhouses, stores, and stables in their neighbourhood attached to Fort Nicholas, the general conflagration when the Russians gave up the town to destruction on the 9th of September; and, strange enough, the fire, which raged along the vaulted corridors of Fort Nicholas itself, and utterly consumed everything combustible for upwards of two-thirds of its distance, commencing from the west end, had also suddenly stopped, and spared the interior of the east end of the building. Had it not done so it would have reached a chamber in which a large quantity of gunpowder, fuses, and inflammable materials have been heaped together, and this end of the fort and the neighbouring buildings would in all probability have been levelled to the ground.

The fire of the north side has not been limited to the west side of the south harbour, although that has had its chief share. It has also been rather heavy about the dockyard buildings near Fort Paul, where the Russians appear to think we have some works; and also towards Careening bay, in which direction the French have a battery erected.

#### NARROW ESCAPE.

The casualties have been remarkably limited in number, but the escapes in some instances have been close enough to point out the necessity of constant caution not to attract the notice of the enemy. On the 24th instant the arrangements of a French picket were disturbed by a shell falling through the roof of the house in which they had taken up their temporary abode not far from the aqueduct as it approaches the dockyard; and as another shell quickly followed, and fell near the same spot, it is not unlikely that this was a hint that the party had been observed. The few men who were in the house at the time the shell penetrated the roof had time to escape before its explosion, and no one was hurt. Parties sent from camp to collect wood are invariably kept out of sight as much as possible. Some rifle balls have been sent across against our men on duty along the shore, and keeping watch against an approach of the enemy; but they have generally fallen short and been seen to splash harmlessly the water of the

roadstead. We are again commencing a battery, but it may be prudent not to indicate too particularly its situation, as the work is but very little advanced as yet.

## Communications.

### THE LAND OF GREECE.

The Land of Greece! the land of Greece!  
Oh! I do love it well,  
The wildness of its legendary  
Comes o'er me like a spell;  
For, 'tis the classic, holy land  
Of poet and of seer,  
Filled with the bright, the beautiful, the grand,  
Oh! who'd not worship there.

Oh! Land of Greece! Oh! Land of Greece!  
Thy history's in the past,  
Deep graven on the page of time  
In characters to last;  
For, high up amid the glorious band  
Of warriors and of seers,  
Shall thy brave sons immortal stand,  
Nor meet their compeers there.

Thy Gods, oh Greece! thy Gods, oh Greece!  
Still wander o'er the earth,  
Though exiled from their native homes,  
The land that gave them birth,  
Still deep within the human breast,  
Through countries and all climes,  
Will the memory of their greatness rest  
For ages and all times.

Oh! Land of Greece! oh! Land of Greece!  
Though thou hast fallen low,  
And thy cities, once for freedom famed  
In bondage to a foe,  
We'll honour thee, oh Land of Greece,  
And deep within our minds,  
One little spot we'll sacred keep,  
For thee and thy fair Isles.

CAIUS.

Chatham, November 28, 1855.

### GAS LIGHTS.

MR. EDITOR,  
This Chatham of ours is a Town whose whereabouts and importance have been pointed out on the map of British North America, by a dot, ever since I can remember. Its property, population, and enterprise, when compared with places on this Continent, styled *Cities*, make one begin to feel less ashamed—if not more proud—of being called a Chathamite. If this statement be true, it is certainly not less true, that in other respects we are behind—very far behind—other places, in the race of improvement, which distinguishes our age and country.

We are behind in many respects, but one instance will suffice for my present purpose, I mean the want of *Gas Lights*. Travel Mr. Editor, where you may, in the old or new World, and you will find that almost every town—however small—is lighted with Gas. Now why is this the case? Just because Gas affords a cheaper, safer, cleaner and brighter light than either candles, oil or fluid.

The solitary fact that Gas is used so commonly, is of itself satisfactory proof, that it is a cheaper and better mode of supplying light than any other that has been discovered. The following statistics, however, which are copied from "Chambers's Information for the People," dated 1842, may assist your Chatham readers to form a more correct estimate of the difference in price, between light supplied by gas, and that supplied by candles, wax or oil:

"Various calculations (says Chambers) of the relative expence of Gas light, compared with other lights have been made. Thus, when tallow candles are 9d per lb., (they are 1s 3d here at present); wax candles, three times the price of tallow; train oil 2s per gallon, and coal gas, 9s per 1000 feet. It is computed that the relative expence will be as under:

"Wax, 100; tallow, 25; oil, 5; coal gas, 3."  
Fluid (little used there) is not mentioned, it is costlier and more dangerous than oil or candles.

In a recent paper by Dr. Fyfe, the relative expence is computed as follows:

"Gas, giving 12 per cent condensation, that is, containing 12 per cent effluent gas, at 8s 6d per 1000 cubic feet, being 1. The expence of wax light of equal quantity will be about 14. Sperm oil 3. Tallow candles 4; and rectified whale oil 5."

In addition to its great economy, gas light may also be pronounced safer than any other ordinary light. It produces no sparks—it cannot be carelessly placed in contact with bed curtains, or substances easily ignited, and it requires scarcely any attention. It may be turned down to the most minute speck of flame in an instant, ready to be restored when required, by the simple turning of the stop cock.

My object, however, Mr Editor for troubling you with these hasty remarks was not to furnish information on the subject of gas as a light, but simply to invite public attention to its application to supply the town of Chatham.

I would humbly suggest, that a public meeting be called, say in a month hence; during the interval, those gentlemen in the community who usually take the lead in such matters, will have time to collect information which they should communicate to the meeting when convened.

GO AHEAD.

Chatham, 23rd November, 1855.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1855.

TERMS.—New Subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old Subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

### CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM.

Discount days TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, HOURS for business from 10 to 3 o'clock. Notes for Discount to be lodged at the Bank before 3 o'clock, on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

This paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pills and Ointment Establishment, 244 Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

### EUROPEAN NEWS.

AFTER a careful perusal of our British papers received by the last mail steamer at Halifax, we do not perceive any news of importance in addition to the summary given in the telegraph despatch published in our last issue. To-day we give copious details, embracing extracts from the Journals of the Correspondents of the London Press at the seat of war, the general news of the day, and several leading articles from London Journals, all of which will be found under their respective heads.

Prince Gortschakoff has issued a General Order to the troops under his command, informing them that the Emperor has left it solely to his discretion whether he shall occupy or retire from the Crimea. He expresses confidently, that through their valor, he will be enabled to hold his position in defiance of the assaults of the allies. Time will tell us if he will be able to make good his assertion. In the mean time, the Allies are gradually concerting arrangements to cut off his supplies and to surround his army.

### NICARAGUA.

ATTENTION has been recently drawn to this country on account of its occupation by a band of Filibusters under the command of Col. Walker, an adventurer from the United States, and the difficulties which in all likelihood will arise by the interference of the British Government, under whose protection it has been for some time, by virtue of a treaty with the native Sovereign. The following description of the country will be interesting.

"On the west it is washed by the Pacific Ocean, and partly on the east by the waters of the Caribbean Sea, the Mosquito Territory forming a large share of its eastern boundary. Honduras borders it on the north and Costa Rica upon the south. Its area is about forty-nine thousand square miles, and the population is estimated at two hundred and forty seven thousand. The females are said to greatly exceed the males in number. Not more than twenty thousand of the people are whites, the rest being negroes, Indians and mixed races. Most of the population live in towns, many of them going several miles daily to labor in the fields. The plantations are scattered pretty equally over the country, and are reached by paths so obscure as to almost escape the notice of travellers, who are thus liable to fall into the error of supposing that the country is almost uninhabited. The dwellings of the people are usually of canes, thatched with palm, although the better classes construct their residences of adobes, and by the help of fruit and shade trees, planted in the court-yard, render many of them exceedingly pleasant. A range of mountains extends along the west coast of the State, at a distance of a few miles from the sea, but attaining no great elevation until they approach the confines of Costa Rica, when they reach the height of five to eleven thousand feet. In the central part of the State is an immense level tract, known as the plains of Nicaragua, comprising in its area the lake of that name. Numerous volcanoes exist along the Pacific coast. There are a considerable number of rivers, but none of them, except the San Juan, are navigable in a commercial sense.—Veins of copper and silver ore of exceeding richness are found in many parts, but they remain almost all of them either unexplored or only superficially worked. Gold, also, is said to exist. The climate is healthy, though various. In the interior and mountainous parts of the temperature is more dry and cool than on the coast, where it is hot and approaching to humid. The greater portion of the State consists of plains and gentle slopes formed of a rich black loam, of which but a small portion is made available. The productions are indigo, sugar, coffee, cotton of superior quality, corn, rice, wheat, &c., besides oranges, lemons, and fruits of various kinds."

### PRICE OF BREAD IN BRITAIN.

BY our British papers we perceive that the public mind is considerable agitated in consequence of the high price of the necessaries of life, but more particularly of flour. This, the people, it appears, are determined not to submit to. A kind Providence has blessed Britain and Ireland with an abundant harvest, and this has also been the case in the United States, Canada, Novascotia, New Brunswick, and Pr. Ed. Island, and they justly say, that the war entails on them heavy taxes, which they are willing to bear, but they will not quietly consent to the high price of bread, merely for the purpose of enabling a few wealthy speculators to still further enrich themselves by creating a monopoly in corn.

From a long article on the subject in Reynolds's paper we take the concluding remarks:

"Now, with reference to the present famine prices of provisions, facts are accumulating every day, which prove that there never was a more causeless, infamous, and diabolical conspiracy against the lives and pockets of the poor producing classes. The most inveterate backers of the farmers and speculators are now constrained to confess that there is no scarcity of corn—that, on the contrary, there is a comparative abundance, in regard to our home growth; and absolute plenty and superfluity, if we include the importations from abroad. The highest agricultural authorities are now agreed that, on the most moderate computation, the home yield of wheat this year has been three millions of quarters over that of last year. Add to this, that there never was such a plentiful harvest in America, and that Turkey alone would, if permitted, supply us with an abundance of excellent wheat, at something like 35s. the quarter. But when we know, as we do, from the Times, and other sources of information, that one speculator in the east of England, has 5,000 quarters in his granary, waiting for higher prices; and another in London, 10,000—and so on throughout the country,—we must at once admit that it is in vain that the blessings of Heaven are showered upon the children of men, so long as heartless Mammonists, and godless laws, are permitted to stand between the people and the CREATOR, intercepting his bounties, and even converting them into a curse. We repeat, therefore, our previously expressed hope, that the dear bread agitation, which originated in Hyde-park, and which is now spreading over the whole surface of the land, will not terminate with the pressure which called it into existence, but will continue until it has eventuated in discovering a permanent, instead of temporary, remedy—the means of finally rescuing the people from the fangs of their merciless oppressors, and of rendering such an infernal anomaly as famine in the midst of plenty—starvation in the midst of abundance—impossible for the future.

"In the meantime, it behoves the people to be on their guard. They have to deal with antagonists who are most cruel, cunning remorseless, and unscrupulous. No means will be left untried to entrap the leaders of the agitation, or to bring contempt upon the cause.—This much we might assert, from a knowledge of the past conduct of the authorities. But if any proof were wanting, it was supplied by the Hyde-park affair of Sunday last. That saturnalia of blackguardism, we have reason to believe, was a deliberate contrivance of the police, to bring ridicule and contempt upon the starving working classes, who on the two preceding Sundays, met to complain of their hardships.—It was well known that the working classes were determined not to hold a meeting in Hyde-park on Sunday last. But a meeting was held there. At whose instigation and authority? For an answer to this, let the forbearance of MAYNE and his myrmidons to the congregated ruffians of last Sunday, be contrasted with their ferocity to the peaceable and respectable men and women, who assembled in July last, to protest against Lord Grosvenor's hypocritical Sabbath Bill. Let, we say, the conduct of the police on the occasions, be contrasted and then it will be seen at once who were the real promoters of the last disgraceful affair in Hyde-park."

On the same subject the London Morning Chronicle remarks:

"Abroad we know that almost incalculable stores of corn await only the temptation of high profits to commence their journey hitherward. Now, in the case of a perishable article like corn, a very slight excess either of imported or home growth offered in the market must result in a rapid and heavy fall in prices. To this peril the farmers, in their blind greed for immediate profit, are now exposing themselves. Their business for the last year or two has, we are told, been exceedingly prosperous; and being thus easy in their present circumstances, they have withheld from market the produce of the late harvest, and so occasioned a fictitious scarcity. If they do not take timely warning their cruel cunning seems likely to result in their own ruin. Large orders for grain have already been transmitted to America, where the past harvest has proved unusually prolific. A few extra cargoes arriving in English ports, with supplies beyond the current demand, may depress prices as much below the fair remunerative-point as they are now above it. The farmer may have deservedly forfeited the confidence of his fellow citizens—he may have spread distress and destitution among thousands, and contributed to excite discontent."