

POSITION OF OMAR PACHA.

The Vienna Military Gazette publishes the following:

It is probably no longer doubted by any one that our correspondent at Trebizond was well informed which he wrote that Omar Pacha had not for weeks lost sight of the Pontic coast, and that he had not the right bank of the small river bearing the same name. Skender Pacha, it is true, advanced along the excellent road that runs to Abasha, but did not venture further than Tchenitzehale. He only did this for the purpose of ascertaining whether or no the Russians, under the command of General Bagration Mukarski, and reinforced by the troops of General Brunner, had taken up a position in Levano and Kutryi on the left bank of that river. Having done this, Omar Pacha decided on retreating to Redoubt Kaleh and Anaklea. It having at the known that same time as the Russian commander intended sending to Mingrelia all the troops collected in the fluvial districts of the mountains near Gori, so that they may act on the offensive, the Turkish Admiral Ahmet Pacha, received orders to place all the disposable Turkish and Egyptian steamers at Omar Pacha's service. It is possible that a re-embarkation of the troops is to be made.

Mustapha Pacha has, in a similar way, retreated to Batum, in order to pass the winter in that unhealthy coast station. As we cannot suppose Omar Pacha means to persist in wintering where he is at present, seeing that he is exposed to the danger of being attacked by the Russians, and unable to make any great resistance, Anaklea and Redoubt Kaleh being only small forts, it is highly probable that the entire Turkish army will be brought to the Roumelian harbours, and stationed there in winter quarters. The Russians too will do no more than garrison Kars, and will not advance on the offensive in the wide radius between the Western and the Eastern Euphrates. General Mouravieff has detached one division to Achalkalak and Achalzik, whilst another division has evacuated the captured garrison of Kars to Tidis. The Pachas, and a few superior officers, will be transferred to Moscow; the remaining officers, with the men, will probably pass the winter in the government of Tidis.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

The Journal de Constantinople, which contained news from Omar Pacha's army to the 5th of Dec., stated that, at that date, the Turkish troops were encamped by the river Siva, and that it was impossible to advance, in consequence of the river having overflowed. The news respecting the river Siva might possibly be one of the causes of the retrograde movement made by the Turkish generalissimo. The army near Erzeroum was to be raised to 35,000 men.

The Journal de Constantinople affirms that the garrison of Erzeroum amounts to 16,000 men, and that the Egyptian contingent will raise that number to 27,000, while other corps sent there from different points will place the Turkish forces at 35,000 men. In addition, the Impartial de Smyrne of the 8th December states that Erzeroum is abundantly supplied with provisions, and possesses an excellent artillery.

PROJECTED CAMPAIGN ON THE RHINE.

A few days ago a decree appeared in the Moniteur, for constituting the Imperial Guard on a larger basis. The intention is that the select body, and the other corps which have fought in the Crimea, shall form the nucleus of an army which can be directed to any point where its services may be required. On this subject the Paris correspondent of the Times makes the following important statement:

"I have no difficulty in supposing that this point will be the Rhine, in case Russia does not accept the conditions of peace we propose to her, and in case Germany again allows itself to be intimidated or seduced by our enemy. May, more, if peace be not concluded this winter, if the spring still sees Prussia timid and uncertain, not to say hostile to us, and Russia still obstinate. I have little doubt that the next campaign will commence on a scale commensurate with the power of the two greatest nations of the earth, and that the war will then become a war d'outrance. The grand army to which which the Emperor refers, and of which the Guard and its companions in arms are to form the centre, is destined for great things; and fertile in events as the year which is just going out has been, it may be far less rich in material for the historian of the present war than the one on which we are about to enter. Two camps of 100,000 men each, will, it is believed, be formed without delay on the French territory, and serve as schools of instruction, to be swelled by successive arrivals from the Crimea. In the Crimea it is said that our united forces—French, English, Piedmontese, and Turks—are not less than 200,000, and are far too numerous in a place where active operations are not soon expected. Their services will be more valuable elsewhere. It is said, therefore, that only sufficient troops will be left in the Crimea to keep the positions we now occupy, and which will be strengthened so as to defy any force that can by any possibility be brought against them. The rest will probably be called back to France to form part of the immense host which is destined to put an end to the Russian question for ever. Russia had better look to it in time.

This writer also intimates that the time for Prussia's faithlessness and indecision is rapidly passing away, and that she must soon make up her mind under which banner she will range herself. Russian diplomacy, it seems, has recently been at work in Germany with considerable success.

RUSSIAN PLAN OF NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN.

A letter from Moscow of the 20th ult. says:—The grand council of generals lately convoked at St. Petersburg under the personal presidency of the Emperor have settled the principles on which the forthcoming campaign shall be carried on. St. Petersburg and Moscow are to be fortified, and, together with Warsaw, will form the three first-class fortresses of the empire. Gen. Todleben has arrived here, and, notwithstanding the extremity of the weather—the frost having set in here with all the proverbial violence of a Russian winter—may be seen every day, accompanied by his staff of engineers, all wrapped up in bears' skins, surveying the ground and fixing the poles to designate the line of circunvallation, which will be commenced on the breaking up of the frost.

Besides this, other fixed principles of strategy have been agreed on for the prosecution of the war, though it must be confessed that as it is so essentially a defensive war on the part of the Russians, all these plans may be completely upset, or at all events greatly modified, by any change in the system of attack on the part of the Western Powers. It is fully expected in Russia that next year the principal seat of the war will be transferred to the north, and the greatest exertions are making for an efficient defence. For the safety of Cronstadt and Helsingfors no fears are entertained, as the experience of the last two years has shown that the enemy are not able to inflict much damage; nor is it feared that even if the fleets are increased by 200 steam gunboats they could take either of those strongholds unless with the co-operation of a numerous and well appointed army on shore. The system of tactics resolved on by the great council of war may be summed up as follows:—The fortifications of St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Warsaw, and Nicholasieff; secondly, the concentration of few but imposing armies; and thirdly, the abandonment of all the minor places, so Liebau, Riga, and even Odessa, will be deprived of regular garrisons, and left to the fate and the tender mercy of the enemy.

The cold is so severe that several sentinels have been found frozen to death in their sentry boxes, although they are relieved every half-hour.

DESPATCH FROM GENERAL CODRINGTON.

The Gazette contains the following despatch from General Codrington, enclosing the weekly medical report:—

Sebastopol, Dec. 15.

In forwarding to your lordship the weekly report from Dr. Hall (the principal medical officer,) to the 10th instant, it is gratifying to me to be able to remark that the general state of the health of the army continues good.

Dr. Hall reports that the army continues healthy. The admissions for the week up to the 8th December were 1093, and the deaths 38, whilst for the preceding week the admissions were 1059, and the deaths 27; showing little variation. But the wet and stormy weather had increased the cases of dysentery and rheumatism. Some accidents in the dockyard have also increased the admissions for wounds and injuries. The Land Transport corps still had the heaviest sick list.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1856.

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. To Clubs of five and upwards, to one address, Ten Shillings a year in advance.

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.

BRITISH TRADE REPORTS.

We devote considerable space below to extracts from British Trade Reports, which will furnish our readers, and more particularly our commercial ones, with information of the highest importance on matters in which we are all deeply interested.

LONDON ANNUAL TIMBER REPORT.

The following is copied from Churchill & Sims's Annual Report:

"The Wood trade of the year 1855 bears evidence of the change from peace to war. For five years there was a growing increase in the trade, and in 1854 the importation so much exceeded the consumption, that a vast stock was collected in London, in Liverpool, and at all the great ports. The whole had been costly at the ports of shipment, was encumbered with extremely high rates of freight, and the value had

so far declined that much of the Colonial Wood was only worth the freight and charges, and several branches of the foreign supply were in the same state. To realise this accumulation would seem to be the work of a year in the ordinary course of business; but low prices conducing to rapid sale, followed by the extraordinary demand for materials in barrack construction, swept off Colonial Spruce, common Baltic Deals, and cheap Fir and Pine Timber. No impression could be made on the great stock of Colonial wood in London sufficiently early to open the door to the customary importation; but the arrears of Foreign Wood were so far consumed as to prepare the trade for the import in due season.

"The total importation of London shows a deficiency of twenty per cent. compared with three years' average, and nearly the same in respect to 1854; so that there is the same rateable abatement for London as for the United Kingdom; and the usual fourth part of the Wood trade devolved on this port.

"British America.—The year commenced with a stock in the docks of three-and-a-half millions of pieces of colonial deals. Our annual consumption of two-and-a-half millions was deemed large, had never risen to three millions of pieces. When the stock of previous years had amounted to one and a half million it was thought sufficient to supply the wants of the trade until the navigation opened. If it had amounted to two millions there would usually be a surplus in the middle of the year, when Canada furnished the new supply. The accumulation of three and a half millions at the beginning of the year 1855 was enormous; sufficient for the current year, and enough to carry forward for the next, assuming that our next average consumption would not be attained during the war. This state of things would appear to dispense with the importation of deals from our colonies during the year 1855. Until figures demonstrated the fact, it could scarcely be credited that last year's consumption swallowed up three and a half millions, or a quantity equal to the whole stock—leaving us at present with one and a half million of colonial Deals, or just the amount of the importation of the year, which importation is less than one-third that of 1854, when 4,893,000 pieces were imported.

"The stock of colonial Deals appeared to be in nearly equal moieties of Canadian pine and of British American spruce Deals—the latter comprising an unusual proportion of narrow widths battens, and other irregular sizes in the New Brunswick shipments. At low prices these New Brunswick cargoes of spruce were forced on the trade; temporary constructions in Government work absorbed large quantities; while so much was abstracted from Liverpool for barracks in Ireland, from Gloucester and Bristol for service in the Crimea, as to clear off their stock of spruce, re-opening those markets sooner than ours for the new importation. This preference has continued throughout the season, so that very scanty supplies have come to London from New Brunswick. Working for twelve months on the old stock, it may now be said that the whole of these, our cheapest articles in wood, have changed hands, if they are not actually consumed. The prices of spruce Deals, Quebec and Lower Port, in January and February last, were about the average of £10 per Petersburg standard hundred; in the spring were at and under £9 10s., while sales were forced, and continued as low until July; revived in August and September, with the influx of good qualities from the St. Lawrence, and from £10, gradually improved to £11, before the close of the year, when it was clearly seen that the importation was unusually small.

"For the other moiety of the stock of Colonial Deals, which is in Canadian Pine, we cannot account for the consumption in any other way than the usual mode—the retail trade of the metropolis; and this has certainly been restricted. Firmness in withholding the choice stocks, no speculative importation of common Quebec Pine, the closing of mills in Canada, losses and failures resulting from the over-trading of 1853 and 1854, have, together, so limited our market supply, that no pressure has been felt at any time during the season. The progress which had been made in selling during the spring was quietly continued when the importation commenced, and the supply was so restricted that we have had no time observed the monthly arrivals amount to as much as the monthly deliveries; the large stock ceased to show its excess over the preceding year in October, and has since diminished.

"We regard the stock of 1,550,000 pieces of Colonial Pine and Spruce Deals as sufficient for the present condition of trade; it is no burden in comparison with the stock of 3,653,000 borne through the past year, and ultimately proved to have been consumed; the largest consumption yet recorded, and that in a year full of trading difficulties.

"The price of Pine Deals began with the year at £16 for 1st, £11 for 2nd, £9 10 for 3d quality, were sustained thereat during the summer importation, improved steadily in October and November, and settled at the present rates of £17 10, £12, and £10 for the relative classes. Bright first quality Pine Deals have usually ruled 20s. better, and those of choice London sorting 40s., though 2nd and 3rd qualities now scarcely support 10s more than floated Pine. When the best prices were obtained it was foreseen that we could not have more than one-third of the average import.—Quebec Red Pine Deals seem to be no longer prepared of that superior quality which gave them esteem, and they rank with common Baltic Yellow Deals.

"Canadian Pine Timber shared in the ge-

neral depression of 1854. We began the year 1855 with a stock of 18,650 loads, considered large for this market. It rested almost in abeyance for the whole spring; when pressed for sale, 60s. per load was scarcely obtainable. The import commenced, very little arrived, and but very little seemed wanted; 25,000 loads were imported in 1854, and in 1855 only 4200 loads, so that confidence was given to speculate on the stock thereby reduced to 6258 loads, and this movement had raised it to 70s. 7½, and for fine fresh to 80s. per load. Red Pine Timber formed a small item in 1854, and smaller in 1855; costing more than Baltic Fir Timber, its use is almost limited to spars, masts, and yards. Several parcels of Tamarack Timber sold from 80s. to 85s. per load.

"Having taken a cursory view of the various branches of the Wood trade in the year just passed, it only remains to look to the future. Much has to be done to assure the sufferers—by the reverses of 1854 and 1855, that in our trade with British America there is hope of revival. It cannot be expected since our consumption has been so large with low, and to sellers and producers ruinous prices, that we shall proceed in the same ratio with prices raised ten to twenty per cent.—and we think it may be assumed that the freightage of Wood will be higher in the present than the past year. To limit the supply from British America is therefore most important—not to be buoyed up with the prospect of high prices, and base the operations of lumbering thereon—but only to look to this country as a large consumer when the price of Wood is low—regarding distant operations as involved in obscurity during war, of which our experience has yet to be learned in the effect it will have on the circulation of money—and through it on our consuming powers.

Much has to be done also in the foreign trade, the realisation of large stocks here, before it will be safe to decide on the next importation. Our trade of last year had much that was extraneous in aid to compensate for the abridgement of investment, of building, of progress. Taxation bears heavily on all, the cost of living has increased, and profits are abated: to a certain extent wood must be called a necessity, but the great spring of the trade has been the growth of wealth and property, and these elements are wanting while Europe in arms is draining our gold. It therefore appears superfluous to counsel prudence when every one is sensible of the stated facts, and it is obvious that to look beyond the present is trusting to results which in the peaceful course of trade might be fairly judged, but should financial difficulties increase, may be entirely reversed during a state of war."

SALE OF SHIPS AT LIVERPOOL.

We take the following from Curry & Co's Annual Report of the Sale of Ships in Liverpool during the year 1855:

"We beg to lay before you, as usual at this season, our statistics of the past year's business in the sale of ships, and, notwithstanding it shows a less result than that of 1854, still we regard it as highly satisfactory, making due allowance for the general interruption most branches of commerce have suffered from our protracted war, the increased price of money, &c.—and, though the demand for the transport service, which, in 1854, employed so much tonnage, has continued, it has been chiefly confined to steam-ships to the neglect of sailing vessels, except in cases of direct characters to convey stores to Constantinople and the Black Sea.

"We stated to you last January, and at the same time explained the cause, that from the month of September to the middle of December, there were but few transactions to report; however, with the new year the demand for tonnage was resumed, and has continued without any considerable interruption in the face of those depressing influences we have referred to, as well as a tardy and somewhat capricious improvement in freights. It is a little anomalous that the most marked improvement in prices took place between September and December, during which time the rate of discount advanced from 4 to 7 1-2 per cent.

"As if to compensate for some disadvantages, circumstances of great interest and permanent benefit to the shipbuilder and shipowner have arisen, which have contributed in no small degree to produce the result we have here to record. When the measure of admitting foreign ships to British registration free of duty was before the country, it met with the strongest opposition from parties who urged that we should be inundated with tonnage from the innumerable building stations in the United States of America, from the Baltic and elsewhere, which, coming into competition with British and Colonial Ships, would seriously cripple, if not wholly destroy our building-trade—how far this fear was well founded, four years experience of the working of the Act of 1851 will answer. Of the few American Ships that have at times been placed upon this market, the most have been withdrawn for prices it was impossible to obtain, and under which limits the owners could not afford to sell them, and in every case considerably above those of our best plantation ships. With the Baltic even less business has been done. We have had several commissions from Bremen, Lubeck, &c., and, notwithstanding these ships have much to recommend them both as to model and material, yet the prices looked for remove all fear of competition from this quarter."

"We have also to direct your attention to a recent Act (October) of the French government admitting for a limited period, British and Colonial Ships to French coawery, at an ad valorem duty of 10 per cent., and which pri-