

to this tenement of the offenders against the laws, sentenced to atone by personal confinement for their crimes, and to provide a code for their employment and government while thus confined.

The Commissioners appointed conformably to the act of the 2d March, 1827, to provide for the adjustment of claims of persons entitled to the indemnification under the first article of the Treaty of Ghent, and for the distribution among such claimants of the sum paid by the Government of Great Britain, under the Convention of 13th November, 1826, closed their labours on the 30th August last, by awarding the claimants the sum of one million one hundred and ninety-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-two dollars and eighteen cents; leaving a balance of seven thousand five hundred and thirty-seven dollars and eighty-two cents, which was distributed rateably amongst all the claimants to whom awards had been made, according to the direction of the act.

The exhibits appended to the report from the Commissioners of the General Land Office present the actual condition of that common property of the Union. The amount paid into the treasury from the proceeds of lands, during the year 1827, and the first half of 1828, falls little short of two millions of dollars. The prospect of further extending the time for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of the public lands, limited, by the act of 21st March last, to the fourth of July next, will claim the consideration of Congress, to whose vigilance and careful attention, the regulation, disposal, and preservation, of this great national inheritance has by the People of the United States been entrusted.

Among the important subjects to which the attention of the present Congress has already been invited, and which may occupy their further and deliberate discussion, will be the provision to be made for taking the fifth census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States. The constitution of the United States requires that this enumeration should be made within every term of ten years, and the date from which the last enumeration commenced was the first Monday of August of the year 1820. The laws under which the former enumeration were taken, were enacted at the Session of Congress immediately preceding the operation. But considerable inconveniences were experienced from the delay of legislation to so late a period. That law, like those of the preceding enumerations, directed that the census should be taken by the Marshals of the several districts and Territories, under instructions from the Secretary of State. The preparation and transmission to the Marshals of those instructions, required more time than was then allowed between the passage of the law and the day when the enumeration was to commence. The term of six months, limited for the returns of the Marshals, was also found even then too short; and must be more so now, when an additional population of at least three millions must be presented upon the returns. As they are to be made at the short session of Congress, it would, as well as from other considerations, be more convenient to commence the enumeration from an earlier period of the year than the first of August. The most favorable season would be the Spring. On the review of the former enumerations, it will be found that the plan for taking every census has contained improvements upon that of its predecessor. The last is still susceptible of much improvement. The third census was the first at which any account was taken of the manufactories of the country. It was repeated at the last enumeration, but the returns in both cases were necessarily very imperfect. They must always be so, resting of course only on the communications voluntarily made by individuals increased in some of the manufacturing establishments. Yet they contained much valuable information, and may, by some supplementary provision of the law, be rendered more effective. The columns of age, commencing from infancy, have hitherto been confined to a few periods, all under the number of 45 years. Important knowledge would be obtained by extending those columns, in intervals of ten years, to the utmost boundaries of human life. The labour of taking them would be a trifling addition to that already prescribed, and the result would exhibit comparative tables of longevity highly interesting to the country. I deem it my duty further to observe, that much of the imperfections in the returns of the last and perhaps of preceding enumerations proceeded from the inade-

quateness of the compensations allowed to the Marshals and their assistants in making them.

In closing this communication, it only remains for me to assure the Legislature of my continued earnest wish for the adoption of measures recommended by me hitherto, and yet to be acted on by them; and of the cordial concurrence on my part in every constitutional provision which may receive their sanction during the Session, tending to the general welfare.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Washington, December 2, 1828.

FALL OF VARNA.

BULLETINS OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

From the Supplement to the Prussian State Gazette of 23d October.

NEWS FROM THE THEATRE OF WAR.

BERLIN, Oct. 22.—To-day, the 22d, the following accounts have been received of the operations before Varna, and the taking of that place:—

"1. Operations before Varna, from the 1st to the 5th October.—The two mines laid under the walls of the fortress were finished to our wish and sprung on the 3rd and 4th of October. The first was laid with great difficulty and not without danger to the workmen, under the extreme point of the north bastion towards the sea. Part of the works of this bastion was damaged by springing the mine, and fell into the ditches. The second mine was laid on the right front under the second northern bastion. Colonel Schelder made an entrance to it, and charged it with the greatest courage, in spite of the fire of the enemy, who, observing what was doing made four attacks during the night, but was each time repulsed with loss. The mine was sprung at three o'clock in the afternoon, and the result fully answered our expectations, as two breaches are already made in this bastion.

"The corps of Omer Vrione notwithstanding the reinforcements it received, has made no further movement to the 18th (30th of September.) On our side, the corps of General Bistrom has also been strengthened, and redoubts erected to cover his position. In this manner the necessary measures have been taken to prevent any relief being received by the fortress.

"Prince Eugene of Wirtemberg has left a strong advanced guard in Hassan Laar, and has advanced to Osmanczyk. To strengthen the right wing of General Bistrom's position, the corps of Major-General Dellinghausen has drawn nearer to him, and has occupied the village of Raynardzi.

"2. Operations before Varna from 5th to the 9th of October.

"Our works having opened a way to the fortress, it was resolved to detach some troops to take possession, if possible, by means of a breach of the north bastion nearest the sea, and to erect a battery in it: 110 sharpshooters and chosen sailors were appointed for this purpose, who were to be supported by one company of the 13th Regiment of Sharpshooters, two companies of the Izmailow Regiment of the Guards, and 150 labourers provided with gabions.

"On the 7th of October an hour before day-break, the sharpshooters, led by Lieut. Zaitzeffski of the navy, penetrated into the bastion without firing a shot, and killed all the Turks that defended it. Meeting with no resistance, these brave men suffered themselves to be led away by their courage, and without thinking of taking possession of the bastion, which was the main object, they penetrated into the middle of the town. Meantime false attacks were made at three different points by our redoubts upon the town, and Turkish tirailleurs, who had concealed themselves in the ditches of the fortress, were driven out of them.

"Notwithstanding this unexpected success, and the support that continued to be sent to the sharpshooters, it was to be foreseen that they would not be able either to resist the whole of enemy's garrison, or to retain possession of the bastion. To prevent further bloodshed, a retreat was ordered. The men retired in the greatest order, and brought with them a great number of Christian women and children who joined them in the town. Two pair of colours found in the bastion were taken. As it was impossible to bring 14 cannon which were there, they were partly spiked by our people, and partly thrown into the sea. We had 80 killed and 300 wounded. The loss of the enemy may be estimated at 600 men. Though this enterprise had not the

result that was intended, it served to prove to the Turks that they were no longer safe in the walls of Varna, and that by means of breaches that had been made, the fortress might be taken by storm. Accordingly a Turkish officer came to negotiate for the surrender of the fortress. This morning (the 9th) Jussuf Pacha, one of the chief commanders in the town, arrived here to confer with Admiral Greig. This does not hinder the progress of our works, which are continued with equal rapidity and success.

"Since the 30th of September, the enemy has not attempted any thing against General Bistrom, who retains his old position on the south side of the bay of Varna. Turks sometimes appear at a distance, but they retreat at the first shot.

"3. Operations before Varna, (Sept. 29,) Oct. 11. The difficulties and sufferings of the army before Varna have been crowned with victory.

The reduction of the fortress was the result of a general assault on the 25th of September (or the 6th of October,) in which a few of our gallant soldiers penetrated to the very middle of the town, on the night of that day.

Such was the alarm produced in the enemy by this bold and successful exploit, that a conference was upon the moment proposed, and Jussuf Pacha himself was the first who commanded his followers to lay down their arms unconditionally, and without stipulation of any kind, and to pass over to our camp.

In the course of the night, and on the next morning, his example was followed by the whole garrison, save only the Capitan Pacha, and a few followers, composed of his immediate suite, who threw themselves into the citadel. They were afterwards made prisoners there by the Russian soldiers, who had entered by the breaches made in the external defences of the town.

The first corps which entered were the 13th and 14th of the Foot Guards, after them a battalion of Sappers, and then the Ismail Regiment of the Imperial Guard.

The Emperor has inspected personally all the works, and has been thoroughly convinced of the difficulties with which the besieging army had to contend.

After His Majesty had visited the mines (on the eve of the assaults) he proceeded to reconnoitre the defences of the town, bestowing particular attention on such parts as were to be the objects of attack.

From the accounts of the prisoners, (which however, are somewhat various,) it is conjectured that the garrison of Varna, with the armed inhabitants, amounted in the beginning to at least 22,000 men; at the time of the surrender they numbered but 6,000.

We cannot, however, at present pretend to give a correct list of the prisoners, nor any statement of the stores, ammunition, &c. that have fallen into our hands.

"4. Account of the Operations before Choumla, from the 28th of September to the 3d of October.

"On the 28th of September in the morning, the enemy began to fire upon us from the fortress, at the same time his cavalry, in large masses, advanced against the outposts of our left wing. Major-General Sysojow, with the reserve of his regiment of Cossacks, met the enemy, and endeavoured to draw him towards our redoubts, so as to bring him within the range of our fire. Towards noon, the enemy received reinforcements of cavalry and infantry from the town, but was compelled by the fire of our redoubts to retreat to Choumla. On the succeeding days we cannonaded each other without any considerable loss on our side.

"On the 2nd of October, the enemy detached a corps of 4,000 infantry, and 5,000 cavalry, and 14 cannon, on the road to Silistria, to cut off from our camp Major-General Nabel, who was advancing with a brigade of Hulus towards Choumla. Adjutant-General Orlov was, therefore, ordered to defeat the enemy's plan, and immediately set out with the first division of Chasseurs on horseback, four battalions of infantry, and 16 cannon, towards the village of Cadvikroi, attacked the enemy, silenced his cannon, and compelled him to retreat. Meantime Major-General Nabel, who was attacked by the enemy's cavalry, had intercepted it and joined Count Orlov's division.

"5. Account of the Operations in Little Wallachia on the 4th of October.

"Lieutenant-General Langeron reports as follows:—The Seraskier of Widdin, at the head of