

Russia and Turkey.

PASSAGE OF THE DANUBE.

OFFICIAL BULLETINS.

Camp of Satounowa, May 27, (June 8,) 1828.

We have already given account of the obstacles which retarded the passage of the Danube, in consequence of the extraordinary overflowing of the river. The most difficult labours were performed in a few days for the distance of nearly four wersts, to construct a dyke even in the Danube. We soon attained that point in the river, from which we were to throw across a bridge; but the enemy, profiting by our unavoidable delay, had thrown up entrenchments on the border of the Danube belonging to them, almost up to the gates of Isaktscha, which they supplied with cannon, and announced their intention of disputing the passage. Their position was very advantageous, the Turkish side of the Danube presenting a chain of woody eminences which command the bank forming the Russian frontier. The Turkish batteries were directed against us; the right of the enemy was protected by impenetrable marshes, and the left by the fortress of Isaktscha. Such was the position that we had to attack with a spirited force to effect the passage.

For this purpose a brigade of chasseurs on foot was embarked at Ismail and ascended the Danube in merchant vessels chartered for the occasion, and escorted by a part of the flotilla; on the other hand two divisions of the corps under Gen. Rudzewsch were assembled on the spot where the river was to be crossed; and on the 25th of May, (June 6,) his Majesty the Emperor arrived in the evening near these troops. Those who embarked at Ismail rejoined them.

After having given the necessary orders respecting the dislodgment of the enemy who occupied the other bank, his Majesty repaired to the camp of the Regiments of Tschirnigoff and Poltava. A solemn *Te Deum* was sung, and the Divine Protection invoked at this decisive moment. The 27th, (June 8,) at one o'clock in the morning, the Emperor ascended an eminence at the commencement of the line which led to the Danube.

At the dawn of day, a battery of 24 twelve-pounders, which had been constructed to silence the fire of the Turkish battery, opened a fire in concert with our flotilla. The Ottomans gave a vigorous return; notwithstanding which, our troops landed, and the *Attaman of the Cosaques Zaporogues* who had recently joined the Emperor's forces and offered him the use of his light boots as the well as his Cossacks, made himself very useful and active in effecting the landing. In order to reach the Turkish bank of the river, our troops had, on one side, to sustain the cannonading of the enemy, and on the other, to cross a deep morass; but they quickly overcame all obstacles, and took footing on the right bank of the Danube.

The commander of the flotilla, although wounded early in the action, did not give up. In fine, about 11 A. M. the enemy's batteries, although one of them had been sprung, by the explosion of which 30 men were either killed or wounded, were in our possession; eight battalions and a number of cannon were landed, and the Turks were in full retreat towards the fortress of Isaktscha, of which they burned one of the fanbours. They lost 12 pieces of cannon, 2 mortars, and 1 howitzer. Our loss has been trifling, considering the difficulties we had to surmount. That of the Turks is not yet ascertained.

In this brilliant affair, the Danube has been actually crossed under the guns of the enemy. There is now no obstacle to the construction of our bridge, which will be finished in two or three days.

The Emperor honoured the *Attaman of the Cossacks* with the title of Colonel, and decorated him with the Cross of the order of St George. He has also given him ten crosses of the same order to distribute among his men.

On the evening of the 26th, (June 7,) four Cossacks of the Don crossed the Danube in a shallop, ascertained the most favourable point to land, and passed the night on the Turkish side. As a reward for so brilliant an act, the Emperor has also conferred upon them the cross of the same order, and attached them to his guard.

We occupy at this moment the position which the enemy has just left, and our troops are employed on the necessary works to cover the bridge.

Camp of Satounowa, 11th June, 9 P. M.

After our troops had forced the passage to the

Danube on the morning of the 8th, the river was covered throughout the whole of that memorable day with vessels transporting our soldiers and artillery to the possessions abandoned by the enemy.

On the 9th, the passage of our troops was continued. In the afternoon the Emperor himself first set foot on the Turkish territory. He traversed the Danube under the guidance of ten Zaporavian Cossacks. Their Hettman, once a Pacha with two tails, held the rudder. By a singular coincidence, his Majesty received intelligence the same day that the Schah of Persia had named after him one of the regiments of the guard. He visited all the positions abandoned by the Turks, and presented Marshal Wittengenstein with one of the cannon found in the Turkish works. On his return, the Emperor embarked with the same Cossacks, and was reconducted by them to the Russian bank.

On the 10th a letter from the Pacha of Isaktscha announced his intention of surrendering the place. It was signified to him that he would be allowed till ten o'clock next morning for accepting the capitulation offered. On the 11th, Isaktscha was surrounded by two divisions of our troops, and whilst the Emperor was visiting the advanced posts, two Ottoman officers arrived to announce that the commandant accepted our conditions, and was ready to place the fortress in our possession.

The articles of the capitulation having been agreed on, two Pachas, and Hassan Pacha, came to present their homage to the Emperor at some distance from the place. At the same time our troops, guided and introduced by the Pacha themselves, took possession of the gates and the ramparts of Isaktscha; and what seems to prove that the actual war is in no sense national or religious amongst the Turks, is that on entering the town, our troops found the shops open, and the inhabitants ready to receive them. Our officers and soldiers were soon seen quietly mingling with them.

The garrison of Isaktscha and the two Pachas above mentioned, have permission to retire, and 84 pieces of cannon, 17 stands of colours, with the ammunition and provisions with which the fortress abounds, have fallen into our power. The same day we received intelligence of an engagement which had taken place on the morning of the 9th, between our flotilla and that of the Turks near Braila. The former consisted of 17 vessels of different sizes, that of the Turks consisted of 32. The engagement commenced early in the morning, and soon became brisk; but the ship of the Turkish admiral shortly lowered her flag, and some hours after 25 more Turkish vessels were also sunk, burned, or stranded. The six vessels remaining to the Ottoman took refuge under the cannon of the fort of Machine. The success, due to the bold and judicious arrangements of Captain Lavadorsky, who has lately been appointed Rear Admiral, and to the bravery of our sailors, renders more critical the position of Braila, which thus loses all communication with the right bank of the Danube. The siege of that place is daily making progress.

The bridge over the Danube is finished; a brigade of cavalry is at this moment crossing it, and the whole army is about to follow.

FRONTIERS OF RUSSIA, JUNE 4.

It would probably be a great mistake to believe that the army of the Emperor Nicholas, who is adored throughout his Empire, will be hindered by any obstacles, besides overflowed rivers, or the resistance of the enemy, from advancing to Constantinople. If we consider that 300,000 well disciplined troops, of all arms, who have been prepared for this crisis, advance without interruption—that the most judicious measures have been taken for the supply of the army by sea, when it has reached the defiles of Mount Balkan—and that the declaration of war requires full indemnity, and security for that indemnity—many things may appear in a different light. All Russia is in motion. A strong Corps of Observation, under the Grand Duke Constantine, covers the frontiers of Poland; 40 battalions of 1,000 men each from the military colonies founded by General Araktshejeff, are now for the first time sent into the field. Hitherto very few Cossacks and no Boshkirs, or other Nomade cavalry, have been levied, because they are kept for another purpose. But the defection of the Zeparogaians—the fall of Anapa—and the advance of the army of Georaia, under General Paskewitsch, towards Erzerum, must be carefully considered. The Black Sea resembles an immense anchorage. Half Moscow has emigrated to Odessa.

ODESSA, MAY 28.

The Sultan and the Grand Vizier are still at Constantinople; but Hussein Pacha was to set out for Bulgaria, to take command of the irregulars there. The regulars amounted to 30,000 men, commanded by Itabil Pacha, had in part left the city for the Danube. The defence of the city had been committed to the Seraskier, Chosrew, Mehermed, and Tahir Pacha was charged with the defence of the approaches by sea. The passes of Balkan are to be defended by the Militia of Romelia. The passes, as they are described in the interesting volume of travels published by Dr. Walsh, are of so formidable a description, that during the last war the Russians did not even dare to attempt them. They are five in number, three leading on Adrianople, and two on Constantinople. The mountain tribes of the Balkan, are of the most expert, fearless, and bold horsemen, in a country where all men ride well, and all men are brave.

Since our last we have received a mass of intelligence from Russia and Turkey. The Russians have crossed the Danube on three points, but do not appear to be making, as yet, any considerable way. Little or no opposition has been offered to their progress in the field, but Brailow held out against their attacks up to the 2d instant, which is the latest date of any intelligence from that quarter. The Sultan is busily engaged in organizing his army, reviewing his troops, and making all preparations for war, but he has not left Constantinople, which capital was perfectly tranquil at the last advices. It is supposed that he can put an army of between 70 and 80,000 men on the banks of the Danube, after leaving sufficient garrisons in Constantinople and the frontier fortresses, and keeping the Greeks in check. From Greece itself we have had no information this week of any moment; Ibrahim Pacha remains rather inactive in the Morea; and the Greeks do not seem to be engaged in any enterprizes. Their new president Count Capo d'Istria, it is said, is occupied with drawing a boundary for Greece, which he intends to propose to the Porte as a basis of negotiation.

For some purpose, which we cannot tell, the Sultan has requested the return of the French and English Ambassadors from Corfu to Constantinople; which has given rise to a report that negotiations are about to be re-opened.

FRENCH PAPERS.

(From the *Gazette de France*, of June 25.)

Constantinople, May 31.—The troops which set out for the Danube have been reviewed by Hussein Pacha and the Sultan himself, who ordered presents to be distributed among them, and said, as he quitted them, "Behave bravely—I shall soon follow you."

The hopes of the Porte depend on these forces, though it is known that the active army of the Russians is upwards of 100,000 men, and their reserve 60,000, while the Turks have scarcely 80,000, including the garrisons of the fortresses. Yet the pride of the Ottomans does not allow them to doubt for a moment of victory.

The operations of General Paskewitch against the province of Erzerum disturb the Porte more than those of the army on the Danube, because it is known that the *ci-devant* Janissaries, most of whom have been banished to that Province, have organized a revolt there. A firman has been read in the mosques, calling the people to arms in defence of the country, of which the following is the substance:—

"The Ottoman people still remember how much the Greek insurrection has attracted the attention of the government, and that it neglected nothing to suppress it. A new enemy is now added to this revolutionary flame, and seeks with fire and sword the ruin of the empire, the profanation of religion, and the slavery of yourselves and your wives. Take arms brave Mussulmen, against the Russian infidels; repair five times every day to the sacred temples, and there put up the prescribed prayers that the favor of the prophet may ensure us the victory. Arm, brave Mussulmen, in defence of the country—such is the supreme command."

The heads of 25 Russians, killed before Brailow, have been sent hither and exposed in front of the Seraglio.

A letter from Florence of the 8th June, states that the Pope had refused to Austria the occupation of Ancona and other fortified places.