

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.



Imperial Parliament.

House of Commons, March 17.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

Upon entering the gallery we found Mr. Sturtz moving for a return of any treaty or treaties which might exist between Turkey and Russia on the first of January 1833, and of which this country might have been apprised. He took a rapid view of the war in Turkey from 1831 to 1832, and of the application of Turkey to this country for assistance to oppose Ibrahim Pacha, and of our refusal. He strongly observed upon the fact of our not having any Representative at Constantinople to interfere, to prevent a junction between Turkey and Russia. The hon. and learned gentleman then adverted to the fact that the treaty of the 8th of July was only known to the noble Lord the Foreign Secretary, through the medium of a Morning Newspaper. This treaty was effected by Count Orloff, throwing dust in the eyes of the Representative of England at Constantinople. The noble Lord, in admitting that he had his information from the public journals, said again that Turkey had applied for assistance, and that we had refused such assistance. The hon. gentleman then commented on the fact of our declaring in the King's speech, that the best understanding existed between this country and Russia. The hon. gentleman then adverted to the letter of the French Minister, to the Russian Minister, deprecating the junction between Russia and Turkey, and the answer of the Russian Minister to the French, declaring that it was the intention of his master to abide by his engagements. (Hear.) This was the language of Russia to France. What, he asked, was the language of this country to Russia. (Hear.) The hon. and learned gentleman then adverted to the view taken of this country in France, and the manner in which it was received in the chamber of Deputies. He then passed on to the allusion made in the King's speech, on the 5th of February, relative to Turkey, and contended, upon the whole, that Turkey had been placed in her present perilous situation, owing to the refusal of England to give her any assistance. Had he not made out a case that called for more than explanation from the noble Lord? By the treaty existing between England and Turkey a free passage through the Dardanelles of the ships of England was secured to England. This treaty was only confined to merchant vessels. By the last treaty between Russia and Turkey, it gave to Russia the power of closing the Dardanelles against the vessels of any nation not at peace with her. (Hear.) The hon. and learned gentleman concluded by making the motion with which he commenced his address.

Mr. H. BULWER seconded the motion. He could not conceive why the noble Lord did not take one of two courses that he might adopt, either to prevent the interference of any other power and remain neutral, or else to make a treaty of alliance with Turkey. He should, however, not detain the house longer, but content himself with seconding the motion.

LORD PALMERSTON would not complain of the manner in which the subject had been brought forward by the hon. gentleman, because he had done so in the best humoured manner possible, but he could not still consent to the object of the motion, he said this for the reason that negotiations were still pending, and because it might possibly be detrimental to the public service to have the papers called for laid before the house at the present moment. The hon. and learned gentleman had not made out a sufficiently strong case on which to rest his motion; and he (Lord Palmerston) hoped that the house would reject it. It was complained of by the hon. gent. that the Sultan was not assisted by this country in 1832, but it should be recollected the revolt of Ali Pacha was only one of many revolts that happened against the Ottoman Porte, but which had been put down, and it was not to be doubted that Mahomed Ali who at that time was not considered at all in the light of anything, but a subject of the Porte. The only assistance asked for that could be granted to the Sultan, was that of a naval force, and the situation in which England was placed at that time as respected Holland, did not leave it advisable to apply any part of the English fleet to the aid of the Turkish Government. We had no right therefore to complain of Russia, for giving to Turkey that aid which we could not render to her ourselves. With respect to Sir Stratford Canning, he had accomplished all that his duties called for, and which were chiefly occupied in the care of Greece. It was wrong therefore to say that we had no Ambassador at the Turkish Court at the time in question for Sir S. Canning did not withdraw until the arrival of Lord Ponsonby. As to the treaty between Russia and Turkey of July last, he could not say that the British Government approved of that treaty, because it gave to Russia rights in the Black Sea which she did not possess before; but explanations had since been given which in some degree lessened the ground of jealousy upon this head, both Russia and Turkey had distinctly avowed that the ships of war of Russia, were not to have any other privileges in the passage of the Dardanelles, than those given to the ships of other na-

tions by the treaty of 1802. Turkey being at peace she reserved to herself the power of closing the passage of the Dardanelles against the ships of all other nations at war with each other. He still would not say that the treaty of July gave satisfaction, but he thought that all that was necessary was to watch the proceedings under that treaty. He would repeat that it would not be for the good of the public service to produce the papers called for; but he could assure the house that the language used by the British Government in this affair was such as to uphold the honor and interests of the country. The relations between France and England were as had been said more intimate than ever and he rejoiced to say so, because he looked upon it as greatly to the interests of both, and calculated to insure a continuance of the Peace of Europe. For this same reason that he refused the papers now asked for he must refuse to follow the hon. member through the various subjects that he had touched upon in his address to the house. He hoped the house would place confidence in the government, as the best and surest means of preserving the peace of Europe.

Sir R. Peel said that it would have been more satisfactory if the noble lord opposite had refused the papers called for, without giving any of his reasons; for all the reasons he had offered were decidedly erroneous, and the speech of the honorable gentleman who brought forward the motion was, if not unanswerable, certainly answered. How were the representatives of the people left so much in the dark as to foreign affairs as they were at the present time, for all their information was either obtained from foreign papers or the Chamber of Deputies in France. Why should the house not know the negotiations that were going forward, and the explanations of which the noble lord had spoken? If the explanations were satisfactory, they ought to be made known in order to satisfy the house and the country. It was fit to know if those explanations tended to any result, and what that result was. It appeared that by the treaty of July, between Turkey and Russia, Turkey was to close the Dardanelles against England, in the case of a war between England and Russia. The noble lord had expressed his satisfaction at the interference of Russia to save Turkey, and after that declaration from the noble lord, it was vain ever to complain of the consequences that might follow. No blame could attach to Russia for interfering when we refused to interfere ourselves, and although we had a British ambassador at Naples, it was six months before he could reach Constantinople, so dangerous were those seas. (A laugh.) The burden of the noble lord's speeches on all questions of foreign policy was a eulogy on the alliance between France and England, and perhaps this alliance was the main cause of our non-interference in the case of Turkey, because it was generally believed that the Pacha of Egypt was acting with the connivance of France. Did not France intend to take permanent possession of Algeria, contrary to the understanding and promises made by her at the time she first sent her army there? We ought to know what our present relations with Russia are, and not to be left to collect our information from foreign Newspapers.

Mr. Stanley considered it to be a matter of congratulation to Europe that two such countries as France and England were in such a state of close alliance as to insure the preservation of the general peace. As yet settled, but if it were even in the permanent possession of France, he did not think that it would be at all detrimental to England. The questions of Holland, Algiers, Portugal and Turkey, were all left as a legacy to the present government by their predecessors, and in no very enviable or satisfactory state. (Hear hear.) He thought that ample grounds had been shown by his noble friend for not producing the papers called for by this motion until the negotiations to which they referred should be brought to a conclusion. As to our not having had an ambassador at Constantinople, was it not a fact that there was no ambassador there at the time of the treaty of Adrianople, when the late ministry was in office? (Hear, hear.) Why was not advice and assistance afforded to the Sultan then by those who now blamed the present government for withholding those services? (Hear, hear, hear.) There was no reason to fear that Russia had intended to enter into any treaty detrimental to England, with whom that country was in alliance. The treaty, as explained, was that in time of war Turkey was bound to close the passage of the Dardanelles against all powers whatever; but even to this treaty the British government had not given its sanction, although explanations had been given of a very satisfactory nature. He hoped, therefore, the house would not accede to the present motion.

Mr. C. Ferguson said that if there was nothing in the treaty that was objectionable he could not see what explanations could be necessary. It was the duty of the government to prevent the further aggrandizement of Russia, which aimed at the subjugation of every country within her reach. He thought it would be desirable to have the terms of the treaty before the house, but as it might be inconvenient to produce them at this moment, perhaps his hon. friend (Mr. Sheil) would not press his motion. In allusion to the state of Poland, and of a number of emigrants from that country now starting in England, he hoped the government would take the case of those unhappy men into consideration.

Sir E. Codrington said that the war between Turkey and Russia was the conse-

quence of the treaty after the battle of Navarino not having strictly been enforced. He could not believe that there was any understanding between the French Government and the Pacha of Egypt, although the latter had several French officers in his service.

Mr. Sheil said that he would not press his amendment, to a division, which was then put from the chair and negatived.

(From the Glasgow Free Press.)

THE AFRICAN EXPEDITION.

We judged rightly when we said, that in spite of the ridiculous affectation of secrecy assumed by certain parties on the arrival of Mr. Macgregor Laird, the particulars of African Expedition under the charge of Mr. Richard Lander would sooner or later "creep out." Accordingly, we find a full, true, and particular account of it in the *Athenaeum* of Saturday last. It would seem that Mr. Laird was determined not to disclose the particulars he had brought home with him without receiving a *quid pro quo*. Leaving, therefore, the good people of Liverpool in the dark on the subject of his adventures he proceeded to London, and, on the strength of the news which he had to communicate, announced himself as a candidate for admission into the Royal Geographical Society. He was more successful in his barter with the London Society than with the African savages; for after hearing his story, they voted him a member by acclamation. The Secretary kindly digested and arranged the mass of particulars which Mr. Laird was able to supply, and afterwards communicated them *vis a vis* to the Society. The narrative, after being thus translated by the Secretary, is as follows:—

The expedition under Mr. Lander, it is well known, was fitted out by a company of enterprising Liverpool merchants, and consisted of two steam boats—the *Quorra*, of 150 tons, wood built, and of the usual construction; the *Alburkah*, an iron boat, of 57 tons burthen weighing, however, only 15 tons absolute weight, and drawing little more than three feet water; and a brig of 150 tons, which was meant to lie at the mouth of the river, and load goods as brought down by the steam boats. This little flotilla left England about the end of July 1832, and arrived off the Nun on the 19th of the following October, having previously run down the coast of Africa from the Isles des Loos, and touched at Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cape Coast Castle, and other settlements, to procure refreshments and embark *Kroomen*. It was in this way, probably, however, that sickness so early showed itself in the expedition, Captain Harris, of the *Quorra*, and two seamen, having already died before it entered the river.

The first cares on arriving were, to moor the brig in security, to await their return, and tranship from her, into the two steam boats an adequate supply of goods for the interior trade. The steam boat proceeded up the river on the 27th, encountering no direct opposition from the natives, though they had reason to believe that King Boy was averse to their proceeding, and had even directed their pilot to run them ashore. For the first forty miles the banks were mangrove swamps; afterwards they acquired some degree of muddy consistence. The tide ascended about eighty miles, running up about four knots; but the current down on the ebb was above seven. They arrived at Ebbo on the 7th November, having thus far escaped without any additional loss of life, though, in addition to the general unhealthiness of the swampy country traversed, they had encountered some sharp hostility from the inhabitants of a village about thirty miles below Ebbo, which they considered themselves obliged, in consequence, to destroy by way of example. Mr. Laird believes that the quarrel originated in a mere misunderstanding. The signal from the *Alburkah*, the leading steam boat, to the *Quorra* to anchor, was a gun. This was fired opposite to this village after dark, and naturally alarming the inhabitants, was answered by a sharp fire of musketry from the bank. It became indispensably necessary, however, to stop this at all events, and the result was as stated, to the great regret of the assaulting party.

The reception of the strangers at Ebbo was not the least cordial for this event; indeed, the social system along the whole river was found to be so dislocated by the unhappy slave trade, that, though a sort of authority was asserted by some principal places, as Ebbo, Atta, and Funda, over the others, it was the mere authority of force and aggression, the strong insubordination and oppression the weak—not any bound of union for mutual protection. And in this way the fate of the destroyed village was never alluded to by the natives as a reproach to the party, though, no doubt, it was known to many, and operated as the warning desired. They remained at Ebbo two days, which were passed in palaversing (exchanging presents and other civilities) with the King, and in embarking the supplies thus obtained. They then proceeded on the 9th, and passed through what Mr. Lander in his previous voyage had supposed to be a considerable lake with three rivers proceeding from it, but which proved to be merely a widening and separation of its stream into two, not three, channels, by an island. The river was here, from bank to bank about 3,000 yards across, with a varying depth from seven fathoms under; but Mr. Laird can scarcely imagine whence all the water comes that appears to be discharged into the gulf of Benin by the numerous rivers which flow into it. He cannot think that the *Quorra* alone furnishes the whole. Its mean breadth is not above 1500 or 1600 yards, and it is no where above two miles and a half across. Its stream is full of shallows; and altogether Mr. Laird thinks that the Nun mouth alone discharges as much water as it brings down, though there is probably considerable deception in this, arising from the periodical accumulation of water near the mouth, caused by the flood tides.

Two days after leaving Ebbo, the mortality recommenced in the expedition, and a blank occurs in Mr. Laird's recollection in particular, until the 5th of December, when he found that he had lost in the *Quorra* alone fourteen men, and in the *Alburkah* three more. This disproportion was believed to be owing to the superior coolness of the latter vessel, the iron hull of which conducted and diffused all over her the freshness of the water in which she floated.

The expeditions was now at Atta, a considerable town picturesquely situated on a low hill on the left bank of the river, and containing a population approaching 15,000 souls. The population of Ebbo was not supposed to exceed 6000. The expedition was now fairly entered within the district of the Kong mountains, which rose on both sides to an estimated height of 2000 to 2500 feet, and were extremely grateful to the eyes of those who had been so long accustomed to dull swamps, and who hailed the change as the harbinger of future health. The latter among them were ex-

tremely precipitous in their ascent, with flat table summits; the lower were also frequently table, but some rose in conical peaks. They appeared to be distributed in two nearly parallel ranges, crossing the river in a direction from N. W. to S. E. with a spur, as it appeared afterwards, running N. E. from the point of land between the *Quorra* and dividing the basin of the latter from that of the Coodoonia. Their composition appeared to be chiefly micaceous, as far as Mr. Laird was enabled to observe.

The King of Atta was not so friendly to his visitors as the King of Ebbo had been; and all endeavours to engage him in an ivory trade were fruitless. It did not appear whether he was without a supply of ivory himself, as he sometimes allowed, though always with magnificent statements of the quantity which he could procure; or whether he was guided merely by feelings of suspicion and malevolence; but both probably, combined. He was rude and disrespectful in his bearing, and his priest made a fetish above where the boats lay, (that is, sacrificed a human victim, and threw the body, in morsels, into the river,) to prevent the boats from passing up; but at length weary of his prevarication, Mr. Lander left the place, and the natives were much disappointed at finding their incantations of no avail. The next point to which the party proceeded was Bocoqua a town which Mr. Lander had left on the right bank of the river, but which, having been sacked in the interval by enemies, was found removed to the opposite side. A market on the river, which had been held in the old town had followed to the new; and a remarkable circumstance was here observable, arising probably from the necessity of the case, but which shows how near the extremes of barbarism and civilization may meet. This market was a neutral ground, a sort of free port in which the subjects of antagonist kings met in peace. The people of Egga, Cattan Curfee, and towns up the river exchanged their goods here without molestation, with those of Atta, Ebbo, and others below; the chief articles of exchange being horses, goats, sheep, rice, &c. Butter was also found in the boats from above, of good quality, but without salt; of which last commodity there is an almost total want in this part of the river. The substitute is a harsh, acrid pungent deposit from a luvium of the ashes of certain plants; a potash rather than a salt, but crystallized.

The river Atta was found excessively intricate in its navigation. Mr. Laird, indeed, considers that a step, or rise in its whole bed takes place here, corresponding with the adjoining elevation of the Kong mountains; and that probably its course above this is again comparatively clear, as far as Bousa where according to Mr. Lander's report in his first voyage, another similar rise takes place. Among the sand banks thus encountered, the *Quorra* repeatedly grounded, and at length finally hung for six months, her progress upwards being here arrested. The *Alburkah* was more fortunate—she went up to the junction of the *Tschadda*, and Mr. Laird thinks might easily have gone farther. But she did not proceed till the following season.

The mortality in both vessels meanwhile proceeded, though not with the same frightful violence as below Atta; and the character of the diseases was various—fever, ague, dysentery, debility, &c. The blacks (*Kroomen*) embarked at Cape Coast Castle, fortunately remained well and faithful; and Mr. Laird, pays the usual tribute to the valuable qualities of these people, who are familiarly called the Scotchmen of the coast of Africa, and without whom scarcely any trade could be prosecuted along its shores. A good detailed account of them is wanting to the British public; we know of none except some short notices in the parliamentary reports on Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast; yet some instruction must be deducible from the details of their erratic disposition, and general superiority to the other natives.

In February, Mr. Laird lost his last immediate companion in the *Quorra*, Dr. Briggs, the surgeon and naturalist who accompanied the expedition; and he is peculiarly earnest now in a wish to do justice to this most amiable and excellent young man, whose memory has been injured by a report that he was incompetent to his duties, and had not taken out with him the requisite supply of medicines. These misrepresentations appeared in a letter which was some time ago published in the newspapers, and to which his father (Dr. Briggs of Liverpool) has replied in print. But besides this, the most satisfactory testimonials are now adduced by Mr. Laird, as to the high qualifications of his lamented friend; and the fact, that on the return of the *Quorra* from the interior, her medicine chest was still well supplied, is a conclusive answer to the other allegations.

After Dr. Briggs' death, Mr. Laird became dispirited from living so much alone; for, the *Alburkah* being above six miles higher up, his intercourse with Mr. Lander and Lieutenant Allen, who were embarked in her, was necessarily very limited. He planned, accordingly, an excursion to Funda, a considerable town up the *Tschadda*, and departed on this in April. He had become by this time, so confident of the pacific dispositions of the people, or at least of his own power, as a white man, to command them, that he set off with only one white attendant; the remainder of his crew were black. He took up, at the same time, a considerable stock of goods for trade. On arriving at the *Tschadda*, he found that river wider than the *Quorra*, but shallower, the utmost depth not exceeding nine feet. The water was 5 deg. colder, which seems to indicate a short and rapid descent from a mountainous region; although the natives afterwards assured Mr. Laird that it came from Lake *Tschadda*, and that in 15 days, they could take him to Kouka 'on one water.' No reliance, however, is to be placed on this account, and it seems extremely improbable. About thirty miles up the river, from its junction with the *Quorra*, and on its right or north bank, Mr. Laird found the town of Jammahar, the seaport of Funda in the dry season, when a creek,

which approaches to within ten miles of it ceases to be navigable. Funda was thus also found to be north of the river, and 25 miles distant from it; Mr. Lander's information, in 1831, had led him to believe that it was to the southward. Jammahar is distant from it thirty miles by land and above fifty by water, ascending first the *Tschadda*, and afterwards the creek leading to the town. It is a small place very beautifully situated, as usual here, on the top of an abrupt hill; and the ravine interposed between it and the main land, is bridged by an artificial mound or levee, above thirty feet high, and very well constructed, with sloping sides, and a well made road above. This work, indeed, the walls of Funda, which are twenty feet high, with a ditch thirty feet deep, and almost regularly moorish bastions, and some other extensive works of a similar description, almost induced Mr. Laird to think that the country, at some former period, not very distant, had been occupied by a people farther advanced in civilization than its present inhabitants. Funda itself is an immense place, as large, Mr. Laird thinks, as Liverpool, and with a population not under sixty or seventy thousand inhabitants. He remained here two months, but in extremely bad health the whole time, and unable to open a beneficial trade.

The King he found a brutal and ferocious savage, not bloodthirsty, but excessively sensual and tyrannical. His seraglio consisted of 1500 women, and his palace was merely a group of round huts, enclosed by a palisade. In one of them Mr. Laird was lodged, but he was debarred from intercourse with the other inhabitants, and all his firmness and resolution were requisite to support him in this new and difficult position, for he was refused permission to return, though not otherwise ill treated.

At length he bethought him of an expedient, which procured his release. The constant answer to his demand to be dismissed was that applications were made to the gods in his behalf, but no favourable answer was returned. He then said, that he must send them a messenger himself; and accordingly, letting off a rocket, of which a small parcel was among other goods, he afterwards burned a blue light, the colour of which, he announced, would be indicative of a reply. And such was the impression made by this stratagem, that not only was he dismissed with his goods, but Lieut. Allen, who afterwards visited the place, also was enabled by it to assume a tone of threat and defiance towards the old King, which equally served his purposes of return.

The inhabitants of Funda, Mr. Laird states, are about equally divided into Mahomedans and Pagans. The King is partly both; and there is little or no bigotry among either. Mahomedanism is understood to be rather on the increase, which may be advantageous; but with it the power of the *Fallatahs*, the nearest Mahomedan nation, directly north, is also increasing, —a more doubtful benefit. While Mr. Laird was up the river, these people made an incursion along the west bank of the *Quorra*, having crossed near Rabba; and although the party did not probably exceed 1000 in number, for even fear did not estimate them at more than 500, no one thought of resisting, but all of flying from them. They thus sacked the country far and wide; among other places, destroying Adda-Kudda, a place of considerable extent near where the steam boats lay, and further remarkable for an extensive dyeing establishment, of which the process is as follows:—In a clay mount, of considerable extent, artificially constructed, a number of pits were dug, four feet wide by eight deep. These were about one quarter, on one fifth filled with indigo balls, three inches in diameter, but very coarse and dirty, and were then filled up with water, and a ley from wood ashes, when the whole was left to ferment. When the fermentation had ceased, a plank was put down, which coarsely raked the deposit to one side, and the cloths, suspended from a gallows, were dipped in the blue water, and hung to dry, alternately, till the colour was approved of; they were then highly glazed, as Clapperton describes, by beating. The colours were good, in consequence of the quantity of indigo used; but not fast, even soiling the hands when touched. (Specimens were on the table of the Society.) All this the *Fallatahs* destroyed, their only object being slaves booty, and destruction; but the art is widely diffused throughout the country.

The inhabitants of Funda are also good weavers of coarse cotton cloths; and did not at all approve of our Manchester goods, in which, they said, there was no stuff; they very much admired, however, our gaudy colours. They are also good common blacksmiths; fashion copper into bowls for their pipes, which they make so long, that when riding they can draw them resting the bowl on their foot; dress and sew leather well; and brew an excellent beer; they are ignorant of distilling, and as yet, indifferent to rum—they will too soon learn, and suffer under its effect.

The breed of horses in the country is small, but the natives are great riders, sitting well on Moorish shaped saddles, high before and behind; the dress of ceremony, when going out on horseback, is a quantity of clothing, such as almost makes the rider helpless; but this is seldom used; the Arab bit is employed. The breed of cows is also small; of sheep and goats middle sized; of poultry very small indeed. Great variety of fish is found in the river, one in every respect externally resembles the salmon, but the fish is white; its average weight is about nine pounds. Two kinds of Alligator, or rather crocodile were met with—one snub-nosed, attacked men, and was only found in brackish water,