

Biography.

A SKETCH
of the Life and Scientific Labours
of the late
SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.
CHAPTER FOURTH.

The author of the present memoir well remembers, in a conversation with Sir Humphry Davy, that the latter observed, a philosopher might always discover how posterity would appreciate his labours, from the opinion entertained of them by contemporary foreigners; who, being unbiassed by circumstances of personality or rivalry, will reduce every object to its just proportions and proper value. If we acknowledge such a standard, and submit the posthumous fame of Davy to its measure, where is the philosopher in our times whose name will attain a higher eminence? Let our readers recall to their recollection the bitter animosity which France and England entertained towards each other in the year 1807, and they will form some idea of the astounding impression which the Bakerian Lecture must have produced on the philosophers of Paris, when, in despite of national vanity, it was crowned by the Institute of France with the prize of Napoleon. Thus did the Voltaic Battery achieve what all the artillery of Britain could never have produced—a spontaneous and willing homage to English superiority! But let not this observation be considered as intended to convey the slightest degree of disrespect, or to encourage any feeling of the disparagement of the French chemists: on the contrary, it is even a question not easily answered, to which party belongs the triumph—to him who won the laurel crown, or to those who so nobly placed it on his brow. They have set an example to future ages which may as materially advance the progress of science, as the researches which called it forth; they have shown, to adopt the language of the *Edinburgh Review*, that the commonwealth of Science is of no party, and of no nation; that it is a pure republic, and always at peace. Its shades are disturbed neither by domestic malice nor foreign levy; they resound not with the cries of factions or of public animosity: falsehood is the only enemy their inhabitants denounce, Truth, and her minister, Reason, the only leaders they follow.

The splendid discovery of the composition of Fixed Alkalies, which we now proceed to consider was announced in Davy's second Bakerian Lecture, read before the Royal Society in November 1807; and was the direct result of an application of the laws of Voltaic decomposition, so admirably developed in his lecture of the preceding year. The memoir therefore affords a very happy instance of philosophical induction, the most brilliant results having been obtained through a chain of reasoning and experiment; and, with the exception perhaps of Newton's account of the first discoveries in Optics, the annals of Science cannot boast of such another monument of transcendent genius. Had it been true, as was at the time insinuated with singular inconsistency, and we will add with equal unfairness, by the *Edinburgh Reviewers*, that the decomposition of the alkalies was accidentally effected by the high power of the apparatus placed at his disposal, Davy's claims to our admiration would have assumed a very different character: in such a case he might be said to have forced open the temple by direct violence, instead of having discovered and touched the secret spring by which its portals were unclosed.

The Fixed Alkalies, as well as the Earths, had formerly been suspected to contain metallic bases; but as no proof, nor even experimental indication of the fact, could be obtained, the idea was by many entirely abandoned; and, with regard to the former of these bodies, the supposition of their being compounds of Hydrogen was considered more plausible, inasmuch as they maintained a striking analogy in sensible qualities, as well as in chemical habitudes, to ammonia, whose composition had been fully established; while the supposed relations between hydrogen and oxygen, the acknowledged principle of acidity, added strength to the conjecture. Still, all the chemists in Europe had in vain attempted to effect their decomposition: they had been tortured by every variety of experiment which ingenuity could suggest or perseverance accomplish, but all in vain; nor was the pursuit abandoned until indefatigable effort had wrecked the patience and exhausted every resource of the experimentalist. Such was the forlorn and disheartening position of the philosopher, when Davy proffered his assistance. He created new instruments, new powers, and fresh resources; and, interrogating Nature on a different plan, her long-cherished secret was revealed.

We have already explained the important fact, established by Davy, that during the development of principles, from their various combinations, by voltaic action, an attraction invariably subsists between oxygen and the positive pole, and inflammable matter and the negative pole; thus, in the decomposition of water, its oxygen was constantly transferred to the former, and its hydrogen to the latter. Furnished with such data, Davy proceeded to submit a fixed alkali to the most intense action of the galvanic pile; believing that if it contained any hydrogen, or other inflammable basis, it would be separated at its negative extremity, and if any oxygen, that it would appear at the opposite end. His first attempts were made on solutions of the alkalies; but notwithstanding the intensity of the electric action, the water alone was decomposed, oxygen and hydrogen being disengaged with violent effervescence, and transferred to their respective poles. The presence of water thus appearing to prevent the desired decomposition, Potass, in a state of igneous fusion was submitted to experiment: when it was immediately evident that combustible matter of some kind, burning with a vivid light, was given off at the negative wire. After various trials, during the progress of which the numerous difficulties which successively arose were as immediately combated by ingenious manipulation, a small piece of potass, sufficiently moistened by the breath to impart to it a conducting power, was placed in an insulated disc of platinum, and connected with the negative side of the battery in a state of intense activity, and a platinum wire communicating with the positive side, was at the same instant brought into contact with the upper surface of the alkali. What followed?—A series of phenomena, each of which the

reader will understand as it is announced; for it will be in strict accordance with those laws which Davy had previously discovered, and which we have been labouring to render intelligible. The potass began to fuse at both its points of electrization; a violent effervescence commenced at the upper or positive surface, while at the lower or negative, instead of any liberation of elastic matter, which must have happened had hydrogen been present, small globules having the appearance of Quicksilver were disengaged, some of which were no sooner formed than they burnt with explosion and bright flame. What must have been the sensations of Davy at this moment! He had decomposed the alkali, and discovered it to contain a metallic basis. The gaseous matter developed at the positive pole, was soon identified as oxygen; but to collect the metallic matter at the opposite extremity, in a sufficient quantity for a satisfactory examination, was not so easy; for such was its attraction for oxygen, that it speedily reverted to the state of alkali by recombining with it. After various trials, Davy found that recently-distilled naphtha presented a medium in which it might be preserved, by covering the metal with a thin transparent film of fluid, which defended from the action of the air, and at the same time allowed an accurate examination of its physical qualities. Thus provided, he proceeded to investigate the properties of the body; giving to it the name of *Potassium*, and which may be described as follows. It is a white metal, instantly tarnishing by exposure to air; at the temperature of 708 Fahrenheit, it exists in small globules, which possess the metallic lustre, opacity, and general appearance of mercury; so that when a globule of mercury is placed near one of potassium, the eye cannot discover any difference between them. At this temperature, however, the metal is only imperfectly fluid; but when gradually heated, it becomes more and more fluid; and at 150, its fluidity is so perfect, that several globules may easily be made to run into one. By reducing its temperature, it becomes, at 50 a soft and malleable solid, which has the lustre of polished silver; it is soft enough, indeed, to be moulded like wax. At about the freezing point of water, it becomes hard and brittle, and exhibits when broken a crystallized texture of perfect whiteness and high metallic splendour. It is also a perfect conductor of both electricity and heat. Thus far, then, it fulfils every condition of a metal; but we have now to mention a quality which has been as invariably associated with the idea of a metal as lustre; and its absence, therefore, in potassium, has given rise to a question, whether, after all, it can with propriety be classed under this denomination;—we allude to great specific gravity. Instead of possessing that ponderosity which we should have expected in a body otherwise metallic, it is so light as not only to swim upon the surface of water, but upon that of naphtha, by far the lightest fluid in nature. We may here introduce an anecdote, which will serve to show, that so inseparable, by long association, are the ideas of ponderosity and metallic splendour that the evidence even of our senses may fail to disentangle them. Shortly after Davy had succeeded in obtaining a quantity of his newly-discovered body, Dr. George Pearson happened to enter the laboratory, and having been shown the substance, and interrogated as to its nature, he at once exclaimed, upon seeing its lustre, "Why, it is metallic, to be sure;" and then balancing it upon his finger, he added, "and bless me, how heavy it is!" Thrown upon water, it instantly decomposes the fluid, and an explosion is produced with a vehement flame; an experiment which is rendered more striking if, for water, ice be substituted; in this latter case it instantly burns with a bright flame, and a deep hole is made in the ice, filled with a fluid, which is found to be a solution of potass. It is scarcely necessary to state that this phenomenon depends upon the very powerful affinity which the metal possesses for oxygen, enabling it even to separate it from its most subtle combinations. The evidence afforded of the nature of the fixed alkali potass, is thus rendered complete. It is a metallic oxide, or, in other words, a body composed of oxygen, and a metal of the most singular description, so light as to swim upon water, and so inflammable as to catch fire by contact with ice!

From these observations the reader will immediately perceive, that the decomposition of the fixed alkali placed in the hands of the experimentalist a new instrument of analysis, scarcely less energetic or of less universal application than the power from which the discovery emanated. So strong is the affinity of potassium for oxygen, that it discovers and decomposes the small quantities of water contained in alcohol and ether. But perhaps the most beautiful illustration of its deoxidizing power, is shown in its action on fixed air, or *Carbonic Acid*; when heated in contact with that gas, it catches fire, and by uniting with its oxygen becomes potass, while the liberated carbon is deposited in the form of charcoal.

As this account has been extended beyond the limits we originally designed for it, we shall merely add, that, upon submitting Soda to the electric battery, under circumstances such as we have already described, a bright metal was obtained similar in its general character to potassium, but possessing distinctive peculiarities which it is not necessary to detail: to this substance Davy gave the name of *Sodium*.

These important discoveries were followed up by an investigation into the nature of the Earths, and the results were communicated in a paper read before the Royal Society on the 30th of June in the same year. It appears that this investigation required still more refined and complicated processes than those which had succeeded with the fixed alkalies, owing to the infusible nature of the earths: the strong affinity of their bases for oxygen made it unavailing to act upon them in solution in water; the only methods that proved successful, were those of operating upon them by electricity in some of the combinations, or of combining them at the moment of their decomposition by electricity, in metallic alloys, so as to obtain evidences of their nature and properties. Our readers are quite sure would not thank us were we to follow the philosopher through all the intricate paths of this investigation; suffice it to say, that, although he was unable to produce the metallic bases of the earths in the same unequivocal form as he produced those of the alkalies, he furnished sufficient evidence of their being metallic oxides.

What an immense step, then, has been made in the investigation of Nature! In sciences kindred to chemistry, the knowledge of the composition of these bodies, and the analogies arising from it, have opened new views, and led to the solution of many problems. In Geology, for instance, has it not shown that agents may have operated in the formation of rocks and earths, which have not hitherto been supposed to exist? It is evident that the metals of the earth cannot exist at the surface of our globe, but it is very probable that they may constitute a part of its interior; and such an assumption would at once offer a plausible theory for the phenomena of volcanoes, the formation of leaves, and the excitement and effects of subterranean heat, and might even lead to a general hypothesis in geology. Our readers must, for the present, be satisfied with these loose hints: we shall hereafter show, that our illustrious chemist followed them up by numerous observations and experiments in a volcanic country. We remember with delight the beautiful display of his theory, as exhibited in an artificial volcano on the table of the Royal Institution—a mountain was modelled in clay, and a quantity of the "metallic bases" introduced into its interior; on water being poured upon it, the metals were soon thrown into violent action—successive explosions were produced—boiling lava was seen flowing down its sides from a crater in miniature—mimic lightnings played around; and the tumultuous applause of the audience might almost, in the instant of dramatic illusion have been mistaken for the shouts of the alarmed fugitives of Herculaneum or Pompeii.

GREAT-BRITAIN, &C.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29.

MR. SADLER'S SPEECH AT WHITBY.

On the 15th instant, the merchants, ship-owners, and other respectable inhabitants of the port of Whitby gave a sumptuous dinner to T. M. Sadler, Esquire, M. P. for Newark, in testimony of their admiration of his transcendent talents, and uniform opposition to that baneful system which has reduced the commerce, and manufactures of this country to their present deplorable state of depression. On the Honorable Gentleman's health being drunk, he delivered the following powerful and impressive Speech, in which he clearly develops the ruinous tendency of the free-trade principles, and the desperate measures which must inevitably result to the country without a speedy recurrence to those measures by which it attained its former prosperity.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—I rise to return my most cordial thanks for the honor you have just done me in drinking my health, and more especially for the distinction you have conferred upon me, by inviting me among you this day. I should, indeed, be wholly ungrateful to the common feelings of human nature, were I not deeply affected at this mark of respect, even when personally considered; but when I advert to the approbation of my public principles and conduct, which it so unequivocally manifests, and to the circumstances, by no means unusual, under which it has been paid to me, I confess I esteem the present as one of the most gratifying moments of my life, nor have I terms in which I can adequately express myself on the occasion. [Cheers.] The last time indeed, I was in public, I was sharing a similar favour from my generous and highly valued constituents, who, since I have had the honour of being their representative, have loaded me with great and increasing obligations; but here, where no such connections could have suggested the present compliment, where till this occasion, I was entirely unknown, and not, personally, a single acquaintance, I cannot but regard your present attentions as one of the most unequivocal proofs ever tendered to any man, that his public conduct has met with general approbation. [Cheers.] To be surrounded under these circumstances, by a company of gentlemen of the highest respectability, whether it regards wealth or character, or information, and more numerous than I could have supposed at this place, respectable as it is, could have possibly mustered on any such occasion, and above all, as I am given to understand, in their approbation of the political principles of the humble individual who is now addressing you, is indeed a distinction of which any man in this kingdom, whatever be his rank, would feel justly and deeply proud. [Loud cheering.]

Gentlemen, in addressing you upon this occasion, you will expect that I should advert to the terms in which your public invitation was expressed. In doing this, however, I must waive any remarks upon the too flattering manner in which you have been kind enough to allude to my character and talents; further than just to say, that my character, I hope, will ever be marked by consistency, and as to my talents, whatever they may be, (and I regret to say they are humble and limited,) I have freely devoted them, under the direction of my conscience, to the service of the country;—a line of conduct which I foresaw would bring upon me the ridicule and abuse of a certain class of speakers and writers, who reserve all their approbation for mere adulation and unprincipled tergiversation, and their hatred for honest and opposite course. I am, however, well content to endure this, certain as I am that such attempts will only tend to bring into more general discussion those principles of policy of which I am a humble advocate, and which must prevail, being, I am fully satisfied, those of patriotism, humanity and truth. To this policy you have adverted in your invitation to me, and especially to that part of it more immediately affecting the interests of the most respectable town. I shall, therefore, on this occasion, confine myself to shortly discussing some of the most prominent and important topics it involves.

Gentlemen, the ancient and genuine policy of this great country, like its constitution, was not, if I may so express myself, struck out at a heat. Dictated by necessity and confirmed by experience, it was the work of successive generations—generations of incomparably greater intellect, and it is to be feared, of far more real patriotism than the present. It was not dictated, perhaps by hiring agents, or patronised by pamphleteers, but it had the deliberate sanction of the sagacious sagacity of men like Bacon, as Locke, as Addison, the signature of immortality,—men who brought to the consideration of the subject not only the broad lights of reason, but the utmost warmth of benevolence, and who left nothing to be discovered in the fundamental principles of human policy to the wifings of the day, but the secret of their own concealed ignorance. That policy, founded upon the certainty of the rich abundance of all things necessary to human existence within our own shores, and of the consequent duty and advantage of developing them, sought from foreign countries those commodities (happily for us, few and unimportant) which nature has denied to this, at the same time strictly protecting those branches of British industry which could not otherwise have been introduced amongst us, or preserved, when established. Now it were most easy to show that whatever reasons there might have been for the introduction of such a system, and that were such as will continue to operate all centuries were rendered infinitely more imperative by that course of events which has caused this country to be more heavily taxed than any other, and (thanks to the support of internal industry) long enabled it to dispense the most liberal reward to human labour of any nation upon earth. To allow British labour to be competed with by foreigners in our own markets, is, in reference to the first fact, our taxation, the most dishonourable and cruel policy that ever was ventured upon by any government in the world, to say nothing of its folly. In behalf of the former system I have mentioned names; I will now make a still more important appeal, namely, to facts. Reasonings, by whomsoever urged, may fail; Experience, never!—Under that system of

policy, and in spite of obstacles the most formidable, the nation increased its wealth, promoted its prosperity, consolidated its power, and extended its dominion. Depressions there certainly did occur in the country, but these, which towards the last were plainly traceable to the introduction of parts of the absurd policy now adopted, were, comparatively speaking, slight and temporary, and, above all, partial: if our country had suffered the rest were in a condition to sustain it. The vibrations of the national balance soon subsided into the equilibrium of settled and general prosperity. The history of the world exhibits not the nation whose advancement was so rapid, and whose prospects seemed to promise such perpetuity. That such was its condition, I appeal to your individual experience. I cite still higher authority. Prosperity was pronounced in glowing language from the throne,—prosperity was echoed in still more exaggerated terms, and attended with boundless promises of its perpetuity and increase, by the minister of the crown. These declarations were believed and acted upon by the people, and their faith has been since imputed to them as their folly and their crime, in some of those, even, who put them forth. But they were true, and would have remained so, but for the perverse alteration, at that moment, of the principles of our national policy. All innovations, Lord Bacon says, is with injury; and he must be blind, indeed, that does not see the injury this has occasioned; but, by a strange fatality, which not unfrequently occurs in the history of human affairs, the suffering has fallen upon the guiltless, while many of those who were necessary to the change have largely benefited by it.

Let us, therefore, now turn to the present condition of things amongst us? What now is the situation of the country? A retrogression in three or four short years, since the new theory has been in operation, of the most alarming nature, in whatever point of view it is considered. What is the great interest—which the place—in this heretofore happy empire, which is prospering? Where is it that general distress is not now experienced, and impending ruin dreaded? What is the pursuit which is profitable to the employer, or sustains in comfort the employed? Who shall say whether that mass of badly suffering, generally pauperized, and almost starving, or the almost starving operatives, which many of their former employers experienced, is the most heavy and heart-rending?

And first, if we turn our eyes to the agriculturalists, who, if calculated as Adam Smith intimates, in reference to the employments solely dependent upon them, which in our census are placed in the other class, will amount, as I have proved elsewhere, to two-thirds of the industrious part of the community—I say, turning to the agricultural operatives, what is their condition? The farmers of the kingdom are on the verge of ruin; many of them are already inextricably engulfed, poverty and distress pursue and have already reached them. The laborers, in entire countries together, are in the deepest distress, and are almost universally pauperized, and their condition has had its full share in reducing the manufacturing operatives to a like, or even a worse situation. With tens of millions of acres of land wholly uncultivated, millions of which are amongst the richest soils in the world; with millions more, especially in Ireland, not half labouring; and with an incredible and increasing number of hands out of employment, and whom we must sustain, though we wholly loose their labour, things have been at length so happily managed, that we habitually employ the labourers of distant countries, while ours are idle; call their fields into cultivation, while we neglect our own; furnish with capital, foreign rivals in other branches of industry, which they will assuredly employ against us, while we voluntarily diminish the national resources;—and still our population is inadequately, and relatively speaking, deeply fed. But the economists recommend perseverance in this policy, and deliberately advise the desertion or abandonment of agriculture to the extent of putting three sixths of our soils out of cultivation. Whether then must the dispossessed millions of wretched fugitives resort? To the manufacturing districts certainly. They must become the rivals of our present operatives there, instead of remaining their steady customers; and that at a time when the goods already fabricated are so immense in quantity as to inundate the world, and so low in price as to starve the most numerous classes of the community. I am well aware, have an answer for all this;—it consists of a future promise; but the people of England have been long abused by promises from the same quarter, and have been cruelly deceived. And, moreover, they have been reduced to such a condition by their miserable mismanagement, that they can no longer wait their fulfillment, were they as undeviatingly true as they are manifestly false. They cannot subsist upon so remote and uncertain contingencies. By a better policy than that now pursued, this country might furnish an abundant supply of food at a relatively cheaper price, and still have enough and to spare, to the evident comfort and advantage of the entire community, and especially of the manufacturing part of it.

Turning, then, to the manufacturing interests,—respecting these the most disheartening and prejudicial system has been adopted. We have legalized the constant introduction, under certain duties, of articles of foreign industry, which have in many branches of business, necessarily interfered with home labour, and greatly diminished its recompense. Our silk manufacturers, our shoemakers, our glove-makers, and very many others, engaged in still more onerous and profitable branches of employment, comprehending in the whole a great multitude of our industrious countrymen, have been subjected to the distressing rivalry of foreigners. That this has lessened the amount of their labour, there can be little doubt; and, moreover, that it has greatly diminished its wages. Indeed, I myself have heard those who were mainly instrumental in introducing the change exult in the vastly greater cheapness of the goods when fabricated, which that change has occasioned; I heard the exultation at that time with sorrow, I heard it with shame, when I recollected that those who uttered it, made no lessening demands upon the public purse, which has still to be replenished in their behalf, by the harder efforts of a suffering people. But the exultation, after all, was not theirs; their interests are adverse, as are those of a body, unaltered by the various interests of the country, managing the successive depression of each by appealing to the selfish feelings of the rest. Thus I think I will remember a certain individual (to whom, however, I have never once alluded personally, notwithstanding the attempted wit that has been so misapplied on that supposition)—I say, I think I remember him holding forth to the Liverpool ship-owners, that they might probably be compensated for the loss of their protection by a similar withdrawal of that of the agriculturists; the gravity of the employment, and, partially at least, he placed it, was heaped, abroad, and then the ship owners, would, of course, share in transporting hither the constant supplies—(little chance of this, however, I ween, under the reciprocity system!) But both shipowners and agriculturists were to get other commodities cheaper by the free trade system; silks, for instance, and the silk manufacturer, in his turn, was to be propitiated by the sacrifice of the throwster, the object of these changes was for the while low prices, otherwise we pay little attention to the sagacity of their promoters; and after all, a more insane attempt than to effectuate that, could never have entered into the head of man, when it is considered that we have a fixed incumbrance or debt, to a vast amount, on which the cheapening of the value of property, and of labour in the country which has to sustain it, operates as an enormous augmentation. The fundholders, the jobbers, the brokers of the country, may and do, for the advantage of these changes; some of these dictate the carrying of them still further into effect, but it will be well for them even with a view to their own permanent inter-

ests to pause, or they will find the mischief they meditate "for others will fall upon their own pate." Eight hundred millions of debt, and cheap prices, are not convertible terms; no more than are foreign competition and British comfort. Seen in the light of true political philosophy, all the different branches of industry in a community are united in the bonds of mutual interest as well as amity; and if one be weaker than the rest, the others are willing to extend to it a helping hand; but the new system sees things in a different light; "buy where you can buy cheapest" is the motto—though it is one which would divest us of all our local duties and attachment, and even of patriotism itself. Hence those engaged in various pursuits which can never be wholly discovered, are taught to eye each other with feelings of jealousy and hostility; they must still cling together, indeed, but with the desperation of drowning men, who drag each other down to destruction. These, gentlemen, are my general views on the subject; generally, I may call them, for they embrace the interests and pursuits of every class amongst us, and I rejoice to say, they are becoming universal among the operatives: The noble English maxim, "Live and let Live," is reviving. Whether it regards the labourer at the plough, or the manufacturer at his loom, I have always felt, what I have somewhere expressed,

"Let those that till, and those that weave,
Still by honest labour live."

And I shall never exchange this feeling for some dry and unfeeling dogma of political economy.

[To be Continued.]

LONDON, OCT. 10.

(From a Morning Paper.)

The intelligence brought by the letters from Turkey is in the highest degree important, and in many respects directly contrary to the statements and rumours which have been current for the last eight or ten days, in regard to the real state of things on the scene of operations. It appears that when the Sultan ascertained that no reliance any longer could be placed either in the strength or the faith of the troops, to whom he had entrusted the defence of his European Provinces, and that the Russians had entered Adrianople without having met even with a shadow of resistance on their march to that city, he saw that no hope remained of saving his capital from the enemy's grasp but through negotiation. Some excitement was at this time manifested among the populace, and a great number of Janissaries, who had, till then, been living unnoticed, emerged from their obscurity, and held several meetings, the object of which was nothing less than the dethronement, and even the assassination of the Sultan, which, at a moment so critical, appeared to the conspirators easy of achievement. The rest of the Mahometan inhabitants of the capital, alarmed by the approach of the Russians, loudly called for Peace, and the Sultan, threatened on all sides, yielded with promptitude to the urgency of circumstances, and sent proposals to the Russian General for an armistice, immediately followed by plenipotentiaries duly vested with power to conclude peace. The General suspended his operations, with the view of allowing time for negotiations; but it was understood at Constantinople that his reply was, that an unconditional surrender to all those points which had been specified in the Emperor's Manifesto at the opening of the war, was required of the Sultan as the only condition of peace.

This answer is said to have roused the haughty temper of the Sultan, and to have driven him to the desperate alternative of deciding the quarrel by a last appeal to arms. He had, a few days before, sent his regular troops, amounting to 40,000 men, to Asia, as a proof of the sincerity of his pacific intentions, and some thousands of irregular militia or volunteers in the capital had at the same time received his orders to disarm. On the receipt of General Diebitsch's message, however, he ordered back his troops to the capital, and desired that portion of the inhabitants on whom he thought reliance might be placed, once more to take up arms, and to make a vigorous stand against the invading enemy. The greatest confusion however prevailed, so soon as it became known that no adjustment had taken place, and that preparations were to be made to defend the City.—The Sultan calculated on the strength of an army amounting to 100,000 men, 40,000 of whom consisted of his regular troops.—Whether he intended to command this force in person, is a point on which no allusion is made in the letters we have seen. Little reliance, however, was placed by the European residents of Pera, in the efficacy of these warlike preparations, and the capture of the capital by Gen. Diebitsch was an event considered by them as unavoidable. A considerable number of the Janissaries, who had recently become conspicuous by new plots against the life of Mahmoud, have been disposed of with promptitude and extreme rigour; but the executions ordered among them were considered by no means calculated to inspire energy and determination in those of whose assistance the Sultan stood so much in need at so critical a moment. It was in the open field that the attempt of the Russians to enter Constantinople was to be resisted, that city possessing no means whatever to stand a siege of even a few hours; and whatever may, at any former period, have been the courage and bravery of the Turks, when incited by the eagerness of triumph, late events have too clearly shown that the salvation of the Ottoman empire must be left to depend on circumstances with which Turkish Patriotism has no concern. Very little else than defeat and flight was therefore expected at Pera from the army which the Sultan was hastily collecting to put into the field; and his unconditional surrender to the terms dictated by the Russians was looked upon as the approaching dearly-purchased result of his late rejection of them.

Such was the state of things in the Ottoman capital up to the date of the letters. On the other hand, the Russians, who, notwithstanding their slackened movements, had made no small progress on the road to Constantinople, and were now known there to be within sixty miles distance, must have reached its gates very soon after being made acquainted with the last steps taken by the Sultan. Under all these circumstances it is almost needless to add, that business of every kind was suspended at Constantinople. The foreign merchants' counting-houses and warehouses were all closed, and so was every shop which did not deal in provisions. An incident is mentioned in some of these letters which will perhaps hereafter call for explanation, if the complaint to which it may already have given rise has not met with the prompt notice which seems to have been due to it. A packet of dispatches sent by Sir Pulteney Malcolm, who was off Tenedos with the whole force under his command, to the British Consul at Adrianople, and containing

enclosures for Mr. Gordon, at Constantinople, was intercepted by the Russian division which had been sent from Adrianople to Enos, to open a communication with the Russian squadron off the Dardanelles. What the ultimate fate of these dispatches has been, is a matter which remains to be told. This mail brings letters from Smyrna of the 18th ult. They communicate nothing of any importance from that place. The greatest anxiety prevailed to learn what things would end in the neighbourhood of Constantinople. We understand that the 8th inst. in which it is stated that the Turkish Commissioners had gone back to the Capital, after having come to an agreement with the Russian General on all the points of the preliminary treaty, except one,—namely, that which related to the indemnity; and in this Count Diebitsch affirmed that his powers did not permit him to make any modification. The Turkish Commissioners, on their part, declared that it was impossible to admit the claims of the Russians to the extent described, and therefore begged to return to Constantinople for fresh instructions. They were accompanied, it is said, to the capital, at their own request, by an escort of Russian cavalry, which, under the irritated state of the popular mind, they conceived necessary to their security. They were allowed by Count Diebitsch till the 15th, to accede to the preliminary clause of the treaty, and to sign the preliminary treaty, but not arriving by that time, he had declared it to be his intention to pursue hostilities with the utmost vigour.

LIVERPOOL, OCTOBER 14.—The Russian State Gazette of the 2d instant and the Austrian Observer of the 28th ult. have brought official intelligence of peace having been signed at Adrianople on the 14th of September. It appears that General Diebitsch had demanded that the whole of the commercial indemnity stipulated by the treaty of Akerman should be paid at once, on the ratification of the treaty, and had declared that his army should retain all its positions till payment should be made. The Turkish plenipotentiaries declared that this was impossible, and wrote for instructions to Constantinople, having obtained a delay of ten days for that purpose. The Sultan, whose spirit seems to have been wholly subdued, sent them orders to sign the treaty, and to announce that he would not refuse his ratification to it; but at the same time to say, "that he expected, from the generosity of the Emperor, conditions which he would be able to fulfil." The English and French Ambassadors, determined to use their influence to procure more time for the Sultan, and after a long conference with the Prussian minister, M. Von Royer, induced him, on the 8th September, to embark for Rodosto, and to repair to the headquarters of General Diebitsch. There he succeeded so far to obtain, that instead of one there should be three payments to liquidate the commercial indemnity, that they should be made at the time most convenient to the Porte. General Diebitsch remaining at Adrianople till the first instalment should be paid, and retiring gradually, as we have already stated, after each of the others. It is also said that M. Von Royer was directed by the French and English Ambassadors to endeavour to change the articles by which the Porte agreed to recognise the Protocol of the 22d March, and the extension of the limits of Greece to the gulphs of Arta and Volo, and to leave the question of Greek boundaries to be settled at the conference in London. The Turkish plenipotentiaries, adds the article, had no objection to this alteration, provided General Diebitsch should give his consent.

"It is affirmed that the two powers have agreed upon the following conditions:—The ancient treaties, particularly that of Akerman, are re-established. The free passage of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles is assured to the ships of all nations which shall not be at war with Russia or the Porte. The privileges and liberties stipulated by the treaty of Akerman for the inhabitants of the Principalities are confirmed and more completely secured. Servia shall enjoy the same privileges and liberties. Six districts, which have been improperly separated from that province by the Turks, shall be re-united to it. All the places on the left bank of the Danube shall belong to Wallachia and Moldavia, and shall be exempt from Turkish garrisons. Giurgiu shall be demolished. Poti, Anapa, and Akhalzik, ceded to Russia. The Protocol of the 22d of March is recognized, subject to negotiations with the Powers, parties to the treaty of London. All christian subjects may emigrate with their property. An indemnity of 11,500,000 ducats, of which 1,500,000 are to be paid in three instalments at intervals of six months, and the remainder in ten annual instalments. The pay of this sum is guaranteed by the occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia. The Porte has the option of discharging the debt in a shorter time, and the Russian troops will deliver up the provinces immediately after the entire payment of the indemnity."

Before the departure of the last despatches from Sir Robert Gordon, at Constantinople, the Turkish Government had received a report from the Grand Vizier, announcing that an engagement had taken place before Choumla, on the 5th September. It was stated in the report, that the Russians, having erected a battery, commenced a very vigorous cannonading on Choumla, which was returned by the Turkish garrison with equal spirit. The firing was kept up on both sides, until a shell, thrown from Choumla, fell, and exploded on the Russian magazine, which blew up, and occasioned considerable havoc among the Russians. A smart attack was now made, which ended in the Russians being compelled to withdraw to Jeni-bazar, with a loss of between three and four thousand men.

NOTICE.

By Virtue and in pursuance of a Licence from His Honor the President, and His Majesty's Council.
NOTICE is hereby given, that on Tuesday the 8th day of December next, at 3 o'clock, p.m. will be sold at the house of Mr. Gillies, in Finsbury, containing 200 acres—20 of which are cleared, situated on the Washedmoor road—being Lot No. 2, opposite the Lot of Mr. Pickett, being next adjoining a Lot of Mr. L. Alexander, part of the Real Estate of the late Alexander M'Beath, deceased. The same will be sold for the payment of the debts of the said Alex. M'Beath, at which time and place—Terms and other particulars made known.
ROBERT M'BEATH,
Administrator.
Nov. 7th, 1829.