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(No. 1445.)

Foreign Intelligence.

BOEARDMENT OF ODESSA.

We extract the following notice from the "London Times" of the 9th of May.

It is remarkable that, although seventeen days have now elapsed since the bombardment of Odessa on the 23rd ult., and several accounts of that important operation have been made public by the French, the German, and even the Russian Government, no authentic or official account of this event has yet been published, and the only account now received by the British Government from the officers in command of our own fleet. We now have before us a short despatch of the French Admiral dated from his flagship the *Ville de Paris*, in the roads of Odessa, on the 5th of April, and published in the *Messenger* of the 6th of May. We have also a despatch, or report, from the Russian General, ORESKEXSKY, of the 23rd of April, which gives the Russian account of these operations; and, lastly, we have a more detailed account, which has gone the round of the German papers, and has been transmitted to us from Vienna, but which includes a variety of particulars not confirmed by any official information. With regard to this last communication, we may at once observe that the only points more or less worthy of notice do not coincide in point of date with the statements it contains. We have no reason to believe that the Russian vessels or the combined fleets reached Odessa as early as the 15th of April, or that any negotiations were had with the town as late as the 23rd, or that on the 17th the fleet thundered fire a salute of 800 guns. The actual occurrence here is rather more complex than the Austrian Military Governor of Odessa seems to have been extremely anxious, by the immediate publication of his report, to bring to the public's order of the day, to dispel, or at least to diminish, the alarm which such an attack was calculated to excite.

There is no doubt that it was on the afternoon of the 21st of April that the combined fleets, consisting of three-tensers, 13 two-deckers, 40 steam-frigates, cast anchor at a distance of about two miles from the mouth of the river. On the 22nd, the fleets of the English, Spanish, and French sailing in the following order, to which summons no reply was returned. On the morning of the 23rd following morning the nine steamers of the fleet—our two by the French account says, eight, three by the Russians, and the remainder came within range, and attacked the batteries of the Imperial mole. The Russians claim to have generally repulsed the fleet; and of these steamers, for General ORESKEXSKY affirms that one was a vessel of 54 guns, and several others of 54 guns each, the *Extrication*, which was the heaviest steam frigate of the fleet, carries but 28 guns, and the *Assault* has only 12 guns, and is the smallest of the armament. The Russian batteries are stated to have been armed with 48 pounders only, and consequently it is not surprising that we were enabled to pour in the fire of their heavy guns without suffering much inconvenience in return. It does not appear, however, that the ships took any part in the action. It seems, however, that a successful attempt was made to force the Russians to abandon the fort of the suburbs where the military stores were collected, and to burn the shipping in the harbor. It is a curious circumstance of importance fact, expressly stated in the French despatch, that the powder magazines were shot, and that the explosion was in the port were either burnt or seriously injured by the shells. All the accounts concur in stating that the fort of the suburbs, properly so called, was untouched, and, although by far the greater part of the inhabitants were killed or wounded, those who remained seem to have incurred very little real danger. The Russian batteries acknowledged only 4 killed, and the wounded on the side of the enemy, and it is asserted that only one battery of four guns was effectively destroyed, and that a fire of 700 rounds was then thrown, according to both accounts, burst out of the *Mowla*, states, however, that it took six or seven minutes to be blown up, was defended by a battery of 12 guns, which appears to correspond to the battery described in the Russian despatch, and this point was undoubtedly defended with great success. The sea is described as rough during the whole day, and as being very high from shore. As evening approached the configuration of the vessels and the stores raged with terrible effects; but the boats were already evacuated the town, and, though a renewal of the attack by the heavier ships

of the fleet was apprehended on the 26th, the fleets weighed anchor on the 27th and quitted the coast.

Great interest is attached to the effects of this operation, as one of the first occasions we have had to try the effect of modern gunnery and modern engines of destruction in the still undetermined question of ships versus forts; but, if the particulars we have collected from these accounts are correct, this experiment is not of a decisive character. The large ships were not engaged, and the effect of the broadsides of a 90 or 100 gun ship on a fort upon a few feet distant was not tried. The Admirals appear to have thought that these petty forts of Odessa were not worthy of so severe a trial, and to have accordingly sent in the steam squadron to do the work. This steam squadron consists, however, almost entirely of mail-order steamers, for we are not informed that the *Sanspareil*, *Agamemnon*, or *Charlotta* were engaged; and it is a matter of essential consequence to the movements of the fleet to preserve the machinery of these vessels from damage. We infer from the French account that up positions in which they had little to apprehend from the fire of the enemy, and that the armaments, with their shells and other projectiles from a long range. Their object was not to destroy the fort, but on the contrary, great pains were obviously taken to respect both the streets and squares of Odessa, and the merchant vessels in the harbor, and to spare the town the necessity of punishing the Russian authorities for their outrageous conduct in firing upon a flag of truce from the Forts before even the declaration of war could be distinctly known to the town. The *Mowla* was the only Russian vessel which was actually not exceeded. The Admirals kept in reserve their most formidable engines of destruction, the steam frigates, and they fired on Odessa, although it was clear that the town was entirely at their mercy. Neither the Russians nor the English are reported to have lost the number of 65,000, who were said to be collected there, which have preserved the town from total destruction. If the fleet had really opened its fire, and it is evident from the report, supposing that the statement of casualties published by General ORESKEXSKY is at all correct, that the attack was not of a nature to inflict a very formidable destruction on the population. Although a bombardment is one of the most appalling operations of war, we had occasion to remark in our usual references to some former examples in Spain and elsewhere, that a very large number of shells may be thrown even without doing any great damage, and that a small loss of life, and the general effect of a bombardment is rather the destruction of property than of the forces of the enemy. In this instance no attempt was made to compel Odessa to capitulate; the pretence of landing a party of troops is either altogether an invention, or it was confined to a few men who attacked to the boats of the squadron, and may possibly have landed to spike some guns, although we question the fact. Our operations will assume a more important character, if they are directed against the maritime forces of the enemy properly so called, or against those great naval establishments which have been hitherto regarded as the basis of our maritime ascendancy over those seas.

Without admitting a severe blow on our flag, we are not prepared to think we can materially shake the power of Russia over the East, and we hope to learn that the operations of the fleet are directed against the means of preparing for a more serious and a longer character.

The *London Press* of the 4th has an Odessa letter of the 25th ult., of which the following is a translation:—
 "The last ship belonging to the combined fleet, and which we have had the pleasure of seeing and terror of the inhabitants of Odessa have in some measure subdued. As the 13th of April, we have had the pleasure of seeing a part of the people fled. As on the 13th, the *Fortius*, which had nominally come to fetch away the English flag, and which was fired at by the strand batteries, the commander of the port probably had a presentiment that he might be surrounded and captured. Accordingly, on the 14th of April, he addressed a proclamation to the inhabitants of Odessa, in which he informed them, as a blockade, or even a bombardment, was to be expected, to remove their goods and families to the interior. On the 14th seven men of war have in sight, and announced their arrival by discharging a salute. We have not had the pleasure of the assurance of the Russian officers that the danger was not so near, the terrified people

AND

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1854.

fled from the city, which was garrisoned by strong detachments of soldiers.

A without loss of time intelligence was forwarded to St. Petersburg and Sobotski that the bombardment of Odessa had begun on the 14th. The newly arrived vessels, however, kept out of the range of the port batteries, and snatched up all the merchant-steamers that attempted to enter the harbor. During the night between the 14th and 15th, the vessels sent a few broadsides into the magazines near the beach, and one was burnt. The watchfulness of the commander of the port, who had made all the necessary preparations for extinguishing a fire, saved us from any greater misfortune. On the 15th, the ships left for Varna, with their prizes, and every one thought the danger was over. On the 16th, towards 6 in the evening, some 17 vessels appeared; on their arrival placed themselves just within range of our batteries, and no money they then struck, and their first salutation was a broadside from 900 guns.

On the 17th April a steamer, with a flag of truce flying, entered the port, but a few shells which were fired from the batteries provoked her retreating. Her commanding ship went off to the steamer, which had brought a written summons from the British Government for the surrender of the ships which were in port. This was promptly refused, and at 3 on the same day the ships, then at a distance of half a mile from the shore, were on our strand batteries, two of which were dismantled. Two magazines took fire, but as the shells were not in the magazines, the injured batteries got into order. On the 22d, at 8 in the morning, a still more violent bombardment was received, and was continued without interruption until half past 6 in the evening. Most of the strand batteries were injured, and the most severely the corner of the port were almost entirely dismantled.

The loss of the Russians, who displayed the greatest intrepidity, is estimated at 200 men, more than 300 were dangerously, and more than twice as many were severely wounded. Six magazines were burnt. The city suffered comparatively little, though a great number of houses were severely wounded. Six windows of the *Woronoff Palace*, were a prey to the flames. Odessa has completely changed its external appearance. The brick ornamente has broken all the windows, many churches are injured. The fleet also suffered from five ships were burnt, and taken in tow to Varna. The French attempted to land at the south-west end of the mole, but were repulsed by the fort and the Russian forces. We are still occupied in quenching the burning fires. During the action the sea ran extremely high.

Paroxysm of War.

When we become generally it proper to be sober and extract from all the good of which so nations an evil is susceptible. The following article, which furnishes an appropriate comment on the important declaration published in our last number, is deserving of notice.
 "The present war seems likely to initiate a memorable era, not only in the annals of mankind, but in the history of the human race. To the outbreak of hostilities, the letting loose of a hundred pent-up elements of evil, and the opening of the flood-gates of the most violent passions, and the removal of the most necessary restraints, we shall have attributed one of the greatest and most striking instances of onward progress that has hitherto illustrated the annals of mankind. It is due to the wisdom of the most merciful and beneficent Providence; it is due to the nobility and courage of our own people; it is due to the noble and heroic spirits who have not been on the side on which human nature can be contemplated with most satisfaction, yet there have been not few noble and heroic spirits, and those of no man note, who have considered that this scourge of the human race is a necessary condition of the progress of mankind, required to shake off the hideousness of barbarism, and to clear the way for the advent of more beneficent elements for human industry and enterprise. A struggle for life and death was perhaps required to enable man to get to his feet, to be taught and to teach him how many obstacles, apparently insurmountable, may be removed by the power of human intelligence and courage. On its first appearance among mankind the aspect of war was indeed savage and repulsive. It refused to confer any benefits, but an enemy's rights and feelings of human-

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Notices from the National Authorities, Consular Notices, or notices of general interest, Notices to Public Schools, Churches, Hospital Benevolent and Beneficent Societies, &c.— Gratis.

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ty. A prisoner of war had nothing to look for from his captor but instant death, and this savage policy was extended to non-combatants, with little respect to the claims of sex, age, or innocence. The virtue of Scario and ALEXANDER, so celebrated throughout antiquity, so admirable because so rare, could scarcely be merely in refraining from offering the basest and most cowardly outrage to a female prisoner. Increasing civilization, and a juster view of the instability of fortune which can make the victor of today the fugitive of tomorrow, have gradually introduced more humane feelings.

25 changes of prisoners have become usual; and Scario, as a victor, has gained additional credit, merely in refraining from offering the basest and most cowardly outrage to a female prisoner. Increasing civilization, and a juster view of the instability of fortune which can make the victor of today the fugitive of tomorrow, have gradually introduced more humane feelings.

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PROFITABLE COMPENSATION.

The law of compensation prevails throughout Nature, and is equally conspicuous in mundane affairs. If the year of our Lord 1854 shall be remembered as the year which has seen the commencement of a new era in the history of the recurrence of a Bitter Continental War, after an enduring Peace of forty years, it will be at the same time distinguished for various benefits conferred upon Commerce, Civilization, and to advancement of Nations, and the progress of progress. The heavy thunder-cloud of War—charge, as it is, with its lightning Baskets, and its destructive effluents, may be found to prevail in the visible atmosphere around and above us, but attended with ulterior beneficial effects; dark and lowering as it looms at present, it is not without silver lining. The observant eye, ever now, descends to the disposition of the clouds, prosperity identified with the current year, which cannot fail to give satisfaction to the Merchant and Manufacturer, as he casts a retrospective glance over the future, and scans the vista of coming events. No short period has produced the happy results of the present war, interesting announcements, pregnant with results of deep importance to our swelling Commerce, and the progress of the year. New markets are opening up day by day for British Trade and Manufactures. Our Country (Manufacturers) are heaving up their sails, and are about to set sail, and to call all classes at home and abroad shore in the common weal.

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