

THE ORIENTAL CONFLICT.

SLAUGHTER OF A BODY OF HORSE.

PARTICULARS OF THE ANNIHILATION OF MOUSSA PASHA'S BODY OF FOUR THOUSAND CIRCASSIANS.

LONDON, June 4.—The correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* sends the following from Erzeroum, dated June 2: "I have to record the most terrible event of the present war. Two nights ago 4,000 Circassian cavalry, commanded by Moussa Pasha, were ordered to proceed toward Kars, entirely unsupported by infantry or artillery. They rested for the night at Bekli-Ahmed. The Russians secretly organized a powerful force, and during the night surrounded and surprised the village in which the Circassians had halted. Only about five per cent. of the entire force of 4,000 Circassians escaped the carnage which followed. Moussa Pasha himself is among the missing. The Circassians fought desperately, and no quarter was given."

ACTIVE MOVEMENTS IN ASIA MINOR.

DEFEAT OF TURKISH CAVALRY NEAR KARS—THAT POSITION COMPLETELY INVESTED, AND THE GARRISON ON HALF RATIONS—THE TURKISH RIGHT FALLING BACK BEFORE THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE.

TIFLIS, June 2.—The Russian General Kommroff, commanding at Ardahan, on the 30th of May reconnoitred beyond Pennek and Oitz.

The Turkish cavalry under Moussa Pasha have been defeated and dispersed near Bebrachef. The Russians captured two mountain guns, four ammunition wagons, and two standards. The Russian loss was seven killed and 30 wounded. The Turks left 83 dead on the field.

ERZEROU, June 1.—During the night of May 29 the Russians defeated and routed Moussa Pasha's Circassians at Bekli Ahmed, near Kars. Bekli Ahmed was burned. Kars is amply provisioned, but, as a precautionary measure, the garrison has been put on half rations.

ERZEROU, June 2.—The vanguard of the Russian right wing has appeared before Olti. The Turks are retreating from Olti. A detachment of the Russian centre has reached Soghanli. Mukhtar Pasha's position at Sevin is thus rendered untenable, as the Russians could turn his flank via Getshevan. Kars is completely invested. Telegraphic communication ceased two days ago. The detachments of Karakalissa and Toprak-Kaleh are falling back upon Delibaba before the advance of the Russian left wing. A detachment from Van, to reinforce Mukhtar Pasha, is expected at Hassan-Kaleh. A detachment from the Russian centre is marching to intercept it. The weather is fine.

LONDON, June 3.—Reuter's dispatch from Erzeroum says it is confirmed that scouts belonging to the Russian centre column patrol as far as the Soghanli Mountains. The Turkish head-quarters have fallen back on Heuprikoi. The vanguard of the Russian right wing has passed Olti and Kizil-Kilissa.

Reuter's Constantinople dispatch states that the arrival of the Russian forces at Soghanli and Kizil-Kilissa brings two strong Russian columns within six hours' march of Erzeroum.

A later dispatch says intelligence has been received that Mukhtar Pasha is falling back on Zaim. The Army is considered to be in a grave position.

LONDON, June 4.—The *Standard* has the following dispatch from Erzeroum June 3: "Preparations are being made here for the defense of the town."

An Athens dispatch says: "The Russians are advancing in force toward Diarbekir. It is said the Russians lost 3,000 men in recent attacks on Kars."

THE DANUBE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CZAR AT BUCHAREST—THE FLOOD AT OLTENITZA—A BULGARIAN LEGION—DISEASE IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

ST. PETERSBERG, June 3.—The Czar, Czarewitsch, and Grand Duke Sergius left for the Danube on Saturday at midnight.

LONDON, June 4.—A dispatch from Bucharest of June 3 says the Czar, the Czarewitsch, and the Grand Duke Vladimir have arrived here. The reception by the public was respectful, but not cordial.

The *Times* has the following war news from Rustchuk, June 2: On account of the rising of the river, it has been necessary to evacuate the intrenchments to the west of Oltenitza, and upon the islands in the Danube.

BUCHAREST, June 3.—The Bulgarian Legion forming at Ploiesti numbers 5,000. Preparations have been made to add cavalry and artillery so as to make a complete organization. Tcherkasski, who has charge of arrangements for civil administration in Bulgaria, has arrived in Bucharest.

THE PEACE RUMORS.

LONDON, June 4.—Dispatches to the *Standard* from Vienna, say the Ministeria peace rumors. The *Fremdenblatt* concerning them idle dreams, and the *Pesther Lloyd* declares they are well founded.

The *Standard's* correspondent has the best authority for stating that Sabdollah Bey, the new Turkish Ambassador to Berlin, left Constantinople on Saturday with instructions regarding the course to be pursued if the mediation of Germany is offered at a later stage of the war.

A conspiracy has been discovered in Belgrade against Prince Milan and in favor of the Prince of Montenegro. Many members of the Omladino have been arrested. Serious events are likely to follow.

The *Tagblatt* hears from a good source that a Russo-Greek alliance has been arranged for war.

A Berlin dispatch says it is reported from Vienna that Russia's programme, on the conclusion of peace, will be self-government for Bosnia, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and the Russians of Lebanon, European Governments, a European Commission of Control, European garrisons for some time, and the cession of territory in Armenia.

LONDON, June 4.—The *Times'* Vienna correspondent sends the following confirmation of reports from Paris in regard to Count Schouvaloff: "Count Schouvaloff is supposed to be the bearer of the answer to Lord Derby's note. It seems Russia has taken advantage of the occasion to declare that she is still in the position previously held by her, and has only taken up arms for the amelioration of the condition of the Christians. Besides these general assurances the answer is said to contain special assurances about Constantinople."

AFFAIRS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

LONDON, June 3.—The Reuter's dispatch from Syra says: "The Turks lack good commanders. Redif Pasha, Minister of War, and Mahmud Damad Pasha, Marshal of the Palace and brother-in-law of the Sultan, represent the war party. Edhem and Saivet Pashas, the Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, represent the party which will be willing to agree to mediation after a decisive engagement has been fought."

Reuter's telegram from Constantinople says: "Austria recently sent a note to the Porte demanding a written declaration that the restrictions on navigation of the Danube shall not last a day longer than the war, or be increased or form a precedent. The Porte and Russia have both sent the declaration required."

The Chamber of Deputies have voted in favor of the abolition of the Press Bureau, and of making an inquiry into extraordinary expenditures."

LONDON, June 4.—A Vienna dispatch says that Mehmed Kuchdi Pasha has had an audience with the Sultan. He is regarded as the coming Grand Vizier. An Athens dispatch says: Intelligence has been received from Constantinople that after the proclamation of the state of siege about 200 of Midhat Pasha's

adherents were summarily arrested and imprisoned. The thoughts of many people are turning toward Ex-Sultan Murad. They know his health is greatly improved, and that if he appeared in public the people would demand his restoration. Murad has applied for permission to go to his country residence at Scutari. The Sultan is greatly embarrassed. The situation is one of great delicacy and peril. It is feared the people will rise in many parts of the country. If they do so they will triumph unless revolting severity is used."

FORCES AND MOVEMENTS REVIEWED

THE SWOLLEN DANUBE BARRING THE WAY

—THE RUSSIAN FORCES IN POSITION—

A CONFLICT BEFORE JULY IMPROBABLE

—THE CHIEF POINTS OF CONCENTRATION—THE TURKISH FORCES IN ASIA,

AND THE RUSSIAN POSITIONS.

LONDON, June 3.—On the Danube the Russian forces have at last occupied the chief positions, and their lines extend from Galatz to Kalafat. But the formidable river bars their way, and until the stream returns to its normal Summer level it will be perilous, if not physically impossible, to take the Army across. It is now hardly possible that the Russians can execute this great military operation for the next three weeks. They may come to close quarters with the Turkish armies about the beginning of July, so that the campaign will probably be prosecuted under the greatest heats of Summer. The region of the Lower Danube is terribly unhealthy for strangers, so it may be presumed the Russians will endeavor to traverse with all celerity the more unhealthy districts. Those troops will fare worse which have to sit down before a fortress or guard a strong place in the chain of communications, as an army in movement will generally keep better health than garrison or investing forces. The character and duration of the struggle in Bulgaria are the subject of much speculation, particularly in Germany and Austria, where every officer seems to have made his own particular study of the campaign. The general tenor of these criticisms is adverse to the Turks, not from any doubt that they will make a good fight and even inflict serious repulses on their enemy, but from the prepossession that the superiority in numbers, efficiency of organization, and strategical ability are on the side of the Russians. There are 240,000 Russians in position on the Danube, without counting the Roumanians or the reserves that are being brought forward, which amount to 60,000 men. There are 80,000 men east of Ibrail, and 20,000, with considerable reserves, at Botgrad, which is the point of support for this part of the line. The strength and position of the works at Reni and Ibrail indicate that they are defensive and not offensive, the precautions taken being directed against an attack by the Turkish fleet and to prevent the passage of the river by the Turks. At Ibrail there are three batteries—one west of the town, sweeping the Danube with four 12-pounders and two guns of larger calibre up to the point formed by the Matchin Channel, and two east of the town raking the Matchin Channel, one of which is armed with four guns of position and four howitzers, and the other with eight pieces of still larger calibre and two mortars, from which projectiles are said to have reached Matchin. There is a fourth battery of lighter guns on the island opposite Matchin. From Ibrail up to the lines of Bucharest and Oltenitza and Bucharest and Giurgevo there are no troops, except a number requisite to guard against a possible surprise; but between Bucharest and Giurgevo the concentration is on a large scale. The forces are in three camps, each containing 30,000 men, to which must be added another 10,000 at Giurgevo. Thus there are 100,000 men now concentrated on the Bucharest and Giurgevo line along the railway, who may be directed either against the line of Rustchuk and Turtukai, or Rustchuk and Sistova. On the spot it is believed the latter will be chosen, and that the demonstration at Oltenitza is merely a feint. The second concentration is on both sides of the River Aluta. East of the river are 60,000 men in two camps, both on the high road to Turnu-Magureli. West of the Aluta are four camps, representing about 80,000 men. This may be regarded as the centre of the line. Further west, on the line of Kalafat and Turnseverin, last accounts stated the number of Russians to be over 40,000.

The Turkish Army on the Asiatic side appears to have been deplorably neglected. The troops are worse disciplined, neglected and provided than those on the Danube; but the nature of the warfare in Asia to some degree makes deficiencies of the armies less vital. The campaign will be one in which strategy will be of less and hard fighting of more importance. Even irregular troops may be able to do service in some positions which it is in the power of Mukhtar Pasha to defend.

The Russian right wing has advanced from Ardahan, via Urut, to Pennek, 15 miles north of Bardcz. Of the centre we have no reliable information, but it has been reported that they have taken both Dilimusa and Getshevan. According to another account these places are being attacked by detachments, while the main force is following the northern road over the Soghanli range. At all events, the right and centre are well down toward positions from which attack could be made on Mukhtar Pasha; but the left wing has not yet advanced far enough to participate in a combined movement. This delay is, to a great extent, in consequence of difficulties of the country through which the left wing is marching. All supplies have to be drawn from Erivan, from which place the only easy road leads through Persian territory, the other routes being mountain passes. It the battle which is to decide the fate of Erzeroum is not fought until the Erivan column has forced the Turkish positions at Toprak-Kaleh, and is within supporting distance of the other columns, progress is likely to be, as heretofore, very slow. It is not impossible, however, that the right and centre, with the aid of a force from Batoum operating on the Choruk River, may attack Mukhtar Pasha from the direction of Olti and Soghanli, provided Mukhtar waits to be attacked. The latest news of him, via Constantinople, represents that he was falling back from the Bardcz and Erzeroum positions. It is to be remarked, however, that news from Constantinople, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Turks, is peculiarly untrustworthy. Thus we had last week the announcements that the Russians had occupied Van and Olti, both of which were false, and probably the result of a panic, just as the reiterated story of the recapture of Ardahan was probably the result of blundering design on the part of the Government to appease the populace of Constantinople. On the other hand, the war news made public by the Russian Government is generally of no importance whatever, or several days behind time.