

HORNETS'



NEST.

VOLUME I.

" QUI SE CONNOVERIT (VEL US NON TANGERE CLAMO)
" PLURIB; ET INIGRIS TOTA SARTABITUR URBE."

NUMBER 18.

BY RITA M. MABLE, ESQ.

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TERMS OF THE NEST.

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FOREIGN.

PARIS, OCTOBER 3. Nineteenth Bulletin of the Grand Army.

Moscow, Sept. 16.
The French army pursued the enemy upon Moscow, by the three routes, Mojaisk, Svenigorod and Kalouga. The king of Naples was on the 9th at Koubiasske, the viceroy at Rouza, and prince Poniatowski at Feminskoe. The head quarters were on the 12th transferred from Mojaisk to Peselina; on the 13th they were at the castle of Berwaka; on the 14th, at mid-day, we entered Moscow. The enemy had raised on the Sparrow Mountain, two wreaths from the city, some doubts, which he abandoned. The city of Moscow is as large as Paris; it is an extremely rich city, full of palaces of all the nobles of the empire. The Russian governor, Rostapchin, wished to ruin this fine city, when he saw it abandoned by the Russian army. He had armed 300 malefactors, whom he had taken from the dungeons; he also summoned together 6000 satellites, and distributed arms among them from the arsenal. Our advanced guard arrived in the centre of the city, and was received by a fire of musketry, which issued from the Kremlin. The king of Naples ordered a battery of a few pieces of cannon to be opened, dispersed this rabble, and took possession of the Kremlin. We have found in the arsenal 60 thousand new muskets, and 123 pieces of cannon, on their carriages. The most complete anarchy reigned in the city; some drunken madmen ran through its different quarters, every where set fire to them. The governor Rostapchin had caused all the merchants and shopkeepers to be carried off, thro' whose instrumentality order might have been re-established. More than 400 French and Germans were arrested by his orders; in fine, he had taken the precaution of carrying off the firemen with the fire engines; so that the most complete anarchy has desolated this great & fine city, and the flames are devouring it. We have found in it considerable resources of every kind. The emperor is lodged in the Kremlin, which is in the centre of

the city, like a kind of citadel, surrounded by high walls. Thirty thousand wounded or sick Russians are in the hospitals, abandoned, without succour, and without nourishment.

The Russians acknowledge that they lost fifty thousand men in the battle of Moskwa. Prince Bagration was mortally wounded. A list has been made of the Russian generals wounded or killed in the battle; it amounts to between forty-five and fifty.

Twentieth Bulletin of the Grand Army.

Moscow, Sept. 17.
The Russians have celebrated *Te Deum* for the battle of Polotzk. *Te Deum* have been sung for the battles of Riga, for the battle of Ostrowno, and for that of Smolensk. According to the Russian accounts they were every where conquerors, and they drove the French to a great distance from the field of battle. It was then amidst the strains of the Russian *Te Deum* that the army arrived at Moscow. There they thought themselves conquerors; at least the population thought so, for well informed persons knew what was passing.

Moscow is the entrepot of Asia and of Europe. Its warehouses were immense; every house was provided for eight months with necessaries of every description. It was only the evening before, and the day of our entrance, that the danger became known. We found in the house of the miserable Rostapchin some papers, and a letter half written; he fled without finishing it.

Moscow, one of the finest and richest cities in the world, is no more. On the 14th the Russians set fire to the Exchange, the Bazar, and the Hospital. On the 16th a violent wind arose. Three or four hundred ruffians set fire to the city in 500 different places at the same moment, by order of the governor Rostapchin. Five sixths of the houses were built of wood; and the fire spread with a prodigious rapidity; it was an ocean of flame. Churches, of which there were sixteen hundred; above one thousand palaces, immense magazines, nearly all have fallen a prey to the flames. The Kremlin has been preserved.

The loss is incalculable for Russia, for her commerce, and for her nobility, who had left all there. It is not over rating its value to state it at many millions.

About 100 of these incendiaries have been apprehended and shot; all of them declared, that they acted under the orders of Rostapchin, and the director of the police.

Thirty thousand sick and wounded Russians have been burnt. The richest commercial houses in Russia are ruined. The shock must be considerable. The clothing, the magazines, and the equipments of the Russian army have been consumed. They have thus lost every thing; they would remove nothing, because they always thought it impossible for us to reach Moscow, and because they were willing to deceive the people. When they saw all in the hands of the French, they conceived the horrible project of destroying by fire this first capital;

and they have reduced to beggary 300,000 respectable inhabitants. This is the crime of Rostapchin, executed by felons liberated from the prisons.

The resources which the army have found are consequently much diminished; however, we have collected, and are still collecting a number of necessaries. As the cellars are untouched by the fire; and the inhabitants, during the last 24 hours have saved many articles. They endeavoured to stop the progress of the flames; but the governor had taken the horrid precaution to carry off or destroy all the engines.

The army is recovering from its fatigues; it has abundance of bread, potatoes, cabbages and other vegetables, meat, salted provisions, wine, brandy, sugar, coffee—and in short, provisions of all sorts.

The advanced guard is twenty versts on the road to Kassa, by which the enemy is retreating. Another French advanced guard is on the road to St. Petersburg, where the enemy has not a single soldier. The temperature is still that of Autumn. The soldiers have found, and still continue to find, a number of papers and letters for the army. Moscow was the depot of those articles.

Twenty first Bulletin of the Grand Army.

Moscow, Sept. 20.
Three hundred incendiaries have been arrested and shot; they were provided with fuses, six inches long, which they had between two pieces of wood; they had also squibs, which they threw upon the roofs of the houses. The wretch Rostapchin had these prepared on the pretence that he wished to send a balloon full of combustible matter amidst the French army. He thus got together the squibs and other materials, necessary for the execution of his project.

The fires subsided on the 19th & 20th; three quarters of the city are burnt; among other palaces that beautiful one of Catharine, which had been newly finished; not above a quarter of the houses remain.

While Rostapchin was furling away the fire engines of the city, he left behind him 60,000 muskets, 150 pieces of cannon, more than 600,000 balls and shells, 1,500,000 cartridges, 400,000 pounds of gunpowder, 400,000 lbs. of saltpetre and sulphur. It was not till the 19th, that the powder, saltpetre and sulphur were discovered at a fine establishment, half a league from the city. This is a matter of importance; we are now supplied with ammunition for two campaigns. We every day discover cellars full of wine and brandy. Manufactures were beginning to flourish at Moscow; they are destroyed. The conflagration of this capital will throw Russia a hundred years back.

The weather is becoming rainy; the greatest part of the army is in barracks at Moscow.

London, October 19. RUSSIA & FRANCE.

A report was on Friday received from Morlaix, of the commencement of a negotiation between France and Russia. It was said

that the Emperor Alexander had solicited an armistice from Napoleon, which was granted upon the following terms being conceded as preliminaries to a treaty, viz. Moscow to remain in possession of the French during the winter—Russia to become a member of the confederation—to pay seventy millions of francs—to shut her ports against England—and finally, that Prince Constantine shall be sent to the French head quarters as a hostage for the performance of those conditions.

From Cook's Register.

DESTRUCTION OF MOSCOW—DIFFICULTIES OF THE FRENCH.

Extraordinary as it may appear, the contents of the 20th and 21st French Bulletins, dated Sept. 17th and 20th, received since our last, seem to us calculated to revive, rather than to abate hope. The ancient capital of the Czar, it is true, exists no more, with the exception of the Kremlin, when the invader, on whose account cities blaze and thousands perish, stood like the destroying angel amidst an ocean of flames.

Warehouses filled with the accumulated produce of the East and of native industry, have been consumed; and in the conflagration of a whole city lives without number have been lost. But the main object of the enemy has been defeated. He has been deprived of those comfortable winter quarters, which he anticipated with so much delight, and to obtain which he fought the sanguinary battle of Moskwa. His resources are considerably diminished; and it becomes doubtful whether he will be able to maintain himself, amidst the ruins of the burnt capital, under the asperity of a northern winter. Had Moscow remained entire, its palaces would have become the habitation of his soldiers, its churches would have been turned into hospitals, and its remaining population into slaves & servants of the invaders, who would have enjoyed every comfort, whilst the Russian armies, compelled to encamp in the field, or to retire to distant towns, would have encountered every difficulty, and suffered every privation, or by their remoteness freed him from any apprehension until the return of summer. As it is, however, without any other shelter for his troops, the miserable barracks built out of the wrecks of the city, with a reduced stock of provisions, and a long line of communications liable to be intercepted, he may be considered in a situation pregnant with danger, provided the resolution of Alexander do not fail. If the mighty ruin which has overwhelmed a large portion of his empire, & if the destruction of one of his capitals has effected that of his richest merchants, manufacturers and nobles, does not produce the intimidating effect which we apprehended on the Russian autocrat, his independence may yet be recovered, and his territory freed from the grasp of its invaders. The wild heroism of his subjects, although hitherto unavailing in the field, has raised by its voluntary sacrifices a stronger barrier to the ultimate suc-

cess of the enemy, than that which was so bravely opposed to his progress at Moskwa.—Dispatches from Lord Cathcart state, that gen. Kutusow thinking his position untenable after his victory, has taken back in search of another, which he could not find in an extent of 80 miles, in consequence of which he had retired 20 miles beyond Moscow, allowing the French to enter that city without opposition. As the battle of Moskwa was fought for the purpose of saving Moscow, from the subsequent abandonment of that capital, and the last dispatch from Prince Kutusow, dated Ners, 3 days after the action, and about 40 miles from the field, in which he does not even then mention the number of prisoners taken, that of killed or wounded, or even the capture of any cannon, we must reluctantly conclude that although he may have inflicted nearly an equal loss on the enemy, yet he must have been worsted. But as his army, though diminished, remained undispersed and undismayed, and as the junction of the Moldavian troops with gen. Tormasow enables that commander to threaten, in conjunction with the reinforced Witgenstein the rear of the enemy, may still be hoped, that ere long the campaign, instead of being terminated by the disastrous capture and destruction of Moskwa, may be concluded by the defeat or retreat of its invaders.

RUSSIAN IMPERIAL MANDATE.

It is with a heavy heart we are compelled to inform every man of the country, that the enemy entered Moscow on the 3d (15th) Sept. The glory of the Russian empire, however, is not thereby tarnished. On the contrary every individual is inspired with fresh courage, firmness and hope that all the evils meditated against us by our enemies will eventually fall upon their own heads. The enemy has not become master by overcoming or weakening our forces; the Commander in Chief, by the advice of a council of war, has found it expedient to retire at a moment of necessity, in order by the best and most effectual means to turn the transient triumph of the enemy to his inevitable ruin. However painful it may be to the Russians, to bear that the original capital of the empire is in the hands of the enemy of their country, yet it is consolatory to reflect that he is possessed merely of bare walls containing within their circuit neither inhabitants nor provisions. The dauntless conqueror, imagined that on his entrance into Moscow, he would become the arbiter of the whole Russian Empire, when he might prescribe to it such a peace as he should think proper; but he is deceived in his expectations; he will neither have acquired the power of dictating, nor the means of subsistence. The assembled and daily increasing forces of the district of Moscow, will not neglect to block up every avenue, and to destroy such parties as may be detached for the purpose of collecting provisions; until the enemy shall perceive that his hopes of astonishing the world by the capture of Moscow were vain, and he be compelled to open a passage for himself by force.