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**THE TURKS AND RUSSIANS.**

[We consider ourselves fortunate in being able to lay before the readers of our Journal the following graphic description of the war between the Russians and Turks, which we are indebted to a friend, a very gallant, intelligent, and distinguished British officer. We have seldom with a picture of military operations possessed of such characteristic spirit; and knowing so little as we do of the combatant, the Cossack and the Moslem, their modes, their feelings, and their conduct towards each other in the struggle for blood and victory, we have read these details, which place them almost before our eyes, with a deep degree of interest, which we flatter ourselves will be participated with us by the public at large. As a sketch of manners, if not of society, we question that ever our great rival, the Government Gazette, put forth a more generally acceptable document.—*Lon. Literary Gazette.*]

*Russian Camp before Giurgevo, on the Lower Danube, July 28, 1828.*

I have persevered thus far, in my attempts to visit the Russian army as an amateur, for the purpose of observing its operations against the Turks, and arrived in Wallachia, by way of Rotterdam, Frankfurt, Vienna, Pesth, and Hermannstadt. The former part of my journey was productive chiefly of pleasure; but the latter part, of many of the disagreeables of travelling,—for, in my progress hither from Austria, I have been nearly jolted to death by the bad roads of Hungary, and narrowly escaped breaking my neck by the vile passes of the Carpathians of Transylvania on the frontiers of Wallachia;—I have been almost poisoned by filth, devoured by vermin, broiled by the sun, have exposed myself to the contagious fever of the country, and to that infernal disease the plague, which has for some time past been committing its ravages in Bucharest;—indeed, have almost gone through fire and water, to attain the fulfilment of my wishes, but I have only as yet succeeded in reaching the banks of the Lower Danube.

Hearing that frequent sorties were made by the troops of Kutchuck Achmet from Giurgevo, I obtained the sanction of the governor of the principality to come here,—I have attached myself to the present to the corps of the Russian army before that fortress, and am partaking of the hospitality, and sharing the black bread and inconveniences of the Cossack and Russian soldier in his bivouac before the enemy.

Behold me, then, under the influence of a most scorching Wallachian sun, on Turfuk ground, in the very midst of war, and amongst total strangers. While even now employed in writing to you, the pen is occasionally laid down for the telescope, to observe the motions of the enemy; and such is the state of uncertainty, that ere many minutes are passed, these instruments may be replaced by one of a more offensive nature, and my occupation be less passive than it is at this moment.

I cannot tell you what I eat or drink, for it has become a rule with me of late never to inquire into the composition of a mess, or even to look at it, if it can be avoided; but I have a soldier's fare, and experience the greatest civility from the officers, particularly from the commanding general, Kvitsnitsky.

The Danube here runs nearly W. and E. along the foot of a range of Bulgarian hills,—is wide, deep, and rapid, and encloses several islands between its boundaries. On its right bank is Rustchuk, a fortress with a large garrison; and a very little lower down on the opposite side, forming a sort of *lete de pont*, is the small but tolerably strong fortress of Giurgevo. It is an irregular work, built after European principles, presents three or four bastions towards the field, has a citadel, containing a garrison of about 3000 or 4000 men, which may be increased at pleasure from Rustchuk, and mounts about 150 pieces of cannon.

To the north, distant about five miles, and nearly parallel with the above mentioned hills, is another range (or rather the ground presents an inclination to the south,) at the foot of which, and immediately opposite to Giurgevo, are three Muscovite encampments, whence the minarets of the latter place, as well as those of Rustchuk, are seen with the naked eye. The intermediate space is an open plain, with scarcely any undulation, and covered with small brushwood, Indian corn, long grass, and high thistles, &c., affording localities for skirmishing to the foragers and outposts of both parties.

Thus disposed, the troops may be said to be continually under arms; the infantry are always in a square; they eat, drink, and sleep, in square; and at night, in the most inclement weather, never quit that form. The general and field-officers only have tents; sheds or temporary huts, composed of branches and hay, are erected for the other officers and the troops, close to their stations, under which they are allowed to retire in the middle of the day from the burning heat of the sun, which within the last few days has been 100 and 105 deg. of Fahrenheit in the shade; and it is then only that a portion of the horses are unsaddled; so that in the event of an alarm, it requires but little time to put the whole force in march for its position.

There is no scarcity of provisions, though the quality of the bread, "of the darkest hue," is bad; and the water, which is in this country very indifferent, is supplied from the neighbouring wells.

But the Russian soldier is a tough material, and ordinarily calculated to bear the fatigues and hardships of war. In the manner above alluded to, subsisting on food of very inferior quality, he

is constantly exposed to all weathers, for here the burning heat of day is generally succeeded by cold, damp, chilly nights; and the thunder-storms, which at certain seasons are so frequent, are accompanied by torrents of rain, which deluge the country with water. These, to ordinary constitutions, would be fatal, but on him they seem to have comparatively no effect. With an implicit obedience to orders, the Russian is, as it were, a complete machine. Careless and thoughtless of danger, indeed, without exercising his reasoning faculties he moves when he is told, and halts when he is commanded; nor will he, under the severest fire, retire unless ordered to do so.

It was surprising to see the perfect indifference with which a regiment, the other day, stood under a rather severe cannonade, and the apathy with which the men looked at the balls and shells that fell around them; and it is a fact, that at the siege of Ibraila a considerable column, which was destined to storm the place, missed its way, and got into the ditch, where there was not the slightest vestige of a breach. In this situation they were nearly annihilated; nor would they, notwithstanding the mistake was evident, move until a positive order from the Grand Duke Michael was sent to recall them.

But the Cossacks excite most my curiosity and interest; equally brave and hardy as the regular Russian soldier, they possess a sagacity and cunning which is not a characteristic of the former. When the firing commenced, it was easily observed that the Cossacks around began instantly to assume an alacrity and to be alive to what was going on. They took their horse in hand—never remained quite stationary—kept a sharp look-out in the direction of the fire of the cannon, and watched the ricochet of the ball and flight of the shell, so as to be in readiness to avoid them. They are an incongruous set, certainly! Some old fellows, with long grey beards—some smart young lads—some almost in rags and patches of various colours—while others are in very decent attire. The Cossack who is appointed to attend me as orderly, is a young man, by no means Cossack-like, according to the notions I had formed of those people, I was struck by his civilized appearance and manners; for, on my arrival, when he first came to me, with the respectful deportment of a soldier, united to an easiness and almost elegance of manner, he said he was sent to wait upon me by order of his general, and had the honour of presenting himself to receive my commands. I do not mean to say they are all of this class, but I am told that some of them are people of great wealth in their own country, amassed chiefly by plunder in the last wars; yet so great is their passion for that species of gain, "auri sacra fames," that notwithstanding their riches, they voluntarily leave their families and comfortable dwellings, and expose themselves, at an advanced age, to dangers, in quest of more.

That they are marauders, and that they are rather merciless at times, is true; for an attempt was made to make them give up for the general good, the plunder they took in the action, but without success,—it was then found that no prisoners were taken—they were invariably killed: so that, as their services are so essential to the army, it is become necessary to sanction their practices; and to prevent atrocities, the emperor has issued a very humane order, by which the Cossack or soldier receives one ducat for every prisoner on foot taken alive, and two ducats for every prisoner mounted.

The Cossacks are divided into regiments of five hundred each, having a standard and captain for every hundred, independent of junior officers—one, two, or more field-officers for the whole, according to circumstances, and a lieutenant-colonel, or colonel-commandant, whose name the regiment bears. In their bivouacs, as well as in their operations and attacks, they seem to pay little regard to regularity: and their huts, those of the officers, as well as those of the men, in front of which are picketed their horses, are formed in the simplest and rudest manner imaginable:—sometimes three pikes or poles with branches and hay, or perhaps their burkas, or cloaks of skin, thrown over them, form their dwellings.

Dressed in a short, blue jacket, without buttons, but hooked down the front—loose trousers of the same colour—a cylindrical, and sometimes a fur or forage cap—seated upon a cushion fixed to a high saddle—mounted upon a small, bony, and by no means Bucephalus-like, but certainly hardy, horse—armed with a pistol stuck under each arm in a girdle, a firelock slung across his shoulders, and sword, or a long twelve-foot pike,—the Cossack is, on the least alarm, instantly ready for the combat. He is endowed by his nature and habits with an instinct which peculiarly fits him for the duties of outposts, and for their service (in which, by the by, I am taking lessons.) I suppose the Cossacks the best troops in the world. The confidence reposed in them is such, that the whole duty of the advanced posts is intrusted to their care, and performed by two hundred and fifty men; and so great is their patience and vigilance, that nothing escapes their observation, and not a Turk can stir outside the fortress without their immediate knowledge.

The moment an alarm is given, the first two or three that can get ready, immediately sally forth from the bivouac—these are followed by six or eight—these again by more—and lastly comes the reserve, or main body, in perhaps greater order. In their regular attacks, they are sometimes in one, and sometimes in two ranks, according to their strength; they advance in the form of a semi-circle, with the centre retired; the greater numbers immediately fly off and seek the flanks and rear of the enemy, while a small portion, supported frequently by a reserve, attack the front: but perhaps what makes them the most formidable, is the extraordinary facility with which they disperse and instantly collect again in a pulk or body upon any particular part of the enemy's line. However, for the most part, they pay little attention to regularity; so that after an attack, having no trumpets or sounds to assemble them, as they do not always take out their standards, their captains are obliged, by

dint of hallooing, or in the best manner they can, collect their pulks. They do not in general use the pike like the lance, but couch it, and ride full gallop, like the knights of old, at their antagonists. The Turk justly fears it; as the instrument, should it not kill, inflicts a dreadful gash; and the unfortunate sufferer, when severely wounded and transpierced, has often been known to say, "Ah, Cossack! Cossack!" and by signs implore him to put an end to his miseries by an effectual thrust.

After having overcome his prisoner, the first thing the Cossack does, is to seize upon his arms, which with the Turks are highly ornamented and valuable—his turban and sash, which are sometimes cashmere shawls of great worth—and his purse; and if he is not killed or badly wounded, the victor then places the unfortunate man behind him, upon the very cantle of his saddle, seizes him by the hands, and gallops with him to the rear. In this situation, jolted and galled almost to death, I saw a Turkish chief (a colonel,) a few days ago, who had been taken prisoner by an old gray-bearded, toothless Cossack, at the commencement of an affair, and was by him brought before the general for examination.

The outposts have skirmishes almost daily; but the Cossacks and Turks seem to have a good understanding between them, for they often meet, talk to each other, and carry on war in a more civilized way than formerly.

The Turks, perhaps I should say those of the garrison of Giurgevo and Rustchuk, do not correspond with the idea I had formed of them, from all that I have heard or read of that race—indeed, I believe we have generally a very imperfect knowledge of that nation, and that most of the accounts we receive of them are very much misrepresented or exaggerated. There is a nobleness of disposition, an openness and truth, in the Turk, individually, that is not to be found in his Christian tributary, who has of late so much occupied the attention of foreign powers: the word of a Turk is sacred—if he pledge it, you are safe. How very different the latter's! with whom, it is said, you can never be sure of any engagements—whose treachery is proverbial, and whose barbarities are more numerous, and of a deeper dye, than those of his governors. But, as I said, the forces of the above garrison do not answer the expectations I had formed of the Turkish soldier. From the specimen before us, it would induce a belief that they had either degenerated as warriors; or, which is most natural to suppose, that the Sultan has the flower of the Ottoman forces at Choumla, behind the Balkan; but the invincible Janissary no longer exists, and the daring Spahis, with his proud Arab charger, does not glitter amid the ranks of Kutchuck Achmet, whose troops are mounted upon small, ordinary, and sometimes very inferior, horses.

Trousers, very loose to the calf, thence tight to the ankle—a close waistcoat, open at the neck, and covered below by a shawl tied round the waist—a jacket with very full and short sleeves, shewing the equally loose sleeves of the shirt—a turban on his head—and yellow boots or slippers on his feet, are the usual and very becoming dress of a Turk: the trousers, waistcoat, and jacket, are of different colours, and ornamented with embroidery; and the turban is white, green, or otherwise, according to the rank and privileges of the wearer. His arms are, a long knife, called a handjar or yatagan, used for cutting off heads—a brace of pistols, which he carries in a broad leathern girdle—a gun slung across the shoulders—and a curved sabre, his dexterity in the use of which is such, that with a single blow, or rather cut, he will sever the head from the body.

The Turks have little or no method in their movements or in their mode of warfare. Sometimes they will sally forth from the fortress in bodies of 100 or 150, and endeavour to surprize an advanced post of Cossacks near the village of Slobode, on the west of Giurgevo; and sometimes, with a larger force, they will make a dash on the left flank of the camp, (where several have been killed in the very bivouac of the Cossacks,) in the rear of which are some stores and wagons, supposed by them to be treasure.

The Pasha is very active, and has his favourite days for sorties, which are generally on Thursdays, Saturdays or Sundays. Reinforced by troops from Rustchuk, he will at those times come out with a force of 6 or 7000 men, and endeavour at once to penetrate to the encampment of his enemy; or he will draw up under protection of the guns of the fortress, and tempt his adversary from his position, and within range of the shot of the works. Frequently after cannonading for a time, the Turks will move forward in a tolerable line of cavalry and infantry mixed; and then, in masses or wedges, composed promiscuously of those two forces, and with shouts of "Allah! Allah! Allah!" they will advance upon their opponents. Infuriated often by opium, they are very vigorous at first; but the coolness and firmness of the Russians—who usually receive them in squares, supporting each other, and the cavalry having at the same time guns at their angles,—and the steady and well-directed fire, particularly of their artillery, soon disperse and put the Moslem to flight; and then the Cossacks are let loose upon them. They have always been very wary of the squares of infantry; upon which, notwithstanding they are only formed three deep, the Turkish cavalry have not succeeded in making any impression.

The field pieces of the Turks are, if any thing, of a smaller caliber than those of the Russians, and were at first drawn by bullocks instead of horses; but in the practice of their artillery, they are by no means so deficient as is generally supposed: it is possible they may have foreigners with them, for their shot, contrary to received opinion, are thrown with an accuracy that would do credit to regularly disciplined artillery.

It is difficult to say how far we believe the stories respecting their barbarous treatment of their prisoners. It was reported here, and believed at first, that an aid-de-camp, whom they had captured at Ibraila, was flayed alive as far as the waist; but this, like many similar reports, could

not be traced to any respectable source. It has been the custom with the Turks to cut off the heads of the killed after an engagement, for the purpose of sending them as trophies to Constantinople. When they become too numerous for transporting, the noses and ears only were so honoured; and it has often happened, particularly at the moment of exasperation, that those extremities also of the prisoners were likewise in requisition to make up a certain quota for the Sultan; but this is not invariably the case.

The Turkish prisoners meet with any thing but ill treatment from the Russians. The Cossacks will occasionally be rather merciless; but the captives, when brought in, are always well treated, and have frequently been sent back with presents. The Turkish chief of whom I have made mention, was on the day after his capture, invited to the hut of the chief of the staff, presented with a purse of money subscribed by several of the officers, and told that if he chose to write for his baggage he was at liberty to do so, and a message should be sent to the Pasha to that effect. Indeed he seemed quite content with his change of situation, smoked his pipe, took coffee, was quite communicative, and no doubt wondered at the circumstance of finding his head upon his shoulders.

No fewer than three times during the preceding week did Kutchuck Achmet favour us with some polite affairs; the last on Saturday, might perhaps be called more serious than ordinary.—Having received a reinforcement of light artillery equipped with horses, and having augmented his numbers by troops from the opposite side of the river, he came out towards evening in considerable force.

We had not long finished our repast at the general's table when a few shouts announced the sortie of the Pasha; and ere the lapse of many seconds, a Cossack was seen darting across the plain, and soon after entered the camp, almost breathless, with a confirmation of the event. As the troops were all ready, no delay was necessary, and the whole force was instantly in motion for its position in front of the encampment.

The horse artillery, supported by the greater part of the dragons, was stationed in the centre, a little in advance. The infantry, in squares of battalions, with guns at the angles, was placed in echelon, and with the remainder of the dragons formed the right wing; and the Cossacks, supported by a small body of infantry and some guns, occupied the ground on the left, in front of their bivouac: the whole was formed at very extended intervals.

During these preparations, the advanced posts were occupied in sharp skirmishing; but no sooner were the Russians stationary in their position, than the Turks commenced a fire of shot and shells, from their new guns, which was as readily returned by the opposite party. The Turkish artillery was uncommonly well served: at a long range, almost the first shot passed through a squadron of cavalry,\* and others fell around us, "methought in plentiful abundance;" but most of their shells, from a deficiency in the length of fuse, exploded before reaching their destination. The large guns of the fortress also contributed their endeavours, and the cannonade lasted above a couple of hours. In the meanwhile, the Turks were observed collecting their forces, and meditating some movement, as was supposed against the right flank: soon, however, they advanced with a tolerable line, and in their usual manner, and thought to overwhelm the horse-artillery, the dragons, and the regiment of infantry, that occupied the centre of the Russian line; but meeting with a determined resistance—having two of their guns disabled by the effectual fire of their opponents, and observing the squares on the left, which they had not seen before—they immediately fell back under cover of the works.

It was now imagined that they were about to take leave of us for the night, and the firing on both sides ceased; but on a closer examination, it was evident they were making fresh arrangements: detached masses were seen in motion, and presently a large force was observed advancing against the left flank. The firing now recommenced—the uninterrupted roar of small arms gave proofs of a nearer approach of the parties to each other. Allah! Allah! Allah! resounded from the ranks of the Musselmen, and the succeeding moment the cimeter of the Turk and pike of the Cossack were in close and terrible contact. The conflict for a time was furious; the sons of the Don at first gave way, but instantly rallying, repulsed the assailants, who very soon after retired within the walls of their fortress, and left us unmolested for the remainder of the day. The night had commenced when the troops returned to their camp, after an absence of between five or six hours, and that scene which but a short time before was so portentous and bloody, was soon changed to one of tranquillity and repose, over which the moon shed her more than usual brightness; and nought broke in on its stillness, save the sound of "Slouschaij," uttered by the watchful sentinel.

On these occasions it is difficult to obtain a correct statement of the loss on either side, as the Turks, when possible, invariably carry off their killed as well as wounded; and the Russians are naturally anxious to conceal their loss.

Whoever contemplates the present condition of the Russians, will be astonished at the rapid strides they have made towards civilization of late years, and the improvements that have evidently taken place in the organization of their forces. I did not exactly expect to find a horde of barbarians, but I was prepared to meet with a set of men not many degrees removed from that state—deficient altogether in mind—devoid of moral

\* I was standing at the angle of one of the squares of infantry, talking to the colonel and officers at the time when the shot, after upsetting a couple of men and horses, fell within a few feet of us. One of the officers picked it up and gave it to me, saying, "Permit me, Sir, to present you with a Turkish ball, as an offering, on the field of battle, from the regiment of Tobolski." This ball, together with the yatagan belonging to a brave Turk who was killed on that day, and the Cossack pike with which he was slain, shall be preserved for the armory, as mementos from Giurgevo.

feeling, and destitute of all the nobler qualities of the heart—but I was mistaken; they have profited considerably by the experience of the wars that arose out of the French Revolution; which wars, while they instructed them as soldiers, afforded them also an opportunity of visiting, and at the same time receiving some of the polish of, the more civilized nations of the continent.

If they seek the permanent possession of comforts and luxuries which those events have once enabled them to enjoy, it is by no means an unnatural desire. They have an emperor, young, active, and ambitious—and an army which, with a little more science, and a few more leaders of ability, will become formidable, not only to their neighbours, but to Europe in general.  
C. R. O. D. late 15th Hussars.

*The Internal Communications of England.*—The improvement of Great Britain, in her internal communications, is perhaps, the most extraordinary circumstance in the records of civilization. It is impossible to contemplate our roads, our canals, and, within these few years, our railways, without a sentiment of national pride, which philosophy would scarcely ask us to repress. The turnpike-roads of England alone extend twenty thousand miles, and upwards of a million sterling is annually bestowed upon their repair and maintenance. The rapidity, the precision and the security with which the whole communication is carried on is one of the principal causes of our commercial activity. Through the agency of the post, and the influence of the public journals, the country is become all head and heart. There is no slow circulation through the extremities of the system; every pulsation of the political machine vibrates from the centre to the circumference, and from the circumference to the centre. England is "all compact," and would that Ireland were knit up in this astonishing condensation of energies and interests! In the late session sixty-five road bills have passed into law; in the session of 1827 there were fifty-three. We thus see that this extraordinary course of improvement never stops—and the cause is this, the people know their own wants, and have the power to supply them. "In France," says M. Dupin, "during a period of profound peace, the government does not grant, for the support of the roads, one third of the amount which is supplied by the public of England alone, of which the superficies does not equal one-third that of France."—And this neglect arises from the government meddling with every thing.—*London Mag.*

*Sir Walter Scott.*—At the dinner given to the Duke of Buccleuch the other day, by the gentlemen of Dumfries-shire, Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, the Sheriff, proposed the health of Sir Walter Scott, who was present; on which Mr. Ferguson of Craigdarroch, in an eloquent speech, remarked that he had repeatedly, in countries which he thought it impossible the fame of his illustrious countryman could have reached, found it an honoured passport. He had heard the name of the author of *Waverley* pronounced with admiration in Russia—and on the banks of the sacred Jordan—and by the pretty lips of the very fairest of the Georgian fair, on the confines of the Black Sea. He had been asked in these distant regions, "Have you seen 'Redgauntlet,' the last production of the Great Unknown?" Craigdarroch, at the conclusion of his speech, proposed the health of Sir Adam Ferguson; when Sir Adam rose to return thanks; but feeling himself unable to reply as eloquently as he wished to the fervid eulogium with which the toast had been prefaced, he was about to resume his seat in silence, when Sir Walter, who had also risen, said he would say to him as the farmer said to his servant, who stammered in his speech, "If ye canna speak, ye can sing, ye rascal." [Great applause.] Sir Adam, accordingly, soon after sang "The Laird o' Cockpen."

*Lithography Improved: or Lithochromy.*—The perfection of lithography was for a time considered as limited to making exceedingly fine printed imitations of chalk and crayon drawings. In Germany, M. Boissere not long since produced pictures of mingled colours, by the application of several stones in succession; but M. Malapeau, of Paris, has recently made another and important improvement in this rapidly progressing art. By a cheap and easy process, (but one which is not known to the public,) he paints coloured oil-pictures from stone, which possess a considerable degree of beauty and accuracy. All that has yet transpired respecting the process is, that several rollers, with different oil colours, are passed in succession over the stone, sometimes to the number of twenty-seven; and then the impression is made. The pictures are offered at prices below what even the most humble artist would think of setting to his hastiest productions, and galleries of pictures executed in this manner may be obtained for a trifling sum. Improvements will probably be hereafter made, and if so, the invention may prove a powerful means of extending a taste for the arts.—*Nat. Gaz.*

*French Literature.*—Two prodigiously interesting works have been lately published, "A la Librairie Universelle Rue Vivienne, No 2, Bis au coin du Passage Colbert;" they are now in course of translation, and their publication expected in this country with intense anxiety;—some descriptions of persons, indeed regard them as the harbingers of the Millennium! One of these works is entitled "The Art of never Breakfasting at our own expense, and always Dining at the expense of other People," in eight lessons.—"The other," "The Art of Paying Debts, and satisfying Creditors, without disbursing one penny." Both works are in prose, although their titles are so highly poetical.

**BLANKS,**

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, NEATLY EXECUTED, FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.