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Foreign.

STATE PAPERS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 6.

Translated by the Grand Seignior to the Grand Vizier, on the 27th of December, 1866.

I am my prime minister, endowed with unlimited power, and vested with unlimited power. May the Divine Providence and grace, which are so necessary to mankind in their undertakings, and the aid and assistance of the prophet of God, ever attend them. It has been represented in the Grand Divan, lately held in the presence of all the Ministers, Ulemas and Chiefs of the Corps of Janissaries, that the perfidious Russians had unexpectedly broken the treaties which they had concluded with us, inasmuch as they have taken possession of the provinces of Bender and Choczim, by which they have given a demonstrative proof of their malicious and perfidious designs, which they have long cherished, and on various occasions manifested towards the Mussulman people, have not ceased to repeat. The law, and the purport of the resolution adopted by the Divan, therefore, impose upon me the indispensable duty of a declaration of hostility against the perfidious race, which accords also with the unanimous sentiments of the Divan and the Sultan. Having, therefore, in the first place, invoked the assistance of God the Almighty, who has from nonentity called me into existence, and the protection of the Prophet Mahomet, the object of our praises and the founder of our law, we have given orders to declare war against the Russians, placing our whole reliance in the favor and providence of God. For the first, every one is sufficiently acquainted with the ancient enmity of the Russians, towards the Mussulmen. The instances of perfidy and treachery which they have so recently displayed, enjoins it as a duty upon every subject of the Porte, whether civil or military, who professes the Mussulman faith, to take a part in this religious war; and as agreeably to the resolution already taken, every preparation has been made for the speedy march of my army, under the happy shade of the Sangiak Sherif (the standard of Mahomet) I hereby appoint you generalissimo thereof, with unlimited powers. Under these circumstances, you will provide all your proceedings to the providence of God the Almighty, in like manner as I wholly entrust to the Divine hand the protection of your person, and those of all Viziers, Ulemas, Janissaries, high and low, and also all the faithful warriors who accompany you in this religious contest. My renowned ancestors, supported by the ardent zeal of their Viziers, Ministers, Janissaries, and other warriors, and by means of the skillful measures with which they opposed the enemy, reconquered and took possession of these provinces.

I therefore entertain a confident expectation, that at the present juncture you will manifest the same zeal, and collect the necessary troops and supplies, in order to hasten to the assistance of our brethren in religion, who are already engaged in hostilities with the enemy, in the fortresses situated near the enemy's frontier provinces. You must reinforce our fortresses, and deliver my subjects from all oppression. In what respects the supplies of ammunition and other military stores, you will concert measures only with the chiefs of provinces. You will occupy yourself day and night, with every object of attention which may be necessary, and expedite the departure of the army, of all my Viziers, Janissaries and others thereto belonging. Finally, you will, in your capacity of minister, with unlimited powers, also provide for the wants of the fleet, both in respect to men and stores. It will be your province to bestow adequate rewards on such as shall distinguish themselves, as well as to punish those who may forget their duty. May the Almighty God guard and protect you in all your undertakings.

Translation of a copy of a letter, addressed in the Turkish language, to the constituted authorities of the Ottoman government, by the Russian General:

After having fulfilled the duties of friendship, and offered my respects to the most virtuous and exalted officer, the Cadi Effendi, the Avam, and the other distinguished counsellors and agents, I submit to them in the most amicable manner, the following statement:

From the date of the treaty of peace concluded between the court of Russia, and the sublime Ottoman Porte, the former observing with extreme exactness, the numerous stipulations of the said treaty; when the invasion of Egypt by the French, and anterior thereto, when they seized on the Seven Islands, and the countries on the coast of Albania, in the Adriatic Gulph, all of them possessions of the Republic of Venice—the court of Russia, I say, far from turning to her own advantage the state of war and embarrassment, in which the Sublime Porte was placed, thought only of contracting an alliance with her, and furnishing ships and troops, to assist in expelling the French from her vicinity; and at length prevailed in effecting the recapture of these Islands and places.

The same court of Russia, did not wait the expiration of the term of her alliance with the Ottoman Porte, but hastened to renew it. This new treaty stipulated, that the friends and enemies of the one power should be considered as the friends and enemies of the other; that in case of need, they should furnish aid to each other, and that they should not conclude either a truce or peace but by mutual consent.

In despite, however, of that alliance, the Sublime Porte violating the most solemn compacts, and allowing itself to be governed by the audacious interference of France, has practised towards Russia, infractions of every kind, and a complete neglect of her stipulated engagements.

But although, after such conduct, his majesty the emperor of Russia, my august master, possessed the right of considering the Porte as his enemy, yet from a wish, on the part of his said majesty, to preserve the peace and good intelligence of the two empires, he persuaded himself that the change which had taken place in the dispositions of the Turkish government was only the result of a partiality entertained by certain individuals among the members of the Ottoman ministry towards the French, and, under the influence of this opinion, he had caused to be conveyed to his highness the august Sultan Selim, every intimation which could invite the Sublime Ottoman Porte to return to its engagements, and detach it from this new course of proceeding, alike hostile to the former friendship, and its own political interest; but those, who possess the ascendancy in the present ministry, being swayed by their attachment to Bonaparte, the exhortations of my sovereign have made no impression.

This first endeavor, having failed and no doubt remaining that the apparent design of Bonaparte is to introduce a French army into the heart of Roumelia, in promising his highness the sublime Sultan Selim, to assist him in suppressing the ancient corps of Janissaries, and reducing to obedience, every Mussulman who should refuse his assent to (nizami djedid) the new order of things; and it being no less evident that the intention of the same Bonaparte is to render himself master of the Ottoman empire, thus deprived of defence, and to make himself emperor of the east. In this combination of circumstances, H. M. the emperor of Russia is constrained to employ the only resource which he possesses, to support his highness against the preponderance of the party of his ministers devoted to Bonaparte; to preserve their court, and the states of the Sultan from falling a prey to the boundless ambition of Bonaparte; and to gain possibility of convincing the Sublime Porte of the necessity in which it is placed of maintaining its alliance with the courts of Russia and Great-Britain. In

consequence, his said majesty makes known that he has detached from his imperial armies a division which has entered the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia; that after taking all necessary precautions, regarding the wants and safety of the said division, according to military regulations, as well to insure tranquility to the troops as to the country, there shall be no act of hostility committed, nor any kind of violence whatever; and if his highness will dismiss those of his agents, who, as partisans of the French, stimulate him to break his engagements with Russia; if the permission stipulated in the last treaty of alliance, in favor of the ships of the crown of Russia, to pass the canal of Constantinople, and transport warlike stores to the Gulph of Venice, and a free passage to go and return is granted to them; if to effect the evacuation of those places taken by the French, or which they may hereafter take, his highness exerts his efforts, in concert with us to drive them from Dalmatia, his said Majesty will cause his troops to return within his limits; and to this promise he pledges his imperial word.

After this amicable explanation, which the orders and instructions given by his Imperial Majesty require, if on your part no unfriendly conduct is practised; if your august emperor does not show an indisposition to redress the grievances of which we complain, and if he shall not prefer making war against Russia, I promise and openly declare, that no hostility shall take place on the part of the Imperial troops, under my orders, in the districts submitted to your government.

As a particular enumeration of all the complaints which we have to make, would be quite superfluous, I will only add, that difficulties have been thrown in the way of our commerce, which contravene the stipulations of our states; that the subjects of Russia have experienced from the officers of the Turkish government, through the whole extent of the empire, every kind of vexation; their merchandize has been charged with heavy duties; forced interpretations have been made of the clearest articles of our treaties. The conditions inserted in the special act relative to the Republic of the Seven Islands, and to the countries on the coast of Albania, have not been executed. The Pacha of Yania has acted in contradiction of treaties. He has never ceased to disobey the orders of the Porte, and to manifest his decided partiality.—The district of Buhrinto has never been evacuated.

All these complaints being founded on our late treaty of alliance, the Sublime Porte is unquestionably bound to redress them, to preserve peace. And as Russia is only desirous that the friendship, safety, and repose of the two empires should be maintained, the former state of things may be restored by a conformity to the preceding request.

Your friend,

GEN. MICHELSON,

Commanding the Imperial troops designed for these countries.

20th Nov. in the year of the Christian Era, 1866.

From the Banks of the Elbe, March 18.

Notwithstanding the lofty language still held by the French in their bulletins and reports, it is generally believed here, that we should soon be convinced of their falsehood, and indeed, one or two circumstances already intimated as much. That the corps diplomatique has left Warsaw is now admitted, and are assured, from good authority, that at Stettin the general post office has refused to receive any more letters for Thorn.

According to letters from Berlin, Bonaparte is expected this week in that city, together with his guard. It is supposed that he will have no further object than to support himself during the rest of the winter on the Oder, the military position of which is also interesting as it respects Austria.

A variety of reports, concerning the real issue of the various engagements since the battle of Eylau, are in circulation; the most

plausible of which is, that 12,000 of the French were reduced by hunger to lay down their arms and beg for bread. This news is brought from Kiel—Gen. Blucher is said to have confirmed it, adding that it was the corps under Oudinot. But I cannot pledge myself for the truth of it.

It is further said, that the French have been trying to persuade the emperor of China to declare war against the Russians but without success.

LONDON, March 27.

Early yesterday morning, capt. Baurfort, of the Woolwich storeship, arrived at the Admiralty, with dispatches from the Cape of Good Hope. Intelligence of a most satisfactory nature has been received by this opportunity, respecting advantages obtained by our cruisers in the Indian Seas over the enemy. The Maria, a Dutch frigate, and two brigs, have been cut out of Batavia by his Majesty's frigate Caroline, after a spirited and determined contest. By all accounts, this was as daring and gallant an enterprise as any which has signalized the present war.

Another success has also been obtained, which promises no less fame, and far more advantage to those by whose bravery and skill it has been achieved. The Pallas, a Dutch frigate, has been captured in the East Indies, by the Greyhound, of 32 guns, capt. Elphinstone, and the Harrier brig, capt. Thomas Troubridge. She is the richest prize that has been made this war. She had a million of dollars on board, besides a most valuable cargo. The respective shares of the Admiral, Sir Thomas Troubridge, and the captains of the Greyhound and Harrier, it is supposed, will amount to 50,000 each.

LOWER ELBE, March 18.

Reports of various kinds have been in circulation here for some days, the authenticity of which, it is impossible to prove or disprove. It seems generally believed, that a new bloody battle has taken place to the disadvantage of the French. A violent quarrel is said to have arisen between Bonaparte and several of his generals, who have resigned. Duroc is said to have been carried as a state prisoner to France, it having been discovered that he carried on a correspondence with the Austrian ministry.—Talleyrand is also said to be in disgrace. The corps diplomatique are mostly arrived at Berlin. An Esterlette came yesterday from Mr. Demman our Syndic, who it is said is coming home. It is positively affirmed, and as it should seem with some ground, that general Oudinot with 13,000 men has been forced to surrender for want of provisions. The Copenhagen newspapers, arrived yesterday, bring accounts of the proceedings of the Russians to the 22d February. Since the 3th there had been almost daily engagements in which the French had lost considerably. From the 13th to the 20th, they are stated to have lost 50,000 men.

MEMEL, Feb. 16.

(Extracts of Letters.)

"After the battle of Pultusk, where we kept our ground, the French suffered every where, till driven nearly to the borders of the Vistula; when they found themselves in so difficult a situation, that they would have been obliged to retreat, had the corps of Banningsen and Lestocq been strong enough to have covered the whole ground. The French marching their army most acroftly, marched on in the rear of the Russians and Prussians towards Königsburg, and reached Heilsburg.

General Banningsen and Lestocq here gained the greatest credit by their expert manoeuvres; they effected a junction of their corps, and took an advanced position at Eylau, before the French were aware of it. General Lestocq's corps formed the right wing, whose army occupied an excellent position on a range of mountains, the front towards Eylau.

"On the 7th, the flight of the light troops began, by which nothing was gained, and