

# THE MINERVA.

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## Foreign News.

From London papers of the 3d of July, by the ship Packet, captain Trott, arrived at Boston from Liverpool.

LONDON, July 2.

*1 o'clock.*—We have just been favored with the sight of a letter from Koningsburg, of the 17th June, received by a gentleman of the first respectability, on whom we can fully rely. It places the battle of the 14th in a very different point of view from the French account. So far from being a defeat, and in favor of the French, it states, with confidence, that the consequences of the battle, which was very bloody on both sides, will in the end be to the advantage of the allies! that only a part of the Russian army was engaged; that they fell back as a matter of prudence, not from defeat; that many French prisoners were brought into Koningsburg on that day, and that at the departure of the letter, they had no fears for the present safety of the town.—[If the above letter is correct, it shows that Koningsburg was not taken on the 17th of June, and that there had been no battle on that date, subsequent to that of the 14th. It will also create a belief that no negotiations for a continental peace had been commenced—as so important a fact would certainly not have been omitted.]

July 2, (evening.)

Yesterday was a day of deep interest. The mail which arrived in the morning brought a confirmation, the French confirmation of the sanguinary and successful battle they had fought on the 14th. The mind had not time to fix its attention upon the terrible conflicts that had marked each preceding day from the 5th, but hastening at once to the 14th, contemplated with a mixed feeling of anguish and dismay, a battle upon which seemed to hang the fate of the continental war. Let us now, however, take a short view of the events that preceded this battle, which indeed will be the more necessary, because it will enable our readers to judge whether the consequences of the battle are likely to be so disastrous as our apprehensions had at first depicted them, and whether the French will be able to follow up their career so as to leave the allied powers no means of escaping final ruin, but by seeking shelter in the arms of a humiliating peace. Hostilities were commenced by the Russians—at present we are inadequately informed whether they commenced them from choice or compulsion; whether the French had made such movements as to leave them no alternative but that of falling back to the Pregel, or of forcing the French to fall back to the Vistula. At present, too, we are arguing upon grounds and information furnished us solely by the enemy. The Russians, previously to the 5th, occupied an irregular line from Braunberg and the Frische Haff, to Heilsberg and Rastenburg, Heilsberg was their central point and appears to have been strongly fortified—the importance of its position, as being on the Alle, and the direct road to Koningsberg, will immediately be seen by a reference to the map. The French occupied a line rather more irregular than the Russians, and much longer, extending from Elbing to Ostroloka: Leibstadt and Guttstadt were included in it. It is of moment to recollect this, because it will show that the first operations were much in favor of the Russians.—The attack which they made upon the 5th, was with the whole of their right wing, upon the 1st, 4th, and 5th divisions of the French army. The attack upon the 1st division seems to have been of less importance than the attack upon marshal Ney at Guttstadt—it is evident that he was beaten and forced to fall back, his baggage and considerable magazines are said to have been taken. The French were forced to evacuate Leibstadt. On the 6th they attacked marshal Ney again, and we infer from the French accounts that he was again beaten, though the French claim the victory. We find the Coffacks turned his flank and got in his rear. But notwithstanding these constant defeats which are stated to have experienced on the 5th, 6th, and 7th,

we discover that they still preserved the position from which they had at first driven the French, Guttstadt and Leibstadt, for on the 8th Bonaparte sends forward Lannes, Ney, and a strong force of cavalry towards Guttstadt to dislodge them. The Russians fought with the most determined bravery, and the possession of Guttstadt was contended for in its very streets: it was set fire to according to some accounts, and burnt to the ground. The Russians now fell back upon their strong post of Heilsberg, before which they had posted a strong body of cavalry and infantry; this body was attacked, and it was not till nine at night that it retreated to the entrenchments which had been thrown up at Heilsberg. There it was expected the Russians would make a stand. The whole of the 11th seems to have been spent in manœuvring. Berthier's corps, by turning the right wing of the Russians, cut them off from Landsberg, while Davoust, throwing himself along the Alle to the right of Heilsberg, menaced the Russian left, and threatened to cut off their retreat on that side. Bonaparte says there was, after this movement of Berthier and Davoust's, no danger of the Russians bringing on a battle in the position they occupied. But it may also be said, that either was a most favorable opportunity for the French to force the Russians to hazard a battle.

At ten at night, on the 11th, Benningfen, who had been making demonstrations of an intention to attack, retreated to the right bank of the Alle, the French not molesting him. Of the march and movements of the two armies after the 12th, we have received no detailed accounts—we take it for granted, however, from the position which the French had taken previously, that they proceeded along the direct road to Koningsberg to Prussian Eylau, and that the Russians pursued the course of the Alle to Friedland. The French would thus have interposed their force between Koningsberg and the Russians.—Whether the French or the Russians were the assailants in the battle of the 14th, we are not informed.—That it was most sanguinary, will readily be believed. But it remains to be seen whether it was more advantageous in its consequences to the French than the battle of Eylau. And here our readers will perceive why we thought it necessary to take a review of the events that preceded this battle.

It will never be believed that the loss of the French in such severe conflicts, was so little as they represent it to be.—It was in all probability equal to the Russians, for in none of them were the Russians thrown into confusion, or disabled from retreating in good order. In the battle of the 14th, the loss on both sides was perhaps equal, and hence the French by that and their previous losses, may have been so weakened as to have prevented them from following the Russians. It was said indeed that they had got to Koningsberg on the 16th; but men are apt to anticipate events, and to state that to have actually happened which they believe is about to happen.

In the afternoon of yesterday a gleam of sun-shine burst through this gloom—Dispatches were said to have been received from lord Hutchinson, representing that the battle was so obstinate, that both parties remained after the battle in nearly the same position as before it, and that it was to be considered as a battle in which neither could claim a decisive victory. In the evening we were favored with a perusal of some letters received by a nobleman of illustrious rank, which stated, that no confirmation had been received at Hamburg of the rumor of the capture of Koningsberg—that on the 22d and 23d ult. several couriers had arrived direct from the French army, but that the intelligence brought by them was not suffered to transpire—that it was reported another battle had been fought on the 15th, in which the French had been beaten. A few hours will enable us to decide upon the truth or falsehood of these reports.

In the mean time we must direct the attention of our readers to the intelligence of scarcely inferior importance to that from Poland.—An estimate arrived at

Hamburg in six days from Vienna, brought the important intelligence of a revolution having taken place in the Turkish government—of the people (whether from the scarcity produced by the blockade of the Bosphorus, or from other causes we know not) having risen at Constantinople, deposed and beheaded the Grand Signior and his ministers, and having elevated the nephew of the late Sultan to the throne. The consequence of this revolution was the ruin of the French interest. Sebastiani, according to some accounts, was sent to the Seven Towers; according to others, he effected his escape.—Such a revolution could not but be productive of the most important consequences; peace would be easily re-established between the Porte and Russia, and the Russian army in Turkey would be able to join the Russian army in Poland.

Our readers remarked yesterday that the narrative of military operations published at Berlin was preceded by a political preface relative to the negotiations carried on last winter. In the first place this preface states, that Bonaparte could not consent to the proposal of a general congress. It states afterwards that a congress was agreed to be held at Copenhagen, and that upon being desired to declare the fundamental principles on which the congress was to negotiate, Bonaparte replied, that “they were to be the absolute equality of allies of both parties, and a mutual admission on the part of the latter, of the system of indemnification.” The meaning of this we take to be, that England was, by the cession of colonial conquests, to indemnify France for what she might choose to restore to Prussia.

*Extract of a letter dated Banks of the Elbe, June 24, one o'clock P. M.*

“A report is in general circulation, which, though I cannot trace it to any satisfactory authority, is so important, that I must relate it as I have received it. A revolution instigated by the Janissaries, is said to have taken place in Constantinople. It is further stated, that the Sultan, his son, and all the immediate ministers have fallen victims to the popular fury; and that the nephew of the Sultan has been proclaimed successor.”

“Others add, that the French minister Sebastiani, and many French are among the killed.”

“I understand, that 400 waggons have been put in requisition in order to transport the division of Mehl and Boudet to East Prussia. This circumstance, and the silence of the Hamburg papers this morning, has railed our spirits.”

The intelligence of a revolution at Constantinople, received by the mail yesterday, is liable to much doubt. The report, however, was thought of sufficient consequence to be included in the dispatch of the British envoy at Altona to government. Some private letters from Hamburg go so far as to state, that peace had been offered to Great-Britain and Russia by the Porte; and that Sebastiani had been obliged to leave Constantinople, dreading the fury of the populace, which was vehemently directed against French influence.

We have made some extracts relating to the military operations in the Turkish provinces. It appears from these that the official report in the French papers of the victories obtained by the Turks over the Russians and Servians are a tissue of falsehoods. So late as the end of May the Grand Vizier had not been able to advance farther than Adrianople. His army was inconsiderable, insufficiently provided with arms, and in want of almost every necessary requisite for entering upon a campaign. The Russians, far from abandoning Wallachia, as it was stated, had advanced their head-quarters from Boucharest to the Danube. There was every probability that Widdin would be shortly in their possession, as it was approached by a strong Russian corps on one side, while the Servians were advancing in force against it from an opposite direction. We wish the prospect in Poland was as it is on the banks of the Danube. As soon as the fortresses on that river shall have

fallen, we shall be surprisid if the war in that quarter continue a month afterwards.

A favorable breeze springing up yesterday morning, the Second Division of the expedition sailed from the Downs to the Northward. The Third Division will sail almost immediately.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, June 29.

AMERICAN TRADE.—Lord Hawkesbury presented, by his majesty's command, the order in council, continuing the provisions of the American Intercourse Act, which expired during the recess; and gave notice, that it was the intention of his majesty's government to propose to parliament a bill for continuing the above act for a time to be then specified, and to propose in such Bill a clause of indemnity for the advice given to his majesty to continue the provisions of the former act, after it had legally expired.

Lord Auckland stated, that the reason he did not, when in office, recommend the continuance of the act which had now expired, was that when the pending negotiation came to be discussed, it would be discussed as a treaty ratified, and he felt satisfied it would be found that every possible attention had been paid to the interests of this country. He thought it but fair now to state, that when the question of the renewal of the American Intercourse Act came to be discussed, he should probably be of opinion, that the same reasons which before operated did not exist for the continuance of the act. One part of it, in particular he objected to, and did object during the negotiation: he alluded to that part of it which allowed to the Americans a carrying trade between our possessions in the East Indies and Europe.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, June 29.

AMERICA.—Lord Temple said, that seeing the chancellor of the exchequer in his place, he would beg leave to ask him a question. In the course of the last session it had fallen to his lot to bring in a bill, which had been passed contrary to the opinion of those who composed the present administration, he meant the American intercourse bill; and he wished to know if the present ministers meant to move for its repeal?

Mr. Rose said, that he for one had strenuously opposed the bill alluded to during its progress through the house, because he disapproved the measure; but as it had received the approbation of the house, and passed into a law, he did not think it would be decent to move its repeal till its operation was better known.

June 30.

Foreign and British Shipping.—Mr. Eden rose, in pursuance of his notice, to make a motion relative to this subject. This he prefaced by a speech of considerable length, stating the object he had in view to show the prosperity and increase of our navigation while the country was under the management of the late administration. One great cause to which the decline of British navigation was ascribed was the passing of the bill called the American Intercourse Bill which had been represented as a wanton innovation; and yet by the answer given last night by the treasurer of the navy, he learned that ministers had no intention of repealing it, although they had alleged that it went to do for our enemies what they could not do for themselves, and to resign to other nations our naval superiority. The house has been told that the whole conduct of the late ministry was a series of concessions to neutrals, and that they were weak enough to commence a negotiation during the existence of the non-importation act?

Mr. Rose said, he did not rise, to oppose this motion, but to state that he was at a loss to know what the hon. gentleman could possibly make out from such an account.—The only law passed during the last session, which had any relation to this matter, was the American Intercourse Bill, and upon that subject the noble lord opposite to him (Lord Tem-