

WILL SEBASTOPOL BE TAKEN?

The Russian View of the Question. We translate the following interesting article from a recent number of the Invalide Russe, the organ of the Russian government. It has attracted much attention in Europe—

Will Sebastopol be taken? Such is the question which, for the last nine months, the whole world has been asking diplomats as well as merchants, and which is repeated by millions of families whose fathers or sons have been carried off to die on land and on sea, before and within the walls of this city "Sebastopol will be taken," say the allies, for otherwise would the siege be continued with so much obstinacy. "Sebastopol will not be taken," answer the Russians, convinced. "The moment of taking it has not yet come," cry out the besiegers. "The possibility of taking it is past," reply the besieged.

Sebastopol might have been taken in the first days of the appearance of the Anglo-French beside the city, when a simple wall of circumference, whose salient angles were protected only by bastions of a weak profile, formed its sole defence—when that inclosure was contained a scanty garrison, composed principally of seamen who had sunk their vessels at the entry of the bay to intercept its passage, and who found themselves, with their guns, placed upon the ramparts of fortifications in a sphere of action entirely new to them; when, in consequence of the suddenness of that event, and, in consequence of the great activity with which the preparation for the defence had to be made, there could not have existed either order or unity in the defence of a line of several thousand yards.

Certainly there could have been no doubt of the intrepid courage of those defenders, still animated by their recent victory of Sinope, and who were fighting for their homes and their families; but it is probable that these few thousand braves would have been able to maintain themselves behind a weak enclosure, not even then provided with a fosse, against a combined attack made by numerous and well-disciplined troops, if, instead of opening trenches at eight hundred fathoms from the shadow of a fortress, the allies had marched to the assault the first day of their appearance, if, instead of remaining on the side of Sebastopol, the sailors of the Black Sea would have had no other alternative than death, an alternative which from first to last they would have adopted, on the ruins of their native city. But Sebastopol was not to be taken.

On the other hand, after the allies remaining some days—fatal ones for them—in inaction, the possibility of taking Sebastopol disappeared. Within these five to seven days immense entrenchments were raised, by entrenchment, on all the weaker portions of the line of defence, and hundreds of guns appeared with their large muzzles as each of the embrasures. From this moment, while the enemy was still at a great distance from the city, Sebastopol, by the number and position of its guns, and the conviction of the besiegers that they could not be forced to surrender the city was still more strengthened. And thus Sebastopol became an impregnable side, and the city was said, "one of the strongest places in the world."

"Will Sebastopol then be taken?" It is difficult to prejudge the future; time will answer the question, for sometimes circumstances which escape the foresight of the general, and which, in the event, turn out to be the best calculations disappear with the rapidity of smoke. We will not, therefore, stop to decide the question in advance, but we will expose to the reader all the data which may enable him to form his own opinion.

The European journals have recalled these words of Napoleon I. that "fortresses are made to be taken." That may be true, but only when the fortress is built with the object of arresting, for a moment, the progress of an invader, and when, in the eventuality of an attack had never been foreseen, Sebastopol was provided with only a weak defence, which by the force of circumstances, and in the very sight of the enemy, was suddenly changed into an impregnable position.

Such are the importance and the position of Sebastopol. Let us now examine the respective forces and means of the two parties with reference to the attack and defence of this point. Let us compare by the numbers.

The bombardment of Sebastopol of the 5th and 17th October, in which the Anglo-French fleet threw as many as 150,000 projectiles, shows plainly that the cause of the allies was a common one. The Russian army, composed of those troops of Turkey, cannot of themselves seize a well-defended place, nor even take an active part in its reduction; but that it must content itself with blockading the roads, transporting provisions and munitions, and attacking the coast, and the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff. On the side of the Russians, on the other hand, the vessels, though few in number, facilitate communications in the bay, and successfully sustain the defence of the city.

Let us even admit that the numerical force of both parties is equal. But are the moral forces so too? The equilibrium of moral force is a very important element towards the success of military actions. The allied camp is composed of heterogeneous masses, united among themselves only by the force of the will of the chiefs in command, and, consequently, they form only a temporary and apparent unity. But these masses are not animated by a common ideal, they are not animated by a common reason, they are not animated by a common faith, they are not animated by a common love for their sovereign, and their faith in that religious emblem, the cross, which presides them to the fight. It is, besides, their native soil which they, resolutely confront all the dangers of death. It is not an army like that, that can be frightened by a bombardment, and that can be forced to surrender.

Has the bombardment, which commenced on the 26th of March and continued eight days and eight nights, during which 350 pieces of artillery hurled against Sebastopol, lowered the courage of the defenders? Has it destroyed its fortifications? Have they not appeared, fortifications and defenders, some days afterwards, stronger than ever? The Russian army, who were fighting in the Crimea, are the same whom Napoleon the First attacked at the battle of Prusich Eylau; the Russian soldier is particularly remark-

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One of the Boston papers, in announcing his death says— "The melancholy duty devolves upon us today of announcing the death of the Hon. Albert Lawrence, Esq., a distinguished merchant and politician, who died at his residence, Park street, in that city, on that day at eleven o'clock A. M. Mr. Lawrence has long been suffering from a chronic disease of the stomach, which, at his age (63), usually baffles the skill of physicians.

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Mr. Lawrence declined a reelection. On his return to Boston at the close of Congress, many of his fellow citizens, who were proud of his services to the city and the country, sought a slight indication of his personal esteem, and of his sense of his public character; and accordingly invited him to partake of a public dinner. In a letter declining the invitation, Mr. Lawrence said— "I am not a politician, and I do not wish to be considered as such. I am a citizen, and I wish to be considered as such."

Mr. Lawrence never allowed politics to interfere with his business. He was a thorough merchant, and only withdrew from each of his enterprises when he was unable to manage them in his own hands. He was a great favorite with all parties at Washington. At the inauguration of Mr. Van Buren, in 1837, Mr. Lawrence was one of the delegates to the National Bank, with a capital of \$25,000,000, which was never acted upon. The next year (1838) he was appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts, one of the Commissioners to treat with Lord Aberdeen on the Northern boundary. During the whole negotiation, Mr. Lawrence was one of the most active and able members of the Commission.

Mr. Lawrence was a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1840, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1844, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1848, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention.

Mr. Lawrence was a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1852, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1854, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1856, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention.

Mr. Lawrence was a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1858, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1860, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1862, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention.

Mr. Lawrence was a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1864, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1866, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Convention of 1868, and was elected to the office of President of the Convention.

Obituary.

Obituary. We received, on Saturday, the death of Albert Lawrence, the distinguished merchant and politician, which took place at his residence, Park street, in that city, on that day at eleven o'clock A. M. Mr. Lawrence has long been suffering from a chronic disease of the stomach, which, at his age (63), usually baffles the skill of physicians.

Mr. Lawrence was a man of mark—a perfect type of Anglo-Saxon enterprise, industry, perseverance and liberality. He belonged to the school of self-made men, and like George Law, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and other distinguished Americans, he was his own schoolmaster and the architect of his own fortunes.