

GENERAL MOURAVIEFF.

WE have noticed in our pages many—we may say nearly all—the celebrated men whose names have been brought prominently forward by the late war; but our gallery of historical portraits would not be complete without a sketch of General Mouravieff. The task, in this instance, is a pleasant one. Mouravieff is one of those heroes of the old school who may be placed by the side of Bayard, "*sans peur et sans reproche*" — the deadly foe and the perfect gentleman, and, whether victorious or vanquished, he always commanded our respect. The name of Mouravieff is henceforth inseparably linked with that of Williams and with the fall of Kars. The gallant defence of Kars, and its final surrender to General Mouravieff are facts already well known to our readers. General Mouravieff was selected by the late Emperor of Russia to command the troops in Asia as well on account of his noted bravery and good generalship as from his experience on the theatre of war in that country. Mouravieff had served under Paskiewitch in the campaigns of 1828 and 1829; and the ground he had to go over again was quite familiar to him. The opposition he had to meet with was, however, of a different nature.

The campaigns of Paskiewitch were rapid and successful. Kars surrendered to him in a day, and the victorious Russian army planted its standards in rapid succession on the towers of Erzeroum, and even on those of the second capital of the Ottoman Empire. The war terminated with the Treaty of Adrianople. In 1855 the energy and "pluck" of a handful of Englishmen kept the Russians at bay for months; and it was not till reduced by famine that the brave garrison surrendered. The capitulation of Kars to General Mouravieff is the plank to which sinking Russia clung and saved her reputation.

We find Mouravieff in June, 1855, actively employed cutting off all the supplies meant for Kars, and watching that fortress with the utmost vigilance. "From the position we occupy," he says, writing on the 25th June, 1855, "the fortifications of Kars and the enemy's army shut up there are visible. The Turks continue to strengthen their works of defence, and are throwing up new ones on different points." In July heavy rains set in; but with unswerving perseverance we still found Mouravieff blockading Kars. This state of affairs continued till September. General Mouravieff then resolved to make a desperate attempt to carry Kars by storm. Having been informed that reinforcements were on their way from Erzeroum with a view to relieve the garrison, General Mouravieff convoked a council of war on the 27th of September. It was unanimously resolved that the heights which command Kars should be attacked on the 29th of September. The magnificent defence on that memorable day is one of the noblest records of war of which history can boast. Decimated by famine and disease, the garrison victoriously repulsed the attack. General Mouravieff, in his despatch, states

his loss at 6517 men. The gallant garrison, still hoping for relief, held out. General Mouravieff kept watch upon the devoted city more vigilantly than ever.

At last human suffering could endure no longer, and, with a heavy heart, Williams came to terms of capitulation. And it is from this dark background of heroic suffering, and bodily and mental anguish,

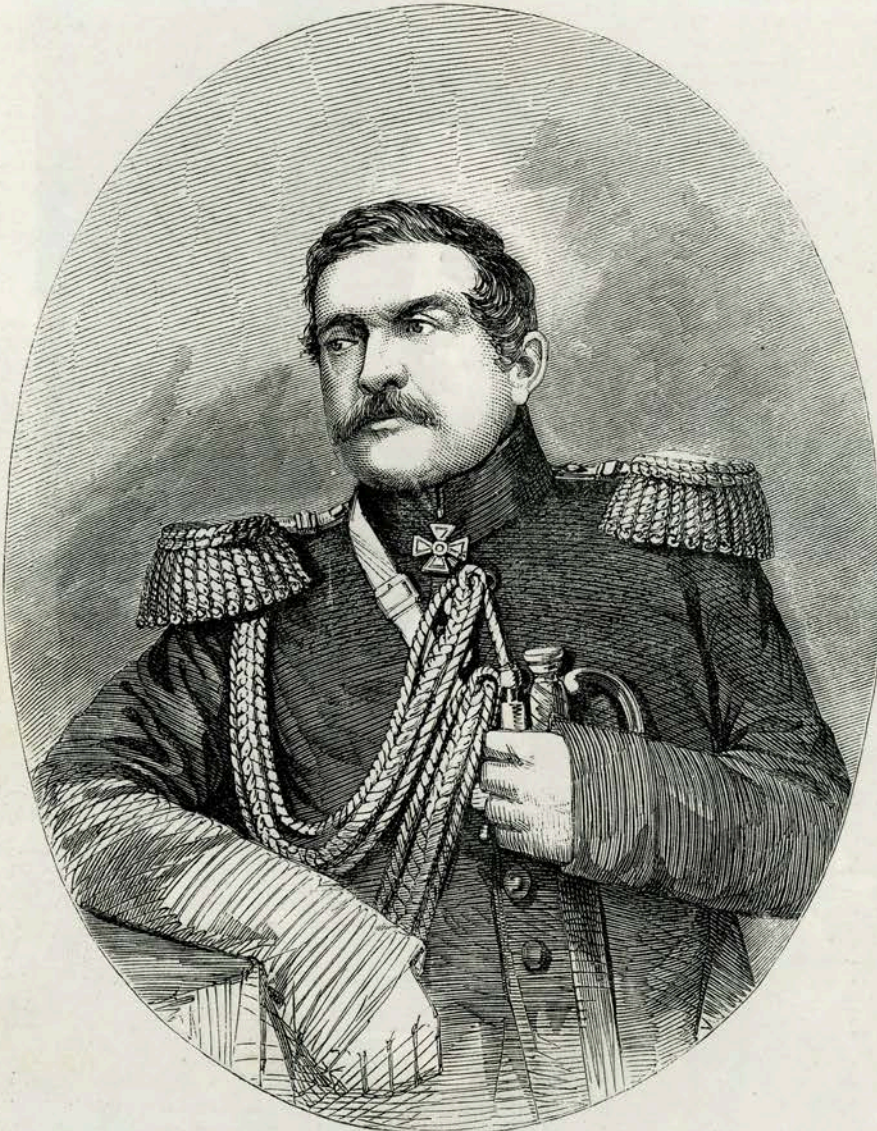
that the character of General Mouravieff stands forth in bright relief. On the 25th of November, 1855, General Williams and his aide-de-camp rode over to the Russian Camp, and the terms of capitulation were settled honourably to all. On the 28th November the fortress of Kars surrendered to Aide-de-Camp General Mouravieff, Commander-in-Chief of the detached corps in the Caucasus. The Mushir Vassif Pacha, eight other Pachas, a number of superior and subaltern officers, the whole garrison and 130 cannon, and General Williams and his staff fell into his hands. General Mouravieff ordered a repast to be given to the famished garrison, and, when the English officers were about to give up their swords the brave old Russian, with chivalrous courtesy, bade them keep them, and observed that they well became men of such heroic bravery, such gallant officers and gentlemen. In his report to the Emperor, Gen. Mouravieff thus compliments the garrison on its noble defence:—

"The besieged," he said, "founded their hopes on the arrival of aid from Erzeroum. In fact, Vely Pacha, in coming from Trebizond, attempted to advance upon Kars, but at each attempt he was met by General Sousloff's detachment, which then menaced his rear.

Our patrols skirmished with these troops, keeping them in a state of alarm as far as the vicinity of Erzeroum. Meantime the provisions at Kars were diminishing; the cold weather was coming on; snow had fallen on the Saganlong; cases of death of weakness from want of nourishment occurred in the garrison; desertion increased, and despondency became general. All these circumstances decided General Williams, who directed the defence of Kars, to surrender the fortress."

It is a noble trait of Mouravieff, thus, whilst announcing his own success, to shield the reputation of his opponent. The important service rendered to Russia by General Mouravieff, which has enabled Russia to conclude a treaty of peace with some appearance of equality, has not been overlooked by the Czar, and the highest military distinctions have been conferred upon him. A glance at the third and fourth articles of the Treaty of Peace of Paris, testifies to the importance of Kars. Russia restores Kars to Turkey, and in exchange receives back Sebastopol, Balaclava, Kamiesch, Eupatoria, Kerch, Yenikale, and Kinburn.

General Mouravieff is the scion of an ancient Russian family, distinguished in literature and science, as well as in arms. The accompanying portrait is from a photograph taken shortly before the General entered upon the campaign of Asia Minor.



GENERAL MOURAVIEFF.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY WEINGARTNER.