

Letter from Charles Bracebridge to a friend re conditions at the Military Hospital at Scutari (Uskudar, Turkey) during the Crimean War

Publication/Creation

1854

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Charles Gurney Esq
Trebursey
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Sord
Isleto

RICHMOND
1851

WALTON
1851

28

My dear Friend

RAMC 494

13. Nov: Scutari Barracks - (Constant)

we have been just a week in these quarters, which has passed amidst ^{every} ~~many~~ difficulties in getting housed, fed & cooked for but has proved that our family of 40 is accepted & highly useful, & by no means neglected - In fact, Lady Lanning & the Times (Mrs. Jones & Sidney Osborne, Mr. Stafford & I) vie with each other in decisions to assist the service we are on; but the 2 hospitals ^{are} ~~are~~ $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile apart, form indeed a sorry sight; 700 in one & 2300 in the other - they are a square, & an oblong building with corridors inwards (windows glazed) & rooms at the back; the sides of the oblong inside the corridor, about 400 paces - ~~rows of beds, make~~ the smaller side about $300 = 2800$; makes 1400 paces - again 2nd story, 1400 paces & two rows of beds make 5600 paces of lines of beds in the rooms (here follow other calculations respect; the other hospital - concluding with this summary) deducting servants & officers, we may I believe truly say there are 3 miles of beds - The number has well nigh overwhelmed the Staff; but now, with the 17 medical officers who came with us, there are 47 - Florence's (i.e. Miss Nightingale's) sisters dropped 200 of the 400 landed one day, & 350 of the 600 landed the next, & are beginning to be distributed over the worse cases - Florence & her head nurse were $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours last night over one leg which it will be next to a miracle to save - he is a fine young fellow 25 years old, of the 30th, & like all the others, never groaned - we have never heard a groan uttered of impatience either in the bringing here & carrying on stretchers, or during the dressing of the wounds - Two days ago 600 were

landed; 650 embarked for the Peninsula, & 130 for England, all
without confusion - The Turks carry many, yesterday they the
poor soldiers were thoroughly wearied out - Strange to say, though the
is a 74, & a frigate at the Ansonel repairing, they have given no
assistance; but the Admiral bustled about in his little steamer,
towing the boats part of the time - 700 were landed yesterday
& 800 expected tomorrow - The wounded are doing well,
but the sick, & many die of long standing Dysentery -
550 is above the number of the dead - 10,000 have passed
the two hospitals - The corridor to our room door, is covered
with wounded; we pass 200 every time we come in; so that
by & bye we shall probably suffer from low fever - Happily, it
is the cold season & the amount of cleanliness is very great -
The idea of fire is dreadful - for the whole is covered with mats -
but without these noble buildings & the steamers, it is horrible to think
of what would have become of the sick & wounded - we have found
some want of shirts & great coats, of cookery for the sick, & other
kitchens, & by our own cooks for special cases - many lives may
be saved no doubt by this, especially in the long sicknesses.
I am astonished at the rapid healing of the wounds; Logan
off on the 20th at Alma almost healed now; & even poor Sir J.
Browbridge seems half cured, tho' both feet were cut off on the
5th Nov^r - But the cases where the balls remain, are dreadful.
The courses of balls seem most whimsical, & as we don't see
the dead, it seems to me, the balls tried to avoid vital parts.
The night-scenes, are quite Rembrandt - Florence, the

medical Inspector General, Osborne, Sir E. Colbrook, 2 orderlies
with candles surrounding a poor fellow on the ground with his
arm off - our Priests of St. Clair with her flowing veil kneeling
a man mopping up with a sponge his bleeding leg - Florence
& sister George binding up a stump, the surgeon on one side,
a nun, an orderly with a knife on the other - They say the
men are all melted by it, & the Surgeon of the Queen's Bed
tears; a poor General Adams died when he saw my wife -
He died nobly at the Alma, & on the 5th Nov^r was in the advanced
brigade - one shot pierced his foot under the ankle, & another
went through his arm - Mr. Col^l Carpenter & 2 windows en-
-barked yesterday, a 3^d remains, & still we are expecting the
assault, & hear, if the French get in on the left (the only proper
side) they will be commanded by Fort Constantine; & that
ships are moved by steamers so as to fire shell on the trenches
& then retire behind the rocks - but great numbers of shells
have come into the town - our men have tents, but very little
baggage, & will be ill, if bad weather comes on; altogether
the case is not brilliant, & here, even a victory, will be
most melancholy - we only wonder we can hold from day to day
& have not yet had a regular line of divisions all together, & chance
comes slowly & with difficulty - The officers have had to
share a piece, & had to carry 2 days provisions - many had no beds
there, & those whose shoes were worn out had no others - Now is a
strong idea, that if the French, as they might, had continued to push
on their right beyond the Telegraph, over the Bavelona road, &

map of the battle in the Illustrated News) a very large number of Russians
& of guns would have been surrounded, & most have surrendered.
You will hear comments enough - we have more officers tendered
today (13th) from Sir G. Brounbridge has lost both feet - Many of the
young officers do justice - for the 2nd time I have attended an officers
funeral, & that of 10 men - on return we met another party, 10 men
headed by a R. C. Priest - the spot is beautiful between the Hospital
& the shore, 200 feet above the sea of Marmara - we have hardly seen
the Turks yet - one day I went from Pera to the arsenal to see
the Albion - main & muzzles missing - white streaks of timber
being renewed at the water's edge - shot all about the decks & locks
one burst in the cockpit, killed 2 men & knocked down the surgeon
two burst over each magazine & the ship was on fire in two places
about 12 men killed & 10 wounded - a wonderful escape - some
say, had Lyons been sole commander in chief, the ships would
have shaker down Fort Constantine - that is, each ship would have
delivered 1 or 2 more broadsides - General Adams says the
ships fire was like a roll of drums instead of great guns
(so even & continuous) & the smoke rolled over the camp, like
the puffs of a cloud - & & & from C. W. Brounbridge - of 1854

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no extracts are allowed to get into the papers

Marseille Dec^r. 7. 1854

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13 Nov. Scutari Barracks, Constante.

My dear Friend

We have been just a week in these quarters, which has passed amidst every difficulty in getting housed, fed & cooked for; but has proved that our family of 40 is acceptable & highly useful, & by no means neglected. In fact, Lady Canning & the Times Commissioner & Sidney Osborne, Mr. Stafford etc. etc. vie with each other in endeavours to assist the service we are on; but the 2 hospitals here $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile apart, form indeed a sorry sight; 700 in one & 2300 in the other. They are a square, & an oblong building with corridors inwards (windows glazed) & rooms at the back; the sides of the oblong inside the corridor, about 400 paces - the smaller side about 300 - which doubled makes 1400 paces - again 2nd story, 1400 paces = 2800; two rows of beds make 3600 paces of lines of beds in the rooms - (here follow other calculations respecting the other hospital - concluding with this summary) deducting servants & officers, we may I believe truly say there are 3 miles of beds. The number has well nigh overwhelmed the Staff; but now, with the 17 medical officers who came with us, there are 47 - Florence's (i.e. Miss Nightingale's) sisters dressed 200 of the 400 landed one day, & 350 of the 500 landed the next, & are beginning to be distributed over the worse cases. Florence & her head nurse were $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours last night over one leg which it will be next to a miracle to save - he is a fine young fellow 25 years old, of the 30th, & like all the others, never groaned. We have never heard a groan or word of impatience either in the bringing here & carrying on stretchers, or during the dressing of the wounds. Two days ago 600 were landed; 650 embarked for the Crimea, & 130 for England, all without confusion. The Turks carry many, yesterday they & the poor soldiers were thoroughly wearied out. Strange to say, though there is a 74, & a frigate at the Arsenal repairing, they have given no assistance; but the Admiral bustled about in his little steamer towing the boats part of the time. 700 were landed yesterday & 800 expected tomorrow. The wounded are doing well, but the sick, ill; many die of long standing Dysentery - 550 is about the number of the dead - 10,000 have passed through the two Hospitals. The corridor to our room door, is covered with wounded; we pass 200 every time we come in; so that bye & bye we shall probably suffer from low fever. Happily it is the cold season & the amount of cleanliness is very great. The idea of fire is dreadful - for the whole is covered with mats, but without these noble buildings & the steamers, it is horrible to think of what would have become of the sick & wounded. We have found some want of shirts & great coats, of cookery for the sick, all being boiled in huge coudrons - but this we soon hope to remedy by 2 kitchens, & by our own cooks for special cases - & many lives may be saved no doubt by this, especially in the long sicknesses. I am astonished at the rapid healing of the wounds; legs cut off on the 20th at Alma almost healed now; & even poor Sir J. Trowbridge seems half cured, tho both feet were cut off on the 5th Nov. But the cases where the balls remain, are dreadful. The courses of balls seem most whimsical, & as we don't see the dead, it seems to one, the balls tried to avoid vital parts. The night-scenes, are quite Rembrandt (sic) - Florence, the medical Inspector General, S. Osborne, Sir E. Colbrook, 2 orderlies with candles surrounding a poor fellow on the ground with his arm off - our Prioress of St. Clair with her

flowing veil kneeling over a man mopping up with a sponge his bleeding leg. Florence & Sister George binding up a stump, the surgeon on one side, a nun (sic), an orderly with a light on the other. They say the men are all melted by it, & the Sergeant of the Guards shed tears; as poor General Adams did when he saw my wife. He did nobly at the Alma, & on the 5th Novr was in the advanced brigade - one shot pierced his foot under the ankle, & another went through his arm. - Mrs. Coll. Carpenter & 2 widows embarked yesterday, a 3rd remains, & still we are expecting the assault, & hear, if the French get in on the left (the only proper side) they will be commanded by Fort Constatine; & that ships are moved by steamers so as to fire shell on the trenches & then retire behind the rocks - that great numbers of Russians have come into the Town - Our men have tents, but very little baggage, & will be ill, if bad weather comes on; altogether the case is not brilliant, & here, even a Victory will be most melancholly. We only wonder we are fed from day to day & have not yet had a regular sit down dinner all together; & charcoal comes slowly & with difficulty. The officers have had only one shirt apiece, & had to carry 2 days provisions. Many had no beds there, & those whose shoes were worn out had no others. There is a strong idea, that if the French, as they might, had continued to press on their right beyond the Telegraph, over the Balaclava road (see map of the battle in the Illustrated News) a very large number of Russians & of guns would have been surrounded, & most have surrendered. You will hear comments enough. We have more officers landed today (13th). Poor Sir J. Trowbridge has lost both feet. Many of the young officers doing well. For the 2nd time I have attended an officer's funeral, & that of 10 men - on returning we met another party, 10 men headed by a R.C. Priest. The spot is beautiful between the Hospital & the shore, 200 feet above the Sea of Marmora. We have hardly seen the Turks yet - one day I went from Pera to the Arsenal to see the Albion - main & mizzen masts gone - while streaks of timber being renewed at the water's edge - shells all about the decks & lockers, one burst in the cockpit, killed 2 men & knocked down the surgeon. Two burst over each magazine & the ship was on fire in two places. About 12 men killed & 10 wounded - a wonderful escape. Some say, had Lyons been The Commander in Chief, the ships would have shaken down Fort Constantine - that is, each ship would have delivered 1 or 2 more broadsides. General Adams says the ships fire was like a roll of drums instead of great guns (so even & continuous) & the smoke rolled over the camp, like the pillar of a cloud. Etc. - etc. - etc.

from C.H. Bracebridge of Atherston

This may be copied, but on the understanding care is to be taken no extracts are allowed to get into the papers.

C.H.B.

(Place name
not readable) Decr. 7 1854.

There is no evidence that the letter and the envelope are connected, and the dates would seem to indicate the contrary. However, Mrs Martin was nee Gurney and Mr Charles Gurney could have been her father or grand-father. The envelope may just have been made use of, in which case there is only an inference that Mr Gurney was the "Dear Friend"

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WOODHAM SMITH

Bracebridge, wife of Charles Holte Bracebridge, of Atherstone Hall, near Coventry. Selina understood her. In a retrospect Miss Nightingale wrote: "She never told me life was fair and my share of its blessings great and that I *ought* to be happy. She did not know that I was miserable but she felt it; and to me, young, strong and blooming as I then was, to me, the idol of the man I adored, the spoilt child of fortune, she had the heart and the instinct to say—'Earth, my child, has a grave and in heaven there is rest'."

Selina Bracebridge was a remarkable woman, beautiful in a regal style (Clarkey described her as "a tall, stately, irresistible, line of battle ship"), intellectual, artistic and possessing an extraordinary warmth of character. "She was totally unlike anyone I have ever known," wrote Miss Nightingale thirty years later, "as unlike as a picture of a sunny scene is to sunshine with its light and warmth; or as this February lamp we call the sun is to her own sun of the East in Palestine."

The Bracebridges were well-known travellers. Charles Bracebridge had an enthusiasm for the cause of Greek freedom, had taken part in a revolt against the Turks, and owned property in Athens. Generous, impetuous, irascible, he combined intense family pride (the Bracebridges liked to trace their descent from Lady Godiva), with a passion for liberty. He dressed picturesquely in wide hats and flowing cloaks, and had brought back Arab horses from the East which he bred at Atherstone Hall. He was "the kindest of friends and one of the best and noblest of men," Miss Nightingale wrote. "All his life he was fighting battles against cruelty and oppression."

Like Fanny, Selina Bracebridge prided herself on collecting interesting people, and in particular young writers. The Bracebridges were rich, had no children, and entertained a great deal both in London and at Atherstone Hall. Fanny warmly encouraged the friendship. Selina was twenty years older than Florence, a very happily married woman and a declared believer in matrimony. Selina might induce Florence to accept Richard Monckton Milnes, and perhaps through Selina's literary connections she might turn to writing. Selina and her husband became family friends, and she was given a pet name by the Nightingales, the Greek character "sigma"—

harbour or even to bring out a tug. While the transport rose and fell on huge swells a small boat was brought alongside. A sailor took her under the arms and held her over the side of the ship, and as the boat rose dropped her into it.

At first it seemed that she might succeed in "arranging things". It was an advantage to be without Mr. Bracebridge: "I find much less difficulty in getting on here without him than with him", she wrote in November 1855. "A woman obtains that from military courtesy (if she does not shock either their habits of business or their caste prejudice), which a man who pitted the civilian against the military element and the female against the doctors, partly from temper, partly from policy, effectually hindered." On the surface she was on friendly terms with Dr. Hall and Mr. FitzGerald. In fact, Mr. FitzGerald went so far as to confess to her he hoped that Mother Bridgeman's nuns would not import extravagant Koulali habits into Balaclava.

And then a copy of *The Times* for October 16th, 1855, arrived at Balaclava, and all her work was undone. It contained a report of a lecture given by Mr. Bracebridge at the Town Hall, Coventry. Everything Mr. Bracebridge had previously said, which she had implored him to refrain from saying publicly, he had now repeated. The lecture was a furious and inaccurate attack on the British Army authorities and the British Army doctors. He described the shocking state of the hospitals when she arrived and asserted that she had reformed them in a few days. He abused Mr. Wreford, the Purveyor-in-Chief, by name. He attacked army surgeons, calling them ignorant and callous and alleging that they refused to employ treatments which the French had proved successful. He gave specific instances of the ill-treatment of troops by doctors, but these were rumour and not fact.

The harm done was incalculable. Other papers reprinted Mr. Bracebridge's allegations, and it was believed that Miss Nightingale had instigated a Press attack on the Army Medical Department. Everything asserted of her by Dr. Hall was felt to be justified.

"When one reads such twaddling nonsense", wrote Dr. Hall to Dr. Andrew Smith, "as that uttered by Mr. Bracebridge and which was so much lauded in the 'Times' because

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1881

WOODHAM SMITH

She learnt that in the Crimea the kitchens which she had planned with Soyer had not been built, supplies were still being withheld from Mrs. Shaw Stewart, the conduct of the nurses was still unsatisfactory. In July she sent up a French man-cook, to whom she paid £100 a year out of her own private income, but the authorities refused to employ him. She requested that the ineffectual Miss Weare should be relieved as Superintendent of the General Hospital. Dr. Hall's reply was to appoint Miss Weare Superintendent of the Monastery Hospital, a new hospital for ophthalmic cases and convalescents, and ignore her request.

As she was bracing herself to gather strength and return to the Crimea a fresh blow fell. The Bracebridges wished to go home. They had come to the end of their endurance. For nine months they had shared the fearful sights, the horrible smells, the uneatable food, the insolence, the petty slights and the perpetual rudeness. They had endured, toiled, sacrificed themselves and yet—they had not been a complete success. Their devotion was as strong as ever, Miss Nightingale's affection as grateful. "No one can tell what she has been to me", she wrote of Selina, but Selina had muddled the "Free Gift" store, and Mr. Bracebridge's relations with the officials were increasingly unhappy.

He was an inveterate partisan, generous, honest, indiscreet, irritable. Miss Nightingale said, "he wished me to liberate my soul, as he calls it, and say as many disagreeable things as I can". He was elderly and the heat and flies of Scutari affected his health. He had been in charge of the finances of the expedition, and Miss Nightingale, though his integrity was unquestioned, was by no means certain of the good order of his accounts. Though she was barely convalescent she would not hear of delay in the Bracebridges' departure. Everything was made easy. It was given out that they were going home for a few months and would come back in the autumn, but she knew they would never return. As soon as they sailed on July 28th she went back to her quarters at the Barrack Hospital, retaining Mr. Sabin's house and sending her nurses there by turns to have a rest.

The medical authorities did not welcome her. They felt that the state of the hospital was now satisfactory and her help

the garrulous old gentleman talked about Miss Nightingale putting hospitals containing three or four thousand patients in order in a couple of days by means of the 'Times' fund, one cannot suppress a feeling of contempt for the man who indulges in such exaggerations and pity for the ignorant multitude who are deluded by these fairy tales."

Angry as Dr. Hall was, he was no more furious than Miss Nightingale herself. On November 5th she told Mr. Bracebridge she wished for no "more irresponsibility of opposition". She objected in the strongest possible manner to his lecture, "*First*, because it is not our business and I have expressly denied being a medical officer . . . *secondly*, because it justifies all the attacks made against us for unwarrantable interference and criticism, and *thirdly*, because I believe it to be utterly unfair". Alas, the damage had been done, and it was irremediable. She contemplated the wreckage of her endeavours with despair.

"I have been appointed a twelvemonth today," she wrote to Aunt Mai, "and what a twelvemonth of dirt it has been, of experience which would sadden not a life but eternity. Who has ever had a sadder experience. Christ was betrayed by one, but my cause has been betrayed by everyone—ruined, destroyed, betrayed by everyone alas one may truly say excepting Mrs. Roberts, Rev. Mother and Mrs. Stewart. All the rest, Weare, Clough, Salisbury, Stanley et id genus omne where are they? And Mrs. Stewart is more than half mad. A cause which is supported by a mad woman and twenty fools must be a falling house. . . . Dr. Hall is dead against me, justly provoked but not by me. He descends to every meanness to make my position more difficult."

As if she had not enough to endure she was taken ill again and forced to enter the Castle Hospital with severe sciatica. Minus the pain, which was great, she wrote to Mrs. Bracebridge that the attack did not seem to have damaged her much. "I have now had all that this climate can give, Crimean fever, Dysentery, Rheumatism and believe myself thoroughly acclimatised and ready to stand out the war with any man."

In a week she was up and working again, ignoring personal humiliations as long as female nursing in military hospitals

BOYS, THOMAS SHOTTER. *b.* Pentonville, London 2 Jany. 1803; articled to George Cooke, engraver; a member of Institute of Painters in water colours; exhibited 2 pictures at Royal Academy and 14 at Suffolk st. gallery 1824-58; lithographed the works of David Roberts and Clarkson Stanfield 1837; published *Picturesque architecture in Paris* 1839 which was much admired; *Original views of London as it is* 1843; drew illustrations to Blackie's *History of England*; etched some plates for Ruskin's *Stones of Venice*. *d.* of paralysis at 30 Acacia road, Marylebone, London 10 Oct. 1874.

BRABAZON, LUKE (*elder son of Hugh Higgins of Brabazon park, co. Mayo who d. 26 April 1864 aged 63*). *b.* 23 March 1832; 2 Lieut. R.A. 20 June 1849; second captain 23 Aug. 1855 to death; deputy assistant quartermaster general; changed his name to Brabazon 1854; author of *Soldiers and their science* 1860; went with admiral Hope to Tang-chow, China Aug. 1860, captured by Tartar general San-ko-lin-sin 18 Sep. 1860; executed by the Chinese on the bridge at Palikao 21 Sep. 1860. *Boulger's History of China* iii, 499-521 (1884).

BRACEBRIDGE, CHARLES HOLTE (*only son of Abraham Bracebridge of Atherstone hall, Atherstone, Warws. who d. 21 Aug. 1832*). *b.* 19 March 1799; ed. at Merton coll. Ox.; went with Florence Nightingale to Constantinople Oct. 1854; author of *A letter on the affairs of Greece* 1850; *Shakespeare no deerstealer, or a short account of Fulbroke park near Stratford-on-Avon* 1862. *d.* of heart disease at Atherstone hall 13 July 1872.

BRACKENBURY, SIR EDWARD (2 son of Richard Brackenbury of Awardby, co. Lincoln). *b.* 1785; ensign 61 Foot 1803, served in Peninsula 1809-14; attached to Portuguese and Spanish army 1814-16; major 28 Foot 1 Nov. 1827 to 31 Jany. 1828 when placed on h.p.; lieut. col. 10 Jany. 1837; retired from the service 1847; K.T.S. 1824, K.S.F.; knighted at Windsor Castle 26 Aug. 1836. *d.* Skendleby hall near Spilsby, co. Lincoln 1 June 1864.

BRACKENBURY, REV. JOSEPH. *b.* Langton, Lincolnshire 1788; a student at C. C. coll. Cam. 28 Oct. 1808, B.A. 1811, M.A. 1819; chaplain Madras establishment 1812-19; chaplain and secretary to Magdalen hospital Blackfriars road London 1828-56; R. of Quendon, Essex 1862 to death; author of *Natale solum and other poetical pieces* 1810. *d.* Quendon rectory 31 March 1864.

BRACKENRIDGE, GEORGE WEARE (*eld. son of George Brackenridge of Brislington near Bristol, merchant*). *b.* Hanover county, Virginia 4 Jany. 1775; ed. at Dr. Estlin's school Bristol, England; partner in a leading West India firm; lived at Brislington 1824 to death; formed a good collection of Coleoptera and organic remains; gave greater portion of building fund for Christchurch, Clevedon, also a permanent endowment for church which was consecrated 1839. *d.* Brislington 11 Feb. 1856. *Quarterly Journal of Geol. Soc. of London* xiv, 60-62 (1858).

BRADBURY, HENRY (*eld. son of the succeeding*). A pupil at Imperial printing office Vienna 1850 where he learnt process of Nature printing which he claimed afterwards to have invented; founded a business in Fetter lane, London which he moved to Farringdon st. and carried on under name of Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co.; produced nature printed plates to Moore and Lindley's *Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland* 1855 and Johnstone's *British sea weeds* 4 vols. 1860-1; author of *Printing, it's dawn, day, and destiny* 1858; *Autotypography or art of nature printing* 1860; *Specimens of bank note engraving* 1860; committed suicide by drinking prussic acid in Cremorne gardens, London 1 Sep. 1860 aged 30.

BRADBURY, WILLIAM. Printer at 76 Fleet st. London 1824; publisher with F. M. Evans in Whitefriars st. 1830; published *The Christmas carol* 1843; *Punch* 1843 to death, the *Daily News* 1846 to death; joint proprietor with C. Dickens, J. Forster and W. H. Wills of *Household Words* 1850-59; proprietor of *Gent. Mag.* 1866-70. *d.* 13 Upper Woburn place, London 11 April 1869 in 70 year. *Reg. and mag. of biog.* i, 485 (1869); *C. Beavan's Reports of cases in chancery* xxvii, 53-61 (1861).

BRADDYLL, EDWARD STANLEY BAGOT RICHMOND GALE. *b.* 1803; contested North Durham 21 Dec. 1832; fought a duel with Russell Bowlby at Offerton lane near Herrington, Durham 27 Sep. 1832 and another with Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart. at the Hare and Hounds on the Sedgefield road same day. *d.* Windermere Bank, Bowness, Ambleside 2 Sep. 1874 aged 71. *Sykes's Local Records* ii, 397-8 (1833).

BRADEN, REV. WILLIAM. *b.* Marylebone, London 22 Nov. 1840; ed. at Maida Hill gr. sch. and Cheshunt coll.; Congregational minister at St. Alban's 1861 at Hillhouse chapel Huddersfield 1866 and at the King's

558. Can you state whether the total number of cavalry in December was not about 1,400 men, exclusive of sick present, servants, and men on detached duty?—I suppose that nobody knows the distinctions and attributes of the different parts of the army better than Colonel Tulloch does. The question refers to the Adjutant General's department, and not to the Quartermaster General's department. I have nothing to do with the establishments, the efficiency, or the details of effective men, or anything of that sort, as Quartermaster General. I have no doubt that what Colonel Tulloch states is correct, but it does not come within my functions as Quartermaster General; it is an Adjutant General's question, but I have no doubt they were about that number.

559. Had you not just given orders to provide shelter, and ought you not to have known what number of men there were available for the duty you had ordered?—Lord Lucan was desired to do the best he could. His means, such as he had, were at his own disposal. I have the greatest disinclination to evade or not to answer a question; but, as I said before, Lord Lucan was desired, under the circumstances, without reference to number, and without reference to anything, to do the best he could.

560. You have heard what has been stated to the Board by Mr. Rawlinson and other witnesses in regard to the advantages of sailcloth as a rapid mode of constructing covering for the horses; do you concur in that opinion?—I do not concur with Mr. Rawlinson at all. I think Mr. Rawlinson, not being a military man, has entered into questions which from his experience, and with every sort of advantage, and with every sort of facility in perfectly quiet times, has induced him to come to conclusions which in time of war, with soldiers, are quite erroneous. I may as well observe, so far as my recollection serves me, that Mr. Rawlinson did so far qualify his own opinions as to state that, not being a soldier, and not knowing what soldiers had to do, and not taking any military considerations into account, he only stated generally what might be done by other people, having none of those contingencies bearing upon them.

561. Opinions have been expressed in your presence as to the advantage of sailcloth by Colonel Griffiths, Colonel Low, and Colonel Douglas; do you concur with them in the opinion that it might have been usefully applied in providing rapid covering for the horses?—I think there can be no sort of doubt, if we had had workmen, and all the materials necessary for a framework, which is absolutely essential before sailcloth can be made of any use at all, and if the material was of a substantial nature sufficient to bear the weight of the sailcloth, and the effect of wind and rain upon it, and we had had spare time and hands, there can be no sort of doubt in any reasonable mind that shelter for the horses would have been advantageous.

562. Would not the use of sailcloth have saved time in providing shelter?—If we had had it on the spot; but not the sailcloth alone; you want all the other materials that I have just mentioned; you want hands, you want implements, you want wood, to make a sufficiently substantial framework to support it, and to bear the wear and tear of the weather.

563. Did not a large supply of wood arrive on the 25th of November; scantling and everything of that kind?—Quantities of wood arrived about that time; I do know exactly.

564. Could not sailcloth in any quantity have been had in Constantinople, either from the arsenal, where, owing to the destruction of the fleet, there could be no demand for it, or from the mercantile stores?—It is extremely difficult to say. Anybody who has had any communication with Turkish officials well knows that their working is not extremely rapid. From the delays and puttings off, and lies, and shifting, it is impossible to know where you are with any of them. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was fully aware of our position, and was in constant communication with Lord Raglan, and was as energetic as any man could be; and whatever was forthcoming from Constantinople would have been sent by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. Lord Raglan's communications to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe were private notes; and, as I said before, I am quite persuaded that everything which Constantinople yielded, and that we could afford transport for, under the great pressure of the other services, and that was required, was sent off from Constantinople. At this time we had already made application to the Transport Service, and had got from them all the sails and spars and tarpaulins, and everything that we could get from them; and my correspondence with Captain Christy will show that. With regard to other circumstances connected with the sailcloth, I heard Lord Lucan say yesterday or the day before that he intended to ask for the attendance of Admirals Dundas and Lyons. I do not think that Admiral Lyons, who was always on the spot,—always riding through the camps, always coming up to Lord Raglan, and constantly in Balaklava,—was the man to see all this going on before him, and to have all the means of remedying it, and not to have come forward himself and have proposed it.

565. You have heard the statement made by Mr. Bracebridge, who was on the spot, that canvas could have been procured. Had you sent over instructions by the first steamer after the 8th of November, would there have been any difficulty in receiving a sufficient supply to commence with, at least within eight or ten days?—With regard to Mr. Bracebridge I should wish really, with the utmost respect to that gentleman, to say that I do not consider that his evidence is worth having. I wish to use as delicate language as I can, but I really do not consider that his evidence is worth having. He came out, I think, to the Crimea in the month of May; that is perfect summer there; the most beautiful and

Major General
Sir Richard Airey,
K.C.B.

14th April 1856.

*Major General
Sir Richard Airey,
K.C.B.*

14th April 1856.

charming weather that can be imagined. He came out in May, and he gave in evidence what might have been done in the month of December of the previous year. I appeal to any officer who was there at those two periods to say whether any man can form the slightest idea of what could have been done or could not have been done, or what was the state of the country, or could give any opinion upon the question, coming out in the month of May, and having reference to the previous December, and the state of distress in which that army was. Really, as I said before, in my own opinion I do not think that Mr. Bracebridge's evidence is worth having; and not only that, I did not consider myself, yesterday or the day before, when he gave his evidence, inculpated. I did not like to get up; I thought it would have been indecorous to have interrupted the Board; but I felt inclined to say that the evidence of a gentleman who comes out to the Crimea in the month of May, the most beautiful season possible, remains there for five weeks, and then gives long elaborate evidence as to what ought to have been done in the December previous in the army, he not being a military man, but having kept hunters in Leicestershire, I say I really do not think his evidence worth having.

566. Mr. Bracebridge's opinion was expressed as to the possibility of procuring sailcloth at Constantinople, where he had resided for many years, was it not?—I really believe that it was; but in the same spirit that I have just spoken with, I paid very little attention to Mr. Bracebridge's evidence; I did not think much of it.

567. You stated the other day that you did apply to the Agent for Transports to collect all the sails and awning that could be obtained, but that the supply was so small, and the demand so great for covering, that it was exhausted before it reached the cavalry lines. Was not that a proof of its usefulness, and a sufficient reason for sending to the Admiral or to Constantinople for a larger supply, and did you do so, and with what effect?—That was the very time that the timber was arriving; large quantities were expected every day; the Commissary General was exerting himself in all directions, and he expected ships every day with it; the timber was infinitely more useful than all this sailcloth, and that sailcloth could only be considered temporary. In the state that we were in, even that temporary labour it was desirable to spare the men from as much as possible. In fact a great deal of the timber was in the harbour at Balaklava, and the only difficulty was in getting it up. It was of no use to send to Constantinople for an article which was not so good as that which it might be said we had actually in hand.

568. Taking into account the large number of cattle slaughtered for the use of the troops, and the number of horses that died, might not the skins of those animals have been made available for affording shelter, particularly for roofs; did you adopt any measure with that view?—That question is just one of those which shows that it is unfortunate that the Commissioners did not go further substantially into the subject of their inquiry on the spot, because Mr Commissary General Filder knows that he was directed and did save all the hides of all the slaughtered animals; he had an order from me. I do not know whether Lord Raglan told me personally, but that order is upon record, to give directions that the hides of all slaughtered animals were to be saved, to serve as roofs for the stables; and therefore that is one of those questions as to which it is unfortunate that the examination did not proceed a little further upon the spot. At all events that one question would have been saved.

569. It appears that so early as November there arrived in the harbour 11,500 palliasses covers, intended to be stuffed with straw and used by the men, but which were never used for that purpose, because, as was alleged, straw could not be got; might not those palliasses, being made of strong ticking, and affording upwards of 100,000 feet of cover, have been applied with great advantage, even if used double, to form the sides and tops of buildings, and if so, why were they not so used when the men did not get them?—I believe they were of the common canvas that you see the palliasses in barrack rooms made of; and I am prepared to say, though not as an engineer, that they would have been perfectly useless as covering for horses, except tying them round their bodies; but as Lord Lucan had long before that asked for horse clothing to be sent for, and it was sent for, with a certain number of hoods, 2,000 sets of horse clothing, there was no necessity for using the palliasses covers in that way. And as to their being used as shelter for horses, and nailed to timber, my opinion is that they would have been perfectly useless.

570. Would it not have been better to have used them double than not to have used them at all, either for man or beast?—There were various considerations. At that time the first question was with regard to their utility, and I do not think that they would have been of any use to be applied in that way; but the great difficulty that we had in every respect there was in regard to transport; we were obliged to apply it in the best way that we could, both horse transport and men's transport; and it would have been throwing away labour that would have been much more usefully employed than in getting cavalry soldiers to convey those palliasses covers to make a shelter which I think would not have lasted one night.

571. Were not those lying at Kadikoi, close to the cavalry camp, and therefore requiring no transport?—To the best of my recollection, these palliasses covers were sent into the purveyor's store-room. I really am not sure about that; but we were very much pressed indeed for space. The space that was able to be given to what were called the Quartermaster General's stores was in the town of Balaklava, when they became so crowded and full of bales,—not unpacked, not assorted,—but bales one on the top of the other,—that the

R. Rawlinson, Esq.

2th April 1856.

Cross-examined by the Earl of Lucan.

440. Will you be good enough to answer this question,—Did you see any cavalry horses of our allies under cover?—I am not aware that I did. I did not inspect them.

441. You did not see them?—No, I did not see them; I paid no attention to them. (*Colonel Tulloch.*) I wish to remind the Board that the witness distinctly drew a line between butting the horses and the men.

441a. (*Earl of Lucan.*) When this Sardinian army came into the Crimea had they any field duties to perform at that moment, and at what season of the year did the Sardinian army arrive there?—I do not recollect the date of the arrival of the Sardinian army. I have it in my diary, but I have not made a note of it. I saw them arrive; every division marched past my hut. I saw the ground that they occupied; and I believe two days after they had taken it up, after the reconnaissance, I think, in May, when Kamara was occupied, and the ground from Kamara across Balaklava down to Trakhtir Bridge, I rode over that ground and through it, and took particular notice of what the Sardinians had set themselves to do. I also noticed going out of Balaklava that the very week upon which they had taken up the ground they had masons at work mending the road that we had never meddled with, they were draining and opening out springs, and breaking macadam to form a road; and within that week, so far as I could judge, the whole of the Sardinian army were comfortably tented, the officers in their small bell-tents, and the soldiers with their tents d'abri: they had put up temporary erections, "*gourbies*," made of the brush timber of the district, and they had thrown a protection of the same description round their horses. As to field duties I cannot tell; I know that they were supposed to be in the face of the enemy; I saw the Sardinian riflemen in front crouching down, and we thought the Russians were in front. As to other field duties I do not know; I saw them putting up erections, making roads, and setting themselves to work to put their camp in order, and that they certainly did with marvellous rapidity.

442. In your evidence you stated that railway horses would have suffered in a far less degree than did the cavalry horses under the same circumstances. I ask you whether, when you made that statement, you had taken into your consideration what had been the feeding of those cavalry horses?—No, I did not. I think I qualified the statement by saying that I did not judge, excepting as a civilian. I do not pretend to set up my judgment as to what the soldiers had to do besides looking after their horses. I simply say that the railway contractor, or any persons in an analogous position, civilians sent out to that very ground with the same number of men, or with a tenth part of the men, and with the same number of horses—always providing, of course, that the man who sent them sent provisions to feed them—would not have suffered as those horses appear to have suffered from exposure to cold and frost.

(*Colonel Tulloch.*) I will now, with the permission of the Board, call Mr. Bracebridge.

*C. H. Bracebridge,
Esq.*

CHARLES HOLTE BRACEBRIDGE, Esq., examined.

443. (*Colonel Tulloch.*) You have been in connection with the army of the East for a particular period at Scutari and Balaklava; will you state how long at each place?—Ten months from England. Nine months at the two places, and five weeks in the Crimea out of the nine months.

444. Did you, during your stay at Balaklava, visit occasionally the cavalry lines at Kadikoi?—Yes; the five weeks terminating on the 5th of June. That was the period that I was there.

445. Did you also visit occasionally the plateau in front of Lord Raglan's?—Frequently.

446. Was either of those localities extremely exposed?—The plateau was, certainly.

447. Was it, in your opinion, so exposed as to have created a difficulty in the construction of temporary shelter for the horses?—Not at the time I saw it, certainly. At the previous time, in the months of November and December as described, and during a partial storm which I did see in May, which lasted five days, it might be so.

448. From your long previous knowledge of the East, both summer and winter, do you think that useful shelter for horses might, with the aid of a few spars, have been constructed from sailcloth at Kadikoi?—I think that they would have been easily constructed with the aid of spars in the valley of Kadikoi, and without on the plateau, but if the question is confined to Kadikoi, it is simply yes.

449. Having had considerable experience of horses in foreign countries, is there any simple cover that you could set up for horses with the aid of sailcloth, and if so, describe it?—Having seen in some parts of the camp the cuttings that were made, I would describe those coverings by saying, that at that period, even at the worst of the weather, cuttings might have been made in the earth, as they were afterwards, taking advantage of the very undulating ground. If the question turns upon that particular plateau, taking more especial advantage of the lower ground or open valley, which lay about the eighth of a mile to the left going to head quarters, I conceive that cuttings could have been made, as they were afterwards made, for perhaps three horses together. The calculation with regard to one of those cuttings I apprehend to be this, that a horse could be placed

in a hollow four feet deep by four feet wide and nine feet long; that would require the removal of 144 cubic feet of ground. If the acclivity was at a right angle, of course there would be only a half—72 feet; and to remove seventy-two cubic feet I apprehend that each workman, such as may be found in the ranks, would take five minutes to remove one foot; that would be in that case six hours to make such a cutting. If that was double on account of the imperfection of the tools, and that I do not see, or the imperfection of the workmen, that would give 12 hours. If that was again doubled, one man would effect the placing of a horse in this cutting in twelve hours; and if that was doubled it would be two days. With regard to the question, I would answer it in this way:—I apprehend from the horses that I saw so placed, that if they were covered without tents, but with clothing of sailcloth, and if they had in the front, to protect their heads, upon the ground where the heads were, sailcloth pegged to the ground 2 feet 6 inches high, and supported upon such little sticks as could be found in the brushwood, and pegged down on the other side, that the horses would be very greatly covered without the erection of any buildings. The question applying to sailcloth, I have just cast up this rough memorandum:—An ordinary topsail of an average vessel, such as we saw at Balaklava in the winter and which I saw go to Scutari, taking from 600 to 800 tons, would afford a topsail of 40 to 30 feet, which would give 1,200 feet in the topsail. Now, assuming that a horse would require six yards, four for his body and two for a hood round the neck, and one for a front screen, that would give seven yards a horse; that would be sixty-three feet, requiring 126,000 feet. Now, dividing this sum by the quantity of topsails, we get 105 topsails on the 2,000 horses. I apprehend, therefore, that 105 topsails so used would cover 2,000 horses. It is not within my knowledge how many ships there were; but assuming that there were twice that number in the harbour, that makes 210 ships, and the spare topsails of those ships would suffice for that quantity of canvas clothing for the horses.

450. (*Major General Peel*.) You mean clothing?—Simply clothing with a screen.

451. (*Colonel Tulloch*.) You mean instead of putting up a cover over the horses you would put this sailcloth over their bodies so as completely to cover them?—Yes.

452. Instead of putting up a regular roof?—Yes, the sides being protected by the earth.

453. Were there not great facilities of intercourse between Constantinople and Balaklava?—When I was at Scutari I had a great opportunity of observing, from crossing the Bosphorus very frequently; and I should say there were on the average three vessels up and three down in the day, in twenty-four hours, at the time that we are speaking of—in the month of May; certainly not less.

454. You have resided long at different periods at Constantinople; do you think that there would be any difficulty in procuring sailcloth to almost any extent there that may be required?—We are speaking of the 210 topsails as the extreme quantity required for 2,000 horses. Certainly there would be no difficulty; a simple order any day could accomplish it; but as the largest part of the Turkish fleet was destroyed, or in a non-active state in the harbour, almost any amount of canvas could have been obtained in the Turkish arsenal.

455. Within what time could it have been, in your opinion, sent over to the Crimea after being ordered?—Ninety hours; thirty hours' voyage each way, and thirty hours to load the ship.

456. You could have got what you would require?—Double. What I should require would be 210 topsails.

457. That you conceive to be a very moderate quantity, and might be obtained from Constantinople?—Certainly.

458. Do you think that carpenters' nails, and everything necessary, might have been procured also, and sent over in a few days from Constantinople, almost to an unlimited extent?—Undoubtedly; but the question is not confined to a period. Undoubtedly, if after the beginning of November we had had any demonstration; because, in consequence of the repairs necessary for Scutari hospital, arising out of the sick who came down after the battle of Inkermann, and otherwise—that is to say, arising about the 10th of November—we had eighty or ninety carpenters immediately set on; there were, more or less, carpenters more or less skilled. The town of Constantinople being built of wood affords a large supply, though they are certainly not very skilful.

459. You are Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Warwick, are you not?—Of Leicester.

460. You have been in the habit of keeping hunters and hunting, have you not?—For about thirty years. I have kept horses in Greece, about twenty, at different periods.

461. Is there any produce of the Black Sea that you think might have been particularly useful for horses under circumstances of great exposure such as the cavalry in the Crimea were exposed to, suffering also from want of hay; and if so, will you state it, and the price, and where it could be obtained?—My attention was called early in the year to the feeding of horses at Scutari. I found that any quantity of linseed could be obtained at Constantinople, which is a depôt for linseed. Looking at the Reports of the House of Lords, I find that in February Lord Albemarle stated in his speech in the House of Lords a statistic that was derived from the British Custom House, showing the immense quantity of linseed, many thousands of quarters, exported from the Black Sea and Constantinople, and brought into England, subsequently to the commencement of the war. Having been in the habit of using linseed all my life in my stables, here and abroad, and being aware of

*C. H. Bracebridge,
Esq.*

12th April 1856.

Cross-examined by the Earl of LUCAN.

C. H. Bracebridge,
Esq.

12th April 1856.

466. You stated in one of your answers that any number of carpenters could have been found at Constantinople?—Eighty.

467. I ask you, is not this true, that there were English carpenters sent out from England to Constantinople by the Minister of War to assist in the construction or in the repairs of the Scutari hospitals?—It is undoubtedly true, and the first of them, I think, arrived about February; I could almost give the number. I think there were about sixteen.

Major-General Sir RICHARD AIREY, K.C.B., further examined.

Major-Gen. Sir
R. Airey, K.C.B.

468. (*Colonel Tulloch.*) I understand that upon the 8th of November you issued an order to Lord Lucan to provide shelter for his horses, and upon the 12th you renewed that order?—I think it was about those dates. I had not been warned at all that you were going to examine me to-day, and therefore I cannot state, but I will admit that they were about those dates, with Lord Lucan's permission.

469. I presume that when an order is received emanating from so high an authority, it is understood that the officer to whom it is addressed has the means of obeying it?—Generally.

470. When you issued such an order, I presume that you knew or had the means of knowing what number of men Lord Lucan was likely to have available for those purposes; in short, that you satisfied yourself of the practicability of carrying the order into effect before you issued it?—To the greatest possible extent certainly, of course always being aware that a cavalry regiment has remarkably few available men. I am obliged, with the permission of the Board, to amplify a little upon all those questions, because I think I may assume that the object of the Board and of the public is to get information—not a mere categorical answer to a question, but to get information. When Lord Raglan desired me to convey those orders to Lord Lucan, the cavalry had just got on their new ground shortly before, and as we had written to Constantinople, and were in the expectation of receiving the materials for sheltering the horses, a memorandum or a letter—I am not quite sure which it was, or whether it was a verbal instruction, but presume it was a written instruction—was sent to the officer commanding the cavalry to make such preparation as he could for the shelter of his horses. In my mind it was quite evident that the only preparation that the cavalry could make was to trace out the ground, to make use of such labour and such entrenching tools as they had at their disposal, to excavate it a little, and to get it level to be prepared for the uprights and the wood that was expected every day from Constantinople.

471. At that time had the ultimate site of the cavalry camp been fixed upon,—on the 8th or 12th of November?—Yes; they had marched down then to their ground.

472. To Kadikoi?—To Kadikoi. Lord Lucan will correct me if I am wrong.

(*Lord Lucan.*) We went to Kadikoi on the 2d and 5th of December.

(*Colonel Tulloch.*) On the 8th and 12th of November it appears by the documents produced to us in the Quartermaster General's office, that orders were given for Lord Lucan to provide temporary shelter as he best could.

(*Earl of Lucan.*) We were in our first position on the hill then.

473. (*Colonel Tulloch to the Witness.*) At that time had the ultimate site of the camp been fixed upon?—No.

474. Then of course the men could neither have been digging the ground nor preparing the uprights, seeing that the site of the camp was not fixed?—There is a good deal to say, Sir Alexander Woodford, upon all these subjects. When I say that the cavalry were not established upon their ultimate ground, it was not at all sure at that moment that it might not have been their ultimate ground. I am placed in rather a peculiar position here. I occupied a particular character in that army. I was in close conference with the Commander-in-Chief of that army, and I therefore knew everything that was going on between the Commander-in-Chief of our own army and the Commander-in-Chief of the allied army. There were various transactions between those two personages which it would be anything but expedient or convenient that I should here mention. I shall only say, therefore, that those conferences were continual, and that there was a particular reason, which I will not mention here at this moment, why the cavalry were upon the ground which Colonel Tulloch now alludes to. It appears that Lord Lucan was written to and desired to make temporary protection as well as he could for his horses. Probably it might have meant at that moment merely embanking a little the earth and so forth for the time; and as I have before said, it was by no means certain then, although we know now that circumstances changed, and that the cavalry were marched down from that ground to the other; but when they got that order it was not positively settled or known whether they would eventually remain there or not. It would depend upon a variety of contingencies connected with the reinforcement of our army, both from France and from Varna by Omer Pasha.

475. Will you describe what you mean by a direction to Lord Lucan to make temporary shelter, as best he could, till the timber arrived; how could he make it, for want

C. H. Bracebridge,
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the extremely injurious effects of feeding horses upon barley alone, more or less for twenty years, and knowing the habits of the country, both Greece and Turkey, giving them green food in the spring, I instituted an inquiry at Scutari, and I mentioned the subject to several officers, whom I will name afterwards; amongst others Colonel Kennedy, who commanded the artillery at Gata-Serai, in the spring at Constantinople, having, I think, about 200 or 250 horses; and Captain Seager and Major Morris, but Captain Seager commanded the horses that were left of the light cavalry at Scutari, their number being about 60 or 70. I am allowed to use the names of those gentlemen; and I made a trial, mixing the linseed with the barley. Of course it would not be used as it could be in England, by being boiled to a jelly; I therefore ordered the serjeants in charge to soak it simply, and it was found by being soaked and mixed with the food in such a proportion that it did not produce greasiness, that the horses took to it, and it took away all that scorbutic effect of the extremely hard barley of that country, an effect which is very much the same as feeding men upon salt provisions, and which was neutralized by the oily matter of the linseed. Colonel Kennedy and Captain Seager were convinced by that experiment, and they applied to the Commissariat at Constantinople for an issue of linseed; and the Commissariat, who have allowed me to mention it, for I desired that they should, refused, upon the ground that they had issued all their contracts for forage, and that they would not effect new contracts for linseed. I mentioned this to Mr. Filder and to Mr. Curzon, one of the aide-d-camps to General Scarlett, and to General Paulet, at the time. My answer, then, is, that any quantity of this linseed could have been got, and it was extremely useful and expedient to prevent the exciting quality of the barley.

462. Can you state at what price it could have been obtained?—Five shillings per bushel, I got the price from Mr. Hanson; I bought about 20*l.* worth, and gave it to several. My answer, of course, is dependent upon the truth of Mr. Hanson's statement, who is one of the great merchants at Constantinople. I wish to add, that in the General Orders of General Codrington about three weeks ago, there is one expression—to give oilcake, which is composed of linseed, to the mules.

463. In your opinion, was much ingenuity exercised by the cavalry in the construction of stables or temporary shelter for their horses, as compared with the cavalry of other nations, in the Crimea?

(*Earl of Lucan.*) It appears to me a most extraordinary thing to examine a witness as to what occurred five months before he was in that country. The next question is, how did this gentleman inform himself of what had happened five months before he visited the Crimea. He is asked whether ingenuity was shown by the cavalry in the month of November from what he saw in the month of May following. The question might be equally put to any gentleman in this Court who never left London at all.

(*Colonel Tulloch.*) I beg to say that the cavalry were not completely covered in till the middle of February, and the men not till March. Mr. Bracebridge was in the Crimea about the 2d of May, so that the period is absolutely close upon it; he was there at the very time the huts were completed, and the stables completed; and within a month or two, I think, after the losses occurred.

464. (*Judge Advocate General to the witness.*) Are you prepared to give any opinion with respect to the cavalry of our army, in comparison with the cavalry of our allies, before you arrived in the Crimea?—No; after the 3d of May I can speak from what I saw.

465. (*Colonel Tulloch.*) I am sorry that I am obliged to put the question, but as the word "ingenuity" is commented upon by those who object to the Report, of course I must put it in some shape or other. (*To the witness.*) From what you saw of our cavalry after you arrived in the Crimea, can you form an opinion whether as much ingenuity was exercised by the cavalry in the construction of stables or temporary shelter for their horses as was shown by the cavalry of other nations in the Crimea?—I can only answer that question in a very restricted form. The only ingenuity that I had an opportunity of observing in other nations, with regard to the horses that arrived, was certain trenches and small dams, I may say, put up when the Sardinian horses were placed in their lines; and comparing that with the two regiments that I saw arrive, the 10th and 12th, from India, I did not observe any such dams or trenches where they were picketed. Just after they were picketed, unfortunately a series of rainy days happened in May,—I think the second week, probably from the 8th to the 16th, and a great deal of mud was created; and I do not think it would have been possible to have erected over the 10th and 12th regiments, in those few days, huts or stabling. As to the ingenuity of one nation and another, I saw no ingenuity in picketting those horses; but I saw that small ingenuity of the trench and the dam in the case of the Sardinians. I must limit it to that; what the causes were, whether it was the weather or anything else, I cannot speak to.

(*Earl of Lucan.*) The Board will observe that Colonel Tulloch examines Mr. Bracebridge as to that part of the report which says that in the early part of the winter there was not much ingenuity, and Mr. Bracebridge's answer refers to what occurred afterwards in the summer.

(*Major-General Peel to the Earl of Lucan.*) You were not in the Crimea at that time?

(*Earl of Lucan.*) I was gone two months previously.



Ministry of Defence Library
(Central and Army)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Old War Office Building
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.1.

31 May, 1967

Dear Sir Gerald Templer,

Charles Holt Bracebridge was a Warwickshire landowner who was born in 1799 and died in 1872. He and his wife Selina were members of Florence Nightingale's circle of friends. The Bracebridges were typical representatives of a group of people not uncommon in Victorian days - country gentlefolk interested in measures for the improvement of the conditions of the poor in this country and in the advancement of liberal nationalist movements abroad. Bracebridge's main interest was in the freedom of Greece, a country in which he owned property. The Bainbridges' links with the army arise from their association with Florence Nightingale, whom they accompanied to the Crimea. They seem to have possessed none of Florence Nightingale's practical ability and appear to have given her rather more trouble than help. Bracebridge was in fact somewhat of a busybody who considered himself an authority on horse management, including that of Army horses. His evidence before the Tulloch Committee after the Crimean War aroused some resentment among the military witnesses.

There is an excellent character sketch of Bracebridge and his wife in Mrs. Woodham Smith's "Florence Nightingale". I enclose photocopies of this and the accounts Mrs. Woodham Smith gives of the Bracebridge Crimean War activities, together with some Tulloch Committee extracts.

/I

Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, K.G.,
G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., D.C.L.,
12 Wilton Street
S.W.1.

I certainly agree that the N.A.M. is not the best place for the original letter.* I am sure Maj.-Gen. Barnsley would like to have it for the R.A.M.C. Muniment Room. Failing this the best place would probably be the Wellcome Historical Medical Library which has a good deal of mss material of Florence Nightingale interest.

Yours sincerely,

Dulley

* I enclose the copy as requested