

Crimean War

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Sir Thomas Congreve.

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Crimean War

Vol 2

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yesterday a large party of ladies, with children, left some carriages and walked to that part of the cemetery where it is placed. They remained a long time there. This burying place seems devoted to persons of higher class than the larger one near the 12-gun battery. The crosses are larger, and particularly obvious among the collection of graves are four large monuments, or raised tombs, of white stone. Trains of carts, conveying galleons, or boxes, or sometimes sacks, continue to arrive daily along the north side.

There has been very little firing in the French works on the left for some time past (yesterday (20th)). The approaches appear to be very close to the Russian lines, that they wait only for the signal to assault. Yesterday morning, however, it was observed from the right that some Russian working parties in large bodies were moving toward the Ramin-de-Mai, and notice was sent of the observation to the French authorities on the left. A tremendous fire was at once opened by our allies, and the bombardment was kept up for two hours. The Russians at first replied with very great vigour, but the superiority of the French fire was subsequently strongly marked, and toward the conclusion the enemy's guns were nearly silent. In the afternoon, at half-past 3 o'clock, the French sprung a powerful mine, apparently near the salient angle of the Flashed Battery: lines of earth were projected into the air to a great height, and a dense column of black smoke, immediately followed the explosion. A flag of truce was hoisted at Fort Constantine just at the conclusion of the short bombardment mentioned above; it was said to have reference to an interchange of prisoners.

Our casualties, though rather numerous during the last three days, have not been generally very serious in character. The only officer struck was Assistant-Surgeon Louis Lundy, of the 70th Highlanders, who received a contusion of the thigh from a large fragment of shell.

On the 20th the French made some experiments with a field rocket battery at a part of the right flank overlooking the Tchervaya Valley. Some shots were directed against the small Russian battery on the verge of the cliff forming part of the Liberman mountain. One or two shots fell with excellent precision, but the flight of the rockets seemed generally too uncertain for a mark comparatively so small, and in so difficult a position. Their range, when directed across the valley, was very great, and so projectiles for the purpose of annoying an advancing force, they must doubtless be very effective.

The French speak very confidently of the assault being made before the 15th of August, the 8th day of the first Emperor Napoleon. No date is named in the English camp, but circumstances lead to the supposition that it will take place immediately that the necessary preparations can be completed. Major-General Sir Richard Durness, K.C.B., commanding the Royal Artillery, has left for Therapia. His leave of absence extends to the 15th of next month.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle is visiting the camp at present. He arrived by the steamer *Guinea*, and it is understood, will remain in camp for a week or ten days. The troops are now in good health and cheerful, and well provided for in all respects, and a visitor may well find it difficult to understand how, only seven months back, a state of things could have existed so diametrically the reverse.

There has been a remarkable change in the state of the weather during the last day just passed. The morning of the 20th instant was ushered in by violent showers of rain, which soon converted the ravines into so many channels for scrofulous possible torrents. Heavy showers have continued to fall at intervals since, and the water reservoirs are again filled. The springs afford an abundant supply, and the restrictions, which a few days since were obliged to be adopted on account of the prevailing drought, have consequently been removed. The rain ceased yesterday, and towards night the atmosphere exhibited a considerable amount of electric discharge. The lightning was incessant, but consisted chiefly of "streak lightning," and was not attended with thunder.

The rain has been followed by the appearance of a few cases of cholera among the regiments in front. The troops generally are, however, enjoying good health, although instances of fever and dysentery disease are continuing to occur.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP ABOVE SEBASTOPOL, August 4.

No event of much importance in the siege operations has occurred since the last mail left. The nights have been generally too light for much progress to be made in advancing the approaches toward the principal points against which the operations are now directed, but the new batteries have been forwarded, and the approaches already existing have been placed in a more favourable condition for future operations. Our allies have taken advantage of a few hours of darkness to throw up, unobserved by the enemy, an important branch approach on the Malakoff advance. A very complete system of telegraphic signals has been established between the fleet and our works in front, and from facilities of observation obtained by vessels placed in certain positions with regard to the enemy's works, the information which may thus be furnished is not unlikely to prove occasionally of a very valuable nature.

Our allies still speak with confidence of the Malakoff position being gained by them before the imperial birthday of the 16th of August. It is doubted by many whether the preparations will be sufficiently ripe for such an event within the period named.

I subjoin a diary of some of the occurrences of the last few days:

August 1.—The rain, which commenced falling last evening, continued throughout the night. Heavy showers are still pouring down, and the atmosphere, darkened by dense clouds, gives no promise of a change of weather. The ravines are changed into watercourses, and so deep are the rushing streams and so violent the flow of these extensive torrents, that it is with difficulty the men wade across to pass from one side to the other. The surface of the plateau is already covered with mud. The Duke of Newcastle, who has pitched his tent on Calverton hill, but is occupying at present the small hut which was built by Sir George Cathcart, will have the opportunity of forming a remote idea of the state of the camp last winter, when day after day of continued rain, without any solar influence, interceding to dry up the plain, and mingled snow, converted the plateau into one vast stretch of deep adhesive mire. The French, as they pass along to relieve their trench guards and covering parties, are compelled to move along the sloping sides of the hills, instead of following, as usual, the beaten track along the bottom of the ravines. The men returning from the trenches walk towards their camp without attempting to guard against the force of the storm; they have been for hours, with clothes saturated by the rain, independent of any further harm from the watery element. It is strange, considering the exposure to which the troops are subjected during such weather as the present in the unsheltered trenches, how seldom one hears tell of rheumatism or ordinary colds in the camp.

The 72nd Highlanders are suffering rather severely from cholera. The other regiments of the Highland Brigade, although encamped side by side with the 72nd, are nearly free from the disease. Another regiment not long arrived, the 10th, Prince Albert's Light Infantry, have been suffering very severely. They have been moved from the low ground near Balaclava which they at first occupied, and now are encamped at a considerable elevation on the heights above. Their hospitals still continue very full. It is said that, including those who have been invalided to Scutari or elsewhere, as well as the number who have died, or who are still sick, this regiment is already three hundred men weaker than when it landed in the Crimea on the 25th of June last from Gibraltar. It is satisfactory, however, to know that these are exceptional cases, and that the general state of health of the British troops is most favourable. The health of the Sardinian troops is stated to be much improved, and the forces of our other allies are also said to be free from all epidemic disease. Isolated cases of cholera occur now and then, and an instance of rapid sinking from this disease was said to have occurred yesterday morning in a French captain of infantry who was taken ill while on duty at the Mamoun-Yari, and who had barely time to be carried to his camp before he died. He had been apparently well prior to the attack, which was attributed to the effects of

middle of the French works on the Incheon heights suddenly opened. Two incendiary rockets started nearly at the same moment. As they rose, to all appearance directly upwards, a dense and wide volume of white smoke followed their course, and though in broad daylight, at the head of this white column a powerful flame was visible for some distance. The rushing noise of their flight was heard for some time after the projectile ceased to be visible. The tall pillars of smoke had just swept by—a couple of minutes could scarcely have elapsed—when far away on the heights of the north side of the harbour, by the side of a very large camp, a mass of smoke was seen to rise; almost immediately afterwards another cloud appeared in a distant part of the same camp; other rockets followed, and one was seen to burst in the very centre of the encampment already alluded to. The distance was not less than 1,000 yards. About thirty of these rockets, which are called by the French "coquilles," were fired. Some of them were so directed that they fell beyond the ridge of the northern line of hills, for their explosion was not visible. One was seen to burst close to the ridge itself, just where a line of laden waggon was passing, and evident confusion in the train followed the explosion.

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August 6.—A hot, clear morning. A hand breeze from the eastward, and very oppressive atmosphere. At about 10 o'clock a very sharp fire was maintained throughout the night, but our casualties were comparatively few in number.

The fire last evening is now seen to have destroyed two buildings at some distance in the rear of the Hodan. They were situated to the left of the long line of the large barrack building, and not far from a structure supposed to be a school, rendered conspicuous by a green dome and spire. The two buildings were themselves rather remarkable from being precisely similar in size and simplicity of form, and from their having red-tiled roofs, while all the other barracks and houses in the neighbourhood were covered with lead or slate. Perhaps they were two guard-houses at the entrance to the arsenal. A smoke is still ascending from the site of the ruins. One of the end walls remains upright, and it is not now to be seen from our position; the fall of the remainder of the buildings was probably the cause of the fire seeming to be suddenly extinguished.

The Russians are observed to be busily engaged in changing the direction of several of the embrasures on the proper left of the Hodan. The alteration is calculated to give to certain guns which previously were directed against the works on Frenchman's hill, a flanking fire to sweep over the slope of the Hodan hill on our right of the ascent. The guns of the Garcha battery continue the approach on the left, and in front of the Hodan. No change has been noticed in the position of the French approach on the Malakoff hill. Further to the right, the trenches of our Allies are daily becoming nearer to the line of defence. The forward trench is now only 43 yards from the Little Hodan. Between the work and the proper left curtain, which is armed with six guns of the Koriell battery, there is a hollow or dip in the surface of the ground. The left of the Malakoff hill descends towards it, and there is also a gradual slope in the same direction from the Little Hodan. The French engineers appear to be directing a sap along this hollow, as if to intercept the line of communication between the works mentioned.

Several of the large steamers have left our fleet, and report says that they have gone to Goshan to fetch as many as fifty mortars which have been despatched there from England. The services of the six floating mortars attached to the fleet have not yet, I believe, been put into requisition. The greatest calm state of the sea would appear to be favourable for making experiments respecting their projectile power.

About 2 p.m. a very active fire was opened against the French works on the right of the Malakoff by the 6-gun battery of the left curtain of the Koriell battery, and by the Little Hodan. A few guns were also fired from the left face of the Koriell battery itself. This fire was maintained with great vigour for nearly two hours. It was very actively replied to by a battery immediately on the right of the Malakoff, and also by the 12-gun battery near the Curving Bay wharf. This latter battery is remarkable for the few casualties which have occurred in it. The guns of some of the works on the

heights, on the east side of the Curving Bay—especially the *Jefferie* battery—also opened against the Russian batteries. This commenced, while it was carried on with much determined vigour, such "efficiency" as it was—and the fire was so incessant, while to the left and in the centre all was comparatively quiet, that it assumed somewhat the character, and excited the interest of a duel. The superiority of fire evidently lay on the side of our Allies, and this was sufficiently proved by the gradual decrease from the works of the enemy, while no such change from the works of the French was exhibited.

The mortar of the second parallel of the right attack, and also of the new mortar battery in advance and on the right of it, were fired against the large Admiralty and other buildings near the dockyard this afternoon. The new mortar battery alluded to contains seven 10-inch mortars. It has been constructed about midway between the Russian trenches, which was captured at the same time that the Quarries were taken, and the approach which had previously been our most advanced position in this direction. It is said to have been originally designed for guns, but, being found too low, to have been changed to its present use. Twenty rounds were fired from each mortar. The large shells fell chiefly among the buildings behind the long and lofty line of the Barrack building, and very rarely, therefore, of the effect produced by them could be observed. In two or three instances they fell between the Barrack and Admiralty structures, at that part of the large enclosed area which is under observation. Their fall was shown by the sudden rising of a cloud of dust, together with, in one case, the fall of part of the side wall of the house struck, accompanied at the instant by a slight cloud of dust, but soon followed by the ordinary of a volume of smoke which rose from within. When they fell further to the left, in rear of the large barrack, the columns of smoke also indicated the particular place of their explosion.

There is a suspicion that the enemy is commencing the large barrack. Whatever their nature, some works of importance are going on within the building. Large quantities of timber have been seen to be carried into it. The six-gun battery immediately in its front is armed, and has been strengthened by the construction of a very deep ditch and stone wall, either end of which terminates in connection with the Barrack building. The front of this long pile, with its arched battery before it, will be one of the first obstructions to be encountered, in case the works on the left of the Hodan being carried, the attack were pushed towards the Admiralty and dockyard. The upper part of the wall facing the right attack has been much perforated by shot. Among the convoys observed on the north side, large numbers of waggons bringing out timber have been noticed. The importation of various commodities is regular, and in a large quantity, as ever; an immensely long train of carts laden with them entered today.

Signalling was going on for a considerable time among the Russian ships to harbour, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon. The signals were first hoisted by the large three-decker moved second in the line commencing from the vessel lying nearest to the entrance of the Admiralty harbour, and immediately replied to by all the other ships of war. The vessel making the signals is considered to be the Admiral's ship, as it is from it that directions to the other ships always appear to proceed.

Colonel Henry Cobbe, commanding the 6th King's Own Light Infantry, died today from the effects of wounds received on the 15th of June. He commanded the trenches of the left attack while the assault was made against the Hodan on the one side, and by the second brigade of the third division, under Major-General Ryle, against the works to the left of the south harbour on the other side. Colonel Cobbe's regiment belonged to the first brigade of the third division, and was in reserve. The signal which he received two wounds—one in the right arm, the other in the back of the neck, and both from musket ball. The wound in the arm he received while giving some directions to one of the advanced approaches. He subsequently tried to avoid the impediment of a number of men who were in the trench along which he was passing, went on the open ground before the parapet, and thus received the second shot at the back of the neck. Neither wound was in itself dangerous, but Colonel Cobbe's constitution had suffered severely from long service in the

6th West India Regiment, and he had not strength enough to resist the effects of the fever which followed about ten days ago to go to England, but he was found to be too weak to be removed. He was highly respected in his regiment, and was well known as an accomplished and a man of daring courage. The late commander-in-chief spoke highly of his services in the dispatch relating to the operations in which Col. Cobbe was engaged at the time he was wounded.

August 7.—A very heavy fire occurred last night until the moon rose. The enemy threw a vast number of grenades, discharges of grape, and "bouquets," or, as some of the most foolhardy style them, "happy families," against the supposed positions of the working parties of the mine. From time to time they threw out also fire-balls to illuminate the ground in front of their works.

While it was yet dark, about three-quarters of an hour before moonrise, a suspicion was aroused that the Russians were contemplating an attack upon the right of our most advanced approaches on Frenchman's hill. Brevet-Major John Magowan, of the 50th Highlanders, who was acting as one of the field officers in the right attack, was sent by the general of the trenches to reinforce with some men of the 6th Highlanders a small party placed to defend a red-pit in front. This red-pit is about fifty yards in advance of our fifth parallel—an approach which was originally the Russian trench nearest to the enemy's principal line of defence, and, therefore, the most dangerous to our works. It appears that Major Magowan, who was in the trenches in front of the trench, in order to reach the red-pit as speedily as possible, got over the parapet, with his men into the open ground, intending to take a direct route to it instead of following the winding of the trench. Misled by the darkness, and not being well acquainted with the ground, he being only his second or third year of duty in the trenches, he lost his way, and approached an outlying picket of the enemy, consisting in front of the hill, certain of the Hodan. The Russians heard their footsteps, and fired a volley. Major Magowan has been alone remaining, and it is feared that he was wounded and taken prisoner. One man of the 6th was killed, and one wounded; the rest escaped back unharmed to the trenches. The Russians did not make any sortie.

The morning was again sultry, as by a land breeze from the east. The wind, which has some of the refreshing qualities of the usual sea breeze, blew very strongly for a couple of hours, and then gradually subsided into a perfect calm. The sky became overcast about 11 o'clock with grey misty clouds, and a most oppressive close and still condition of the atmosphere followed. The distant mountains were covered with heavy clouds, but there were no indications of electric disturbance.

Cases of cholera are still occurring in various parts of the camp, chiefly among soldiers who have recently arrived in the Crimea. It has no characters of an epidemic kind, although the disease is reported to be prevailing among the troops of the enemy at Perekop and other stations.

There is a very handsome pile of building in the town of Sebastopol, on the west side of the south harbour, and parallel with the direction of the high bank on the top of which it is built. It is built of stone, possesses a very long frontage, has three stories in height, and is nearly opposite to the mass of Admiralty and barrack buildings on the opposite side of the water. The Russians have been busily engaged during the last two or three days in surrounding the structure, and in taking away show by the full day, the light within that not only the roof, but the floorings of the upper story also, have been taken away. The timber is so doubt being employed in some of the inner works of defence. It is supposed that some of the timber now to be taken into the barrack building in the Kuznetsov's wharf has been brought from this source.

The batteries have been more quiet than usual today. The fire has been chiefly confined to the extreme left.

Since sunset, the atmosphere has become very misty and the night dark. A very sharp fire is going on along the line from the neighbourhood of the Hodan to the extreme left.

August 8.—Another hot, oppressive morning. The 2nd regiment, through the darkness in front of the salient angle of the Koriell's bastion was in a great degree

middle of the French works on the Incheon heights suddenly opened. Two incendiary rockets started nearly at the same moment. As they rose, to all appearance directly upwards, a dense and wide volume of white smoke followed their course, and though in broad daylight, at the head of this white column a powerful flame was visible for some distance. The rushing noise of their flight was heard for some time after the projectile ceased to be visible. The tall pillars of smoke had just swept by—a couple of minutes could scarcely have elapsed—when far away on the heights of the north side of the harbour, by the side of a very large camp, a mass of smoke was seen to rise; almost immediately afterwards another cloud appeared in a distant part of the same camp; other rockets followed, and one was seen to burst in the very centre of the encampment already alluded to. The distance was not less than 1,000 yards. About thirty of these rockets, which are called by the French "coquilles," were fired. Some of them were so directed that they fell beyond the ridge of the northern line of hills, for their explosion was not visible. One was seen to burst close to the ridge itself, just where a line of laden waggon was passing, and evident confusion in the train followed the explosion.

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filled up, but a considerable depression remains in the position which the cutting occupied. The French appear to have attempted to carry on a direct sap from a projecting angle of their foremost approach, opposite to the trench just alluded to, but to have been interrupted. The parapet near the angle is much destroyed, and bags are scattered about, and a small heap of gabions is lying a short distance in front. A line of slightly raised fresh earth, leading from the opening cut in the abatis, and for some distance creeping close under it, and then suddenly turning in the direction of the head of the French right boys, appears like the commencement of a Russian counter-approach. The carried extremity of the boys has been considerably damaged by the fire from the guns of the bastion in front. The French have made some traverses for the protection of the troops in the boys.

The death of Captain Arthur Layard, of the 58th Regiment, a very intelligent and active officer, and brother to the celebrated Assyrian explorer and politician of the same name, has been announced. He had been attached by Grenadier, and early in the present month was recommended by a medical board to leave the regiment, but was so weak he could not bear the journey. His loss will be deeply felt in his regiment, where he has long been esteemed on account of his talents, and a general favorite for his many social qualities. For some time past he has been acting in the Quartermaster General's department, and attached to the Second Division. He was selected for the appointment without solicitation. Captain Layard was senior at the head of the list of captains in his regiment at the time of his decease.

A party of the Land Transport Corps, with a supply of carts, went in the direction of Balaklava today. It is said with the intention of making a ferry upon a river of water and other provisions which they had heard of in the country establishment of some Crimean landholder. Unfortunately for the success of the expedition, they encountered a party of Cosaks, who, from a convenient distance, succeeded in wounding two of the drivers, and killing one of the mules. The object of the undertaking was thus given up. The French have brought into the neighborhood of Balaklava an enormous quantity of hay from the Baidar district, but the late rains appear to have caused considerable damage to its quality. It is being dried and stacked for future consumption.

Five deserters from the Russian camp on the north heights gave themselves up today. They were examined at the British land-quarters, and, it is said, gave useful information respecting the strength and recent movements of the Russian force. It is added that they reported the troops encamped on the heights were at present badly off for rations, on account of the state of the roads. If this report were made, it will agree with the observations made daily of enormous convoys of waggon laden with hay, potatoes, timber, &c., coming in on the north side. If the supply of food were deficient, it can hardly be credited but that these carts would be employed in conveying so important an article. One large depot of hay is visible on the north side, and a large number of sacks arranged in pyramidal heaps are also under view. These sacks do not appear to contain corn, as they are left wholly unprotected against the effects of rain.

Both the stacks of hay, and heaps of sacks just mentioned, have greatly increased in size of late. Two pairs of pigeons were observed to take direct course into Sebastopol today, which some persons who were looking on at the time asserted to be, from the nature of their flight and appearance, carrier pigeons. This might be the case or not, but it is as well that this means of sending messages should not be forgotten. Now that communication with our works beyond camp can be so easily effected through the passes at Tebergha or along the Baidar Valley, the importation of a few pigeons and their despatch from Balaklava or the camp with messages at convenient hours, can be a matter of no difficulty.

The tempest which has been gathering the last two days broke over the mountains, and afterwards over the camp this afternoon. For some hours, while the atmosphere above the plain still remained bright and clear, dense black and grey clouds were massed over the mountains, and the continuous roll of thunder and occasional flashes of lightning, told of the storm which was raging among their rocky passes. As the tempest approached the Inkerman mountains and heights immediately bordering on the plain, it appeared to gain it all its dimensions and intensity. There was at this time a marked stillness over the camp. Suddenly, over the heights, at the extreme right of our position, a large cloud of dust

was seen to be suddenly drawn up into the air, and this dark hoard column, increasing as it approached, came with rapid white across the front of the camp. A perfect tornado followed. The air became darkened as if by a fog, and every effort was required to secure the tents in their places. Heavy rain, accompanied by vivid lightning and loud peals of thunder, succeeded. The storm passed to the northward, leaving behind it a noisy state of the atmosphere, which increased the darkness of the evening, arising from the absence of the moon. A constant fire was kept up by the enemy, as well to guard against any surprise as to interrupt the operations of our working parties.

August 9.—Between twelve and one o'clock this morning, either an attempt at a sortie on the part of the enemy, or a false alarm respecting one on the part of the French, occurred on the right. The moon had not yet risen, but the noise which had followed the storm of the afternoon and the heavy clouds had in a great degree disappeared. The sky overhead was clear and still, frequent shooting stars were noiselessly gliding through the air; on the horizon to the seaward, flashes of lightning, without thunder, showed from time to time a dark curtain of clouds. But in front, along the bastion line, for some time a very indomitable was presented. Intense noises, from the deep rumbling thunder of the artillery to the sharp crack of musketry, filled the air, which was lit up in all directions by the successive flashes of the guns and musketry, the sparkling momentary brilliancy of burning shells, or the more prolonged glare of fireballs. An immense number of shells were thrown from the Russian batteries; in some instances four or five falling into the air nearly at the same instant from one and the same battery. On our side the direct fire of heavy guns against the enemy was more reported to. The French threw many shells. The musketry fire was very loud, and the noise was evidently of an important character. The cannonading was continued with vigor until the moon showed some increase of light.

Notwithstanding the very heavy fire last night from the Russian batteries, and the number of shells discharged into our works, the casualties were very limited in number. One officer only was struck, Lieutenant Nicol Goshakov, of the 90th Regiment, and he was but slightly injured by a piece of shell.

A considerable number of ambulance wagons, mounted on valiant Indian-cabriolette springs, and each intended to accommodate eight wounded men, have arrived for the use of the English army. A board, which was ordered to examine into their efficiency, is said to have reported them, after a variety of experiments, to be very defective, chiefly on account of the great amount of needless movement to which the patients conveyed in them must necessarily be subjected. Some male drivers and conductors, which have since arrived, are said to be less easy for the wounded, than those used by the French. In consequence of the want of conductors expressly selected for the duty, men taken from the ranks of the army have had to be employed in this duty.

The camp was again visited this afternoon by very heavy storms of rain, and for a time some of the rations were converted into harrows, the water of which was so deep and flowed with such force and regularity, that it became a very difficult matter to ford them. Towards evening the clouds disappeared, and a few straight night followed. A large number of shooting stars were observed.

August 10.—A clear sunny morning. A refreshing breeze from the north-west is underscoring the high temperature quelled by the sea's rays. The showers it reported to be generally on the sea-floors throughout the whole of the camp.

Suddenly my change appears to have been effected last night, in the relative positions of the siege works. The French are still working at increasing the strength and armament of their works, destined to act against the Russian shipping. They are said to have now no less than 24 batteries on the right, between the Karabagh ravine and their position at Inkerman.

The Russians are known to be engaged in extensive works in rear of the Little Rodan; their working parties can be observed from our sleeping quarters near the entrance of the roadstead. Large quantities of timber are also observed still to be carried into the long barrack building behind Rodan, and many of the openings, formerly occupied by the windows, are now seen to be supported and strengthened by beams of wood.

There was very little fire in the batteries today until about five o'clock, when the Rodan opened a heavy fire against our left flank. It was replied to by very unobtrusive work.

During the last two nights the Russians have sent some shots among the tents of our Third Division. They also performed the same sort of fire or razing, and some excellent hits were made into the tents this morning. It is accomplished by six or six guns at an angle of 45 deg., as if it were a mortar. The gun employed against the Third Division is at the proper right of the Malakhoff works, and the practice has been resorted to on several occasions in the course of the siege. The distance must be about three miles, and it is difficult to imagine, considering the violent recoil which must be given to the gun, and probable damage, what compensation the advantage the enemy can expect to obtain from such distant and unobtrusive shots. We are reminded in some of the London journals that Admiral Dundas has discovered a long range by swinging a 32-pounder at a similar angle. This process was adopted by the Russians on board one of their large ships moored at the upper part of the south harbor on the first establishment of the camp of the allies in sending shots beyond the commencement of the left or Weronoff ravine.

A new appointment in this army has been made, having special reference to subjects connected with small arms, which may lead to very useful results. Hitherto there has been no distinct and general superintendent of the receipt, issue, exchange, and storing of the various descriptions of rifles and muskets in use with the army, and confusion and difficulty have very frequently resulted from want of this arrangement. There have also been many discrepancies of opinion expressed respecting the merits of certain weapons, that the necessity of a systematic examination into the subject was experienced. The practical testing of some of these points could scarcely be followed out so completely as on the spot, where the active warfare was being carried on, and offered opportunities of examination by constant daily experience. An officer has, therefore, been appointed not only to systematize and simplify the distribution of small arms, but also to report from time to time on the advantages and merits of the various kinds sent out for trial. Lieutenant Colonel Kennedy, of the 13th Regiment, who was lately chief instructor of the school of musketry at Hythe, has received this office, and will act, subject to the directions of the Adjutant-General.

August 11.—The fire in the batteries was as active as usual last night. According to their custom of late, the Russians threw a vast quantity of shells against our works, and those of the French. The night was cloudless and starlight.

The weather continues dry and fine.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

I resume my diary, which will be found to contain notes of important events which have transpired within the last two days. The troops are still occupied to their respective camps, and there is a general prevailing belief that the Russians intend repeating their attack, and again attempting to force the passage of the Tebergha. The construction of the new railway-bridge across the roadstead is an important undertaking on the part of the allies. Let me hope that it will supply prove to be a convenient road, by which the Russians may be able to reach when the south side has fallen into the possession of the allies.

August 12. There was the usual active fire in the batteries last night. There is a rumor that the Russians contemplate an attack against our works, and also against the position of the armies in the plain, at daybreak to-morrow. Every precaution has been taken to meet the enemy.

August 13. All the divisions in front were out under arms at half-past 2 a.m., and remained till daybreak. General Simpson and staff were in the field. The camps on the north heights are wholly unoccupied in extent, and it is stated that a whole corps of 4,000 men has joined the force under General Lipzardi.

Two men of the 6th Regiment and a Zouave are missing, and are suspected of having deserted to the camp.

A force, consisting of about 5,000 men, were observed to march from the camp near the Star Fort at an early hour this morning, towards the army

encamped beyond the Isherman heights. They were attended by ammunition and ambulance wagons. This body of men were observed to return towards sunset.

Bravo-Major H. V. H. Drummond, Adjutant of the Scots Fusilier Guards, is reported to have been mortally wounded in the trenches last night. He is described as a very active and intelligent officer, who was struck by a round shot, and on reaching the camp of the 5th Regiment, in the Second Division, was so weak that he was unable to proceed further towards his own tent. He has been moved, however, this evening. No hope, unfortunately, is held out of his recovery.

August 14.—There was very active shelling all night in the batteries; the number of shells thrown being considerably greater on the part of the enemy than on our side. They have evidently increased the number of their mortars of late.

The Russians made a reconnaissance in force on the Tebergha plain, and along the hills on the east side this morning. They retired about an hour after daybreak.

Four French gun-boats are lying off the Quarantine Harbor, and two of them have been throwing shells this afternoon into the Quarantine Fort. They have taken up a position which renders themselves quite secure. The new French battery, at the extreme point of the south shore of the Quarantine Fort, is completed. The guns of the Quarantine Fort have been raised to sea level; it is excavated out of the rock, and the shot goes over it, and the shells usually fall beyond. Fort Constantine has kept up a fire against this battery, but has not succeeded in effecting any injury.

The Russians have constructed a new Tugos earth battery on the proper right of the Rodan. It is a parallel line to a banking fire upon the ground in front of the principal work. They are also occupied in making a gun ramp, or battery, near Fort Bakaki; it stretches out into the roadstead, and appears to be extending towards the south side.

The enemy has continued throwing up shot and shells near the camp of the Fourth Division. A battery shot has killed one artilleryman, and another has been killed in the destruction of a horse. They have also thrown two rockets this evening toward the head of the left ravine; they inflicted no mischief.

August 15.—The usual fire was kept up all night. The Russians threw an extraordinary number of shells of all dimensions into our works. The telegraph was between Balaklava and headquarters was cut this evening. The place where the injury was effected was soon discovered and repaired. No trace could be found to indicate the author of the mischief.

The French have extended their sap on the Malakhoff hill. They have succeeded in carrying round the end of the right boys to a considerable distance, but are much impeded in attempting to extend the parallel thus being formed, by the direction of the wind, which certain gusts of the Rodan, have upon the part of the Malakhoff slope which it must necessarily cross. They have also deepened some of the approaches on the left of the hill, and have considerably extended the rifle pit on that side at each end, so as to convert it into a deep and secure trench. It is asserted that about 2,000 men are now lodged in the new approaches upon the Malakhoff hill.

August 16.—At daybreak, about half-past 4 a.m., heavy firing was heard in the rear. On moving towards the right flank of our position, where the high ground upon which the hills of Inkerman was fought affords an opportunity of observing the Tebergha plain as far as Tebergha, a general view of the conflict was gained, and some light could be formed of the object and extent of the struggle. The mist which remained over the low ground, and the thick volumes of smoke which rolled along the plain, and along the sides of the hills, concealed most of the details. It was evidently no reconnaissance or slight affair this time, but a protracted and very determined attack. An assault was being made against the French position for nearly half its length on the swelling low range of hills stretching across the valley, and was continued along to the Russian position at Tebergha. A very close contest was going on near the stone bridge the hills which form the main of communication with the Balaklava valley. The guns of the Russian and some field batteries of the Tebergha entrance, on the south of the river, were pouring a deadly fire into the Russian ranks, while the enemy's batteries near

the Iakherman mountain were unable to get, and comparatively few of their food guns, against our allies, on account of the advanced position of their own troops and the nature of the ground. Large bodies were seen to be drawn up in columns of reserve, as far back as the spot where the road to Mackenzie's Farm is lost to view behind the extremity of the Iakherman mountain. Bodies of troops were observed also on the sides of the opposite hills.

Half-past eight, a.m.—After a very deadly struggle the Russians are retiring on all sides. Several times they crossed the river by the bridge and by fords, but were repulsed by the fearful fire of the artillery, and on gaining the sloping sides of the hills crowned by the French camp, by the fatal discharge of the French rifles. Now, as their columns are returning towards the north side of the valley, a terrible discharge of congregate rockets is being poured into their ranks from the French position on the right flank, and is evidently causing great havoc among their numbers. The trail of smoke on both sides of the Tchernaya, more especially far a wide distance round the Russian side of the Tchernaya bridge, is strewn with killed and wounded troops, and a great number of houses are also lying or smouldering about the plain. The flag which was waving above the east end of the Iakherman mountain has been struck, and the smoke there is quite inactive.

The attack commenced about five o'clock, the first shots being heard near the Sarandian position. The fire almost immediately opened along the whole line, but it was soon rendered evident that the chief aim of the Russian commander was to force the passage communicating with the valley of Iakherman, and thus to turn the flank of the French position on the hill, and break their chain of communication with the Fudomostoe troops. There are two principal routes or openings in this direction. One is formed by a break in the line of hills stretching across the plain, leaving a passage between its east end, and a part cut off, as it were, and assuming the form of an irregular Mamelon. This Mamelon, as well as the line of hills, was held by French troops. The second pass is between the Mamelon and the opening to Tchernogom, and along this the river finds its way as it comes west of the gorge to wind through the valley. Through the first-mentioned opening the high road from Simsbepet to Iakherman passes, and nearly opposite to it is a handsome stone bridge, spanning the river by two arches. This bridge is approached on either side by a gradual incline, the road being carried over a series of land arches. The river under ordinary circumstances is fordable at this part. At the second opening there is no bridge across the river, excepting that for the aqueduct; the water spreads out, and is readily fordable. The passage of this ford was commanded by the guns of a redoubt held by the Sarandians.

It was in the neighbourhood of the stone bridge, and the ford above, that the severest part of the struggle took place. The numbers of land lying about those two positions are greater than in any other part of the field of action. The Russians, as they approached along the road to the bridge, and on each side, were mowed down by the fire of the artillery of the allies; and, on the opposite side, the French, who were defending the passage, suffered from the fire of the Russian artillery, which had been brought up on the heights on the east of the road and valley. On two occasions the enemy succeeded in crossing the bridge, and in considerable numbers began to climb up the sides of the Mamelon and the end of the hill occupied by the French, but the fire of the rifles above drove them back. It is stated that at one time the enemy was forced back by the 62nd French Infantry at the point of the bayonet, but this is doubtful. As they retired across the river the artillery of the Allies continued great execution among them. Some of the French troops assert that the passage of the bridge by the Russians could have been easily prevented, but that it was purposely permitted, with the motive of entraping them into more certain destruction. Be this as it may, the cross fire which was opened upon them as they advanced into the opening between the hills from the rifle of the infantry, and the direct fire of the artillery, caused great havoc among their ranks, and after the flight the bodies of the killed were found to be thickly strewn as far as sixty or seventy yards on the French side of the river. The aqueduct is not carried along by the side of the river, but, for the sake of having a higher level, is placed at the foot of the hills for some distance, the curves and windings of which it closely follows. The aqueduct is deep,

and not easily crossed. Between it and the hill side there is usually a deep ditch. Many of the Russians had not only crossed the river, but, passing their way, had also crossed the aqueduct. To enable them to do this, they had been provided with numerous small platforms, just long and broad enough to form so many bridges across the aqueduct; these they had carried with them. In some places many wounded and dead were found lying in the ditch between the hill-side and the bank upon which the aqueduct is raised. The small wooden platforms carried by the men could be joined together so as to form rafts, if required, for use on the river; but pontoons also were empty provided for the construction of regular bridges for the passage of cavalry or artillery. A great number of these small rafts and also some pontoons were left on the field, and taken by the allies.

About half-past eight o'clock, after suffering an immense loss, and having failed to achieve any advantage against the allies, the enemy commenced his retreat. Although preceded by a destructive fire from artillery, and harassed by rockets from a battery on the right flank, it is not right to name that this was accomplished without any signs of disorder. It was soon before the last column of the infantry disappeared from view.

Thus ended a contest which, whether as regards the force employed and the determined nature of the attack on the one side, or the doctrine, repulse and victory on the other, or whether its moral effect be considered, and the probable consequences had a different result ensued, most heroically be reckoned among the most important events of the campaign. The battle of the Tchernaya will not soon be forgotten. The Russians had calculated upon a very different conclusion. They had apparently made no doubt of being able to drive the French from the line of hills across the valley, and had accordingly calculated upon pursuing their advantage into the valley of Iakherman, the immense force of cavalry, said to amount to 10,000 troops, which accompanied the army, could not have been employed in the Tchernaya valley, and must have been intended for subsequent operations in the plain of Iakherman. A very large proportion of the soldiers carried with them small arms, evidently to entrench themselves when they had obtained a footing on the hill. They also had bread and cooked provisions enough to last for several days' consumption. Had the Russians succeeded in the object aimed at they would have secured possession of the river and the aqueduct, and thus not only have inflicted a most serious loss on the allies, but also have removed one evil from which their own army on the Iakherman and North Heights is said to be suffering, namely, the want of water for their horses and cattle.

Among the killed on the field a Russian general officer was recognized by his uniform; his head had been carried away by a round shot. Another general officer, wounded, was taken to one of the French ambulances. He was in much distress. Speaking in French, he said to French officers by his side at the ambulance, "This is a day of glory for Russia, not to have set free the passage of the Tchernaya, defended by our French div. alone." Another Russian officer, who was made prisoner, and covered in German, asked "What was done in front of Schastopoli?" and on being told that nothing important had taken place there, expressed surprise. He afterwards explained that it was understood in the Russian army that simultaneous with the attack to gain the Tchernaya an assault was to be made by an overpowering force against the French and English works before the Karabulaini.

It is said that two other divisions, including a division of the Imperial Guard, are now on their way down from Prekhop to join the Russian army. If this be true, perhaps the strategy which has just failed may be renewed. On visiting the scene of action to-day, it was impossible to help remarking that if the soldiers of the divisions just arrived and now lying dead on the field were very different men in strength and size of frame from the majority of those seen at Alma and Iakherman. Many were old men, even with grey hair, and a great proportion seemed to be mere youths. Their cheeks were hollow, too, as if the fatigues of their march had acted upon their frames. Among the wounded there was a general, and I had difficulty to pain and suffering, which seemed to be in keeping with the rapid individual expressions of their constancy. Nothing could exceed the kind attention of the French and Sarandians to their wounded prisoners, but the Rus-

sians kept up a constant fire from the battery on the west of the Iakherman mountain, and also from a redoubt lately erected on a comparatively low eminence in the valley immediately in front of it, against the parties who were bringing them in from the field.

August 17.—At half-past four this morning a very active fire was opened from our right and left attacks against the Russian and its flanking batteries. Later in the morning the Mamelon opened a new battery against the Malakoff. The fire from the French works was particularly vigorous at 6 a.m., and continued so for an hour; it then gradually subsided. The ammunition from the English batteries has continued to be very energetic. The Russian batteries frequently, and has been supported by the Barrack and Garden Batteries. There has not been much fire from the French works on the left.

The object of the great beams of timber and wagon loads of planks for a long time past observed to be brought to the north side, and also in considerable quantities across to the south side, became more apparent to-day. The rail bridge before alluded to is now occupying the space which is left vacant behind the second three-decker and the two-decker in stand. In a few days it will then be completed. The line of ships stretching across the road to Fort Nicholas. Troops will then be able to walk across from Fort Katherine to Fort Saida, as it is marked in the maps, to the north side of the Tchernaya valley. The workmen on each raft is added to the length already formed, it is very solidly constructed, floats some distance above the water, is broad, and would appear to be calculated to sustain the passage of heavy trucks or carts, as well as of men. The workmen are now occupied in fixing rails on each side for the protection of the passengers. The roof of the very large building, connecting the barrack and Admiralty buildings, and facing the south harbour, has been completely stripped and taken away, and there is very little doubt that this has been done in order to employ its rafters as some of the supports for the planking of the bridge just mentioned. It had been suspected that this material had been used in constructing some other works, within the barrack building, but the idea is now abandoned.

The troops are still confined to their respective camps.

5 p.m.—The bombardment of the Rodas and its associated works has been kept up all day. The right face of the work exhibits manifestly the effect of the heavy fire which has been directed against it. A battery lately thrown up on its right flank, and which will be approached towards the Malakoff, has also been very much injured. The fire against the Malakoff itself has not been very active as far as the French batteries were concerned, but a heavy vertical fire has been thrown into it from our advanced marine batteries. On the extreme right there is less than the usual activity. Our works have suffered, and in one of the Quarry batteries, the embrasures of which were only cut open yesterday evening, have been dismounted. Commander Haimant of the royal navy, is reported killed in the sailors' battery of the right attack. In the left attack there have been several severe casualties. Captain Anthony O'Brien, of the Royal Artillery, an officer of considerable standing in the service, and lately commanding the left flank train, was struck in the head by a round shot and killed instantaneously. Lieutenant James Balzer Dennis, 3rd Buffs, is feared, is mortally wounded, having had both thighs broken. Sergeant Major George Cecil Henry, Royal Artillery, has had his right arm shattered close to the shoulder, so that amputation had to be performed at the joint. The number of casualties has been great, also, among the men of the Royal Artillery, and also in the Second Division, who were guarding the trenches of the right attack.

Many more wounded have been brought in from the plain to-day. Large parties have been occupied in burying the dead. Although the weather has been comparatively cool, decomposition had rapidly advanced, and the air was poisoned by the offensive emanations.

9 p.m.—The alarm was sounded by several of the divisions in front, and the regiments turned out and

were quickly under arms. The cause of the alarm was not apparent. At first it was supposed that it was done as a matter of precaution, but being so shortly after the time when the evening roll had been called, and all the men had just retired, this supposition was not very probable. No anxiety was heard at the time, nor was there any evidence of an attack, and the troops were shortly dismissed.

The following general order has been published by General Simpson, Commanding-in-Chief, respecting the conduct of yesterday:

Head-quarters before Sebastopol, 17th August, 1854. The Commander of the Force engaged in the attack on the Rodas and its flanking batteries, the object of which was to prevent the passage of the French across the Tchernaya, and to prevent the French from occupying the space which is left vacant behind the second three-decker and the two-decker in stand. In a few days it will then be completed. The line of ships stretching across the road to Fort Nicholas. Troops will then be able to walk across from Fort Katherine to Fort Saida, as it is marked in the maps, to the north side of the Tchernaya valley. The workmen on each raft is added to the length already formed, it is very solidly constructed, floats some distance above the water, is broad, and would appear to be calculated to sustain the passage of heavy trucks or carts, as well as of men. The workmen are now occupied in fixing rails on each side for the protection of the passengers. The roof of the very large building, connecting the barrack and Admiralty buildings, and facing the south harbour, has been completely stripped and taken away, and there is very little doubt that this has been done in order to employ its rafters as some of the supports for the planking of the bridge just mentioned. It had been suspected that this material had been used in constructing some other works, within the barrack building, but the idea is now abandoned.

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(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP ABOVE SEBASTOPOL, AUG. 25.

The siege operations appear to be fast hastening toward a crisis. In spite of the greatest difficulties, the approaches have been brought to close proximity to the enemy's line of works, from the Clarendon Bay to the Great Redoubt. The interval which remains, short as it is, can only be successfully traversed by slow and laborious means; but in all probability, judging from present appearances, everything will be ready for the grand assault within the period of a fortnight. No pretension, it is assumed, will be entered to ensure success in the undertaking. A letter from the Emperor to General Pliemier has been published in the French papers of the day. It is a reasonable document. After acknowledging the great endurance and exertions of the army, and regretting the distance at which he himself is placed by circumstances from the scene of operations, the Emperor expresses a hope that Sebastopol will fall into the hands of the allies in the regular course of events before the winter; but, he adds, should the army be compelled to pass another winter before Sebastopol, he has the most positive assurance that the Russian army will not be enabled to remain in the Crimea during that season. The statement coming from such a source, cannot fail to attract attention; it is presumed that the impossibility of the French being able to command the necessary food and provisions, now that the whole seaboard is in our possession, is referred to. The Emperor also alludes to sending out certain fresh regiments to relieve some of those who have passed through the previous winter.

I enclose a diary of events which have occurred since last mail to the present date.

August 22.—Another bright day, tempered by a cool breeze from the north.

9 a.m.—The French have now extended the right bayon on the Malakoff hill, and, having brought it round with

a curved sweep, have connected it with the most advanced point of their foremost approach. They have thus formed another parallel towards the Korloff bastion. The trench appears very deep, and the parapet high and strong. There is a very suspicious place of arms immediately in rear. The most advanced part of this parallel is only 75 French metres from the salient angle of the bastion, and 30 metres from the abattis before the ditch. On the right, a trench is being extended from this parallel, in front of the proper left flank and curtain of the Korloff bastion, to connect it with the approach in front of the work called the Little Redan. This approach is still nearer to the enemy's line than the new parallel in front of the Korloff bastion. It is now only 60 metres distant from the salient angle. The Russians are making the most determined efforts, by keeping up a constant discharge of grenades and bouquets to prevent the advance of our allies in this direction. At the same time, the French batteries occupying the heights on each side of the Careneging Bay ravine keep up a destructive fire against the whole line of the enemy's works from the battery of the point above the Careneging Harbour to the Malakoff. The salient in front of the Korloff bastion is greatly destroyed. It is supposed that the Russians have partly assisted in this displacement. A few shots since work was heard to be going on near the ditch, and in the morning the earth was observed to have been turned immediately behind the abattis; probably grenades had been half-drawn in this situation.

The Russians are observed to be working hard at the bridge; it is fast approaching towards completion. The unfinished portion is in the centre. Fifty mortars are stated to have arrived from Hong-kong. Thirteen were brought up by the railroad to-day.

The soldier of the 4th Regiment, reported to be a Pole, and who charged the keeper of a canteen in the 62nd Regiment with being a spy, is himself missing, and is supposed of having deserted to the enemy. He was captured and detained with the Depot Battalion at Walsay, and appears to have given plausible reasons for doing so. He stated that he had made up his mind to serve with a foreign legion, but would prefer joining the ranks of an English regiment. It was thought that his knowledge of Russian might be turned to useful account. His charge against the canteen-man was, no doubt, intended to divert attention from his own proceedings. It is not unlikely that he may have had something to do with the "spy" which has lately been directed against the position of the British camp. As to the mounted rangers the supposed spy in the canteen, which has been already alluded to above, the unjustifiable and disgraceful character of the whole proceeding has been fully established after due investigation, and General Simpson has published the following order on the subject.

Head Quarters before Sebastopol, August 21.
The Commander of the 2nd Division, who has in his possession, in some of his papers, an extract that was committed on the 17th instant to the care of the French Division, the perpetrator of which, in the course of the war, are still unknown.

A number of soldiers, assembled under pretence of playing a supposed spy, destroyed the tent of a canteen-keeper, plundered his contents, including a considerable sum of money, and engaged in the detestable and dishonourable act of the punishment of such a crime is a capital death.

The soldiers of the army have met these scoundrels abhor in the field—they have assumed knighthood and danger with admirable fortitude—they set forth their high character by resolute discipline in camp, and by such desirable results of discipline as that now published.

The men of the Light Division met for a contest of athletic games and exercises this afternoon.

Major-General Markham, G.R., commanding the 2nd Division, had a narrow escape to-day. He had gone into a stable to look at a newly-purchased horse belonging to Captain King, one of the aide-de-camp, when one of the long range round shots from the enemy penetrated the stable, and killed the horse. Captain King and one or two other persons were present in the stable at the time that this singular escape occurred. It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the number of shot and shell sent up towards the camp, only one man, an artilleryman, has been wounded. This single casualty can hardly compensate the Russians for their expenditure of labour and material. Head General Markham has, he, they might have thought their trouble sufficiently rewarded.

A funeral was observed to-day at the upper grave-yard on the north side of the roadstead, which was attended by an unusual number of soldiers and fol-

lowers. It was apparently that of some Russian officer of distinction.

August 23.—A bright sunny, but cool morning. Ground was broken last night for another advance of our approaches in the right attack. The new trench is seemingly destined to extend from the front of our Quarry approaches towards the right, so as to include the rifle pit in advance of our flank parallel. This will bring us nearer to the left flank and curtain of the Redan.

The French have thrown up, and are occupying, an embankment in advance, and to the left of their new parallel. A trench to connect the rifle pit with the parallel has also been commenced.

Enormous working parties of the enemy have been observed to be busily employed upon the mole near Fort Nicholas about the landing place all day. They are raising a high breastwork, commencing at one end with the curved end of the fort, and prolonged to the extreme end of the tongue of land forming the mole. When completed, the passage from the end of the bridge across the mole to the front of Fort Nicholas will be totally concealed from view. Judging from the movement of the parties, who are apparently carrying sandbags, they are also constructing a battery in this situation. Some long-range guns have been fired from the 21-gun battery in the right attack, and also from Chapman's battery in the left attack; but the enormous distance has prevented as yet any precision of aim. Some shots have been observed to pass beyond the bridge, and several have fallen immediately in rear of the horseshoe outline of Fort Nicholas. One shot from the left attack is said to have made a lighter which was passing obliquely across the bridge. A comparative limited space in the centre of the bridge itself now only remains to complete the communication. From time to time, rads, each towed by two large rowing boats, are brought to the opening in the bridge, at each end of which considerable numbers of workmen are seen to be employed.

The boxes, baggage mules, and camp equipage left by Lieut-General Sir G. Brown were sold today at the quarters which he occupied in front of the Light Division. The following general order was directed to be read to the regiments of the division in which Sir George Brown commanded during his service with the army in the East, by Lieut-General Colclough, his successor:

Head Quarters before Sebastopol, August 21, 1855.
It is worthy that the Government has deemed it proper to reward the services of Sir G. Brown, G.O.B., to whom his appointment upon the staff, the general commanding in chief has expressed his regret, in which General Simpson and this army participate, that the general will use the services of that distinguished officer, whose name will ever be associated with the most brilliant achievements which have marked the operations of her Majesty's troops in the Crimea.—By order.

(Signed) H. W. BARNSLEY, Chief of Staff.

9 p.m.—A heavy mortar fire near the French approaches on the Malakoff-hill. The commencing has been associated with vivacity during the whole evening. In the earlier part of the day the fire, both from the enemy's works, and in our own batteries, was very slack. Rockets were thrown in the afternoon into the Karabelnia suburbs, behind the Malakoff hill.

August 24.—The allies succeeded last night, without much difficulty, in taking and destroying two unoccupied, which the Russians had thrown up in advance of the right curtain of the Korloff bastion. They subsequently decomposed the communication between the foremost parallel and their advanced rifle pit, and also commenced an approach towards the abattis by double saps.

Our fire has been more active to-day. The guns of the battery on the right bank of the Korloff bastion obstinately continued to discharge a severe fire against the new French approaches on the left. They were in some degree silenced by the mortar of our right attack, which kept up a heavy fire against this work, and also threw a large number of shells within the Korloff bastion itself. The guns of the bastion have been almost wholly silent, but from time to time shells have been discharged from it into the French approaches in front.

A large body of troops, about 4,000 men, were observed this morning to march from the distant camp on the north side of Sebastopol to the neighbourhood of the usual locality for embarking to the south side.

Two immense working parties have been busily employed the whole day on the slope of the hills on the opposite side of the roadstead, between the Way Fort and Fort Constantine. When they ceased work,

toward sunset, two very long and high breastworks had been thrown up; probably the commencement of two new batteries or forts. A great number of flying parties were observed to be employed at the upper end of the large grave-yard, so often alluded to, behind the 12-gun battery on the north side.

No sails have been brought to-day, nor has any advance been made toward filling up the interval between the two sides of the opening in the middle of the long bridge. If the rails were ready to be required for the completion of the interval, a high breast-work has been thrown up near the end of Fort Nicholas, but large working parties are still employed about the mole. A great number of boats, of all sizes, have been in active use, containing only one or two passengers, and manned by eight or ten active rowers, have been constantly passing between the two shores.

There are numerous indications this evening of an assault in front being expected. In the night attack the Division which should return to camp, having completed its twenty-four hours of duty, has nevertheless been ordered to remain in the trenches. It has some field artillery has been moved to the front. The troops remaining in camp have orders to be under fire upon an attack in rear. The French have sent down very strong reinforcements to the trenches. Although there cannot be many less than thirty thousand men doing duty in the trenches of the allies this night.

Half-past 9.—A fine clear moonlight night. A very active fire is going on in the batteries. A constant fusillade is also heard, probably from the rifle-teams in the advanced trenches against the embrasures of the enemy's works.

12 a.m.—The commencing has gradually increased, and at present the thunder of a most intense and widely audible. The rapid fire of musketry also mixes its sharp rattle among the deeper sounds of the guns. The flashes appear most vivid and continuous in the direction of the Malakoff, and the whole appearance would indicate a vigorous and determined attack. The usual Russian shout is not, however, heard among the various sounds which reach the ear from the foremost trenches.

August 25.—At the moon set, shortly after midnight, the rapid commencing and fire of musketry gradually subsided into the ordinary discharge from the batteries. The cause of the unusually heavy fire last night is not yet known in camp. It is said to have been an attack made by the French against some Russian ambulances in front of the left curtain of the Korloff bastion. As it ceased when the French were seen to be making an onset by the enemy against our working parties.

Lieutenant and Captain the Honourable Robert Drummond, of the Coldstream Guards, was mortally wounded by a rifle ball in the chest last night. He was hit in the face with remarkable accuracy, and though suffering from excessive fatigues from loss of blood, quietly made arrangements that he should be buried near the graves of his brother officers at Inkermann. He was an active and valiant officer, religious, and gifted with many mental endowments, and his loss will be severely felt in his regiment. Captain James Reeves-Major, of the Royal Engineers, and Major-General Warden, 10th Regiment, were also reported wounded, but not dangerously, by fragments of shells.

This day has opened sunny and hot, the heat not being moderated by the usual breeze.

The sudden alarm and tumult of the several divisions in front on the night of the 17th arose from an order given by Lieut-General Sir William Colclough, commanding the Light Division, to sound the "assembly." The following is given as the explanation. It appears to be certain that a certain party on one of the curtains of the 62nd Regiment, in the Fourth Division, was a spy. He was a friend of the proprietor of the canteen. Some soldiers determined to arrest this stranger, for the purpose of bringing him before the proper authorities, and submitting him to examination; but, having discovered the intention, the man suddenly decamped. A chase ensued. A few soldiers, the cry of "a spy" occupying, quickly joined, and in a short time a considerable number were in pursuit. The

spy, having bent his course towards the left curtain, along which the Worcester road leads directly into Sebastopol, by way of the South Harbour. General Colclough was near the upper part of the ravine when the crowd passed by, and finding a body of men were thus running towards the enemy's position, and fearing some mischief might ensue, adopted the only available expedient for at once bringing them back to camp. A bugle—once being in attendance on the General, replied for any emergency—was ordered by the regiments of the Light Division, and soon taken up by the regiments of the 2nd and 4th Divisions, accompanied to it. The alarm at once brought the soldiers back to their respective regiments; but before the bugle sounds had been heard they had already secured the object of their chase, and were leading him back to camp.

Some time ago a soldier of the 44th Regiment, a Pole by birth, informed against the keeper of the canteen alleged to above, that he had formerly known him to be employed in the Russian secret service at Warsaw, and that he suspected him to be engaged as a spy. The charge was investigated by a board of officers, but no conclusive evidence in support of it could be adduced; and as the canteen-keeper had written testimonials in his favour, and proofs of sufficient ground for his dismissal from camp. He has, therefore, remained pursuing his usual avocations, though not without a certain amount of suspicion that he was carrying on a communication with the enemy. The soldier himself did not escape without exciting in the mind of some persons doubts respecting the honesty of his intentions. He is, however, a very patriotic fellow, and has been approved by the Russian and German languages, and it did not appear satisfactory that with such attainments he should choose to enlist as a private soldier, when so many other opportunities of employing his talents and information with more advantage were open to him. He alleged that he had entered the army as a volunteer of his own accord, and from liking the service. It appeared that he had done his duty well since he had been with the regiment; no one had previously mistrusted him; and he therefore felt the investigation without any occasion appearing against him, that he had been influenced by other than honest motives in bringing forward the charge which led to the inquiry. He felt pardoned in asserting, after the charge was dismissed, that the canteen-keeper was a spy in disguise.

Few things are more required, under the peculiar circumstances of our extended camp, than a better system of camp police. That which exists at present is almost nominal, and quite inadequate to meet the exigencies of our position. The ordinary establishments of the Provost-Marshal and assistants, consisting of a captain and a certain number of sergeants and others selected from the regiments in the field, though fit and sufficient for an army under common circumstances, is too limited and imperfect for a force occupying such an extended position in an enemy's country. Its organization enables it to do little more than correct open and flagrant abuses, and to prevent or punish manifest infractions of military discipline. Something more is required, for it must not be forgotten that we have a crowded harbour filled with most valuable military stores, and that amidst among them are remains and boats carrying traders and bootmakers of almost every nation; that Kadik has now reached the base of a large populous mercantile town, comprising shops and establishments of every description; and that scattered over the whole area upon which our regiments are encamped are the tents or sheds of sailors, in which a mixed population of Greeks, Italians, Germans, Armenians, Maltese, Poles, Hungarians, and others find occupation. Not to mention the means of communication by the sea-board, since the extension of our base towards the mountain district of Bulgar and Tchergou, no great skill or dexterity would be required to find place of communication by land. Under such circumstances the common safety requires an active and thorough system of surveillance over all followers and strangers. No one should be permitted to remain beyond a certain time on shore, or to inspect the camp, without an authorized passport, which should not be given unless the character of the applicant were fully known. There is at present a regulation that no one can embark a store at Kadik without permission of the commandant, but parties, labourers, constables,

friends, and hundreds of others, come and go to the proprietors of these stores and to carts and shops in the camp without inquiry or hindrance. The French have done their part in providing against any calamity arising from such laxity. The "Gendarmes Impériaux" is as perfect in the Crimea as it is in Paris. In the well-ordered and now fortified part of Kamiesch no individual can lead without special permission. Not only the keepers of the shops and stores are licensed and registered, but every laborer and servant, if a stranger appears in the streets in an unregulated dress, he is watched and very probably scolded by one of the men in the well-known uniforms with the yellow sash-belt. Not infrequently English officers indulging in multi courses, straggle to the eyes of the police, have been interrupted in making their purchases, and detained until some friend in uniform casually arrived who could testify to their character and social status. The caissons attached to their regiments are, of course, completely military establishments. "Little Kamiesch," as the French have called the collection of shops and market near the Wevassoff road, now a small village, is under their direction and control, and the same police regulations are enforced as at Kamiesch, near the port of the same name.

We cannot look for a police system so complete as that which has gradually been cultivated and perfected in France, and applied to the camps in the Crimea; but no one can deny that we are far behind what is absolutely necessary for due preservation and general safety. A systematic inspection of the campers' articles' establishments in the English regiments, and a proper registration of the camp followers of every association, are matters of urgent requirement.

The following officers have been wounded in the right attack. On the 25th, Lieutenant Wood, 5th Regiment, severely in left breast by a grape shot. This officer rose from the ranks. On the morning of the 26th, Lieutenant Rivers, R.N., of the Queen, wounded severely on the side by a piece of shot. This officer is brother of Lieut. Rivers of the 84th Regiment, formerly of the 7th Dragoon Guards. Yesterday evening, while creeping along the 5th parallel, where his body was not sufficiently covered through the rock in the trench not having been sufficiently blasted away, Captain James Brown, Royal Engineers, was wounded in the left shoulder severely, but not dangerously, by Minnie rifle ball. This officer is the only one of the 5th, Kilobyne, and grandson of Lord Kamesie. He has a sister, the Hon. Mrs. Lindsay, wife of Colonel Lindsay of the Grenadier Guards, now living at The Rags. I am told that this is the fourth Browne of the same family killed or wounded in the present war. I suppose if there is one officer more than another that has been grossly passed over, and who ought to have been made a brevet-major for his Quarries, that officer is this Captain Brown. He not only on the 7th June commanded the Engineers and the whole of the working parties, but he himself actually caused to be made, after the first assault, both the lodgment and communication, and thereby was chiefly the means of enabling us to hold the Quarries from the repeated attacks of the enemy.

CAMP ABOVE SEBASTOPOL, Aug. 26.
No event of importance has occurred in the short interval which has elapsed since the mail left on the 25th instant. The concentration and close approach of the Russian forces have led to the belief that an attack was contemplated, and measures have been adopted to meet it. A new disposition of part of both the French and English troops has been made. Several batteries of field artillery of our allies have been placed in so central a position that they could be transported in the shortest space of time to any point where they might be required. Our cavalry are ready to act in any direction in the plain at a moment's notice. So much confidence is felt, not only in our strength but also in the advantages of our position, that nothing is more generally desired than that the enemy may undertake the movement which it is supposed the Russian generals are contemplating. The construction of the new solid raft bridge across

the Great Harbour, which is now completed, and the wonderful energy with which a series of new works are being thrown up on the north side, have been subjects of much discussion. A complaint has even spread through the camp, that the enemy, foreseeing the destruction of his shipping, and the capture of the south side, has built the bridge for the purpose of carrying safely over the more valuable portions of the munitions of war and government stores which may remain on the north side, and that on the north side the great stand and defence is to be made in the future. Others see in the bridge merely a provision against any casualties to the passenger steamers and large boats which may happen from our close approach, and also the means of rapidly bringing across reinforcements when they are required for the defence of the assault, which they see evident signs it is our intention to make. I submit a few notes in the form of a diary:

August 26.—The Highland Division under Sir Colin Campbell returned back from the plain to their former position in camp this morning at 10 a.m. It would appear, therefore, that no immediate attack against the army of the Tchernaya is anticipated. At the same time the greatly increased extent of the Russian camps on the heights towards Khotor & Makarska is plainly perceptible from various points. The two divisions of Imperial Guards are said to have arrived, the march of the troops having been accelerated by conveying the footgear and weary in carts and vehicles of every description. The water supply and artillery, and so little difficulty experienced in conveying supplies and vehicles for so large a force. Under these circumstances it would seem probable that the attack against the army in the plain, if resolved, would be undertaken speedily, for no advantage can be expected to arise to the enemy from delay. The moral effect of the repulse the other day—which our allies now say the Russians must have lost very few less than 10,000 men, including killed, wounded, and prisoners—must have been very depressing to the troops engaged, for the defeat occurred at the very threshold of the undertaking. Had any footing been gained, however slight, it would have formed a favorable starting point for further operations in a direction towards Balaklava. According to a story said to be brought into camp by spies, when the news of the check received by the Russians was telegraphed to St. Petersburg, the reply returned was, "Make the attempt again, Balaklava must be obtained at any cost." There is an expression of doubt anywhere among the allies, that if the attempt should be made it will be attended with as little success by the enemy as on the last occasion, while, from the measures taken, in all probability their loss will be much greater. As to the guns, were they in so efficient a condition as at present. Though their services were not called into requisition on the 16th instant, our cavalry which moved into the plain numbered 3,200; and nearly 50 guns were taken into the field without at all diminishing the force necessary for the protection of the front.

A general order last evening announced, that at 11 a.m. Her Majesty's Royal Highness Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, G.C.B., would hold an investiture of the Order of the Bath, by Her Majesty's command. The ceremonial was postponed, however, in consequence of the steamer conveying the ambassador not arriving so early as was expected. Lord Stratford reached Keratsi Bay in the course of the afternoon, and proceeded to head-quarters. The 56th Regiment landed to-day from the Imperator transport. It is to be attached to the 1st Division. The fire in the batteries has been rather slack. Immense working parties of the enemy, not less than six or seven thousand men, are seen to be actively engaged in adding to the fortifications on the north side, more especially between Fort Constantine and the Wap Fort. The vacant space in the centre of the bridge is also lowered in extent. The day has been close and hot. It is succeeded by a clear moonlight and mild evening.

August 26.—The day was very severe during a great part of the night. In the right attack a sixth parallel is being made, and the casualties among the working parties, from the discharges of grape and shell, are consequently increased in number again. This parallel will bring the approach much closer to the left flank of the Redan, and will ultimately be connected with the approaches on the Malakhof.

Captain the Hon. Robert Drummond, of the Coldstream Guards, who was dangerously wounded in the chest by a rifle ball, on the night between the 24th and 25th instant, has withstood the effects of his severe injury much better than was anticipated by his medical attendants. His symptoms are reported to be still more favorable. Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Seymour, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, wounded during the same night, is also reported to be in a favorable condition. Colonel Seymour was officers remaining who have been with the regiment during the whole campaign. Captain James Brown, of the Royal Engineers, who was wounded by the progress of the new advanced approach, was wounded by a rifle ball in the course of the same night. The injury was more severe than at first he was supposed to have received. The ball passed through the shoulder, leaving the bone in its course, and afterwards inflicted a deep trench and deep opening.

The Highland Brigade marched again this morning across the plain and took up a position a little distance beyond Kamesa, on the road towards Hadjar. They left the ground near the Guards Division at 2 camp equipment. It is presumed that they will remain in their new encampment for some days. There does not appear to have been any fresh indications of a movement on the part of the enemy. Last night, the 56th Regiment, which had landed, and the 12th Light Infantry, stationed at Balaklava, together with a body of Marines, will be moved to strengthen the Highland force under Sir Colin Campbell. It was originally intended that the 56th Regiment should have proceeded to Keratsi to relieve the 7th Highlanders, but the changing aspect of the enemy has caused it to remain with the Crimea before Sebastopol. The arrival of another regiment daily expected from Corfu, and this will increase Balaklava, will probably be ordered on to Keratsi.

A very considerable improvement has taken place in the quality of the bread issued to the British troops. This is attributable to the English workmen having replaced the Turks in its manufacture. The bakers ask for a better description of flour than that which they have to use at present, and assert that with good British or American flour the bread would be greatly improved and more easily manufactured. A vessel in the harbour, fitted up with a steam mill to grind corn, will be expected, in a great degree remedy the defect of coarse grinding which is found in the flour ground in Turkish mills. The mixture of the various kinds of seeds with the Turkish grain, owing to the careless and neglectful way of filling the ground and sowing the produce, is an evil more difficult to overcome. Some rat holes of wild geese passed over the camp to-day, and attracted general notice by the shrill noise which they uttered during their flight. They were proceeding from a northerly direction toward the south.

The day has been again hot and sunny. A bright full moon prevents the working parties from commencing operations until an advanced period of the night. August 27.—Another bright day, the sun's heat being tempered by a moderate breeze. The investiture of the Order of the Bath is to be held to-day, and as the ceremonial is to take place in the open vast courtyard in front of head-quarters, no weather could be more propitious. The General Army Order, issued last evening, announces the principal military arrangements to be followed on the occasion. The following is a copy of the order:

GENERAL ARMY ORDER.
Head-quarters before Sebastopol, Aug. 26.
By Her Majesty's command, His Excellency Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, G.C.B., will invest the undersigned officers of the army and navy, by commission under the sign manual, with the insignia of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath:—Lieutenant-General Sir Colin Campbell, G.C.B.; Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, G.C.B.; Lieutenant-General Sir H. Bantick, K.C.B.; Rear-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K.C.B.; Lieutenant-General Sir W. Colborne, K.C.B.; Major-General Sir Richard Airey, K.C.B.; Lieutenant-General Sir J. York Powell, K.C.B.; Major-General Sir Harry Jones, K.C.B.; Major-General Sir William Rye, K.C.B. The investiture

will take place at head-quarters, at 3 p.m. to-morrow, 27th instant. Commissions of the Most Honourable Order are hereby issued.

Out-officers from each regiment of Cavalry and Infantry, Light Dragoons, and Army Works corps. Two from the Royal Artillery, Naval Brigade, Royal Marines, National and Commissariat staff, are invited to witness the ceremony. The Second Division will furnish a guard of honour of 100 rank and file, under a field officer, with Captain's colours, to parade at head-quarters at 1.30 p.m. Lieutenant-Colonel Hann, commandant, will give them instructions.

The following detachments will attend at head-quarters at 1.30 p.m., and will line the square, under divisions which will be issued to them:—500 men, with 1 captain and 1 subaltern from each regiment, under a lieutenant-general, from the Division; with all the Queen's colours of the Division; 100 men from Royal Artillery; 50 men from Naval Brigade; a detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners; a squadron of cavalry. The Royal Artillery will furnish two field batteries, to be drawn up on ground in front of head-quarters that will be pointed out to them, and will be prepared to fire a royal salute at the proper time. Lieutenant-General Lord Balfour will be placed in the command of the Parade. A staff officer from the Third, Fourth, and Cavalry Divisions, and from the Royal Artillery, will attend at the adjutant-general's office at 7 a.m. for instructions.

No wounded officers are permitted within the square, except guards in command of the troops or parades and the staff. Officers attending are required to bring persons with them in their care of their horses.

The whole of the troops not on duty will vacate in camp, under the command of a brigadier general of each division, with a proportion of their divisional staff, ready to start up at the shortest notice. The troops and staff at Balaklava will remain at their posts.—By order.

(Signed) H. W. BARNARD, Colonel of the 6th.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.—Among the medals struck during the Congress of Vienna, in 1815, is one in honour of the Emperor Nicholas. Surrounding the bust is "Empress of Russia, Vienna, Oct. 1812," and on the reverse these significant words, "I should like Constantinople."—From Notes and Queries.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

CAMP ABOVE BRANTFORD, Sept. 1. There is very little general news of communications by this mail, but the details of the gradual and sure progress made in the stage operations are highly interesting. There is a general belief that the assault must take place very shortly, for the approaches of the French against the Malakoff and associated line of works are now actually in contact, and the more prominent points of the enemy's line of defense are nearly abandoned. Our casualties are numerous, but happily the general health of the army continues good, notwithstanding that the greater part of it is subjected to the severe and harassing exposure and strain of the trenches at very great intervals.

The destruction of the great magazine and its contents in the Mammoth Vert had led to very serious results as regarded the progress of the stage operations; fortunately, not a battery was injured, and already the mischief has been fully repaired. I continue my journal:

Aug. 29.—A terrific explosion occurred last night, about twelve o'clock, which, unfortunately, is found to have taken place in the works of our allies. No catastrophe of the like kind, producing so powerful and widely spread an agitation of the earth and atmosphere, has happened since the commencement of the siege. Happily, though sufficiently fatal in its immediate effects on the brave troops both in its neighborhood and at a distance, the accident has caused but little detriment to the batteries, and will not for one hour interrupt the progress of the stage operations.

It took place in the Mammoth Vert. All the gunpowder in the large magazine formed by the Russians when the Kamaharka Redoubt was in their possession, and in the construction of which a natural cave was taken advantage of, was exploded. The contents of two smaller magazines near at hand were also destroyed in a similar manner. The position of this magazine was on the northeast aspect of the hill, and it is said that, at the time the disaster occurred, mortar powder, packed in casks, was being conveyed in an artillery wagon to be deposited in this store. The door of the magazine was therefore open. The particular cause of the explosion is not known, and, in all probability, never will be known. Every thing and person near the place were destroyed, and no evidence of the subject can be obtained. Whether some powder escaped, and an accidental spark from a pipe or other source set fire to the explosive material, or whether a shell from the enemy having among the contents of the wagon, caused the fatal mischief, might remain a mystery. Both cases are possible. Altogether the quantity of powder exploded is said to be 7,000 kilograms, or about 15,000 pounds weight. The casualties amount to four French officers killed, and two wounded, thirty-three men killed and 140 wounded. To these must be added fourteen men in the British right attack killed and wounded by falling timbers and stones.

The effect which followed the sudden destruction of this vast mass of gunpowder, was very similar to that of an ordinary earthquake in a volcanic region. Hence the explosive report was heard, those who were awake in the trenches felt the agitation and trembling of the earth. In the camp the agitation of the ground was equally felt by those who were awake. The sleepers, though used to the constant reports of the explosion and the concussion of the air. The heat thrown into camp and had burst close at hand. The concussion was equally felt at Bakhikava, and the sound there was so startling and forcible, that many penetrated out to discover the cause of the earthquake. It was hoped by many that a large mine had been sprung beneath the Malakoff, and that a great part of the works had been destroyed. Large beams and large stones, were hurled to amazing distances. An immense log of wood fell in the advanced 13 inch mortar battery of the right attack. A man was killed, as far to the left as the approach in front of the Quarry Battery, near the Worosoff ravine, by a falling fragment of stone. The piles of shot, arranged in pyramids, in various parts of the Mammoth Vert, were thrown down, and the shot rolled about in all directions. It is not improbable that many of the

enemy in the left flank and certain of the Kamaharka batteries, and the works beyond, were injured by the shower of stones and heavy materials which must have fallen in that direction. After the immediate effect of the explosion had passed away, the Russians from Cressing Bay to the Redan set up a loud cheer. It is strange that so little mischief should have been done to the guns and batteries near the powder magazine; perhaps their very proximity saved them, from the chief mass of the material forced up in the air being carried so high as to fall beyond them.

The French loss in wounded would not have been so great, had not increased provision been made the night before against an attack by the enemy. Circumstances had led to the expectation that the Russians contemplated making a sortie from the Malakoff against the French works, and large reserves had been posted behind the Mammoth Vert. It was among these reserves that the falling stones and timber did the most casualities. The veterans of the Imperial Guard particularly suffered. The guards of the trenches on the English right attack had also been increased, perhaps from the same cause; but it had been generally believed that an intention existed of driving back a Russian picket in advance of the progress of the new works made. At the time of the explosion the moon was shining, but there was a considerable haze over the surface of the ground, which rendered objects very uncertain and indistinct. As might be expected after such a catastrophe, and the sudden occurrence of so many casualities, there was some temporary confusion among the French troops in the Mammoth Vert. The extent of the mischief was supposed to be greater than it was in reality. Nothing was more probable than that the enemy would take advantage of the circumstance of such an explosion to make a sortie. The French General, therefore, requested the assistance of the Cavalier, which he immediately sent to the right, and took up a position near the advanced works of the Allies on the Malakoff hill. No sortie was, however, made. The French Engineers say that within three days the magazine in the Mammoth Vert will be fully restored, and the supply of powder and ammunition as large as before the explosion.

The fire was very heavy at night, both in our advanced works and those of our allies. A constant mortar fire was kept up by our sharpshooters, to keep down the fire from the enemy's embrasures. Large numbers of shells and grenades were thrown by the Russians, and the discharge of grape in the direction of our working parties was numerous. In spite of the fire, and the disadvantages of the moonlight, progress was made with our sixth parallel in the right attack. Behind the salient angle of the Redan, and extending in mid-distance across it towards either horn of the work, the batteries have raised a commanding "cavalier." This earthwork, which is covered at top by rows of sandbags, and is particularly conspicuous, not only has a commanding position, but affords an almost secure protection for the Russian sharpshooters against the fire of our riflemen. They fire through the openings made in the ordinary way between the sandbags. From this Cavalier the Russians kept up a constant rifle fire during the night. Our casualties were numerous, and it is intended to destroy this work by the fire of our heavy guns to-day.

The French have made a considerable advance also in their approaches toward the Little Redan and Kamaharka batteries. During the last two nights another parallel has been commenced from the right, and already extends half way in distance of the length of the parallel last constructed. The approaches are now so high up the incline that no harm can be done to them by any flanking fire which the Russians have in their power to use. The large guns of the battery have been almost long since, and if they could, would not be depressed against these advanced works. The shells of the Allies and the constant fire of heavy guns prevent any active opposition against the approaches from the nearest part of the works, and the enemy is now chiefly depending on the destructive effect of mortar batteries established in rear of the old works. Lord Strachan, General Ross, and others, visited

the front of the camp to-day. It is understood that the Ambassador will return to Constantinople tomorrow. The Duke of Newcastle has been visiting some of the camp hospitals, and has expressed himself much pleased with the arrangements made for the sick and wounded.

The Highland division will remain in the plain, a short distance beyond Kanak. Thirty six miles of another attack being contemplated. The Russian camps on the north side, stretching from Khutor Makarska heights as far as the Belice river, are still on the increase.

The new earthworks between the "Warp Fort" and Fort Constantine are progressing. Thirty-six sentinels have been placed, but the guns have not been brought to them. The bridge forms a side of 700 yards throughout between the two sides of the redoubt. The military purposes for which it may be employed are doubtless carried out straight. All the waggons and muzzles which are observed passing along it appear to be in private employ. Not infrequently carriages pass, similar in form to those in use at Constantinople. The muzzles are small cylinders by two horses, occasionally waggons with four horses attached. No sweeping or movement of the bridge can be noticed with the aid of the most powerful glasses. It appears to be most substantially constructed in every particular. It is said that it has been struck by a shot from a snail gun on the left attack, and several passengers knocked over, but the fact of the alleged occurrence is very doubtful. As seen by the naked eye at the distance of the battery in the left attack, the bridge shows little more than a narrow ribbon across the spout of water of the harbor, and a white line in supporting it to be struck might be easily made, even when observed by a telescope. Some of our engineers doubt its being able to withstand the violence of a strong wind blowing from the westward. An active fire has been kept up in the batteries. The sandbags of the Cavalier, within the Redan, have been scattered in all directions, and the work appears to be greatly disabled. The night is very clear. A strong light from the moon illuminates all the works.

Aug. 30.—The usual fire was kept up in front. Our casualties were less numerous than on the previous night. Our sixth parallel, notwithstanding the light, made progress. The French have also proceeded actively with their approaches. They have not extended their last parallel further to the left, but have commenced it by a direct sap nearly at right angles with the parallel immediately behind, at the same time that they have commenced two byrnes, one on the extreme right, the other near the end to the left, towards the abutment. Our allies have already a way into the ditch. The Russians had in front of the abutment a rifle pit, the entrance to which was effected by a subterranean passage for the French, and the passage to the ditch was found to be still open. The perseverance and courage of our allies in thus completing their approach, under the disadvantages to which they have been exposed in respect to the terrain, and heavy fire from the enemy, deserve every praise. Their working parties are now to be seen to be busily occupied in deepening the direction of the Little Redan the approaches have also been carried almost to the ditch. Already our allies are so close in their direction that from it they can fire in reverse into the Kamaharka battery. The Little Redan itself is in a more ruin. The guns of position are all destroyed, field guns, charged with grape, are occasionally employed. Unless it is intended to wait for the arrival of the mortar, we are expected daily by the French, the assault cannot now be long delayed. Our nighty sentry makes the men impatient for its occurrence. We hope soon to have the Kamaharka in our possession.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in procuring a proper degree of cleanliness and attention to sanitary measures, among the mixed and now crowded population of Bakhikava. At last, the Commandant, Colonel Harding, determined to adopt stringent measures, and two days ago all the shops were ordered to be closed, and to remain closed until the required purification was completed. The steps of business caused some inconvenience, but the restriction had the desired effect. The place has been cleared, and arrangements entered into for its future good order, and to-day ordinary business has been resumed.

The temperature has been much diminished in comparison with our late weather. The mornings and evenings are becoming cool. This evening there has been a gathering of clouds, and a fall of rain is threatened.

Aug. 31.—The rain which was expected last evening did not fall over the camp. The clouds passed over toward the mountains, and a vivid display of lightning followed. The night became clear, with the exception of a light hazy fog on the surface of the ground over the work. The moon's light from time to time obscured by clouds. The morning was so cool as to give the sensation of winter. Fahrenheit's thermometer within shelter of the tent, at 9 a.m., indicated 61 degrees—a striking difference with the temperature only a few mornings ago.

The Russians made several attempts last night to interrupt the progress of our new parallel, and, in the first instance, with the aid of their mortars. The first attempt, was made before midnight. The working party were employed on the extreme right of the new parallel, not far from Kamaharka ravine. It was so light that it was not thought prudent to put out a covering, when from their very advanced position, would have been seriously exposed to the enemy's fire. Moreover, the enemy had contrived to throw up in front of the parallel a small line of trenches, which was occupied by sharpshooters, and several sub-batteries had been established by them in the opposite side of the ravine. The Russians appeared to be merely waiting for a favorable opportunity to make a sortie, but it subsequently was shown that in this way they were, without attracting our notice, on our part, managing to collect a small force among the long grass and rocks, and near to the edge of the ravine, which was working, having formed in sufficient numbers, the Russians suddenly, while the moon was temporarily shaded by a cloud, rushed on our working party, which was composed of men of the 11th Brigade, and 2nd Battalion. They fell upon the men before they could exchange their working tools for their firearms, and, rushing on, they had but barely time to fire, the Russians quickly pulled down some of the gabions, and collecting a few muskets left by our men, and some working tools, must have rushed them off to the ravine. One man of the 2nd Regiment, and two riflemen, are missing, and are supposed to have been made prisoners. The enemy commenced destroying our work which was in progress at the time of the attack immediately in the rear of the spot from which the working party had been driven, and, inspiring over the parapet, they in turn rushed upon the Russians, compelling them to desert from that quarter. The Russians were seen to make the attempt once or twice. At one time a large section appeared, but the heavy musketry fire drove them back. A party of the 9th Regiment was now brought down to cover and restore the working party. About two o'clock the enemy made a second attempt, but was repulsed by the active fire from the men of the 9th Regiment. A third attempt, equally unsuccessful, was made by them subsequently. Unfortunately, Lieutenant George Herbert Foster, of our side, Lieutenant George Herbert Foster, a very young officer, not having completed a year's service, went boldly forward, and received a mortal wound from a rifle ball. He retreated his chest, and died shortly afterwards. He had only just the headquarters of his regiment about three weeks previous to the present year, a young brother, before the enemy. He also was slain by a ball from one of the Russian riflemen in the trenches of the right attack. Both of these brothers, although so young in the service, had conducted themselves to all credit, and the death of the elder, following brother, has made a sad impression. Lieutenant Matthew Brinkley, 9th Regiment, was wounded in the neck, but not dangerously, of the same regiment received a ball through the arm, which passed, however, without breaking the bone. Captain Grant, Wolosky, of the 9th Regiment, who was doing duty as Acting Engineer, and superintending the work, also received two severe wounds

given signal. If the town be occupied by troops, the destruction must be terrific.

The burning ship sank at 3 a.m. this morning. Crowds of persons came up to the front last evening, under the impression that the Russians had set fire to Sebastopol previous to evacuating it, and many, feeling it to be one of the most-cherished ships in the harbor, remained, expecting every minute that its magazine would explode, and produce its final destruction. No explosion occurred, however. There were various reports as to the number of guns contained in the vessel, but it appears very doubtful if any were really seen to be discharged. The flashes of flame and bursts of smoke, which were supposed to have proceeded from the discharge of guns loaded and becoming heated as the fire advanced, were very probably the effect of the falling in of portions of the deck or other timbers. When the rain came, which was the first to fall in a long time, the rain came and columns of smoke which rose produced a brilliant effect, and lit up all the towers around. The three-decker, which was moved last night from the neighborhood of the burning ship, was taken back this morning to its former position.

One mortar is to fire 100 rounds each in the 24 hours today. Yesterday they fired only 20 shells each. Captain Edward G. Snow, Royal Artillery, is reported killed today in the left attack. This is the only casualty among the officers in the batteries since the present bombardment opened. Several men have been wounded in the right attack today, from the bursting of one own shell. Towards evening a rocket tube burst in the Quarry battery, and eight or nine men of the Rifle Brigade were wounded by the fragments. The French have occasionally fired by salves in the left attack; they have fired very little in the right. The Russians have expended their works, but have scarcely fired one or two of the guns of the allies. The Malakhoff has been altogether silent, and the Rodan almost so; but this was the case previous to the 15th of June, when no want of guns was feared at the time of the assault.

Fourteen discharges were themselves up to the French in the Malakhoff a few nights ago. They were headed by a Pole, who came forward on all four, whispering "Francis, Francis." He also, holding his cap in one hand, makes slight noise by shaking his other hand in the cap, partly to attract attention, and partly, perhaps, to show he was not carrying arms. The French, after observation, allowed him to come forward. The Pole explained that he had brought some of the Russians with him, and the shaking of his hand in the cap, formed the signal for them to advance, which they did, as the Pole had done, by evading us all four. The Russian sentries were not far distant, and could scarcely have missed them had they perceived the men coming while in the open ground. They described themselves to be very hardly worked and ill fed, but this is the usual statement of all deserters.

Clouds have gathered this evening, and the wind is very shifting, so that rain is looked for.

Sept. 7.—The night was very tempestuous. A strong wind blew from the south-west, and about daylight a squall, with a slight fall of rain, passed over the camp. The fire was kept up all night actively, and it still goes on, chiefly on the left.

8 p.m.—The General commanding divisions are assembled at headquarters, and it is generally understood that the object of the meeting is for General Simpson to communicate the intentions of the Commander-in-Chief respecting the assault, and to make the final arrangements. Two Russian regiments have moved up to the front, each taking a position in rear of our Third Division. Orders have been given to prepare the hospitals for the reception of wounded. The French say that the attack on the Malakhoff is to be made to-morrow; that the assaulting force will be composed of two divisions, with two other divisions in support, stationed on the Malakhoff Hill, ready to act on either side, as may be required. Russian mines, it is said, have been found, and countermined; and bridges for crossing the ditch, and every other arrangement, have been completed.

6 p.m.—The General of Divisions have announced that the assault of the Russian works is to take place to-morrow. The arrangements are only partially known. It is announced that the Rodan is to be again attacked, but only after the Malakhoff position has been secured by our allies.

Edifying storms of wind and dust have been passing over the camp all day. The wind has occasionally risen almost to a gale, and the flapping of sails and the straining of tent-rods, have been heard above the sounds of the guns in the batteries. The wind, which in the morning was blowing from the south-west, has gradually got round to the north. The sky is covered with clouds, and the evening very cloudy. Another ship in the harbor took fire between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the high wind prevented its flames from being extinguished. It is still burning, and throwing a red glare upon the heavy canopy of clouds above. An active discharge of shells is going on from all the works.

9 p.m.—The arrangements for attacking the Rodan, after the French attack of the Malakhoff, have been announced officially. The Light and 2nd Divisions are to share this important duty. The 2nd Brigade, Light Division, and an equal number of the 2nd Division, form the first body of attack. The covering party is to consist of 100 men of the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. The 1st and Highland Divisions are to be formed in the Karabelnia ravine as a reserve. The men are to take two days' rations with them into the trenches. The first body of attack and the covering party are to assemble at the usual rendezvous for the trenches at 7 a.m.; the second covering party, the supports, and reserve will parade in the same place at intervals of half an hour each.

Sept. 8.—A clear cool morning. Wind rather high from the south. All the new batteries have opened.

THE FALL OF SEBASTOPOL.

FULL DETAILS.

(The following appeared in our Evening Edition yesterday.)

CAMP ABOVE SEBASTOPOL, Sept. 11.

The very serious and exciting events which have occurred during the last three days have followed in such rapid succession that even yet their import and probable results have not been fully discussed or estimated. The attack on the Malakhoff and Rodan, the abandonment subsequently of the north side by the enemy, the destruction of the city and suburbs by fire, recalling the policy pursued formerly at Moscow, the sinking of the remainder of the fleet, are such stirring incidents, that for a time, on the scene of action, amid the din of arms, the confusion of reports, and the confusion of the mind, the management of the attack on the Rodan is unobscured; and neither the generalship exhibited, nor the conduct of some of the troops, escapes without notice. If the Malakhoff was the key to the whole position as engineers stated and the Russians seem to have considered, was the attack on the Rodan called for? and, if called for, was any work sufficiently advanced, and the reduction of the place sufficiently effected, to warrant its being then undertaken? These are questions of a wider range. Has the burning of the city, considering what must have been the raised and polluted state, been of much harm to us, and, by leaving up the forts, have the Russians done more than save us the trouble of doing the same thing ourselves? What is to follow now? Are the troops to shift their position, to take the field and march against the enemy, or will winter and death then save us the work for us? What influence will the destruction of Sebastopol, its fleet and its arsenal, have on the great question of the submission of Russia to the demands of the Allies? For information on these latter important subjects we shall anxiously look for the result of deliberations at home.

I will give a diary of some of the leading events.

5.—The bombardment has continued all night, the chief intensity of the fire continuing to be on the left. An active discharge of shells and rockets has been kept up against the position of the Malakhoff and Rodan. This morning there is a cold high wind, and clouds of dust, coming for a time dense fogs, or sweeping past in rapid whirls, are enveloping the camp. It is a complete storm of sand and wind, which it is difficult to move against, for the dust is forced into the eyes and penetrates every pore of the skin. Before 7 a.m. the men of the Light and Second Divisions commenced assembling before their camps, previous to moving forward to the trenches to make the assault against the Rodan. They were provided with two days' rations, and an extra quantity of ammunition. Paper, the covering and storming parties assembled and moved down to the trenches, then the supporting columns, the working parties, and, lastly, the reserves, went in succession to the various parallels of the right attack. In spite of the gloomy aspect of the weather, and the trying wind and dust, the men appeared steady and determined. Stumps of French were also pouring down in quick succession from all directions toward the works connected with the Malakhoff, behind which a vast reserve of troops was collected. A park of field artillery was brought behind the Victoria Redoubt. Large bodies were also placed in reserve in the Caraveling Bay and Karabelnia Bay. In the latter, also, were the English Highland Division, who were brought in from Kanava for the occasion, and the Division of Guards. These divisions were extended into the long covered way, connected with the old advanced work, and commencing with the corresponding French approach. General Simpson and staff passed toward the right attack about half-past six o'clock, and about an hour afterwards General Palmer moved to his station in front of the Victoria Redoubt.

Noon.—At 12 o'clock precisely, the French troops showed themselves above the foremost approach, close to the abutts of the Malakhoff. The ditch was passed in admirable order, and with wonderful rapidity. The men were seen mounting the parapet, and appeared to enter the bastion at its left face, almost without any opposition. Other columns followed in quick succession. On a high piece of earthwork, quick succession. On a high piece of earthwork, within the bastion, nearer to its right, two Russian officers were particularly conspicuous, apparently trying to cheer on their men. A misfire or two scarcely elapsed when they turned and disappeared, and immediately afterwards a body of French appeared in their place. About eight minutes only had elapsed since the first entrance of our Allies into the work; the French standard was already flying near the salient angle, planted there by the 27th Regiment of the Line; and now the Union Jack waved within the Malakhoff, being displayed as the signal for the attack against the Rodan. Another Union Jack was also shown in the Brandon Redoubt. The signal was at once responded to. One hundred men of the second battalion of the Rifle Brigade, under Captain W. Fyfe, an experienced officer, moved from the left of the foremost approach, and, rapidly forming in extended order, pushed forward. The ladder parties and troops held off for the duty of storming quickly followed. These consisted of men from the 9th and 50th Regiments, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Henry Handcock and Major Welford, 9th Regiment, and Captain Grove, of the 50th Regiment. No sooner had they appeared than a tremendous fire of grape and musketry was opened against them from all the flanking batteries, especially those on the proper right of the Rodan. They quickly reached the ditch and put down the ladders, but it was evident that some difficulty had occurred. Some of the commanding officers had fallen, and there was a want of proper compactness and concert. The men,

however, turned the ladders and mounted the parapet. Then a heavy musketry fire followed, but there was no advance within the work. The supports, consisting of soldiers of the 10th, 41st, 51st, and 88th Regiments, were moved up, and, though they added to the numbers, did not seem to be able to effect the desired progress. Officers were seen standing on the parapet, waving their swords as if to encourage their men to descend into the work. Occasionally men moved on, but it was apparently only two or three together; there was no general advance. A violent struggle was going on. The fire of musketry, both from within the work and from our men, was incessant. Numbers were falling back into the ditch, others were pushing forward into their places, and thus it continued for upwards of two hours, when it became evident that the effort to accomplish the object was unavailing, and the troops were ordered to retire. Brigadier-General Shirley, who had left K. Kirk's aid to take the command of his brigade of the Light Division, Colonel Handcock, Colonel Maxwell, 90th Regiment, Colonel Lloyd and Major Warden, 10th Regiment, Colonel Farrell, 90th Regiment, Major Welford, and other field officers, had been killed, or placed hors de combat from wounds; and the men of different regiments were so mixed up in the contest that it was difficult to attempt any regular formation or systematic movement of the men. They therefore found their way back to the trenches as they best could, leaving a great number of dead and wounded about the ditch and parapet of the Rodan, and strutting the meadow-like piece of ground between it and the nearest approach. It was on every account a painful sight, more especially as it was too apparent that a very heavy loss had been sustained in the numbers killed and wounded. Our Allies, in the meantime, had established themselves in the Malakhoff, and had rapidly brought in a number of less field-pieces which they now turned upon the enemy. It appeared to a spectator as if the French had taken the Rodan by surprise at the Malakhoff, and that they, finding that position was lost, had retired all their efforts, and brought up all their reserves, to defend the Rodan. As was subsequently proved, it was fortunate that our men did not get into the work. The Russians had a force immediately behind it, estimated at 30,000 men, into whose hands our troops would have fallen as into a trap, and had they contrived to remain within it, they would have been in all probability blown up by the springing of a mine beneath them. At a late hour of the evening, about eleven o'clock, the Rodan was found to be evacuated by the Russians. They had been seen going over to the north side over the bridge in immense bodies during the afternoon, but it was supposed that these were only the reserves which had been brought across on the occasion of the attack, and were now being sent back again to be out of the way of the shelling and fire of the bombardment. Some of the Highlanders went into the work, and finding it altogether abandoned, providentially left it immediately for their former position. They had no sooner done so than a mine was sprung, and a tremendous explosion followed. The enemy had very probably perceived their entreaty, for which they had been waiting, and then caused the explosion. Our Allies were not so fortunate on the right. The 11th Regiment of the Line and other troops, who had assaulted the Little Rodan, were establishing themselves there for the night. Just about the time when the explosion occurred in the Rodan opposite to our works, another mine was sprung in the Little Rodan. It produced a frightful effect, hurling a great number of French into the air, and maiming or otherwise injuring many more. It is said that as many as three hundred suffered by this explosion. The presence of the French engineers prevented a similar catastrophe at the Malakhoff. They had examined for mines and galleries, and had some across a large pipe charged with gun-

powder. This they had carefully cut asunder, and they had separated each end from communication with the other. It was subsequently proved to be a channel of communication between the mine in the Little Rodan and one in the Malakhoff; had it not been that the continuity of this tube had been destroyed, an explosion in the Malakhoff would have taken place almost simultaneously with that in the Little Rodan, and numbers must have perished.

The French have been bringing Russian prisoners all the afternoon into camp. The storm of dust and wind gradually subsided in the course of the afternoon, and the night became comparatively calm and clear.

SEPT. 9.—Daylight has unfolded an extraordinary event. The Russians have made their remaining line-of-battle ships, and everything wears the appearance that they are about to abandon the south side of Sebastopol. In the town there are seven or eight fires, and several explosions have occurred.

8 A.M.—Although there is no wind, the fire is rapidly extending. A dense mass of smoke is rising over the town, and forms a cloud, which is spreading over our outposts and moving to the southeast. Explosions are occurring from time to time. As fresh fire springs up, the jet black thick columns of smoke which rise from them prove that hay and tar, or some other inflammable articles, have been heaped together to insure the combustion of the inner parts of the buildings intended to be destroyed.

Search is being made near the Rodan for any wounded who may be lying in its neighborhood, and parties are employed in collecting the dead for burial. The loss of the Russians has been very great. Our loss is not yet known with accuracy, but it is said to amount to one hundred and fifty officers, and about 2,300 men, killed and wounded. The loss in the Light Division was very severe, 81 officers being killed, wounded, or missing, and 1,250 men killed or wounded. The regimental hospital, and the General Hospital behind the Fourth Division, were filled. Every patient was in bed, and had his wounds dressed, and nearly all the chief surgical operations were performed, by 3 o'clock the same evening. The labors of the surgeons were greatly increased by the diminished number of medical officers in the Crimea. The established strength being considerably more than a hundred below its proper number, from vacancies caused by absence or promotion not having been filled up. One assistant-surgeon went with each regiment into the trenches. The wounded Russians left in the Malakhoff and Little Rodan, of whom there were considerable numbers, have been taken care of in the French ambulances.

The Rodan is a most extraordinary work. Like the Kamachka Rodan on the Mamontov, it consists of an intricate series of trenches and traverses, and bombproof places of retreat. Along one part is a series of walls or underground barracks, in which, so deep and protected are the excavations, the occupants must have been perfectly secure under the heaviest fire of shell that could be poured upon it from our batteries. Indeed, the state they were left in proved how completely the men had been in the habit of employing themselves; for shoes, buttons and tailors' tools and implements were found in abundance within them. In one some dice and playing things were found, as if a child had been taken into it.

1.30 P.M.—An unusually loud explosion has attracted many persons to the hills in front. A mine has been fired beneath Fort Paul, and its destruction thoroughly effected. So well had the explosive materials been laid, and so great was their force, that not even a wall remains where the lofty and solid structure formerly existed. It is related to a heap of stones.

The principal town, west of the South Harbor, is all on fire. From time to time explosions occur, and

after each the fire seems to acquire greater force at some point in the general conflagration. The bridge lately constructed to the north side is destroyed; portions of it can be seen near the steamers at the opposite shore. The bridge of boats across the south side, joining the town and Karabulak suburb, is also broken up. This suburb has been greatly injured by the bombs which have been discharged over the Malakhoff, and by the onset of rockets; but there are only one or two houses now on fire in it. The long white buildings have escaped the flames. The French and Sicilians are going down in great numbers, and a continual stream is returning, bringing up every imaginable article that can be found in private houses or public buildings. Furniture, clothes, pottery, metal vessels, paintings, arms, stores of canvas, evidently intended for issue to the Russian troops, are being brought up into camp. The French soldiers bring canvas bags filled with promiscuous articles, seemingly collected at random, into the camp of the English regiments, and obtain almost fabulous prices for some things from the officers, who are anxious to send mementos to their friends of the fall of Sebastopol. A section of British cavalry volunteers is stationed across both the French and our own positions, to stop any English persons, military or civil, from going towards the town.

9 P.M.—Two miles, heavier than usual, have just exploded—a bright sudden illumination of the sky and the broad clouds of smoke, succeeded by several similar but less vivid flashes, having produced the deep report and rumbling echoes. The town is enveloped in a bright white veil, in the midst of which some twenty or twenty-five brilliant centres of flame make themselves visible. These brighten up, waver, and from time to time almost disappear behind dense columns of smoke. In the distance, the arches in the reverse of Fort Nicholas are plainly seen, lighted up by fires within the building. On the right, behind the Malakhoff, there are three or four fires; and far away on the left, among the works behind the outer line of fortification, are also a few lighted spots, where sheds or factories are burning. No roar from the flames, no splashing or crackling noises of timber burning, can be heard at the distance of the first parallel; the flames start out, and spread, and the vast column and canopy of smoke and vapor mount up in perfect silence, as if it were some pictured effect produced at a diorama exhibition. The batteries are all silent, and the effect to one who has been seeing their flashes and hearing their reports for many months past is very singular. The perfect silence is almost painful. The whole assumes the character of a delusion, or a dream, so wide is it to the imagination from the ordinary reality. As the huge mountain of smoke rises above the fire, it wafts gently inwards by a breeze from the west, and after this curve has been carried upwards for some distance, it appears to reach a stratum of air when it is left to expand according to its own gravity. The lights on these clouds are constantly brightening or fading, varying with the increase, or the reverse, in intensity of the fire among the streets and buildings in the town below. The ground behind the batteries, as far as the crest of the hills above, is strongly illuminated. Above and all around the sky is generally clouded, and seems it not for the wide-spread glare, the night would be very dark.

The French are still returning, singly or in parties of two or three in each, as they have been nearly the whole day, laden with spoil of every imaginable kind. Sometimes they are Government stores for troops, sometimes articles from a private house, church, or a theatre; furniture and property of every kind that can be expected to be found in a large city, are continually pouring into the French camp through the medium of these foragers. An several battalions of French were going down towards the Malakhoff position this afternoon, shortly before sun-

set, a Zouave who was returning carried a polished chair on one shoulder, and with the other hand held open a handsome blue silk small parade. With mock modesty he covered his face with the parcel from the gaze of the troops as they passed by. Shots of laughter and salutes of wit were poured forth as a section after section of the infantry columns went along, but the Zouave preserved the dignity of the character he had adopted, and pretended neither to have observed the remarks addressed to him. There is a wonderful change obviously apparent in the demeanor and spirits of the French troops. Lately their conversation has always turned upon the nightly harass and loss in the trench duties, and recollections of the miseries endured in their tents during last winter. Now there is not only the flush of success on their cheeks, the elation of victory exhibited in their gay classic movements, but there is also the cheerful satisfaction expressed in their countenance, that, for the present at least, the trench labors are at an end. This last idea seems opportune in the middle of all, and it takes away nearly all the dread of the coming winter.

The following General Order has been published. It may be noticed that it is no longer dated from "Head-quarters, before Sebastopol."

GENERAL ORDER.
HEAD-QUARTERS, SEBASTOPOL, SEPT. 9.
The Commander of the Forces congratulates the army on the result of the attack of yesterday.

The brilliant success and successful of the Malakhoff by our gallant Allies obliged the enemy to abandon the works they have so long held with such bravery and determination.

The Commander of the Forces returns his thanks to the general officers, and officers and men of the Second and Light Divisions, who advanced and attacked with such gallantry the works of the Rodan. He regrets, from the forcible nature of the fighting, that their position did not meet with that immediate success which it so well merited.

His orders and deeply sympathize with the many brave officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, who are suffering from the wounds they received in the course of their noble career yesterday.

He deeply deplores the death of his many gallant officers and men who have fallen in the fine struggle of this long and memorable siege. Their loss will be severely felt, and by the British nation.

General Beaumont avails himself of this opportunity to congratulate and convey his warmest thanks to the general officers, officers, and soldiers of the several divisions, to the Royal Regiment and Artillery, for their obedient and successful execution of almost unparalled hardships and sacrifices, and for the unflinching courage and determination which on so many trying occasions they have evinced.

In his equal satisfaction that the Commander of the Forces thanks the officers and men of the Naval Brigade for the long and untiring services of valuable services rendered by them from the commencement of the siege.

By order. (Signed) H. W. RANKIN.
SEPT. 10.—A sunny, bright, clear morning. On walking along the heights above the position of our works, the perfect stillness of the atmosphere and batteries seems almost insupportable. In society it is not so much noticed.

The burning and destruction of the town continues. The Karabulak suburb is now free from flame. Several wounded officers and soldiers, who were supposed to have been killed, have been found to-day in houses converted into hospitals in this part of the town. Capt. Herbert Vaughan, of the 90th Regiment, was thus found; he was brought up to camp badly wounded. The Russians had also left between two and three thousand of their own wounded soldiers in a large hospital not far from Fort Paul. When discovered, they had had no food since the abandonment of the town on the evening of the 9th inst.

A very considerable movement has been observed among the troops on the north side. Large bodies have been observed to move to the eastward, and this has led to a suspicion that the enemy is about to abandon the north side of Sebastopol as well as the south side, and in full back upon Simphopol. It seems hardly credible that they would thus give up their great citadel and the chain of forts proceeding from Fort Constantine. The defenses of this stronghold have been greatly added to since lately, and vast stores of forage and provisions have been collected there. It is not improbable that the Russians had intended to burn the new works from the south

side, for large parks of artillery have been found in the arsenal now and unutilized. Part of the canvas lines on the north side caught fire this morning, but the flames were soon extinguished.

Large military stores have been discovered in trails beneath the large barracks buildings. They chiefly consist, so far as is yet known, of clothing and accoutrements. The quantity of furniture brought up by the French soldiers, and the miscellaneous character of the articles, is surprising; there can scarcely be a house or store that is not now exhausted of its contents. The following stringent regulations have been published in the English orders bearing on this subject.

GENERAL ORDER.
HEAD-QUARTERS, SEBASTOPOL, SEPT. 10.
The points of the interior of the town of Sebastopol have been discovered by the French saboteurs, for the present. All persons whatever, except bodies of troops on duty, and officers on duty supplied with papers from the English or French head-quarters, are positively forbidden to enter the town.

Requests for plain are not to be sent to the town without authority from head-quarters.

Military posts are established near the town, with orders to be kept in readiness, and sent there in its several divisions.

No person, military or civil, except those on duty, are to be permitted to enter the trenches without passes from head-quarters.

SEPT. 11.—Towards last evening the wind rose, and about 2 a.m. a very heavy storm of rain, accompanied with lightning and thunder, passed across the camp.

SECOND LETTER.
(FROM THE SAME CORRESPONDENT.)

Nothing is yet known of the intentions of the allied commanders respecting the next step in the campaign. The prevailing belief is, that the Russians are about to evacuate the north side. The south side, with its towers, arsenals, and dockyards, being lost, the fleet being sunk and destroyed, it is argued that no object far holding the north side can exist commensurate with the disadvantages connected with the necessary steps to be taken for its defence, and the difficulties of transporting stores and supplies, especially during the coming winter. New works are being erected on the north side, but these may be only intended to deceive; and, in any case, it would be necessary for the enemy to hold the line of fortification from Cape Constantine to Mackenzie's Heights for some time to come, to ensure his safe retreat. The landing of a further force at Ekspolita is talked of, and a march from there, combined with a movement of the army in the plain, so as to enclose the Rodan, is speculated upon. It is evident from past experience that the climate at the advanced period of the year is not sufficiently to be depended upon to warrant a march into the country far from our lines of operations; but yet, from inactivity, we appear to be losing a glorious opportunity of altogether settling the campaign in the Crimea. An army dispirited by reverse, and in all probability by deficient supplies, could hardly be expected to maintain a prolonged struggle on meeting such a force as the allied commanders could lead into the field, limited though it might be in numbers as compared with the forces under the Russian general. Expectation is strained on this subject to a great extent; everyone is anxious to know what chance exists this year of meeting the foe in a fair and open field, instead of belted earth parapets and stone ambulances. The following is a continuation of my diary.

Sept. 11.—Last night was dark and tempestuous. The morning of yesterday, which was remarkably clear and bright, with an atmosphere in perfect repose, was succeeded towards evening by a gradually increasing storm of wind. In the course of the night some heavy thunderstorms broke over the camp, accompanied by violent showers of rain. Sharp squalls of wind are still blowing at intervals from the north, and from time to time the camps are drenched, and the ravines converted into rapid streams by an abundant fall of rain. Scarcely any smoke or vapor can be seen to rise from the town, and the fire would appear to be in a great degree burned out or extinguished.

The wounded Russians in the great hospital of the Karabulak were all removed yesterday afternoon to the north side. They were taken over in one of the Russian steamers, which crossed for the purpose. A flag of truce was displayed at the time. Two boats from our fleet also entered the harbor,

and the enemy did not attempt to molest them. The wounded Russians who were found near the Malakhoff and Little Rodan have been taken in great number to the French ambulances.

To-day some experiments have been instituted respecting our ability to destroy the Russian steamers which have taken refuge on the opposite side of the roadstead. They were very successful. Two thirty-two pounder guns were brought on a fifty-ton barge immediately in front of the large Admiralty building on the east side of the south harbor, and some shots were fired across. They say that four shots entered one of the steamers. The salices are to make a new battery to-night, to act against these vessels, and it is fully expected that they will be destroyed or sunk. The enemy sent a few shells against the tower on which the two long 32-pounders are placed, but which they did no damage beyond adding a little further to the destruction of the building behind.

A Polish officer who gave himself up on the 8th instant has volunteered to show the position of various magazines of gunpowder, which have not been exploded, and also to point out the spots at which the galvanic wires from the north side pass into the town. An immense quantity of gunpowder is reported to be still undestroyed. Upwards of 1,000 casks have been counted in the arsenal and elsewhere, not including the guns in position in the batteries. (Of this number about three hundred have been injured by shot or shell falling upon them; the remainder are new guns. What a store of ordnance must have been accumulated at Sebastopol! There were guns enough not merely to take Cherson, but sufficient in number to defend it afterwards; and the supplies of ammunition must have been equally ample in proportion. The gunpowder is being fast collected, and deposited in places of security, and until this is completed the number of persons permitted to enter the town proper of Sebastopol will be very limited. Less danger exists in the Karabelina suburb. It is understood that this last named part of Sebastopol is to be given over to the British authority, and that our allies will take the control of the west side of the south harbor. Should this be the arrangement, we shall have the advantage of possessing some very extensive piles of stone buildings, which have in a great degree escaped injury from the bombardment, and altogether from fire. These are the immense government warehouses and stores which stretch along the quays of the dockyard creek and basin. These buildings are constructed of stone, and are two stories in height, above the pavement or ground floor. The apartments are spacious and lofty. Some which were converted into hospital wards, contain beds for one hundred patients, placed in four rows, and sufficiently wide apart for purposes of cleanliness and ventilation. They would form admirable barracks, if required for such a purpose.

Some of the French soldiers, who only saw part of the operations on the 8th, indeed, have been inclined to reproach our men with not taking the Rodan at the assault on that day. They contrast their own feat in seeing and holding the Malakhoff with our failure. Fortunately our men have not understood some of the remarks made by the Frenchman in reference to this affair, but in a few instances, where there has been previously a little over-indulgence on both sides in stimulating beverages, there has arisen sufficient understanding, or perhaps misunderstanding, to lead to personal encounters. The jealousy of our men has been a little excited by seeing the large number of Frenchmen who have contrived to surge in the town, and who have gained no inconsiderable sums by selling their prizes in the English camp, while they themselves have not been allowed to abstract anything. When the general nature of the assault is better understood, this jealousy will in all probability mutually disappear. It now seems that at the time the French assaulted the Koroff Battery there was only a working party within it. The Russian general had made up his mind that the bombardment would be continued throughout the day, and that there would be no assault, at any rate, till towards evening. The men had therefore been dismissed to their bomb-proof barracks and hiding-places, and our allies had the opportunity of securing their footing before they could be assembled. Not so at the Great Rodan, the assault upon which did not occur until after the Malakhoff had been secured, and the French flag and Union Jack were hoisted on its summit. The Russians had therefore not only to assemble the forces told off for its defence, but also to bring up

their supports and reserves. Moreover, the enemy were more on the alert along the left and at the Rodan, for the continued powerful bombardment against the works in this direction, together with the comparative silence on the right, had evidently led them to suppose that the principal assault was intended to be made on that side. So when the French made the attack against the Central Battery they met with great opposition, and were unable to take it, or overrunning was the force brought to its defence. The French say that this attack was only a feint, but their loss of men is so great in killed and wounded that it would appear, whatever might have been the original plan, the feinted attack became converted into a very real and serious one. At the Little Rodan, still farther to the right than the Malakhoff, the Russians had equally little expectation of an attack at that time in the day, and the French approaches having been carried almost into contact with the work, a surprise was easily effected. But when the enemy had discovered his mistake a force was speedily assembled, and a severe contest ensued. Twice were our allies driven by overrunning numbers out of the work, and twice they gallantly forced their way in again, suffering each time considerable loss.

In comparing the assault against the Rodan with that against the Koroff Battery, not only the advantage of the surprise in the latter after most be taken into account, but also the state of approaches and the condition of the work attacked must be considered. The French approaches had been carried to the very edge of the ditch, one face of the work had been completely destroyed, and all its principal guns were silenced. The assaulting columns were not exposed, to a flanking fire, so close were they to the parapets of the battery; and the distant guns from other works, which might have been brought to bear upon them, were kept down by the overrunning artillery fire directly carried against them. There were no corresponding circumstances connected with the attack against the Rodan. The assault of the towers was still between two well constructed works distant from the ditch of the work, and the assaulting columns, in passing over the open ground, were moved down by a double flanking fire of grape, musketry, and artillery. The guns of the Rodan, as many supposed at the time, and as observation has proved since, were in working order, and extensive retrenchments within the work enabled the garrison to defend themselves almost with impunity. No obvious were these differences of condition, and so wanting were the elements of success to justify an assault, judging from appearances, that up to the evening of the 7th instant, very few would believe that the assault of the Rodan was really contemplated. Even the day which was extended for some distance from the sixth parallel, notwithstanding the number of casualties in its construction, was generally regarded as a kind to deceive the enemy as to the nature of our intended attack and the date of its probable accomplishment. The day being commenced, it might be supposed that the Rodan would not be assaulted until the approaches were carried much further forward. Every one believed that, the Malakhoff once taken and held, the Rodan and the other works associated with it would be an affair of the Karabelina would speedily fall, and this was another reason why the belief was very generally held that the assault of the Malakhoff was the chief point aimed at by the Allies.

Granting, however, the necessity of attacking the Rodan, there were manifestly many mistakes in the way in which it was attempted to be carried out. The assaulting columns were too weak, and on reaching the work, instead of treating to the bayonet to drive off before them, they directed a musketry fire from behind the parapets against the enemy, who had retired behind their retrenchments, as if it were an affair of the advanced parallels in the trenches. The supports were brought up without method or order, and, on reaching the assaulting parties, crowded up to them in a mass, instead of waiting wherever they might be most safe from fire—in the ditch for example, until they were required to move forward. The consequence was, confusion, because rampant, the different regiments were mixed together. There was no heed to order or direct, and much unnecessary slaughter was the result. After some time had elapsed the Welsh Fusiliers, under Colonel Lyons, were ordered to create a diversion by making an attack against the re-entrenching angle, in the proper

left flank of the Rodan, but the enemy were now in immense force, for the reserves had been brought up, and as the men of the 2nd Regiment went up the hill towards the work, they were swept down by grape and canister from the 24th battery and the Gardner batteries on the right flank; and, on the left, by the fire of the guns of the left flank and certain of the Rodan. Colonel Lyons himself fell when he was about two-thirds of the way, wounded by a ball through the thigh; and it was impossible, so numerous were the casualties, for the next officer in command to collect men sufficient to make the required column. For two hours the assaulting and supporting columns remained at the Rodan before they retired, trying to force an entrance in spite of the dreadful fire to which they were exposed—an ordeal of endurance which few troops besides themselves would have submitted to with so much fortitude and devotion.

When the general order of the commander of the forces, published on September the 9th, respecting the attack on the Rodan, was read to the troops of the Light Division, the following order was also read to the men by Lieutenant-General Sir William Codrington, commanding the division: "The Lieutenant-General commanding the Light Division gives his hearty thanks to those who so gallantly attempted the assault of the Rodan. Leaving a narrow trench, they had to pass over 240 yards to the edge of the ditch, crossed by fire from heavy artillery, as well as musketry, on the open ground; and though many circumstances prevented the complete execution of orders, and interfered with that which would have been considered success; yet the non-commissioned officers and men, and by officers of all ranks and ages, which entitled them to win, and which must ever be remembered by him with gratitude and affection."

9 P.M.—The stormy state of the atmosphere which has prevailed all day, has now in a great degree subsided. The night is dark and misty. A slight glare seen above Sebastopol, pointing out that the fire is not wholly extinguished; but no flames, nor columns of smoke, now indicate any active configuration. A complete silence reigns all around, and this, together with the absence of all the usual flashes of light from musketry or artillery, still produces a strange and puzzling effect on the senses, so strong is the influence of habit.

Sept. 12.—A party of the naval brigade worked very hard last night at the construction of a battery, intended for the destruction of the steamers on the opposite side. To the infinite disappointment of the Jackals, the Russians have saved them the trouble of using the battery, for all the steamers have been sunk in the course of the night, apparently in shallow water. No language could be found strong enough to express the rage of the sailors at this interference of the enemy with their plans and intentions. Some of the younger officers, who had seen, with regard to the Vladimir, prospects of a "cutting out" expedition, were equally disappointed.

The French are trying the range of some guns and mortars on the extreme right against the Russian camp on the north side.

There is a report in camp that Omar Pacha has succeeded in cutting off a large body of the enemy, and compelling them to surrender at discretion. The truth of the statement has not been confirmed.

Barracks are required in front at present. Many of the wounded received in the attack on the Rodan were caused by grape and canister, and the guns being comparatively near, were of a very dangerous character. It is said, however, that of the whole number, the proportion of dangerous and very severe wounds is less than usual. An amended list of the casualties is ordered to be collected for the mail of the 15th instant.

It has been announced to-day that the principal part of Sebastopol—that lying on the west side of the South Harbour—is now in charge of the French authorities. The Karabelina part of the town is given over to the British force. Officers and others are to obtain passes from general officers for permission to visit it. In general orders, Colonel Windham, C.B., is appointed commander of the Karabelina; and Captain Rowlands, 1st Regiment, Heavy Artillery, 4th Regiment, J. W. Dewar, 4th Regiment, Charles Cook, 6th Regiment, two majors, for enforcing the necessary police and sanitary regulations.

The day has been cold, damp, and the wind high. The fire appears to be quite extinct now in Sebastopol.

put; no reflection can be perceived in the atmosphere over it.

Sept. 13.—A fine bright sunny morning; the temperature higher than it has been for several days past.

Four men came over from the north side last night and gave themselves up to the English picket at the dockyard in the Karabelina part of the town. They crossed in a light, well-stated boat. According to their account the Russians are making every arrangement for evacuating the north side. In opposition to this statement, working parties are seen to be very actively employed at one or two points in throwing up entrenchments. This operation, however, may be only intended as a blind to disguise their real intentions until all their preparations are completed.

A council of war is sitting to-day at General Simpson's head-quarters. While Paymaster J. K. Lavery, of the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, was riding in Sebastopol, a shell thrown from the north side exploded near him. His horse was killed, but he himself escaped with only a slight wound. A French officer has also been wounded in the same way. We have been trying the range of some mortars from the west entrance of the South Harbour, near Fort Nicholas. Shells can be thrown to any part of the north height opposite to the town. It is most probable that the enemy has but very few mortars on that side; their weight and cumbersome form would have prevented him from carrying over any from the south side previous to the surrender of the place.

Measurements and accurate drawings are being made of the enemy's works and defences for scientific purposes. The enemy appears to have taken particular care to destroy all plans and public records connected with Sebastopol; very few of importance have been discovered hitherto. The following has been published in general orders:—"It is requested that any person into whose hands plans, drawings, or records of the public buildings, docks, &c., in Sebastopol may have fallen, will be good enough to send them forthwith to the Commanding Royal Engineer, Major-General Sir H. Jones, K.C.B., at headquarters, for his personal and information."

Sept. 14.—Among the rumors of the day is one that the Fourth and Third Divisions of the British army are to leave camp. The Fourth Division, it is said, are to move in a direction beyond Taborgha, towards Malakoff Heights; the Third Division to embark, it is conjectured, for Raparicia. Another report is that the gun and mortar boats are about to attack Port Constantine. It seems improbable that any intention should exist of these vessels being subjected to the risk and exposure of such an array of guns as those of Port Constantine, when an all probability the same object could be effected with impunity by mortar batteries erected on shore, now that the south side is in our disposal.

Three heavy guns from the 5th Regiment on the right attack passed along the Woodcock road to-day, on their way to Balaclava. This is the first instalment sent from the batteries of the siege guns, now no longer required for use against Sebastopol. How little the troops who landed this day twelvemonth back at Old Fort foresaw of the great and important events which have been connected with its progress.

Sept. 15.—Constant rain, without wind, fell during the greater part of the night. The morning is now sunny and bright, and the temperature mild. Some firing was heard in the night on the extreme left, and appeared to proceed from some of the ships.

THE 19th REGIMENT AT THE ATTACK OF THE REDAN.

A special officer writes, under date Sept. 19:

The 19th Regiment has suffered severely. We have 10 officers wounded, 4 dangerously, and the others, all but 3, severely. We have 27 killed and 148 wounded among the men, and this out of a force of 375, all we could collect to go into action. Some of the officers particularly distinguished themselves, Captain Bright, who was doing the duty of paymaster, in the absence of Captain Giesendorf from illness, and who might have remained in camp if he had chosen, went at the head of his company into action, was in the thick of it, but came out unhurt. Captain Chippendall stood for a long time, amidst a shower of musket balls and grape, on the first parapet of the Redan, waving his flag on the top of his sword to encourage the men to come on. Nothing could exceed his gallantry. It is a miracle that he escaped. At last he was pushed from the parapet into the ditch, and fell among the heaps of dead and dying. A man who was by his side also fell at the same time, and was transfixed through the body by a bayonet. Lieutenant Green and Lieutenant Molewirth displayed great bravery. The latter, though a youngster—quite a lad, just joined—had the goodness to light a cigar while up at the Redan, in the midst of the fire. A shell burst over his head, one fragment knocked the cigar out of his mouth, another struck him in the back of the head and sent him senseless into the ditch. It was not for many hours after he was carried up to camp that he recovered from the first effects of the blow from the piece of shell; it must have glanced off, for the wound it made was very slight. Major Warden was knocked over before he got up to the ditch; so also was Colonel Ussett, who commanded the regiment, the former had a narrow escape. A piece of shell, as a stone kicked up by a round shot, passed across his face, injuring one eye, and starting him. He was rendered blind for a time, but his sight is no longer in danger. Colonel Ussett received a ball in the hip, which became fixed in the thigh-bone. He was being carried back to camp, and had reached the first parallel in safety, when a musket ball entered his neck and shattered his entire bone to pieces. One of the men who was carrying him on the stretcher was also wounded at the same time. One of the last remaining on the parapet of the Redan was a gallant young boy, Lieutenant Massey, who had only lately joined the regiment. Just at the last the poor youth received a ball, which broke his thigh bone, and he fell down towards the ditch. In the hurry he was unnoticed by the men who were retreating, and he was left among the heaps of dead unable to move till an early hour the next morning. Some men of the 6th Highlanders then noticed him, and he was carried up to camp, where he had been given up for killed. He did not fall to the bottom of the ditch, and some Russians coming out took away his sword and bayonet, but did not molest him. A few of our men were taken prisoners in the Redan, and were only freed in the town to-day. They had received injuries which prevented them from moving, and were left in houses which had been converted into hospitals.

LETTER FROM AN ARMY SURGEON.

[The following letter from the surgeon of the regiment to the father of Lieutenant Green, of the 19th, will serve to illustrate the minds of many relatives of those officers who have been wounded in the Crimea. It proves that the wounded are the objects of great care and unflinching medical superintendence. Lieutenant Green was mentioned in despatches with Lieutenant Molewirth, in a letter published some days back, as having displayed the most noble bravery in the assault on the Redan. They are both now young. Lieutenant Green has been in the trenches from October, 1854, to September, 1855.]

"Camp above Sebastopol, Sept. 16, 1855.
Dear Sir—A line from me will perhaps save some of your anxiety respecting the condition of your son Green, if my opinion is in the least favorable. He, considering his severity, his symptoms are exceedingly favorable. While in the hospital of the Redan, and being the man to follow him, a ball (musket ball) struck him in the upper part of the thigh. It penetrated the left femur, but made its exit from the left side of the thigh, not very far from the anse. The left leg has been wounded near its upper part, but, I hope, from his symptoms, that the wound is not of a very grave character. The extravasation of blood has ceased, and the difficulty of breathing very greatly diminished. He appeared to have lost a great deal of blood, but in the case of this it is a very extraordinary circumstance. This morning (Monday) all his symptoms are still more improved, his spirits are good, pain moderate, and constitutional action comparatively light. It were a short story, for my hands are full—the officer out of it who went into action yesterday (I fearfully) and of which and I'll wounded among the men. Make your mind easy about our having everything necessary for the treatment of your son; my hands will be provided with every requisite, surgical and medical. Your son's wound has not been so fatal as you may be misled by his friends to think. He is a brave and gallant young man, and he is in the full of man.—Believe me, very truly yours,
"J. Green, Esq."

A YOUNG HERO AT THE REDAN.

There have been various reports respecting the great treatment of the wounded British soldiers by the Russians. The following interesting history, received in a letter from the Crimea, will show that this cruelty is not always employed.

Casualty, Sept. 18.
Lieutenant Massey, who only joined the headquarters of the regiment lately, a chubby-faced youth of sixteen years of age, led the Grenadiers of the 19th Regiment into action at the assault upon the Redan on the 8th instant. They came up to the support of the attacking column. Nothing could exceed the bravery of this young fellow. He went on in front of his men, got across the ditch, and climbed to the parapet on the opposite side. Here his progress was impeded by the men of different regiments, who were crowded together, vainly endeavoring to effect an entrance into the work. The men fell thickly round him, but he escaped. He was one of the very last who retired. On his return, as he was mounting the counter-scarp, and just at the edge of the natural glacis of the hill, some soldier caught hold of his leg to assist himself in mounting up. At that moment a rifle ball struck young Massey in the left thigh. The bone was broken near the hip joint, and he was unable to extricate himself from his dangerous position. He crawled on a few yards, and there remained. Now came a fearful trial. The Russians were showing themselves thickly on the parapets of the Redan, firing at our men who were retreating, and, in turn, our troops were firing up at the Redan from the first parallel of the works of the right attack. The shot flew like hail round him. Thus came the round shot and shell directed against the enemy in the Redan, but many of which struck about and cut up the ground where the wounded were lying between the abatis and the ditch. Every shot which struck the parapet of the Redan sent back a shower of dust and stones over the nearest wounded. Some of our men, lying thus dreadfully exposed, even asked the Russians to take them into the work, by appealing to them, "Johnny Johnny." In several instances the Russians slipped out, in spite of the fire, and carried some of the wounded in, and placed them under shelter. Young Massey, however, kept himself quiet, and continued near to the spot where he had fallen. He felt as if his life must be lost, and yet at the same time hope was kept up by an opposite feeling that he might be spared to escape. At last, when the fire had in a great degree subsided, and the afternoon was advancing, a Russian soldier in his characteristic long grey coat came in. He opened

his coat to find if he had any valuables there, then sought for a watch or other things, but handled him so gently that Massey felt no fear respecting the man taking his life. At last he left him, taking his sword and bayonet. This was the only Russian who came to him; others were around collecting the British arms and anything else they thought worth taking away. Massey saw no barbarity or ill-treatment now; previously, while the fighting was going on, many of the wounded were lacerated by the enemy. Some time elapsed, the firing had ceased all around, evening was advancing, when suddenly without any warning the ground shook and there was a terrific noise from an explosion. It was one of the magazines in the Redan which the Russians had fired. Down came a shower of dust and gravel, and, as ill-luck would have it, there fell also a large stone and struck poor Massey on the right thigh, the one which was not previously wounded. It inflicted a very severe bruise, soon afterwards he perceived in the dusk some twelve or fifteen men coming cautiously up towards the Redan. They were not very far distant when he first perceived them, but what scared him was, that they were not fired at. He could not divine why this was, or what the Russians were about; and at last suspected that the men must be Russians themselves who were not observed from our trenches. They went into the Redan, and he lost sight of them, but after a short time they came back again, and he discovered them to belong to one of our Highland regiments. The French had communicated the fact that the Russians had deserted the Redan, and this party had gone to reconnoitre. Particularly they did not remain longer, for shortly after their return another magazine of the Redan was blown up. Had they been within the work, the probability is that the greater part of them would have been destroyed. Massey, as he lay at the edge of the ditch, was again covered by the dirt and loose fragments which were thrown up into the air, but this time received no hurt. Subsequently he attracted the attention of one of the Highlanders, and after a short time was carried in a loose great-coat to the trenches. There his wound was examined by an assistant surgeon, and he was sent up on a stretcher to camp. He is going on favorably, but his wound is of a very dangerous character.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Sept. 18.

The occurrence in camp since the last mail left may be mentioned in a few words. Preparations, both as regards transport and commissariat, are in progress for a move of a portion of the army. Neither the destination, nor the force to be sent, are known. It is generally understood that two or three divisions are to join a French force, to make a movement against the Russian position at Inkilid-Sera. The principal purpose toward the Mackenzie Heights are so strongly detested, that it could only be with great loss, and very great risk, an attempt to force them could be carried out; but it is said that a way of approach has been discovered which has been quite overlooked by the enemy, and which will well serve not only for the passage of cavalry and infantry, but also for light field-guns. The French, for several days past, have been marching strong bodies towards Badlar. Five divisions, formerly engaged in the siege duties on the left, have been moved to the right flank and to the plain. Of the British troops, the divisions of Guards and Highlanders, and either the 3rd or 4th Division, or both, are talked of as likely to leave.

The French held a religious *fece* on Sunday morning, the 18th instant, to offer thanksgiving for the success of their arms against Sebastopol. High mass was celebrated at an extempore altar raised on the heights near to the point where the Worcester road descends into the place of Butaklara. The altar was decorated with military trophies, and the tricolor of France and union jack of England waved side by side. Some flags were hoisted of immense dimensions. The commissariat must have been plainly visible to the Russians on the Inkerman and Mackenzie ranges of hills. General Palmer and a great concourse of general and staff officers were present. The number of troops assembled must have been about 15,000. Cannon were fired from several of the French batteries. As a spectacle, the effect was highly imposing and impressive; and the din selected for the celebration, overlooking the plain below, and many of the ranges of mountains rising in the distance beyond, in no small degree assisted in producing the result mentioned.

Much of the accumulated dirt in the Karabelia is fast disappearing, under the direction of the commandant, Colonel Windham. The French have already established depots and commissariat magazines, and allotted and marked various offices in their side of the town. English fatigue parties are actively engaged in digging and filling up the holes and irregularities in the Worcester road, as it passes along the Left Bastion to go into Sebastopol. The shot and shell which are so thickly strewn along this "Valley of the Shades of Death" are placed among the broken stones intended to repair the road, and as loose soil or clay, or whatever may be at hand, is afterwards laid on to make a smooth surface, it appears well enough just now. What the horses may think of the slippery shot, when the clay is converted into mud, is another matter. At present the weather continues dry, though very chilly.

The expected displacement of the north side, considering its comparatively unimportant character now as a military position to the enemy, must not be looked upon as any indication of an intention to shrink from future contest. A Russian naval officer, who was superintending the removal of the wounded from the Karabelia to the south side on the 19th instant, was addressed by an English officer, after a slight conversation between them in the French language, with the remark—"Well, I hope now we may look forward to a cessation of hostilities between us." "What! with that behind us (said the Russian, pointing to the burning city); no, depend upon it, peace is further off than ever." This may be taken as a sample of the feeling of the Russian officers on this subject, for it was evidently said in earnest.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

The following appeared in our Evening Edition yesterday.

CAMP ABOVE SEBASTOPOL, SEPT. 21.

The belief gains ground that the Russians are preparing to evacuate the north side of the harbour of Sebastopol. The extensive earth works which have been lately constructed, and others still in course of construction, are regarded as simply intended to cover the retreat, and protect the rear-guard, of the army. They are so arranged as to form means of defence against any sudden assault of the position, whether from the sea or the rearward, but do not seem to have any character of permanence, nor to be calculated for the bombardment or annoyance of the south side. It is also alleged that the enemy could not now gain any military object by holding the heights on the opposite side, commensurate with the labour and difficulties which would be entailed upon the troops by the approaching winter, and the uncertainty respecting the transport of the necessary supplies of provisions and stores of all kinds. In support of the conviction that the Russians are making arrangements to retire, it has been observed that numerous waggons which have come into the north side from the direction of the Maikopian Heights, apparently empty, have returned laden. Carts bringing in gunbats have also gone out carrying either grain or provisions. The army encamped beyond Iakermans appears to draw its supplies of food and forage from the stores accumulated in the depots of the Sievernia. Several lines of filled waggons have been noticed leaving Fort Constantine. The canvas town, or Kakhai, of the north side, is nearly deserted; there are not more than forty or fifty, if so many, wooden sheds left entire. Before the abandonment of the south side, this village presented all the appearance of a bustling, thriving, well-ordered little town. It has now the cheerless aspect of a deserted camp, with here and there a lonely habitation left standing. If it be true, as we had to see, that this place was occupied by the shopkeepers and civilians who had been compelled to quit Sebastopol, persons depending for their livelihood upon trading with the military, their departure is very significant.

The French have been very active in throwing bombs from their new mortar batteries against the working parties, and in harassing the convoys moving along the roads, on the north side. On Wednesday, the 19th instant, a shell thrown from a large 15-inch mortar was seen to explode close to a line of waggons descending along the road below the Star Fort. The horses drawing the carts started in all directions, and confusion and alarm were manifested created along the whole line of the convoy. Yesterday afternoon (20th) a fire broke out in a very large pile of buildings close to the shore between Fort Sievernia and Fort Sukala, not far from the part of the bay where the greater number of steamers have been sunk. The buildings alluded to were not lofty, but occupied a very large space of ground, and formed the four sides of an enclosed square. They appeared to consist of a succession of stone-booms. The fire broke out in the course of the afternoon, after some shells had fallen in their direction, and it is presumed that it was attributable to the incendiary effect of these projectiles. The fire not only continued to burn all last night, but as if other buildings had become lighted in succession, flames have been observed at intervals to break out from certain parts of the enclosure to-day. There are only a few small houses outside the square, and as the outer walls of all the buildings comprising the square itself are made of stone and with comparatively small openings for air and light, the fire will not have the opportunity of extending itself. The principal mortar battery opened by the

French is on the west side of the South Harbour, in a very advanced position. It is armed with some of the large mortars of novel construction which arrived in the Crimea about two months ago for our allies. Rockets have also been discharged against the enemy on the opposite side. The Russians have either very few mortars, or have some reason for not using them against us. It is not at all improbable that while they had brought nearly every available mortar to the south side, they were unable to convey any more to the north side, and there is very little doubt that the assault took place before they had had time to carry many guns even to the other side. The few missiles thrown against the Allies show they have occupied the town and arsenal, from the north side, have been chiefly round shot, probably discharged from sunk guns.

It is still understood that a combined movement is to take place against the enemy's position on the Maikopian Heights. A direct attack against Bakhtob-Serai is spoken of, the approach from the south being made by a route which is kept secret, and which will have the advantage of avoiding the enemy's fortified entrenchments. Troops have been embarking, both yesterday and to-day, at Kamiesch, and it is understood that they are to proceed to Eupatoria. Five French divisions are to leave, it is said. Preparations are to march southwards, with the intention of meeting and combating with a corresponding force advancing from the south. The only English divisions which have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to move as yet are the First and Second, but other divisions expect to receive orders of the same nature. Should the enemy avoid battle, there will be an opportunity in all probability of destroying the principal stores of grain and provisions which have been collected, to provide during the coming winter for the necessities of the force deemed advisable to be retained in the Crimea. These are said to be stored at Bakhtob-Serai. Our Zouaves is also spoken of as likely to assist in this movement. Its execution may have been delayed by the change of weather which has occurred during the last few days. On the night of the 18th and morning of the 19th instant, a strong wind blew from the north amounting at times to a gale. In the course of the latter day the wind subsided, and was followed by rain which fell continuously until the 20th. It appeared to be very general, and no doubt the roads, as well as the plains and plain, were rendered very unfavourable for the passage of troops and artillery. Occasional showers are continuing, and the atmosphere is still clouded and in an unsettled state. The temperature is milder to-day (21st), but has been very low and chilling.

On the 20th, the anniversary of the first battle of Vitoria in the Crimea, the medals which have arrived were distributed to a proportionate number of officers and men in the several regiments entitled to receive them. As only a limited supply of medals had arrived with charge for Alma and Iakermans, they were issued from head-quarters to each division in a ratio proportionate to the number of claimants. The selection of the recipients was left to the general commanding the division, and this selection was in most instances determined by the greatest amount of service in the Crimea. The medals were distributed to officers and men at divisional parades. In the evening most of the regiments which had been particularly engaged at Alma held festive meetings, and numerous entertainments were kept up till a late hour in the various camps.

Arrangements have been made by which the friends of wounded officers in the Crimea shall receive much satisfaction in the relatives of those who are so badly wounded, as to be prevented from being removed from their tents or the field hospitals. As a general rule, the reports respecting the progress of the wounded in camp are very satisfactory. The number of cases terminating fatally has hitherto been remarkably few, and in those which have occurred scarcely any hope was entertained of re-

covery from the first. Among those who were wounded in the assault on the Redan, and who have since died, is Lieutenant Colonel Gough, nephew of Lord Gough, who commanded the 33rd—Duke of Wellington's regiment—on that occasion. He received three wounds, two in the hip and thigh, and one in the arm. He was severely wounded at the battle of the Alma, and had suffered a long confinement subsequently. He rejoined his regiment before he had fully recovered, and his health has never been re-established since. This circumstance appears to have hastened the fatal result of his injuries. Lieutenant Colonel Usser, who commanded the 10th Regiment at the same attack, has also succumbed to the wounds. He had his right hip shattered, and received also a severe wound in the neck. Some of the officers wounded on the 8th instant, whose injuries were of such a nature as not to be aggravated by the movement, have already embarked and left for England.

Working parties are actively engaged in repairing and making roads. In some of the camps preparations are going on, such as building stone cooking sheds, raising paths, and draining, to meet the severity of the coming winter. The clamour which prevails in the greater part of the town renders an encampment on the heights above much more desirable in a sanitary point of view. Near some of the works, as the Redan and the Malakhof, the colour, more especially in the latter work, is almost pestiferous. Decomposing matter of all kinds in the dark holes and corners of the hiding places and underground barracks, and holes buried, but lightly covered by loose earth, or hidden by the debris of stones and galleons scattered by shells which have exploded, are manifestly the cause of the offensive effluvia. The removal of these sources of malarial miasm is undertaken before the neighbourhood of the Malakhof hill can be occupied, and this must necessarily be the work of considerable time and labour, more, probably, than can be bestowed at present, if the greater part of the troops are called to active operations in the field. In the larger part of the town on the west side of the south harbour no offensive odour is perceptible. This is the result of the fire, and the pains which the enemy took in rendering its effect complete, though adopted and carried out with very different motives, have doubtless proved an essential benefit to those who may have to remain in the neighbourhood of the town. In walking along the principal streets one finds the large houses on each side entirely reduced to stone walls; everything inflammable has been consumed. This state of the offensive matter has been destroyed and removed, and a deposit of carbon spread over the ground to neutralize the effect of any which may have escaped the fire and be lying beneath the ruins. In the houses of the suburbs to which the fire has not spread, articles of all kinds—and not unfrequently human remains—are found, and the natural repulsive consequences of course ensue.

The following has been published in general orders, and refers to the Royal warrant of August the 16th, authorizing the issue of field allowances to troops serving against an enemy:

Head-quarter, Sebastopol, Sept. 21. Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to grant an extra field allowance of expenses per diem to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of her regular army, who engaged in active operations in the field against an enemy, the same will be issued from the 1st July, 1855, to all non-commissioned officers and soldiers, including the Royal Artillery, Royal Sappers and Miners, Cavalry, and Infantry of the army now serving in the Crimea.

The Commander of the Forces trusts that the troops will make a good use of the addition to their pay, and remind them of the facilities that now exist for remitting money to England. He hopes that he may have the pleasure of reporting hereafter that the means of obtaining increased comfort, which are thus placed at the disposal of the soldiers, have not been the cause of idleness or intemperance.

Commissioned officers are empowered to stop the field allowance of any soldier for a period not exceeding seven days, in a period once of drunkenness.

During the period of a non-commissioned officer or soldier being in hospital, his field allowance will cease, but will be allowed from the day he returns to duty in the field.

In all cases in which the pay of a soldier is withheld, he shall be allowed, without leave, or when any portion of the pay of a soldier is withheld by conviction by a court-martial, his field allowance will be deducted also.—By order, (Signed) M. W. BARNARD, Chief of the Staff.

Sept. 22.—The fire alluded to above, in the buildings near the shore on the north side of the roadstead, continued burning all night. Shells were thrown at intervals in the direction of the fire from the French mortar battery near the entrance to the south harbour, and have been continued until this morning.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, SEPT. 24.

No change has occurred in the disposition of the British Divisions since the mail left on the 22nd inst. The First, Third, Fourth, and Highland Divisions are held in readiness to move in case any part of the British force should take the field. It is not expected that the Light or Second Divisions will leave their present encampment; their special duty will be to guard the south side of Sebastopol and the neighbouring heights, in case of the retreat of the British force leaving. A conference has been held this day at the French head-quarters, at which General Simpson was present. The result of the meeting has not been divulged. The rumor in the camp is, that the French have made a reconnaissance, and reported that the Russian position between Sebastopol and Bakh-Serai is so strongly defended, as well by its natural advantages as by its artificial works, and that the enemy is in such force, that it would amount to rashness to attempt to dislodge them from it, and that on this account the projected expedition is for the present abandoned. This is a mere rumor, and its truth or falsity will be decided in a very few days. The weather which has prevailed lately has been so bad as almost to preclude the possibility of moving artillery. It rained heavily during the greater part of the week until yesterday, the 22nd inst., and in some places the roads became nearly impassable from the accumulation of mud. On the 22nd, there were some violent thunder storms, and this electric disturbance appeared to change the condition of the atmosphere; for since that date no rain has fallen, the sky has remained clear from rain-clouds, and the temperature has been considerably raised.

The Russians have sunk some guns on the north side, and have succeeded in getting the range of the town and Karabelnia suburb, on the south side. They have also kept up a frequent fire from Fort Constantine, and from the large square stone-work, generally spoken of in camp as Fort Michael, but marked in places as Fort Sukala. From this latter fort, however, shells have been discharged against the west side of the south harbour, but they have done little harm. The principal French mortar battery is concealed by the long range of building comprising Fort Nicholas, and the shot and shells discharged from the opposite side with the intention of impeding and silencing the fire of this powerful battery, fall very wide of their mark. A few of the English batteries on the right, in the battery close to the water of the roadstead near Crescent Bay, have succeeded, but on the whole very few casualties have occurred. On our side one man only of the 3rd Rifle, which regiment was sent to garrison the Karabelnia, has been wounded. He was struck by a piece of shell while walking near the dockyard, and died shortly afterwards from the effect of his wound. An extraordinary escape occurred on Sunday morning, shortly after the hour for divine service. The Russians appear to have seen the regiment parading as the men fell in on the terrace in front of one of the large white buildings which they occupied as their barracks. Some shells were thrown, and one penetrating the roof, lodged in the room converted into a surgery. Assistant-Surgeon Turan and an orderly were in the apartment, and had just time to make their escape before the shell exploded. Neither was injured. As no good purpose was effected by exposing the troops to this fire the 3rd Rifle marched back to their old position near the 2nd Division, and the 3rd Rifle, which regiment was sent to garrison the Karabelnia, has been wounded.

The Commander of the Forces trusts that the troops will make a good use of the addition to their pay, and remind them of the facilities that now exist for remitting money to England. He hopes that he may have the pleasure of reporting hereafter that the means of obtaining increased comfort, which are thus placed at the disposal of the soldiers, have not been the cause of idleness or intemperance.

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In addition to a large pile of buildings, supposed to be steeples, another detached shed, also seeming to

be connected with the commissariat, has been set on fire.

The conveyance of wagons are not observed moving, as they used to do, in the daytime, towards the depots of stores below the Star Fort; and the working parties and troops on the march keep much higher towards the crest of the line of mountains forming the north side, instead of moving along the lower road near the cliffs. The tents, moreover, seem diminished in number, but the camp on the Isherman heights remains as extensive as ever.

It is singular that so few accidents have occurred in the town and suburbs, and among the deserted fortifications, from the mines and magazines left by the enemy, and arranged to be exploded. Fresh magazines were discovered daily, until the last three days, with trains laid, and everything prepared for explosion. No casualty from them occurred, however, and the quantity of gunpowder secured from these sources is enormous. A few men have been injured by treading on fuses, but the number injured by these has been remarkably small, both among the French and ourselves.

Major-General Markham has been suffering so much from rheumatism and general ill-health, that it is feared he will be compelled to leave the army in the field for a time. When first ordered to join the force in the East under Lord Raglan, General Markham was in the north-western provinces of India. To comply with the order he travelled by rapid journeys, and on his way met with a serious injury in consequence of the spouting of his carriage, and receiving a severe kick from a horse in the chest, which fractured some ribs. The General was too exactly bent on the object of his journey to adopt the necessary means of care for this hurt, and in consequence of absence of proper attention on this occasion his health appears to have suffered. He has been sitting ever since he reached the Crimea, but it is fully expected that after a few weeks' rest and care he will have regained health and strength sufficient to enable him to resume duty. Brigade-Major W. F. Rooke, 57th Regiment, who, while doing duty with the 2nd brigade of the 2nd division was wounded in the head at the assault of the Redan, is lying in a very precarious state, and not expected to live. Lieut. Major Bennett Chapman, 20th Regiment, doing duty as acting engineer, died at the siege-train of the left attack on the 20th instant. He received a wound in the knee. He was nephew to Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Chapman, Royal Engineers, whose name has been so intimately associated with the engineering operations on the left, and was residing with him at the time of his death. Captain Harold Poole, 52nd Regiment, has also succumbed to the effects of his wounds, which were of a very serious character. He was supposed at first to have been killed, as he was not found till the morning after the assault. As a general rule the wounded are reported to be going on remarkably well, and many have already been enabled to leave the field to complete their cure in England.

The 1st and 2nd battalions of the Royal Regiment have received orders to join the Highland Division. This, the 1st Regiment, is reported to have been once known as the Royal Scots Regiment, and still bears as its emblem the royal cypher within the collar of St. Andrew. This circumstance is said to have influenced its selection to form part of the Highland Division. The division will now consist of two brigades, each formed of four battalions. One brigade will be composed of the four killed Highland regiments; the other of the two regiments, one of which, the 71st, is still at Kerch, wearing tents, and the two battalions of the Royal Regiment, the head-quarters, and greater part of the Highland Division still remain encamped near Kamian.

The French are restoring the bridge across the south harbour, to connect the west side with the

Karabelais suburb. They are placing it in its original position—that which it occupied before the more powerful and advanced fire of the siege guns compelled the enemy to shift it to a greater distance. It is nearly completed. The communication is at present round the head of the harbour, and includes a considerable circuit, which will be avoided by the direct passage.

The construction of the military road by the English troops is being carried on with great energy. The guard of the trenches in each attack is reduced to a captain's command, and the greater number of the troops thus set free are employed either in making roads, clearing the batteries, or making the necessary preparations for the coming winter. In this respect, among others, the abandonment by the enemy of the south side, occurring as it did a month or six weeks before the commencement of the severe season, has rendered the most important service to the British force. Had it taken place a month later, there is every reason to believe that the winter would have caught us without any but the railroad to depend upon for communication and the conveyance of supplies. Now there is every reason to expect that the plateau will be traversed in all directions by firm and substantial well-drained roads. It is impossible to overrate the great value and advantage of the opportunity thus afforded to us for ensuring constant provision against the most material exigencies of the coming winter. Those only who had occasion to observe the increase and multiplication of the varied intricacies and sufferings which arose last winter from the want of means of transport and communication will be able to appreciate the real value of the different circumstances under which the army will be placed during the ensuing winter.

All the shot and shell belonging to the siege guns have now been brought up from the batteries, and are placed in convenient positions near to the terminal of the railroad for conveyance to Balaklava. Many of the heavy guns and mortars have been also brought away, and all appearance the numerous batteries of our two attacks will in a few days be completely dismantled.

September 25.—A constant fire was kept up throughout the night from the advanced batteries near the roadstead.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Sept. 25.

The period since the last mail left has been very unproductive of events. There is scarcely anything to record beyond the continued bombardment of the north side, and the increasing fire of the enemy against the town and Karabelais on the south side.

The fire against the latter suburb has so much increased, that, although little mischief has been done beyond the further destruction of houses already in ruins, it has been thought prudent to abandon it for the present. It does not prevent, however, the fatigue parties going for timber, firewood, roofing, and various articles of building materials and furniture, to be employed in putting and making snug against the leakiness of the ensuing winter. A few accidents have occurred. One day two Cossacks, in charge of baggage animals, were wounded by fragments of a shell. On another occasion two horses returning from the town with loads of wood, were both killed by one and the same round shot. The Russians are employing such guns, and by their means are enabled to throw shot into the Malakoff, and some little distance beyond it. They have the advantage of position, fire on the north side the line of hills is both more lofty, and rises more directly from the shore of the roadstead, than happens on the south side. The comparatively flat ground on which the Karabelais is

placed, and the low rounded hills occupied by the town of Sebastopol, becoming still lower as they approach the sea-coast to the westward, doubtless caused the preference over the north side for their establishment. On the other hand, the superior projectile power in our possession, from the large 15-inch mortars, enables us to cut the heaviest metal as far as can be necessary. Already the French on the right are causing serious annoyance to the enemy in the Star Fort, and this work is placed on the highest point in the ridge of the opposite line of mountains. Although a sunk fort, it can be seen to contain very extensive buildings, apparently ranges of storehouses or barracks. Near the center, a house stands by itself, and from its superior height and general character, appears to be the residence of the Governor. The French have been throwing shells of heavy charge with great accuracy into this fort, and on the 27th instant succeeded in setting one of the buildings on fire. The flames were speedily extinguished. The enemy has not made use of any large mortars on the opposite side, except one at Fort Constantine, which is chiefly directed at present against the quarter of Sebastopol held by the French.

The same day that the fire alluded to above occurred an explosion took place in one of the Russian magazines near the south harbour, killing and wounding several men. The magazine, which was connected with a small flanking battery on the slope of the hill near the strand battery—the one which crosses the valley adjoining the head of the south harbour—was intended to be cleared out, and orders had been given for the work to be carried into effect. Part of the gunpowder had been removed, and it was imagined that very little more (if any) remained. About 1 p.m., however, a tremendous explosion occurred, and from the force and extent which characterized it the quantity of powder ignited must have been very great. The cause of the occurrence is not known, but it is strongly suspected that a lighted pipe was the source of the ignition. One man of the 1st battalion of the Rifle Brigade was killed and four were wounded; several men also of the Royal Artillery and of the 4th Regiment were injured. Stones and the timbers of the magazine were thrown to a great distance around, and a funnel-shaped excavation was left in the ground about 24 feet deep in the centre. A horse was killed by a falling stone at the distance of many yards from the source of mischief.

By reason of slight increases for the purpose of strengthening the position on the Tchernaya—now the main front of the army—scarcely any movement of troops has taken place. A military road is being advanced toward Alibon, which appears as if something were intended in that direction. But the lateness of the season, and the cold and rainy weather having set in some weeks earlier than last year, make it very doubtful if any campaigning operations will now be undertaken. During the last two days the weather has been sunny and fine, but the nights have been exceedingly cold. By contrast with the present year, the army seems to have been singularly favoured, in respect to weather, during its march from Eupatoria and subsequent occupation of Balaklava, and the position above Sebastopol in September of 1854. It is said that a part of the fleet is to take its departure soon—the larger sailing vessels to go to the Bosphorus, and some of the smaller steamers to Malta. The Hibernia leaves for England in a few days.

Since the bombardment against the north side has become more active, the movements of troops and passage of vehicles have greatly diminished. Although Kerch remains but the usual melancholy aspect of a deserted camp. Many of the square tents, supposed to be ambulances, including all those in the line of our fire, have been removed. Since the 22nd inst, the large camp beyond Isherman has also become

considerably lessened in extent. On the day previous a small body of French troops left for Eupatoria. The occasion was taken advantage of to send also a number of British vessels in the same direction, and as the sails on deck were for the time converted into masts as far as dress was concerned, the Russian coast evidently looked for granted that a combined force was being despatched for the purpose of carrying on some active hostilities in that direction. The next day a large force was observed to leave the north camp, and a body of troops was also seen by some of our ships to be marching in a northerly direction along the coast. False alarms of this nature must tend greatly to harass the enemy. It was generally imagined in the camp that this move was intended to disguise some projected movement towards the Mackenzie heights, but no operation of the kind took place.

The troops are in excellent health. The cessation of the French duties, and the opportunity gained of rest at night, are evidently producing the beneficial effects which might be expected. All are actively employed in making preparations to meet the coming winter. Military roads are fast progressing in the directions of the principal routes. The Divisional Commissariat stores are accumulating, as well as the head-quarter establishments, and will render the necessity for transport during the winter a comparatively unimportant matter. Should the late which are expected from England arrive in time to be erected before the rains set in, there is every reason to expect that the sanitary state of the troops will be as remarkably favourable this winter, as it was unfavourable during the last winter.

THE REDAN.

(FROM AN OFFICER.)

CAMP ABOVE SEBASTOPOL, Sept. 25.

I have been several times to the Redan to inspect the work. It is a perfect study, a work of genius, and so wonderfully intricate that it is almost bewildering to attempt to trace its several parts and their objects and connections. The Malakoff, either as a work to approach or to hold when entered, is nothing to it. Every inch of the ground leading up to the Redan, and the ditch also, is swept by flanking fire made it consist of battery behind battery, with an overwhelming masonry fire covering each line. Every opening of defence has been stopped, and each re-entranced; and the whole is so extensive, there are so many in and out, work within work, covert ways and concealed communications, that fighting might go on in it for a week without either side being a complete victor. Then the hill in the rear of the Redan is completely swept by the Garden Batteries on the other side of the harbour. As the Russians said, no direct assault of the work could possibly succeed if the position within preserved the most ordinary coolness and pluck. The Little Redan, though a less important work, was constructed somewhat after the same fashion. Not so the Malakoff, where there is scarcely any flanking fire, and where there is only one line of re-entrancement, though a formidable one. Once within the work, the assaulting columns and the defenders would fight very nearly on the same footing. Nothing but a moral, strictly and scientifically proportioned, will ever give a just idea of these wonderful works, which have been growing and increasing week by week for so many months; but such an undertaking would involve endless labour. The photographer, especially Mr. Robertson, of Constantinople, are very busy, and will, no doubt, produce specimens of some of the individual parts, the completed whole, however, with all its intricate and mutual relations, is beyond their reach. Nothing but a student, studious and patient, can give a due estimate of the reality.

By the bye, talking of photographs, rather an amusing incident has occurred at the Redan. A day or two ago, some curious French visitors (supposed to be the undergrowth of "bunka" with which the Redan abounds, found a box containing some implements which they recognised as belonging to a photographic apparatus. They also found some chemicals connected with the science of photography.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SHEASTOPOL, OCT. 1.

No move has taken place among the British divisions since the mail left on September 29th. There is a rumour that a combined French and English force, of 30,000 men, is to embark in a few days, but the destination is kept entirely secret. It would be idle to mention the various places named, where all is so simply matter of surmise. The necessary arrangements have been made for four of the English divisions to take the field, should they be required to do so. It is generally understood, however, that the execution of such a movement is anticipated by many, will depend more upon instructions from the respective governments, than upon the will of the generals in the field. In the meantime we are losing most favourable weather for campaigning operations. During the last few days we have been enjoying a kind of second summer—the atmosphere has been bright and clear, and the sun's power very considerable by day, while the nights have been less chilly than they were a short period ago, and at the same time still and unbroken with a brilliant moonlight. Altogether, the weather is now very similar to what the said army was provisionally favoured with during the march last year from the Alps to its present position.

News has been received to-day of successes at Epsakoth. It is said that several guns have been taken, as well as a considerable number of horses and a large amount of stores, and without any serious loss on our side. The affair appears to have been brought about by accident—at least the version brought here gives that colouring to it. A large body of French and Ottoman cavalry started to make a reconnaissance, but, a fog coming on, had their way, and suddenly found themselves upon the camp of the Russian army observing Epsakoth. The enemy was surprised, and concluding that a large body of infantry and artillery was at hand to support the cavalry, quickly retreated, leaving a number of prisoners and a large quantity of camp material in the hands of our allies. If this occurrence be as described, it will be, at the present moment, another reverse severely felt by the Russians.

Part of the army encamped on the north heights beyond Isakermann is apparently leaving, for the number of tents has greatly diminished of late. The reports say that the troops are only taking up a more sheltered position in the neighbouring valleys. The fire, however, from the forts and batteries on the north side has increased, both against the town occupied by the French and the Karabulak suburb in our possession. There has been remarkably few casualties on our side, notwithstanding that fatigue parties for fetching wood and other purposes have been very frequent. An active fire has been kept up from one of the French mortar-batteries against the Star Fort; and, as the shells have fallen with great precision into the centre of the work, and the enclosed buildings are very numerous, there is no doubt that they have caused very considerable damage. We also are constructing a battery to act against the north side. It is in a very advantageous position in the Karabulak suburb, and, as the working parties are strong in number, it will no doubt be shortly finished.

A very destructive fire occurred yesterday (September 30th) in the long white building known as the Barrack building, in the Karabulak. This pile had occupied the general configuration at the time of the Russian deserting Sebastopol. Although greatly injured by shot, there was an immense amount of timber contained in the building, which was of the most solid construction. Unlike the portable barracks now used in our barracks, the barracks in these were fitted up, and so arranged that the part on which the bedding was placed served also

as a lid to a spacious wooden enclosure, in which everything belonging to the soldier could be deposited. These peculiar combinations of a chest and bedstead were in double lines down each apartment, and were made of the most substantial timber. Beneath the whole building were vaults of solid masonry, with arched roofs, which were used as stores. Some of these were found to be filled with accoutrements, and various appointments connected with the uniform and dress of the soldiers. Large quantities of furniture had been deposited in these bomb-proof vaults. The building itself had been loopholed and prepared for defence: in some parts it had been armed with cannonades. Immediately in front, and connected with it, a strong 6-gun battery had been raised. About 3 p.m., when at least forty or fifty persons were engaged about the building in removing wood, two or three being on the roof for the purpose of getting some of the sheet-iron plates with which it is covered, some drunken sailors who were rambling about were observed to enter, and one of these, it is asserted, set fire to some loose powder by the lighted ends of his pipe. No further mischief seemingly occurred at the time beyond the explosion of the loose powder alluded to; but a short time afterwards a tremendous explosion occurred, driving in a large part of the wall in the front of the building, not far from one end of the 6-gun battery. It appears that previous to the explosion the woodwork of a staircase and adjoining apartments had caught fire, so that the persons near that part of the building received warning enough to enable them to make their escape. A party of the 21st Regiment of Footers was killed at the time of the principal explosion, which is supposed to have been at a magazine belonging to the 6-gun battery already mentioned. Immediately after this took place, the fire spread with wonderful rapidity, and at four o'clock the whole of the immense pile of building, from one end to the other, was enveloped in flames. The absence of windows and the free currents of air in consequence in all directions, and the circumstance of part of the roof having been removed, favoured the progress of the combustion. The timber was old and dry. It was only two days before, that permission had been granted for the final destruction of the building, with a view to procuring planks, flooring, and roofing from it, for constructing huts and cooking-places in the camp; and orders were then given that the upper part only of the building in the first instance should be pulled to pieces, so that the demolition might be gradual and conducted with safety. While the fire was fiercest, the flames rose high above the building, and showed through every open space in the walls, but much of its grandeur as a spectacle was lost by its occurring in the day-time. At night, when the fire had in some degree subsided, it had the appearance from a distance of one of the huge factories seen after dark in some of the manufacturing districts of England when lighted with gas. The enemy kept up a very active fire, both of shot and shell, in the direction of the burning structure, to impede any attempts that might be made to extinguish the flames and prevent their extension to other buildings in the neighbourhood. The fire is not yet extinct. The following general order has been issued this evening:

Naval and military officers and soldiers only are to be permitted to enter any part of the British portion of the Karabulak suburb, or the Turkish buildings. No natives or civilians are to be admitted without a pass from the Adjutant-General's office, head-quarters, Brigadier-General Wiseman, C.B., and the officers in command of the guard at the Barrack, will give orders accordingly.

In addition to danger from the quantities of loose powder and ammunition scattered about the town, the fire from the north side is sufficiently harassing, and the sight of a group of persons about the Dock-yard is always a signal for the Russians to send a shell or shot in that direction.

Captain W. F. Roake, 47th Regiment, died this morning from the effects of a wound received at the attack upon the Redan on the 8th of September. He was Brigade Major of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, and was with Colonel Wiseman, C.B., who then commanded that Brigade, at the time he received the injury. He was struck on the head, early in the day, by a piece of shell, and as there was no fracture of bone, the wound was not considered to be of a very serious character. The mischief subsequently proved to be deeper than was anticipated, and though for some time under orders to leave for England at the recommendation of a medical board, he was not in a fit state to bear the removal. He was an active, intelligent officer, and, from his industry and experience, the loss of his services as Brigade Major will be much felt. He is deeply regretted, not only in his own, but in all the regiments of the brigade.

A few days since there was a grand distribution by General Palmer of crosses and medals to the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Crimea. The 1st Division, which distinguished itself at the taking of the Malakhoff on the 8th of September. About 100 of these honourable marks of distinction were given. The distribution was accompanied with the usual military ardour and enthusiasm. The division was commanded by one of the brigadiers, General McMahon, who commanded on the day of the attack, having received to the command of the 2nd corps formerly in the absence of General Bosquet, who was wounded. The General-in-Chief told the division that arrangements were being made for their early return to France.

It cannot be said the announcement that the fall of Sebastopol is to be marked by an additional clasp to the Crimean medal has produced satisfaction among those most interested in the subject. The men and officers of those divisions which have been continuously engaged in the arduous duties of the trenches throughout the long siege—who have felt such times that they were in their term of duty that they were encountering all the risks, without the more distinctive decoration was their due. According to the terms of Lord Palmer's despatch, every officer they were engaged in the Crimea during the day of its final conclusion nearly a twelvemonth afterwards. The following is the announcement as issued in General Orders:

Head-quarters, Sebastopol, Sept. 30, 1855. The Commander of the Forces has the highest satisfaction in publishing to the very despatch which he has received from the Minister at War, expressing the Queen's most gracious approbation of the troops engaged in accomplishing the reduction of Sebastopol, on the 8th September.

War Department, Sept. 15, 1855. Sir,—I have the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty, in order to mark her high sense of the services of her army in accomplishing the reduction of Sebastopol, has been pleased to command that a clasp should be added to the medal, and further, that Her Majesty has been pleased to command that all those of her regiments of infantry and artillery which have been engaged in the war, should bear on their medals the name of "Sebastopol."—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient humble servant, General Simpson.

As a matter of policy, as well as of justice, some mark, in addition to what is indicated above, should be conferred on those who have distinguished themselves in this protracted siege, not only by individual acts of heroism, but also by steady adherence to their places during a time when so many others left their places vacant. A siege medal, to be given only to those actively engaged in the operations of the siege, and bearing some characteristic device or mark of distinction according to the length of time employed

—the whole siege being divided into three or more periods—would have been a valued gift, because it could have been obtained by none but a legitimate and deserving claimant, and its possession would have been a comparatively limited number.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SHEASTOPOL, OCT. 4.

After much expectation, some delay, and the loss of some favourable weather, an expedition has started. General Spencer's Brigade of field artillery accompanied the brigade. These troops are to be joined by a strong body of marines, and the force whole being under the command of Brigadier-General Hon. Augustus Spencer, C.B. Dr. Gordon, the principal staff surgeon of the Second Division, goes in medical charge. It was anticipated that the expeditionary force would be much stronger, and the ships part in it. The French, it is said, are to send ten thousand men.

The destination of the expedition is kept secret; according to general rumour, the mouth of the inlet of the sea into which the rivers Dnieper and Bug fall is the object towards which it will proceed. Here are some forts, the possession of which would secure the command of the approach by sea to Nicopol and Kienzo, and lock those important places respectively situated. Shipbuilding is said to have been carried on very actively for months past at Nicopol, and as vessels of moderate size might be suddenly brought down to the ports occupied by the allies in the Crimea, and secondary attempts, it is necessary to guard against any such assault. The river up to Nicopol is very tortuous and shallow, strongly protected by hostile fleets to attempt making the ascent of the current, it could be easily followed by field guns above, which, without hazard, could inflict constant havoc upon the vessels. The entrance of the river Bug is said to be rather less than a mile in width.

Another and perhaps the more probable intention of the expedition, is said to be a junction with the force already assembled at Epsakoth, for the purpose of effecting a movement into the interior of the Crimea. Already a strong force of French cavalry is assembled there under General d'Almeida, and they have been making frequent and extended reconnaissances of late. An additional number of infantry and field artillery are required to form an effective army for encountering the Russian force that might be brought against them in an attempt to approach Simpheropol, and the number just sent would be sufficient for all probable contingencies, were another army to move at the same time from the south-east towards the same point. Our allies have already extended their observation toward Alushta, and from thence the object simply to gain the north side of Sebastopol and the fortified positions connected with Epsakoth keeping the coast road, and subsequently acting in concert with a force directed at a given height. The facility of constantly communicating in various ways which might be kept up between the Epsakoth army and that assembled on the Tchernaya by telegraph, would almost ensure such an enterprise from any misadventure. Such a plan has been talked of—the English, French, and Sardinians making a combined attack at different points on the south aspect of the Malakhoff heights, while the troops arriving from Epsakoth made an attack on

the opposite north side. In this case the First and Highland British divisions would not doubt be employed, the Third Division being probably held in reserve, ready for any movement that might be required.

Whatever the plan of operations proposed, a very short period only can elapse before it is generally known. This day and yesterday there has been a great change in the weather, the sky clear atmosphere and bright sky have left us, and instead we have had clouds, drizzling rain, and occasional heavy showers. This is a temporary alteration perhaps, but it forebodes the rainy season we have a right to expect shortly, and makes us regret the favourable weather for campaigning which has lately passed by. The temperature still continues mild.

We have to record the deaths of two officers in camp, one of whom had particularly distinguished himself on several occasions by his bravery and gallant conduct before the enemy. This officer is Lieutenant Ernest Knight, of the 7th Regiment. He died on the 2nd instant, from fever. When Colonel Egerton made the celebrated attack against the rifle pits, in front of the old advanced work on Frenchman's hill, on the night of the 19th of April last, Lieutenant Knight was the first who reached the parapet of the ambuscade. He sprang upon it at once, and jumped into the midst of the enemy who were within, and this dash of courage had the effect of striking a panic among the Russians, who almost immediately fell back upon the second ambuscade in rear. His gallant conduct also attracted notice on several other occasions. His death has caused great sorrow among a large circle of friends, and especially in his regiment, where he was universally beloved and respected. On the same day Lieutenant Francis C. Bannachy, of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, died from an attack of inflammation in the throat, for the relief of which he underwent a surgical operation, without success. He was engaged in the assault upon the heights, on the 5th of September. Although a very young officer, he has been fulfilling the post of adjutant in the regiment since the death of Adjutant Hobson, who was killed in the attack on the 15th of June.

The Light Division had a rare meeting on the 3rd inst. At the old encampment near the Fourth Division is now completed by encampments, the races took place in the plain near Balaklava. During an interval in the sports, a dog-fight was started, and this silly and very cruel pastime led to two officers being severely injured. One, Captain Thomas M. Henby, of the 60th Regt., received a severe concussion of the brain by a fall from his horse, and is now lying in a dangerous state. The other officer was reported to have had his collar-bone broken, and to be otherwise injured.

The large fire which occurred a few days since in the White Buildings in the Karabakh was confined to one of the principal wings; the part stretching parallel with the South Harbour, and the other wing, nearer to the docks, escaped. The fire from the north side has continued to be very constant, and the shot from the sunk guns are carried to a great distance, but no casualties have occurred among the British troops who are employed on duty in the town. The intention of building the large battery at Cape Paul appears to be abandoned for the present.

The troops continue remarkably free from sickness of any kind; in no army has the percentage of sickness ever been so low, perhaps, as it is at present in the British force in the Crimea. Two hundred invalids have been sent for treatment to the Dardanelles hospital at Balaklava, near the entrance to the Dardanelles, being the first contingent of sick soldiers sent to that establishment. On the 10th of the Fourth Division, which formed the chief part of the expedition, just started, leaving the field, sick and wounded were transferred to the General Hos-

pital, near the Third Division. The duties of this hospital are carried on by a mixed staff of civil and military surgeons. The large number of wounded brought to the hospitals in the field by the final assault are reported to have made very favourable progress; and it is asserted that, in the greater proportion of cases, the time occupied under hospital treatment has been considerably less than would have been required, according to ordinary experience, in hospitals in towns, or other situations with a less free circulation of air.

The new military roads are advancing, and various provisions for the wants of the coming winter, such as the formation of divisional and general commissariat stores, clothing stores, &c., are in progress; but very few of the wooden huts have arrived, and some have yet been brought up to the camp.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
THE FOLLOWING APPEARED IN OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Oct. 8.

The expedition to which I alluded in my last letter called the day before yesterday. The force was not so great as was generally believed; that it would be the French contingent of land troops not exceeding eight thousand men. General Spenser's brigade of four regiments, the battery of field artillery, and a handful of cavalry, just enough for vidolette duties, make up about two thousand five hundred men. All the seven line-of-battle-ships, as well as the smaller steamers, have left. The mortar vessels had preceded the force some days. It is generally believed that the object of this expedition is the bombardment and destruction of the forts at the entrance of the sea-fleet which receives the waters of the two rivers Bug and Dnieper. One of these forts is on the promontory known as Kiburn, the other as a jutting point of the mainland immediately opposite, and both are said to be within perfect reach of the fire of our gunboats. The occupation of Cape Kiburn, commanding as this position does, the passage by water both of Kiburn and Nicolaief, will be the source of great annoyance to the enemy, and in all probability thwart the execution of some plans that are said to have been determined upon against our ports in the Crimea; to be carried into effect at the first opportunity after the blockading ships have been compelled to retire for more secure shelter. Beyond doubt the departure of the blockading ships, under ordinary circumstances, would be the signal for communication between Odessa and the two towns already mentioned; and this, at least, should Kiburn be taken, will be prevented.

It is not improbable that Odessa itself will be visited by the expedition on its way, though the preparations do not warrant the belief that anything beyond a demonstration will be undertaken. According to the reports of some of the prisoners of war who have lately returned from being exchanged at that port, the destruction and capture of the town and fortifications would not be so difficult a matter as some have represented. The alleged increase of defences since the former bombardment of the military works of the port is said to have been much exaggerated. The appearance of the fleet and mortar vessels before Odessa will not merely cause alarm in the place itself, but probably draw from Nicolaief the troops which are stationed there ready to march either towards Persepok or Odessa, according to exigency.

The brigade of Light Cavalry are under orders of embarkation, and it is understood will proceed to Eupatoria, Lord George Paget commanding. The 19th Light Dragoons have been embarked at Balaklava to-day. It is difficult to understand, considering the little probability of the services of this body of troops being required in their present position, why they were not sent to Eupatoria a month ago. There, in conjunction with the French and Turkish

cavalry, they might have been employed with advantage in harassing detachments, or cutting off convoys proceeding to the enemy. At this late period of the season there will be risk and difficulty in conveying the necessary stores of forage and grain which will be required should the brigade, as seems likely, remain there during the winter. The exposed nature of the bay, open as it is to the effects of storms from the south-west, and the experience of last November, point out the difficulties that may be anticipated in this respect. A force, amounting to 1,500 men, of the slope train artillery, is also under orders to move, and the expedition among the troops is that they also are destined for Eupatoria. It is not easy to reconcile the departure of this arm of the service for defensive purposes, with the general belief, which holds, that the enemy is retiring towards Persepok; but the explanation given is that, not being required at Sebastopol, our artillerymen are going to take the place of Ottoman troops who are leaving for the seat of war in Asia.

The reports respecting the departure of the Russian army are very contradictory. Certainly the encampments on the Inkermann heights have diminished in extent during the last few days. There is neither the same number of tents, nor, as far as telegraphic observations afford information, are there the same evidences of movement and activity. But these troops may have only moved to occupy other positions. On the north side of the roadstead, the camps have also diminished in size and number. Four sheds only remain out of all the numerous rows and streets which formerly composed the canvas town, or Russian Kadikoi. These sheds are apparently the only salient stores which exist in this situation, and in spite of the risk from the French shells which occasionally explode in their neighbourhood, they are generally seen with groups of the long-coated soldiery standing before them. The fire from the batteries continues very active. The enemy must be aware that comparatively little damage can result to the ruined town and suburbs against which their shell and shot are projected, while it is scarcely possible that ammunition and ordnance stores can be in such abundance on the north side as to admit of wasteful expenditure. This, therefore, it is argued, is another proof that the north side will be abandoned before the winter sets in. The shot and shell, which cannot be carried away, are being expended, and the guns worn out, and, at any rate, the enemy has the satisfaction of keeping us out of what remains of the town for the present. Some few troops are seen working at the new batteries placed to defend the sea-face of the north heights, but they are so few in number that they seem almost to be intended to attract our attention, and to act as a blind to other operations. Pressing that the design of evacuating the Crimea exists, some time must elapse before the great bulk of the military stores collected at Simpheropol and Bakhchisarai can be taken away, and until these impediments are removed, the forts on the north side of the roadstead, and the fortified positions along the Mackensie heights, cannot be abandoned. General d'Almeida, commanding the cavalry division at Eupatoria, is said to have reported that bodies of troops have been moving toward Persepok, by the roads of the interior. Troops can only march in very small bodies at a time from Simpheropol to Persepok, or, if in considerable force, must be rapidly conveyed, and water carried also. The only water afforded by the country is found in wells, and the supply from those sources is very limited in quantity, and brackish and bad in quality. It will require great dexterity and caution on the part of the Russian commanders to evacuate the Crimea in the midst of the difficulties by which they are surrounded, without serious losses, if our generals are on the alert.

The French troops continue to advance in a north-

eastern direction from Balaklava, approaching towards the valley of the Belbek river. News has been received in camp of a force of three battalions of French troops coming upon a Russian position near one of the entrances of the Belbek among the Scythian range of hills. It was occupied by a force at least double that of the French; but at the approach of the latter the Russians hastily abandoned the position and fled.

Notwithstanding that a general belief prevails, as before mentioned, that the expedition which left two days ago who proceed to the northern coast of the Black Sea, and act in Eupatoria, there is still an expectation that a combined attempt will be made either to surround or to carry by direct attack the Russian position on the Mackensie heights and north side of the harbour. The men of the Highland Division, as well as of the First and Third Divisions, are impressed with the belief that they are required for some movement of this nature. It has even been rumored that the attack would not be delayed many days. All is, however, uncertainty on this subject. Whatever may be the plan of operation of the Allied commanders, it is very wisely kept closely secret, and officers holding high positions have little more opportunity of drawing deductions or forming opinions on the subject, than is afforded to persons of all ranks by the knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the passing time. The Turkish force in the plain has been reduced in strength. About 15,000 Ottoman troops embarked at Balaklava to-day, to proceed to Batoum.

An agreeable and beneficial change of weather took place on the 6th instant, and has continued since that to the present date. The two preceding days had been wet, gloomy, and cold, but a sudden transition occurred on the morning of the day mentioned, and we have since been favoured with a fine, genial, almost summer-like temperature and atmosphere.

The two battalions of the First Royal Regiment marched to Kamra the day before yesterday, and joined the Highland Division, to form part of the Second Brigade.

Preparations are being everywhere made among the divisions on the heights near Sebastopol to raise sheds and shelter of a more substantial kind than tents, against the trying severities of the approaching winter. The wood which is still to be obtained from some of the buildings in the town, though under the enemy's fire, is found to be of very great advantage in the construction of stabling, cooking places, and for many other purposes for which provision could not be made away from the neighbourhood of the army. Four shiploads of huts have arrived, but they are of a different construction from those sent out last winter, and, so long as five distinct kinds have arrived, it requires some key or descriptive return to enable the authorities to make the necessary allotment of their proper erection. Unfortunately this explanation has not arrived with the huts, so that at present they must remain in store, and continue so until the descriptions arrive, or endless confusion in their distribution would result.

(FROM THE LETTERS OF AN ENGLISH OFFICER, OCT. 13.)

Orders have arrived from England that the docks, forts, and public buildings in Sebastopol are to remain intact. Preparations for blowing up the docks—such as stacking shafts for mines—had already been commenced. All these are now to be stopped. These orders are with a view to the military occupation of the port and town of Sebastopol. No particulars respecting the occupation, not even the nature, whose troops are to garrison the fortress, have been made known here.

I don't wonder at the orders for the better in our system of appointments or promotions since last winter; there is only an appearance of a change. I could give you many examples, but could you have a more glaring instance than the promotion of Major Dwyer? My former remarks to you respecting the general of the attacking parties will have shown you the statements of some persons here.

having been confirmed by the occurrence of the events then propounded. The object of this field, if it be one, would be to prevent further detachments being sent to Espartaco, and to divert attention from the movements, perhaps the retreat, of the Russians themselves.

Every precaution has, however, been taken to guard against a surprise, and to resist the attack if attempted. The French force overlooking the Tchernaya has been strengthened, and several regiments have been moved, in order to occupy a nearer position, over the Ikerkerman valley. All the roads on the Ikerkerman heights on our side are fully manned. The road-making and other fatigues have been given up for the present, and the troops are kept ready at a moment's notice, night and day, to move wherever they may be required. Parades are held twice daily, to ensure the presence of all the men in camp. All the troops are assembled under arms at daylight. At night the men lie down with their arms, ammunition, some bread in their haversacks, water bottles filled, placed at their sides, or in other convenient situations close at hand, to avoid all chance of delay. The enemy will find us prepared at all points, should he dare again to assault our position, and will probably fare worse than on the two former occasions of defeat, when circumstances prevented the Allies from attempting to follow up their victory.

To-morrow, the 20th, has been commonly named as the day settled for the attack to take place.

We have had some remarkable examples of the variable nature of the climate of the Crimea during the last week. The general character of the weather has been fine, dry, and mild. But on the 15th and 16th instant it was oppressively hot, Fahrenheit's thermometer indicating 84 degrees in the shade during the greater part of each day. Towards light showers curled up, and the sky expressed that unpleasant sensation which indicates the presence of a dry dew in the Mediterranean. The wind blew from the south, with a little scattered in it. There were only five or six degrees of difference in the temperature shown by the mercury in the shade and when exposed to the direct influence of the sun's rays. Subsequently the breeze has changed round to the northward, and the solar heat, though consisting great, has been thus considerably tempered. Under such circumstances the climate is most delicious; the atmosphere is pure and bright, so that objects can be distinguished at long distances; the sea breeze only serves to moderate the heat of the sun, which would be too powerful without it; the contrasts of light and shade are strongly marked; flowers in great variety are again appearing; and all around were rather the character of a fresh spring than of a fading autumn.

The orders from home for the preservation of the public buildings and forts of Sebastopol, with a view to their military occupation, and for the repair of the ruins of the town, have led to a cessation of the removal of timber and other articles which were being removed by the troops for the purpose of heating themselves for the winter. The following notice has been circulated by General Wissham, Commandant of the Karabeliska, in the several Divisions, on the subject:

Oct. 15.—Major-General Wissham has just received instructions to prevent the felling of timber wherever it is necessary from any portion of the town, over which he is Commandant.

He therefore sends this notice to the several commanding divisions, that they may prevent all parties, public and private, from going to fetch anything from Sebastopol south further on, as he will be obliged to order them back to their barracks.

(Signed)
A. WISSHAM, Major-General.

We have at last news of the expedition which left for the northern part of the Black Sea. As the information was received only this morning by tele-

graph, there is no further intelligence than what is conveyed in the following general order on the subject.

Head Quarters, Sebastopol, Oct. 19, 1855.
The Commander of the Forces has the greatest satisfaction in publishing, for the information of the army, the following telegraphic despatch, received this day, viz. Yarna, from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, G.C.B.

"Of the Month of the Emperor, Oct. 17, 1855.
"The three forts, on the Kibara Spit, mounting up-wards of seventy guns, and garrisoned by three hundred men, under the command of Major-General Kabasovitch, have the day capitulated to the Allied force."

"The day before yesterday, a battery of six guns forced an entrance into the Dnieper, and the Allied troops landed on the Spit to the southward of the forts, then, by three simultaneous operations, the retreat of the garrison and the several of the fortifications were actually cut off, so that the forts being bombarded by the mortar-batteries, gun-vents, and French floating-batteries, and being closely surrounded by the steam line of battle-ships and frigates, having only two feet of water under their bows, were soon obliged to surrender."

"The casualties in the forts were very few; but the enemy had 40 killed, and 120 wounded."

"A strong squadron, under the orders of Rear-Admirals Stewart and Pelly, lie at anchor in the Dnieper, and command the entrance to Nikoloff and Kherson."

"The forts are occupied by the Allied troops. The prisoners will be sent to Constantinople immediately."

Oct. 20, 10 a.m.—There are no indications of any movement on the part of the enemy. Everything continues on the alert as if an attack were expected. The regiments of the several divisions are parading in light marching order. If the Russians really intended an attack, they must have plainly seen that we had become aware of their intentions.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Oct. 22.
The anticipated attack on our position has not taken place, and matters in camp are recurring gradually their condition prior to the alarm respecting it. The road-making, which was almost wholly at a standstill, is again progressing. The accumulation of frags and stores for the winter is an object of particular concern, and fatigue parties and every available means of transport are pressed in the fulfilment of this service. A certain amount of drill, having been practised in the several divisions, the troops are now about to be exercised at ball practice. The health of the army continues excellent.

It has been announced by officers most competent to give an opinion on the subject, that only a very limited proportion of officers and men are expected to be provided with hut accommodation. Under these circumstances, it is hoped that no more deaths will be sent from either England or Malta, until the spring, for assuredly if they come during the cold rainy season, which we have a right to expect shortly, the change from barracks to damp tents will be productive of much sickness and mortality. Even many of those now in camp, and who, under the influence of warm and genial weather, have preserved their health, will suffer when the rain and frost find their still be tents. In consequence of the intended occupation of Sebastopol, should the Russians on the north side leave us anything to occupy, the troops have been forbidden to fetch any more timber from its ruins; otherwise, if time and permission were granted, the men would be able to get much that would be useful in forming a substantial protection, in lieu of the government huts. There are solid beams and rafters without end to be obtained, but observation is becoming very rare. These can be obtained, however, at a reasonable rate from Slovo and other places on the coast of the Black Sea. The employment of the men in constructing their own huts might be made beneficial in many ways; and under simple directions from the Sappers and Miners, warm and comfortable protection could be thus procured without much cost or expensiveness. When the shelter was secured, there would still be

many days available for ball practice. It is expected that will be provided for the Highland Division a short distance beyond their present encampment near Kamara.

There has been a talk of the Third Division moving from their present position on the extreme left of the Ikerkerman camp, and taking up the ground near the Ikerkerman which was originally occupied by the Second Division, under Sir de Laoy Evans. The hills overlooking the valley of Ikerkerman are very unprotected, and, on the other hand, since the French guard the town of Sebastopol, and their camps extend from it to the extreme left, the Third Division have to particular duties in that direction. Two French regiments have been lately moved towards Ikerkerman. The presence of the Russian army on the north Ikerkerman heights, and the threatened attack, led to the adoption of this step.

The enemy continues to be very actively employed about the new earthworks on the opposite side of the roadstead. The number of guns in the batteries has also been increased, and an active discharge of shot and shell is directed against Sebastopol and the Karabeliska. The guns also on the cliffs overlooking the Tchernaya valley have not been idle, but, with little effect, have been frequently seeking to annoy the French in the right flank, or troops from the encampments in the plain going to water at the river. The Russians have a line of sharpshooters in ambuscades at gunshot distance from the stream, which pass along the equivalent to the reservoir.

The characteristic appearance of our approaches, and of the Russian works, such as was observed to view immediately after the final bombardment and retreat of the enemy, is fast fading. Already, in some parts, the change is so great that observers are bewildered in trying to recollect former impressions; and old campaigners, laid low on the 8th of September, but now sufficiently recovered to retort the scenes of conflict, fall at first to recognize their former haunts, or to find particular spots in the trenches bearing special interest, as the scenes of hair-breadth escapes to themselves, or of sad mutilations and fatal injuries to their friends and companions. Batteries are dismantled; platforms, timber, and every kind of military store removed; gabions and fascines carried away for firewood; new roads and paths made irrespective of shelter, convenience only studied in their direction; trenches filled and openings cut wherever required; and time, the leveler, with the assistance of his self-agent, storm and rain, is helping in the work of demolition. A like process is going on in the enemy's works, though, from their massive construction and large proportions, less obvious is observed.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Oct. 23.

The talk of attack against our position has not taken place, nor have there been any indications of movement on the part of that portion of the Russian army which can be observed from the heights above Sebastopol and from those overlooking Ikerkerman. The working parties on the north side of the roadstead, immediately opposite to the town and suburbs of Sebastopol, have continued to be actively employed in strengthening the defences, and the number of guns mounted in the cliff earthwork batteries and shore forts would appear to be increased, if we may judge from the greater frequency and weight of fire directed against the north side during the last few days. The enemy have added rockets to the list of projectiles with which they have favoured us; they have fallen chiefly in the neighbourhood of the white public buildings in the Karabeliska, and have been seen with the object of burning those portions which have escaped fire hitherto. The design has not succeeded. The shot and shell—barrage shells for the most part, though on Fort Constantine two mor-

tars have been lately added to the large military mortar which was previously used—have been discharged in greater number into the town proper, on the west side of the south harbour. On the 23rd instant a couple of houses were set on fire in rear of Fort Nicholas, near its east end, not far from the old landing-place, by a shell, which was directed against the French mortar battery in this situation. They had escaped, as well as a considerable group of cottages, stores, and stables in their neighbourhood attached to Fort Nicholas, the general conflagration when the Russians gave up the town to destruction on the 9th of September; and, strange enough, the fire which raged along the ramble corridors of Fort Nicholas itself, and utterly consumed everything combustible for upwards of two-thirds of its distance, commencing from the west end, had also suddenly stopped, and spared the interior of the east end of the building. Had it not done so it would have reached a chamber in which a large quantity of gunpowder, fuses, and inflammable materials had been heaped together, and this end of the fort and the neighbouring buildings ground in all probability have been levelled to the ground. As seen from a distance, even a comparison with the towers of the towers of Malakoff, but lively short distance, such as the Malakoff or Malakoff hills for example, the appearance of the town of Sebastopol by no means indicates its utter state of ruin. The stone walls remain upright, and many of the larger and more solidly-constructed buildings retain their entire form and outline. The roofs of many houses still exist, and the roofless condition of many others is not visible, as streets close above street up the sloping declivities of the hilly ground. The general white surface of the limestone prevents the shadows and displacements in the fronts and sides of the houses from being noticed; and thus a stranger, limiting his observation to these points of view, would depart with a very erroneous notion of the real state of the town. The Russians seem determined that even the deceptive appearances shall not be suffered to remain. They scatter shells at random in various parts, and now, at all hours of the day and night, may be heard, quickly following the loud report of the gun on the north side and the "whish" of the missile across the roadstead, not merely the sharp explosive bang of the bursting shell as heretofore among the earthworks, but also, as so conspicuous, the crash of falling rafters and tumbling stone walls. Never was town so beleaguered; after eleven months of battering by its enemies, and the subsequent ordeal of fire and explosion, to be thus in turn battered by its former friends.

The fire of the north side has not been limited to the west side of the south harbour, although that has had its chief share. It has also been rather heavy about the dockyard buildings near Fort Paul, where the Russians appear to think we have some works; and also towards Careening Bay, in which direction the French have a battery erected. The casualties have been remarkably limited in number, but the escapes in some instances have been close enough to point out the necessity of constant caution not to attract the notice of the enemy. On the 24th instant the arrangements of a French pilot were abruptly disturbed by a shell falling through the roof of the house in which they had taken up their temporary abode, but far from the aqueduct as it approaches the dockyard; and as another shell quickly followed, and fell near the same spot, it is not unlikely that this was a hint that the party had not to attract the notice of the enemy. Some rifle balls have been sent across against our men on duty along the shore, and keeping watch against an approach of the enemy; but they have generally fallen short, and been seen to splash harmlessly the water

of the coast. We are again commencing a battery, but it may be prudent not to indicate too particularly its situation, as the rocks in this very little advanced as yet.

All the tents which were sprinkled on the sloping side of the height on the north side have disappeared. The pyramids of sacks, and the greater part of the hay, have been moved further to the eastward toward Inkermann heights, most probably to ensure their safety from the effects of our fire. Keeping the parties working at the batteries scarcely any one is to be seen moving about. The moving and of of arabs is almost entirely stopped. Further away, to the north-eastward, there are encampments of white tents, but they appear considerably diminished in numbers compared with what they used to be during the siege. This appearance, however, is deceptive—for on examining the position through a glass, it can be distinguished that the greater part of the troops are hidden. As these hills, which are partly underground, are of the same color as the ground around them, being apparently constructed of waiting and mud, with detached rods of the same materials, they are not readily distinguished. As to the troops themselves, like our men, they seem to be having the advantage of a little exercise in battalions movements, and it is asserted that they have been seen also engaged at target practice.

Now that the time mentioned for the attack has passed by, it is pretty generally supposed that the ruseur respecting it was a ruse de guerre of the enemy, for the purpose of delaying or preventing the departure of a part of the force intended to act in the neighbourhood of Eupatoria. Taking advantage of the season from which, on a former occasion, the intended attack on the Tchernaya had been correctly notified, it might be readily supposed that intelligence transmitted through the same channel would be listened to with respect, and the strategic arrangements determined accordingly. If this be the real explanation of the origin of the ruseur, which it is asserted sprung from Berlin, and were telegraphed from England, the trick has partly succeeded. Another explanation is brought forward—that the enemy, having found that our generals were alive to his object, has abandoned the intention of making an attack, and is devoting himself to disposing his forces for the winter. Our troops are still on the alert. Every morning, at break of day, all the troops are under arms, ready to move wherever they may be required. Now that the nights have become frosty, these early parades, before the sun has risen and extended its powers, are very trying to the men. We may shortly expect the rainy season, and then, judging from the experience of last year, the overflowing of the Tchernaya and inundation of the marshes will place an impassable barrier between us and the enemy, should he retain his position on the Inkermann and Mackensie heights. A very strong French force at present occupies the summit of the hills on our side, overlooking the valley of Inkermann and the Tchernaya. There is no intention now, I believe, of moving our Third Division, as was proposed, to guard the approaches by Inkermann. As the regiments had in great part built their cooking places and stables, and made other arrangements for the winter, and the divisional store depots had been formed, the move would have caused great inconvenience.

We have intelligence from Eupatoria that General PALLOUIN, with a large force of cavalry and infantry, including our Light Cavalry Brigade, had moved a considerable distance, with the hope of forcing the Russian army of observation in that neighbourhood to accept a general engagement. The Russians, however, retired. On the 24th instant, about four p.m., some heavy guns were heard among the mountains east of Tchernaya. The sounds were distant, and came probably as far as from the hills overlooking the valley of the Upper Bulwak. It

has been since reported that the French were making a reconnaissance towards the left of the Russian position in that direction at the date referred to.

Some persons profess to know that the Russians are gradually withdrawing two divisions only of their forces from the Crimea, and that the remainder are to hold the north heights, and other positions between them and Simpheropol, during the winter. There seems to be great uncertainty on the subject; as on many other occasions, the movements of the enemy are involved in an obscurity which is not easily penetrable. Some, and these are not a few, cling to the belief that the Emperor Napoleon would not have expressed himself so strongly as he did, in his celebrated letter to Marshal Pélissier, which was published to the troops, respecting the feasibility of the Russians to maintain themselves during the winter in the Crimea, had he not had some very positive and well-grounded assurance of their suffering from a deficiency of supplies and means of transport, such as would compel them to leave.

The former orders restricting further injury to the public buildings of Sebastopol appear to have been rescinded. The engineers are now busily employed in sinking shafts and preparing mines for the destruction of the magnificent stone docks of the Karabelnia. It is said that orders have been received from home for the total abandonment of these costly and elaborately constructed works. These instructions have led to various rumours respecting the views of the allied governments on the ultimate disposal of the Crimea, and it is argued that, as if held by any allied or friendly power, these docks would be of the utmost value for the construction and repair of ships even of a mercantile marine, their abolition must be considered significant of a possible, if not probable, restriction to Russia of the harbour of Sebastopol.

The First Brigade of the Fourth Division, which was engaged in the expedition against the forts on the promontory of Kinburn, is expected to return to its former position in a few days. Kinburn is to be garrisoned by French troops. It is stated that the approaches to Nikoloff by the river channel were closely examined, and found to be very strongly protected and fortified.

Lieutenant James, Royal Engineers, and nearly one hundred men, who had been taken prisoners by the enemy, arrived yesterday from Odessa, and marched up to camp today. Some forty of them were made prisoners at the celebrated Balaklava charge, and they quote, with justice, as a singular coincidence, that having fallen into the enemy's hands on the 25th of October, 1854, they should, after long wandering, on the sea-time corresponding day of the year 1855 have reached and rejoined their comrades at the spot from which they had been first captured.

Very few hats have arrived, and it is feared that a large proportion of the troops will have to remain under canvas during the ensuing rainy and winter season.

We have been favoured with a continuation of fine weather—bright sunny warm days, and clear moonlight nights. The temperature rapidly falls after sunset. On the night between the 22nd and 23rd instant occurred our first frost, and we have had a white frost, as it is called, each night since. It is quickly dispipated at the appearance of the rising sun.

Oct. 27.—Late last evening the reflected glare of a fire, apparently of considerable size, was seen above the town. It did not last long. The Russians directed a heavy fire from the north side as long as the flames continued.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 28. Great attention was produced in the Urals on the receipt of the imperial ukases for embodying the specifications of the militia in that distant province, and the 32 dragoon regiments to be formed were collecting at Omskurg, Ufa, Bagalino, Biawick, and Baidar. As several districts of that government are inhabited by Bashkirs and Calmuck Tartars, who are capital riders, and possess a great number of horses, they are to furnish their own horses, and will form a separate corps of irregular light cavalry, similar to the Ural Cossacks. By the commencement of December, the whole force, consisting (on paper) of 35,000 men, will be ready to march to the south, where they are ordered to join the great army of reserve assembled there under General Liders. Several thousand sledges were being prepared to convey these troops to their destination, as soon as the first heavy fall of snow permitted safe travelling over the inhospitable regions of the boundless steppes.

Our papers contain an interesting article entitled "The Last Days of Sebastopol," from the pen of the author of a previous one called "First Impressions," of which I gave you an account when it appeared. The writer states from authority that, as far back as the middle of August, second and third lines of defence were constructed, and guns mounted on them on the Karabelnia side, and that the so much talked of bridge was not originally intended as a means of safe retreat, but rather in case of a general and simultaneous storming to convey fresh troops more quickly from the north side. He further admits that the Russians were not able to reform the *Ans d'acier* of the enemy, and that they could not do more than see one solid shot for every five they received, and for shell for ten. When the famous evacuation took place, on the evening of the 8th and on the following day, upwards of 20,000 men crossed the bridge, from which we may judge of the numerical strength of the garrison up to the last moment. He acknowledges the great bravery of the French soldiers, but criticises the strategic knowledge of their officers, and says so little of the first principles of military engineering, for they not only neglected to enclose a single Russian work, but although they might have knocked to pieces the stone wall at the very commencement of the siege, they erected their own batteries in such a manner as to permit them to be outflanked by the Russian artillery, and moreover so constructed the right flank of their attack towards the Karabelnia as to expose themselves to the fire of the steamers and the guns on the north side of the bay. In conclusion, he proposes the erection of a great national monument to commemorate the event, and to inscribe on it the names of the killed; adding, that of the 600 officers of the former Black Sea fleet not more than 100 are now alive.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, OCT. 28.

As far as regards the camp near Sebastopol, the last few days have passed without the occurrence of an event worthy of record. Every one seems to be fully occupied in making preparations for the coming winter, the officers and men being either engaged in duty on the public works, or in attending to the arrangements for their own private shelter and protection. The weather has continued most favourable for these operations. No rain has fallen, and the temperature, so long as the sun remained above the horizon, has been mild and agreeable. A rapid change takes place as soon as the sun's influence ceases to be diffused; mists gather, dews fall, the atmosphere becomes cold and chilling, and the damp penetrates all ordinary clothing. These changes of temperature are so strongly marked that it will be strange if cases of cholera do not occur, or an increase of sickness take place, among those who are in unwar or im-pudent enough to neglect proper precautions against their infection. It is expected that all the principal roads will be completed in a week or ten days from the present date should the weather continue fine. Some few of the men's huts have arrived, but as yet the company of sappers attached to each division for the purpose of assisting in their erection, find but little employment.

No change has been observed in the disposition of the Russian troops on the North heights. The fire

of the forts and batteries against the South side has continued. It is chiefly directed against the parts of the town occupied by the French, but shells and rockets have also been discharged among the buildings surrounding the dockyard, with the intention apparently of setting them on fire. Very few casualties have occurred. The batteries near the Inkermann West Light, and the Gringolts Battery on the cliff above the Tchernaya valley, have been more active the last few days. Since the movement of some of the French regiments toward Inkermann these batteries have been trying to annoy our Allies in that direction. Some shot has reached nearly as far as the camp of our 54th Regiment, on the left of the Ceresing Bay ravine, in front of the 1st Brigade of the Light Division, but have not effected any mischief.

The preparations for the demolition of the magnificent stone docks of the Karabelnia are progressing rapidly. The engineering operations for their destruction are undertaken by us, conjointly with the French. There are six docks, arranged in two rows of three each, one row behind the other. The two sets of docks are separated from each other by a very large and capacious basin. The first series, that nearest to the head of the Karabelnia point, is constructed for the reception of vessels drawing 21 feet of water; the second, for vessels drawing 15 feet of water. They are built of carefully cut lime-line-stone, edged with a close-grained fine granite, and in every part wherever there is more than the usual liability to wear and decay, whether from friction, strain, or weather, or where particular support is required, this latter kind of stone is used in place of the former. At certain intervals, where openings have been left in the sides of the docks to admit of descent by flights of stone steps, are seen some highly polished blocks of red granite, magnificent in size and quality, which are said to have been brought all the distance from Aberdeen. The iron gates, of enormous size, and the machinery by which they are opened and closed, are all of the most careful workmanship. Close to the docks themselves is a large engine-house, and near it is seen the termination of the aqueduct from Tchernaya. The docks were filled from this source, and the pumps are arranged that each dock could be filled or emptied independently of the remainder. This one dock could be employed as a dry dock while a vessel was afloat in the dock adjoining. Since the stream flowing along the aqueduct was diverted by the Allies, the docks have remained dry, and many fragments of shells, as well as round shot, are now to be seen scattered about them and over the floor of the great basin. Allspide of the docks are spacious wharves, and all the various workshops, shops, and houses used by the artificers and labourers in the dockyard employ. These wharves are continuous with those of the Karabelnia harbour, terminating at Fort Paul, where the lofty store buildings are placed which were partly converted into hospitals when the barrack hospitals were no longer tenable, and where so many dead and wounded were left on the 8th of September. The docks lie in a deep hollow, having on one side the hill crowned by the barracks and other public buildings which separate them from the waters of the north harbour, and on the other the high ground at the back of the Malakhoff hill, and covered by the houses of the Karabelnia suburb. The lofty dockyard wall is on the high ground, and encloses the whole of the small valley occupied by the docks and surrounding buildings; and, on entering the enclosure through an opening in the wall, which is at present doubly guarded, by both an English and French sentry, a very considerable descent has to be made before reaching the level ground below. It was from this descent that some of the docks could be seen from any part of the camp, although that part of the wall near the barracks, as well as the wall at right angles to it stretching towards the suburb, were plainly

FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE GREAT REDAN.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

Having visited the Great Redan more frequently than any other portions of the Russian works, not merely on account of its intrinsic interest, but also from the peculiar interest it presents in the history of the war, we have examined its complicated system of defense, and find more than ever, how wisely inadequate to the undertaking was the limited force sent to assault it on the 15th of September. Comprehending within its massive walls of strongly supported earth and stone, an area of several acres, defended by traverses, redoubts, and cover on all sides—flanks and rear—for musketry fire, it would have held ten thousand men in comparative safety, to pour a destructive fire against the troops who first entered the work. The only chance of success was afforded by a surprise, or the intention of the attack being known, in throwing troops rapidly into the work at some points than one, and in sufficient numbers to drive the enemy out of their cover at the point of the bayonet. Even then we could have only hoped to hold certain parts of the work, unless the Flagstaff and Garden Batteries were silenced, as these guns so completely commanded the open area in the center, and the declivity of the hill towards the south harbor, and principal buildings of the Karabalaia. Immediately in rear of the front lines of guns, at a distance of eight or nine feet, the Russians had constructed long traverses parallel with the face of the work, of enormous strength and thickness, to protect their gunners from the splinters of shells falling and exploding behind them, in the center of the Redan. Under cover of these, as well as taking advantage of the protection afforded by some of the inner flanking batteries, our men had obtained a sufficient footing, would have been safe from the fire of the Garden Batteries, although their guns took the Redan in reverse. Time would then have been afforded for further operations.

Supposing that, at the same time the attack was made at the salient angle, other columns had advanced to assault certain convenient parts of the work on the side towards the Malakhoff, our success would have been still further assured. It is impossible to study the formation of the ground on this side without concluding that, by a little care and selection, strong assaulting columns might have been brought to the work with scarcely any loss when the batteries on the Malakhoff Hill were silenced. Such was the commanding influence of the works on the Malakhoff Hill that the Russians had evidently treated it as their chief point of defense in this direction. They had, consequently, not expended the labor here which is obvious on the side of the Redan towards the Worcester road ravine. An abatis, a ditch, earthwork line of guns, of scarcely any definite form, but following a general direction backwards towards the right of the Malakhoff works, from which it was separated by the Karabalaia ravine near its termination, traverses for protection of the artillerymen, and at certain intervals three small earthwork enclosures or redoubts within the line of works, formed the left flank of the Redan. There were none of the inner lines of batteries and retrenchments seen on the right. There were two or three re-entrant angles in the course of the long line of works from the left face of the Redan towards the Malakhoff, within which the ditch was so broad and capacious that a considerable body of men could have formed there without any exposure beyond a slight musketry fire, which could have been kept down by riflemen from the shell holes and within the irregularities of the ground above the counter-scarp of the ditch. This was particularly the case at the first re-entrant angle beyond the left face. The ditch was not enclosed at this part, and from the position of the parapet set more than three or four men, from a few embrasures, could have brought a musketry fire to bear upon troops collected in it. From the dip of the ground generally downwards toward the Malakhoff ravine, and from a certain slope-like approach toward this point, which might have been taken advantage of, a column of troops could have come from our advanced camp with infinitely less risk, when the Malakhoff was gained, than they could go along the ridge towards the salient. There was no particular difficulty in climbing the parapet, and once above the Russians within the traverses of the left face of the Redan would have been taken at a disadvantage, more particularly if attacked at the same

time at the other end near the salient. At this same point, too, our men would have come upon the final of the inner redoubts, and this secured, the enemy would have had to vacate two of the retrenchments, from musketry fire bearing on the space behind the salient, which were completely untenable. Moreover, the enemy in the other half would have not only been unable to act against our men, secure within the shelter of the traverses and redoubts, but would have been in alarm lest their retreat might be cut off, and in all probability would have abandoned the whole work. There was an attempt made against this point on the 15th of June, but the terrible flanking fire from the Malakhoff then cut our men up dreadfully, and our approach being less advanced, caused the troops to be exposed as they went forward to the fire of several guns toward the hollow of the ravine which might now have been avoided. The Russians appear to have expected the assault to be made on the proper right of the Redan, as well as the salient angle. The former was the weakest part of the work, from the nature of the ground, and its position with regard to the valley at the head of the harbour. The batteries on the opposite side—the Flagstaff and the Garden Batteries—were too distant and too receding to afford the support of a flanking fire to prevent an approach from the front. As a protection therefore on this side, the enemy threw up flanking works and an inner line of batteries of immense strength, and the retrenchments beyond were strongly covered and masked. At certain points of the ditch on this side was swept by a concealed gun. The devices to defeat the assault in this quarter were numerous and peculiar. At certain portions of the parapet anti-armor powder guns were placed, which could be depressed, raised, or moved from side to side, by turning on a movable pivot. The manner in which they were fired was curious. Immense blocks of timber, apparently portions of ship's masts, were fixed in the ground and upwards in the banquettes behind the parapet. Out of the top of these a short iron column rose, terminating in a sort of ball and socket joint, with which the pivot of the gun was connected, and in which the gun itself ended. There were three of these spiral guns in front of a battery containing the parapet. One of the top of these a short iron column rose, terminating in a sort of ball and socket joint, with which the pivot of the gun was connected, and in which the gun itself ended. There were three of these spiral guns in front of a battery containing the parapet. One of the top of these a short iron column rose, terminating in a sort of ball and socket joint, with which the pivot of the gun was connected, and in which the gun itself ended. There were three of these spiral guns in front of a battery containing the parapet.

The men under his immediate command; besides, being dressed in red, and not in the uniform of a general officer, his rank was not known even to many officers present. With thorough system, steadily pursued, the brave band at the Redan, though so limited in numbers, might have carried the fortress; but knowing now, as we do, its nature and strength, we see that no reasonable confidence of success could have been entertained, unless it had been flooded by a continuous and overwhelming rush of assailants. After studying the formation of the Great Redan, then, and reflecting on the occurrences of the 15th of September, these observations force themselves on the attention. Notwithstanding the Russians, in their confidence, allowed one of our engineers the general plan of the work, even taking him round it, and the officer being among us at the time of the attack, no one appears to have been made of the information thus gained. No doubt, the retrenchments and inner defenses have been strengthened and added to since Captain Montagu first saw them, but that is all the change; such as he described them to have been in their general character, when he was taken over the work, we find them to be still. Neither was any advantage taken in the plan of attack from the fact of the Karabalaia ravine, and the batteries on its right—some parts of which were laid out expressly for the purpose of sweeping the approach to the left of the Redan—being in the possession of the French, and therefore virtually no longer existing as regarded any assault on our part in that direction. The batteries allotted to form an important part of the defense of the Redan against an attack on its left; for, from the declivity and peculiar dip and hollows of the ground in front of it in this direction, a very limited flanking fire could be thrown from the guns of the work itself against an assaulting force, and from the high ridge leading to the salient angle no fire could have been brought to bear from the guns on the right flank of the Redan. These circumstances, for some unaccountable cause, were wholly lost sight of. The salient angle was attacked by a small force, brave enough, but so ill-regulated as to become a mere mob—that part of the work to defend which every means of entrenchment and defense that could be devised were constructed. The leading men in the assault could no sooner have scaled the parapets, and leaped down into the space of the Redan within this angle, than they must have been exposed to a murderous fire from every side. The traverses between the guns in the two faces of the work were so arranged, by resorting to the simple expedient of placing them at right angles to an imaginary line bisecting the angle, instead of so placing them to the face themselves, as it is customary, that a certain portion of each traverse projected inwards towards the centre of the work beyond the traverse in front of it. They were provided with banquettes on the distant side, and that from the length of each face a continuous line of musketry fire could be poured into the flanks of a body of assailants advancing from the angle, while the Redan being protected by the traverses from fire in return. At the point where this line of fire ceased a trench and parapet were carried on, so as to keep up this flanking fire for about twenty yards farther, and this work was connected with another retrenchment nearly corresponding in direction with the principal line of work, from which the ridges of large bodies of the enemy could be directed into the front and mass of the assaulting column. At a considerable distance in rear of the another cover for infantry was raised, still bearing in general direction a correspondence with the area between itself and the second retrenchment before mentioned. The enemy could have only been driven from these several positions by a rapid and continuous succession of strong bodies of troops; but once having cleared the enemy away, the mounds were placed at our disposal for avoiding one of the usual sources of severe loss in such operations. The long and massive traverse between the guns, to protect the gunners from fragments of shells hurled behind them, would have enabled us to have held the front of the work; and thus saved the ordinary exposure of making the way for establishing the lodgment in the work.

THE GREAT REDAN.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

(Continued from the Daily News of Saturday.) The Redan abounds with detached features of interest, many of which are very curious and instructive. This might be expected, when it is remembered that the Redan comprehends within itself a vast and complicated fort—by no means the simple work its name implies, derived from its elementary formation—armed with guns of every calibre, and in enormous numbers; a series of remarkably constructed underground barracks; wind-tight cooking kitchens for the troops; powder magazines, most ingeniously secured; piles of projectiles of all shapes and denominations; an arsenal of stores, timber, platforms, guns, to replace others injured; and a square yard of engineering tools. Looking at the work as a whole, the attention is first struck by its massiveness of construction and vastness of extent, covering as it does the principal part of the Karabalaia suburb, and extending across and completely defending a steep and broad hill, from the ravine which separates it from the Malakhoff to the Worcester ravine and head of the south harbor. The attention is next attracted by nothing less, in respect to its construction as a work of art, all ordinary rules of fortification have been taken advantage of where practicable, and new arrangements made where not applicable—how every little advantage of ground has been turned to account, and what devices have been resorted to when no natural advantage could be found; and it is interesting to trace its gradual growth and increase as our works advanced, and new cover and defenses were required. On examination of the several parts it is found that, wonderfully great as must have been the amount of labour, the care and attention to details have been no less. The work of the parapets showed the greatest care in the arrangement of its materials and nothing was omitted that could add to their firmness and strength. The sides of some of the large traverses were completely enclosed in strong hurdles-work, as carefully interwoven and played as if it had been basket-work, instead of a support to rough stones and earth. In like manner, to prevent the crumbling of the earth of which the banquettes in rear of the parapets were formed they were all embanked, stakes being driven in, and usually supported by similar hurdles-work. In some places, where the soil was very fine and dry, a sheeting of mortar was laid over the surface of the hurdles-work, or of the gabions, to prevent the dust from falling through the interstices. In consequence of the great thickness of the parapets, their masonry was not required to be so broad, and the enemy was thus enabled to have the embrasures closer together, and more guns within a given space than we had in our batteries. There was not, therefore, necessity for the same amount of traverse bay. This led to an alteration in the form of the embrasures. The "chambers" were steeper, instead of being divergent as in our works, were nearly parallel, excepting near the interior opening, where for a short distance they were inverted and widened, to withstand better the expansive action of the exploded gunpowder at the time of discharge. By this closer proximity of the embrasures, a heavier fire was concentrated on any given direction; while from the comparative narrowness of their external openings the guns and gunners were less exposed to the destructive effect of projectiles than they would otherwise have been. The detail of our Mitrailles led the enemy to devise various schemes for the protection of their artillerymen. Sheet-iron masts were first employed to fill up the embrasures, but these were found to be very defective. When struck by a ball in a straight direction, notwithstanding that they were strong as to yield readily to pressure, they were immediately penetrated. Many mantlets thus perforated were lying about the Redan; they were still employed, and hanging in some of the embrasures at the extreme flanks, where the rifle fire was distant and slanting. Afterwards, when the fire was strong and direct, rope mantlets were used, and these answered the purpose perfectly. Very probably the idea of using rope mantlets originated with the naval contingent of the garrison. They consisted simply of coils of rope fastened closely together so as to form a large mat, corresponding in shape with the interior opening of the embrasure. At the lower part an arched opening was left, large enough to admit the muzzle and stock of the gun. They were suspended from a beam of wood, the ends of which rested on the masonry of

boiler is used for breakfast, dinner, and evening meal. After the coffee, which is usually served at eight o'clock, the boiler has to be cleaned, fresh fire lighted, and then the dinner cooked to be taken up at about half-past twelve, and sent to the different barracks rooms for the men to dine at one whole. I ascertained that M. Soyev's messes had been exactly steaming for six hours before I tasted them, and I have no doubt it was to this steaming process, instead of rapid boiling, that much of their digestible and palatable quality was attributable. Science, as well as gastronomy, indicates that to cook well it is not sufficient for meat to be simply boiled until it is "done through." Additional cooking conveniences, or other arrangements by which more gradual and prolonged cooking of the soldiers' rations could be ensured, need to be, and perhaps still are, desiderata in the barracks in England, in the field, the simplest and fittest the apparatus, consistent with the maintenance of health, the better.

Situated as we now are, with nearly all the advantages and conveniences of a permanent encampment, provided with abundant railways, the quality of the soldiers' messing is as good as can be ever obtained in England, if not better, but still capable of considerable improvement. For this advantage we had had to look to instruction from M. Soyev; but since he arrived in the field, the great talents and experience of this accomplished artist have been devoted to the service of a favored few. Latterly M. Soyev is reported to have been ailing, and, it is said, will soon take his departure for England; the casualties as well as the military campaigns may, therefore, be supposed to have terminated for the present year.

CAMP OF THE LIGHT DIVISION, CRIMEA, NOV. 1.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, NOV. 2.

There has been absolutely no occurrence in this part of the field worthy of record during the past week. The monotony of the camp life has not been broken even by the arrival of the mail from England, which was due yesterday. The steamer which ought to have conveyed it has arrived, bringing a French mail; but, from some accident, the English bags did not get to Marseilles in time to be put on board.

There has been a rumour the last day or two that an expedition was to start for Kaffa, with the intention of securing a position there during the ensuing winter. A small body of French troops has left and proceeded in an easterly direction, and it has been surmised that there was to be another attack on Fort Arabat. With Arabat and Kaffa in our possession the whole peninsula of Kertch would be secured; the enemy would be excluded from a district from which he still seeks to draw many supplies; and Kaffa would afford an important basis for future operations. The movement against Kaffa has been very generally talked of, and the Fourth Division has been named as the part of the British force likely to be sent. Brigadier Spencer's Brigade has returned from Kinburn, but has not yet received orders for disembarkation; it has been supposed, therefore, that these regiments would go on without landing, and Lord Pasley's Brigade, with General Witham in command, at once join the expedition as a reinforcement. What truth there is in the rumour of this undertaking remains to be seen; no orders on the subject have yet been issued.

The fire from the north side has continued very active. Yesterday, the 1st instant, an explosion occurred in the part of the town occupied by the French. The report was compressed and loud, and the reverberation was so strong as to lead to the impression that some considerable magazine had been exploded; but some Frenchmen, bringing up a wounded man to one of the ambulances, declared that it was loose powder in an ammunition wagon, which had been accidentally fired, and that two or three injuries to bystanders, and those comparatively slight, were the only ill-effects resulting. Our allies are not very communicative on such matters. The Russians evidently concluded that they had blown up one of the magazines of the mortar battery behind Fort Nicholas, not far from which the column of smoke which followed the explosion appeared to rise, for during the remainder of the day they concentrated a heavy shelling fire in that direction. They also kept up at intervals during the night a fire against the same position, as if with the intention of forcing working parties. To-day a truce was held for a short period, between two and three hours. A boat from the Russian side crossed early in the afternoon, but what was the nature or object of the communication has not transpired.

Some of the kits for winter use have arrived, and fatigue parties are busily employed in unloading the ships in which they have been conveyed. The troops are still working at the roads. The other preparations to meet the exigencies of the coming winter, accumulation of stores at the central and divisional depots, erection of stabling, construction of kitchens, dressing, &c., are in active progress. In spite of the opposition made by the enemy from the north side, large quantities of cut stone, roofing, bricks, timber, and other building materials are daily brought up from the rates of Sebastopol. The weather has fortunately continued very propitious for these operations. No rain of any amount has fallen, although on the 30th of October there was every indication of an approaching change in this respect—and the roads and beaten tracks have remained firm, and in a favorable condition for the passage of transport mules and vehicles. Since the 31st of October the temperature has been remarkably mild. The wind has been blowing from the south and south-west, and has been accompanied with all the unpleasant and oppressive characteristics of a Mediterranean sirocco.

The troops continue very healthy. A few scattered cases of cholera have occurred in various parts of the camp. The General Hospital in rear of the Third Division is to be broken up, as there is no likelihood of this establishment being required during the winter. It has proved very useful in relieving the regimental hospitals, when, from sudden emergency, their accommodation and resources have been unequal to the demand made upon them. The civil surgeons who have been assisting in its duties will probably have their services transferred to the general hospitals at Bahaklava, or the Monastery, or to those on the Bosphorus. The kits wanted will be available for the reception of some of the troops; unfortunately, as is the case with all the other kits in use during the past summer, the felt covering the roofs has become rotten and pervious to rain, and the thin wood forming their sides swelled and warped, so as to render them very imperfect as means of shelter against either cold or continued rain.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, NOV. 6.

The rumour of an attack from the Russian army has become again a subject of talk and speculation in our different camps. A deserter from the enemy, a Hungarian officer, is said to have given information that the present intention of the Russians is to make an assault against our position between the 6th and 8th of the month; and that, in case of the result being unfavorable to their arms, it is not improbable the main body of the army will evacuate the Crimea, leaving only troops sufficient to defend the entrenched positions. There is said to be a dearth of stores for the winter, increased by the destruction lately by fire of one of the principal commissariat depots, while the difficulties of transporting adequate supplies are insuperable. The large fire which was observed about ten days ago in an easterly direction along the north heights, and which was generally supposed at the time to proceed from the burning of breakwood,

appears to have been produced by the destruction of the winter stores alluded to by the deserter. It was generally attributed to the Russian camp to the agency of incendiary emissaries in the pay of the Allies. Whether the enemy holds any such intention as report has attributed to him, events will shortly prove; but it seems by far more probable that the rumour has been intentionally sown abroad for the purpose of preventing any large portion of the Allied forces from quitting their present position. There has been no movement of troops observable from our place of watch. The fire from the batteries and forts on the North side has continued as active as it has been for the last fortnight, and has been attended with nearly the same results. Houses and buildings already in ruins have been still further demolished, but they have scarcely interrupted the removal by fatigue parties of the timber and other materials required for the construction of the shelter required in camp, and for purposes of heating. A few days ago thirty tons of wheat were brought up from an advanced storehouse connected with the dockyard, and ground into flour on board the Commissariat steamer "Brutus," lying in Bahaklava harbor. The examination among the men employed in the fatigue duties have been exceedingly few, and generally caused by falling bricks or timber in the demolition of the houses.

A Council of War was held at headquarters on the 3rd instant, when, it is understood, after some discussion, all intention of further operations against the enemy was abandoned for the present winter. The contemplated expedition against Kaffa is postponed. The lateness of the season, and the uncertainty of weather favourable for naval operations and landing troops continuing, sufficiently explain these resolutions. It is said, however, that the admirals were anxious for the undertaking to be attempted.

On the same day, Lieut-General Sir Colin Campbell, commanding the Highland Division, took his departure for England in the Calcutta steamer. His leaving was either very suddenly determined upon, or the intention of doing so had been kept remarkably secret, for early on the morning of Saturday, when he left, none of the commanding or other officers of the regiments were aware of the probability even of his quitting the Division. Some short time ago Sir Colin was offered the command at Malta, which he considered to be tantamount to expressing a desire that his divisional command might become vacant, with a view to ulterior changes. He is said to have declined the offer bluntly in the following words:—"If I am in the way, say so, and I'll go at once; but if you ask me whether I choose to give up the command of my division, while it remains in front of the enemy, I answer, no." General Simpson had at that time tendered his resignation, but it was not known what the reply of the Government would be. That resignation has now been accepted, and the immediate cause of Sir Colin Campbell's departure is supposed to have been the anticipation of this fact, together with an intimation that it had been deemed expedient to appoint for his successor, a general officer junior to Sir Colin Campbell in the service. Sir Colin at once applied for leave of absence, which was granted, and in a few hours he was on his way towards England. He leaves with the regret not only of every officer in his own division, but of the army at large. He was almost the only remaining officer who held at the commencement of the campaign a command superior to that of a battalion. If his division has not been more actively employed, it is well known that this was no fault of its general. He has lately devoted himself, with his usual activity and energy, in providing for the wants of the troops under his orders during the coming winter. In all probability, within a week or ten days every man in the Highland Division will be comfortably protected and heated in their new encamping-ground, beyond Kamars. The

General's departure is the more regretted, as it is feared that his absence will be for a much longer period than the time mentioned in general orders. Col. Cameron, C.B., commanding the First Brigade of the Highland Division, succeeds Sir Colin Campbell.

The last detachment of the 1st Dragoon Guards embarked to-day for Scutari. It is reported that the 9th Hussars will next embark; but it is not probable that the other regiments of the Heavy and Hussar Brigade of Cavalry will leave until the season is so far advanced as to render any extensive movement of the enemy all but impossible. It is not expected that more than one or two troops will remain for the winter at land, the climate of which is said to be very temperate and agreeable. From its sheltered position at the head of a deep inlet of the Sea of Marmora, more especially from the north and north-east winds, land is reported to be free from those sudden variations of temperature to which both Constantinople and Scutari are subject. A steamer plies twice a week between it and the Bosphorus. The Heavy Brigade winters at Scutari.

Some of the French regiments are also about to leave immediately. The 11th, 31st, and 64th Regiments of the Line, lately arrived, are now in the plain, encamped immediately in rear of the regiments which they are to relieve. The whole of the Imperial Guard in the Crimea is to take its departure. This force is composed of two Regiments of Grenadiers, two Regiments of Voltigeurs, one regiment of the Zouaves of the Guard, and one battalion of the Chasseurs of the Guard. The regiment of Gendarmes of the Imperial Guard has already left. The other regiments named for departure to France are selected according to their seniority of foreign service, and are the 11th Light, 10th Light, 20th Light, 26th of the Line, 2nd Light, 20th Light, 20th of the Line, and 1st Regiment of Chasseurs à Pied. These will all be replaced by fresh regiments, nearly all of which are new arrivals.

The weather has continued remarkably warm and fine. Many of the winter kits have arrived, and there has been great activity in bringing them up to the Division in front. The continuance of the dry weather has been most favorable for the road-making and other winter preparations. The health of the troops has continued excellent.

Nov. 5.—Private meetings were held throughout the various French and English camps last evening, to celebrate the anniversary of the victory at Inkermann. As numerous bands were playing, and bonfires were lighted at various points, the demonstrations must have attracted the notice of the enemy on the North heights.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, NOV. 8.

The week has passed without any attack on the part of the enemy, notwithstanding the most positive assurance of spies and deserters that the Russians were to advance against us before the 8th instant. If a decisive attack were intended, on the event of which the evacuation or continued occupation of the Crimea was to depend (as was asserted), it all appears that this intention had been abandoned. A great movement of troops was observed on the north heights towards the Belbek on the 7th instant. Bodies of infantry and artillery were seen to be going and coming in various directions, but the general impression was that the movements were rather the preparations for a march. It was suggested that the Kingover himself might have come over from Novikoff to see the real condition of his armies in the Crimea. The manoeuvres, whatever their nature, led to no change in the distribution or extent of the camp which can be observed from our position.

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tion. The fire from the batteries and forts of the north side has continued as before as it was previously. A short time since, some parties of the enemy were observed to be working in two of the retired lines on the north side, at what seemed to be the construction of rafts, but the last two or three days these groups have not been noticed.

There is a report in camp that General Sir William Colclough, commanding the Light Division, is to be the new Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in the East. If this be true, the rise of this officer will have been remarkably rapid. He is a Guardsman, and connected by family ties with the late Field Marshal Lord Raglan, and in those circumstances he is thought by some parties to have a selection; but it may with equal fairness be supposed to be owing to the recommendation of General Sir James Buller to the fact that he is first of what may be termed the list of young general officers in the field. General Colclough is now only in his twenty-third year of service. When the Guards landed at Seculari, he was still a captain in the Coldstream, but a colonel in the army. By the Battle of June, 1854, he became major-general, and subsequently, when Colonel Alvey wanted that command the higher appointment of Quartermaster-General, was appointed by Lord Raglan to be his successor. This command he held throughout the campaign until the resignation of General Sir George Brown, when he was made General of Division. He is a very able speaker of a painstaking, active commander, always accessible, and one anxious to remove all just grounds of complaint, and to rectify abuses. Whether he possess the varied qualities and talents necessary for a Commander-in-Chief of a large army can only be ascertained by experience. His friends describe him as possessing considerable means, and, at the same time, an excellent knowledge of modern languages, so that there is every reason to hope that the same good understanding and accord which have hitherto existed between the general in chief of the allied armies may continue to exist in their future operations.

Some surprise has been felt at the First Brigade of the Fourth Division being kept on board ship. It has led to the supposition that the intention of attacking Kaffa has not been wholly abandoned.

The 8th Hussars have left for Isnad.

Intoxication has greatly increased among the troops since the grant of the field allowance of six pence in addition to their former pay. Moreover, the men are earning some of money just now which are very much needed, if estimated in relation to the amount of intoxicating liquor which can be purchased by their means. These means are divided by them either from being employed as artificers, or as laborers in such public works as road-making, or from private contracts with officers who are permitted to engage a limited number of soldiers to assist in building huts, stables, or to help in other camp occupations. It does not require to notice the increase of contents in all directions, or to watch the clustering of half-penny men in a state of drunkenness about the camps of late have been incredible in the extreme. In some parts, towards the time when the soldiers are supposed to return to their respective camps, one might almost suppose there had been an action with the enemy from the number of men to be seen lying about in a state of drunken helplessness or unconscious stupor. On the evening of the 4th inst. two privates of the 4th Regiment were carried home to their camp in such a state of insensibility from drinking, that notwithstanding the use of the stomach-pump, and every means that medical skill and attention could devise, neither could be restored. Both of those men died in the spasmodic and brutal condition into which they had plunged themselves of their own free will. On the afternoon of the 6th inst., one of the sergeants of the Grenadier Company of the Connaught Rangers, by name Robinson, a non-commissioned officer who had seen long service with the regiment, and who had several times been commended for bravery, deliberately committed suicide, and came for his artificial throat produced by over-indulgence in strong drink for some days previously was the existing cause of the dreadful act. He selected a time when all the men were away from the hut which he occupied excepting one, and this one

had just rid of sending him to purchase some trifling articles. He then deliberately took off the boot and striking from his right foot, and having placed the muzzle of a loaded revolver, which he grasped firmly with clenched hands, against the upper part of his throat, he pulled the trigger with the toe of his bare foot, and the contents of the weapon passing through his brain. The condition of the dying man, when first seen by those who reported of the maniac attracted to the spot, and the evidence afforded by the direction of the wound, and the passage of the ball through the roof of the hat, showed that he committed the fatal act in the manner described. Such terrible examples appear calculated to fix the attention of the men among whom they occur on the evils of excess, and thus to be the indirect means of benefit to the survivors; but experience teaches how fleeting the impressions produced by such scenes, and how much stronger than either fear or conscience, or than virtuous resolutions of moderation, is the temptation of intoxication when allied with mental inactivity and uncontrolled by education.

There seems also to have been a marked increase in intoxication among the French troops since the termination of the siege, much more so than can be accounted for simply by the relief from trench duties. Formerly it was a very rare occurrence to meet a French soldier in any way drunk; he had seemed to be to habit at that stage of intoxication when an uncontrolled desire to exercise his vocal powers was excited, and then, at certain hours of the day, the tones of French chansons and snatches of Italian melody, with wonderful melodies and variations, all of a stage of intoxication far beyond the singing stage are by no means infrequent. Perhaps the prices drawn from the ruins of Sebastopol may have had something to do in causing this change, for the sale effected by the French soldiers must have placed a good deal of ready money in their pockets—perhaps the liquor supplied at the English canteens, for they have free access to them. It is a mistake to suppose that the French soldiers are so temperate as they are generally considered to be in England; intoxication is nearly as common among them as among our own men, but it is not usually carried to the same degrading excess.

Landed the French Zouaves, like the other Mohammedan troops, are examples of the opposite extreme of temperance.

As the Allied Commanders set together in matters of strategy, and occasionally afford mutual assistance in respect to transport, materials, and supplies of war, could they not combine to arrest this evil, affecting the health and moral welfare of the troops under their command? They have the control over all the imports which reach the camps in the Crimea, and have military authority over every merchant and retailer who enters within the lines of the allied army. Not to mention the personal injuries to constitution and health resulting from drunkenness, and the quarrels and acts of insubordination which have their origin in this vice, the extra labour to officers and men, and loss of time and service, connected with the trials and punishments of the offenders, must be a serious consideration. In proportion to the number of cases of intoxication is the number of courts-martial. The punishments inflicted, to a certain extent, deprive the general weal of the services of the men undergoing punishment, and throw additional work on the better men. It is said that at least nine-tenths of the punishments in the camps are for drunkenness, or offences springing from it. But the punishments afford a very imperfect index to the amount of the evil, for it will know that some officers overlook as many instances of intoxication as they walk on, to avoid the stigma which attaches to a regiment in which crimes and punishments are very frequent. It is natural that superior officers should look upon those regiments as best behaved where there are fewest courts-martial; and this supposed good conduct reflects its lustre on those who administer and order their affairs.

The temptations to drinking are very numerous. There is a superfluity of cash, and few ways of spending it. Few amusements or exciting pleasures are open to the soldier. The

leisure, and even hours, do not offer any tempting contrasts. His time for recreation is late in the day, and he is probably tired from fatigue duties performed at a distance from his own camp, or wearied by the monotony of a twenty-four hour's guard or picket. Even if a holiday be granted from time to time, his fatigue have not been relieved, nor is his information sufficiently extended, to induce him, by a simple exercise beyond the limits of his own divisional camp, to greatly gratify, and derive pleasure, from fresh scenes and observations. Many a soldier first has his attention turned to objects upon which his eyes have often rested, his thoughts drawn to simple transactions in which he himself has been a participator or agent, by the accounts read to him from newspapers as a pastime. Upon the former he has looked without heed, in the latter he has performed his part without reflection, almost with the unconscienceness of a machine. To such men the stimulus most ready of access, and most sure and rapid in its effects, is the most welcome. The means of intoxication are close at hand, companions are always ready, and fear of consequences and other scruples quickly disappear. This applies to a very great proportion of the English soldiers, but of course there are many honourable exceptions.

The opportunities of getting intoxicating liquors in the camps are almost as many as the temptations. The canteens attached to the English regiments are not permitted to sell spirits, their sales are supposed to be limited to beer, wine, and groceries. A non-commissioned officer is on guard at each canteen to prevent these rules from being infringed. Drabright beer is sold only; the limited demand and liability to becoming spoiled, prevent a prospect of sufficient profit to the canteen-keeper. Rum, brandy, and bottled port are still sold at 1s. 10d. the bottle, and were it sold at each bottle, so the demand for this article are not very frequent. The wine is usually exorbitant, its flavour does not suit the soldier's palate, and but comparatively little is consumed. Other kinds of drink must be had, and it is not difficult to imagine that in spite of the vigilance of non-commissioned officers, the extensive money-seeking Greek, Armenian, and Maltese, by whom the canteens are principally held, find means and opportunities of supplying them. But if they did not, there are the French canteens and shops always accessible. No regulations prevent the English soldier going to them on the same footing as the French soldier. Potent alcoholic compounds of various descriptions are to be obtained in the shops; and some, double in strength, as they are in price, are manufactured expressly for the English, but all declared to be veritable cognac. The effect of some of these adulterated compositions, the basis of which is probably malt, is more than intoxicating—they are sometimes maddening and almost poisonous. In addition to the shops, there are numerous lawless sellers of spirits. French soldiers walk into the English camps and, under the pretence of visiting them from motives of curiosity, or selling trifling articles, dispose of sily-coloured bottles of cognac—always cognac! (the generic term, eau-de-vie, is unknown). This practice has been repressed as much as possible, but keeping the French soldiers out of the English camps, but the checks are still weak. Again, there are Frenchmen who may be observed sauntering just outside the line of English regiments, with whom every now and then, English soldiers join in conversation. After a little conversation a bottle appears from one of the Frenchman's pockets, a "tit" or two of something out of it is tossed off, or perhaps the bottle itself changes its master, some coins pass in exchange, and, mutually satisfied, with a "Bonne France—bonne legions" the allies part.

From to-morrow, the 10th Regiment, the ration of rum, according to general orders, is to be reduced one half in quantity. It has hitherto been a gill, it is in future to be half a gill for each soldier daily. This diminution is counterbalanced by an increase in the quantity of sugar to be issued to each man. It is a question whether the regular daily issue of ardent spirits is productive of more benefit than harm. In the cold, damp, and dreary weather of the trenches, during the winter season, when no better means of exciting the circulation could be found, the artificial warmth and "zephyr" of the rum ration was a prime afterward man. It may be useful still to counteract the chilling effect of a damp bed before seeking rest at night under its comparatively frail protecting roof. Old soldiers, perhaps, require it from habitual use. But in the army at present there are many young soldiers—some mere boys—who have not yet acquired the use. No distinction is made in this respect, and

it would be difficult to do so; the grammarian is as much entitled to "draw" his ration as the stoutest soldier of the service. There is the force of example, and a spirit of emulation to be able to do like others, and so the boy acquiesces a name for the alcohol, and this habit is not easily laid aside.

One word on habits, rouses, several others.

It is not sufficient to lessen the quantity of the ration of rum, for the most part of it is wastefully not in the ration itself, but in the drink it excites for more stimulus of the same kind. Neither would it answer the purpose of counteracting the evil of drunkenness if the field allowance lately granted to the soldiers was withdrawn. The commanding officers are already authorized to withdraw it for a limited period from each soldier who is brought before his notice for rioting and insubordination, and there can be no doubt that there are very many deserting soldiers in the field to whom the grant has been a great boon, and to whose families far away it has also proved a benefit. Nothing but a determination on the part of the allied command-in-chief in the Crimea to restrict the importation of ardent spirits, or to organize in concert regulations for their sale and consumption, can eradicate the evils which result from their present abuse. And it is a matter worthy of consideration whether, though only for the few months which will elapse prior to the active operations of Spring, some places for warmth and shelter cannot be devised, some means of amusement cannot be devised—whether reading lists, chess rooms, or athletic sheds—distract the thoughts and employ the leisure hours of the soldiers when sleep and snow will prevent out-door occupation, and when otherwise the drinking shops in the bazars and the canteens will offer the evil inviting places of resort. The present-march and his associates would be spared a good deal of exertion and trouble in some such places of amusement were established in the various camps.

The weather during the past week has continued remarkably fine, warm, and dry. In the daytime the atmosphere has been as pure and bright, and the sun as glowing and powerful, as in the best summer day in England; the early arrival of the shades of evening has alone reminded us of the lateness of the season. The sunset has been speedily followed by mist, and during the night, when the temperature becomes greatly lowered, heavy dews have fallen. But we have not had rain, and in this respect the week which has just passed forms a remarkable contrast with the corresponding week of last year.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Nov. 12.

The event of chief importance affecting the interests of the British army in the East has been the retirement of General Simpson; and the assumption of the supreme command by General Sir William Colclough, K.C.B. The intelligence mentioned in my letter sent by the last mail is thus confirmed. General Colclough took over charge, and was duly installed yesterday, and to-day General Simpson retired headquarters, in a quiet unostentatious way, to return to England. General Simpson has held the chief command of the army since the death of Field Marshal Lord Raglan, on the 29th of June last, when it devolved upon him in consequence of his being the next senior officer present in the field. His official appointment as Commander-in-Chief was not announced, however, to the army in the Crimea until the 21st of July following. If during the period which has since elapsed it has not been General Simpson's fortune to have his name associated with any brilliant achievement or illustrious success on the part of the force under his immediate direction, he must ever be remembered in connection with the final most arduous siege operations and glorious fall of Sebastopol; and while all agree that he has administered the internal economy and affairs of the army, during a trying period of many changes in its organization, with discretion, justice, and moderation, he has the satisfaction of retiring from command without leaving one enemy behind him.

His resignation and the confirmation of his recon-

are were couched in the following terms in an order of the day to the army:

GENERAL ORDER.
Headquarters, Sebastopol, Nov. 13.
General Sir James Simpson announced to the army that the Queen has been graciously pleased to permit him to resign the command of the army, and to appoint General Sir William Colclough, K. C. B., to be his successor.

In resigning his command, the General desires to express to the troops the high sense he entertains of the admirable conduct of the officers and men of this army during the time he has had the honor to serve with them. In taking leave of them he desires his best wishes to all ranks, and offers his earnest wishes for their success and honor in all the future operations of this noble army.

General Sir William Colclough will be pleased to assume the command of the army to-morrow, the 14th instant.—By order.

(Signed) H. W. HARRIS, Chief of the Staff.
General Colclough's announcement of his having entered upon the duties of his new position appeared in a morning order of this day. The order is as follows:

GENERAL ORDER.
Headquarters, Sebastopol, Nov. 13.
I have assumed the command of the army, in obedience to Her Majesty's orders. It is with a feeling of pride, and with a feeling of confidence in the support which I have will be heartily given to any order issued with such a sanction.

The services of France and Portugal are united with us on the ground. We know their gallantry well, for we have seen it; we know their fortitude, for we have profited by it; we have shared difficulties, dangers, and success, and the ground work of actual success; and all will feel it my pleasure as well as our duty to carry on this noble enterprise which is the result of the intimate alliance of the nations of Europe.

Our army will always possess its high character in the field. The sobriety, the good conduct, the strict discipline which is in our army to maintain, are the best securities of future success; and I trust, to the efforts and assistance of all ranks in thus keeping the army to be an instrument of honor, of power, and of credit to England.

(Signed) W. J. COLCLOUGH,
General, Commander of the Forces.
The new Commandant-in-Chief had previously issued a farewell address to the Light Division, with which he has been actively engaged since the first landing of the army in the Crimea. This address was read to each regiment on parade. The following is a copy:

The Queen has been pleased to take me from the Light Division, and place me in command of this army. From my first appointment to the Light Division, under Sir George Brown, to this day, I have found from officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the whole division, the most kind and ready support. There were days of brilliant success and heavy fighting in the summer campaign; there were days and nights spent in the most arduous and dangerous work; there were days and nights spent in the most arduous and dangerous work; there were days and nights spent in the most arduous and dangerous work.

In all these the Light Division has been full of cheer, and it is with the utmost pride that I have left my name associated with it, and in constant desire to day this name on all occasions.

I need only ask you to continue in the true line of discipline, order, and good conduct, the strictest attention to your honorable name, and wishing the success you will deserve.

(Signed) W. J. COLCLOUGH, Lieutenant-General.
The subordinate changes which will take place concurrently with the change in the chief command are not yet announced. Lieutenant-General Alcock, quartermaster-general, will leave, it is said, in the course of the week, to assume the duties of quartermaster-general at the Horse Guards. There will be a new chief of the Staff, and it is understood that Major-General Winkles, at present in command of the Fourth Division, will receive the appointment. Lieutenant-General Barnard, chief of the Staff under General Simpson, and Lieutenant-General Sir William Ryan, commanding the Third Division, will have temporary command, each of a corps d'armee, until it is decided whether these commands are accepted by Lieutenant-General Sir Colin Campbell

and Lieutenant-General Markham, to whom they are previously offered, but who are at present absent from the field. General Markham's ill state of health, it is feared, will prevent him for some time to come from taking a part in the campaign; and Sir Colin Campbell, it is said, made no secret of the improbability of his returning to active service. The British force is to be divided into two corps d'armee, each consisting of three divisions. One will be composed of the First, Second, and Highland Divisions; the other of the Light, Third, and Fourth Divisions. Major-General Lord Wm. Pakenham, formerly commanding the Force in the Bosphorus, but latterly commanding the 2nd Brigade of the Fourth Division, will receive the command of the Light Division. Such are some of the rumored changes and appointments. The official announcement of these and other arrangements will no doubt be made in a day or two.

The 17th Regiment disembarked yesterday, and marched from Karagh Bey in their old encamping ground with the Fourth Division. The other regiments of General Spector's brigade, who since their return from Kiburno have remained on board ship till the present time, are now disembarking and marching back to camp. There has been a rumor that this brigade would move to assist the French in guarding the position of Inkermann. At present the Light Division occupies the extreme right of the British army, on the same ground, on each side of the Karadag range, in which it has been encamped since the commencement of the siege. Since the Second British Division left Inkermann that position has been occupied except by the French troops engaged in the batteries and works on Mount Saporin, and is now necessary for the defence and protection of the redoubts overlooking the Inkermann Valley. Latterly, since the termination of the siege, the French forces on the Taboraya and towards the Upper Belbek, several regiments have been sent to guard this position.

I regret to have to mention that Colonel M'Murdo, director-general of the Land Transport Corps, is lying in a very dangerous way from fever. His activity and untiring energy in the organization and administration of the duties connected with the transport establishments have been a subject of general praise.

The diminished temperature and shortened days tell of the rapid approach of winter. The wind has been more northerly in direction during the last two days, and tonight of a bright sun the atmosphere has been very chilly in the day time. At night heavy dew falls, and the temperature is positively cold. We have been favored, however, with a continued absence of rain, and of high wind. Many of the huts have arrived, and are being erected in the several camps. The men of the Highland division are now wholly housed. The troops generally continue healthy.

There has been no change in front. The cross fire of the north and south sides of the harbor positions, probably with equal chance of damage to both opponents. Large parties of the enemy still work at their fortifications along the heights and slopes from the North Star Fort to Fort Constantine.

GRAND EXPLOSION IN THE CAMP.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Nov. 13, 5 P.M.

Just at three o'clock this afternoon one of the most extensive and appalling explosions of gunpowder, bombs, and artillery materials that has ever occurred since the commencement of the war, whether on the side of the Allies or within the lines of Sebastopol, took place on the right of our camp. A greater quantity of gunpowder than any has ever exploded in any of the magazines discharged for the destruction of the buildings and works after the abandonment of the ruined city and fortress; but this is doubtful, and certainly there were never fired at the same time so great a number and variety of deadly and explosive projectiles. The frightful character of the occurrence was greatly enhanced, too, by its isolated and unexpected nature, suddenly bursting out in the very midst of the camp at a time when all was supposed to be secure, and when the sounds of the bombardment, once loud and familiar enough, had dwindled down into the occasional dropping shots interchanged between the north and south sides. Another element of alarm was the spreading and fury of the fire after the first great explosion, and the constant fresh communication with other stores of explosive combustibles, the amount and nature of which were involved in uncertainty from the difficulty of learning what had already been destroyed. The close neighborhood of the great English magazine of gunpowder, where in a closely-packed mass between eighty and ninety tons are said to be stored, formed no small ingredient in the general apprehension and panic.

All accounts agree that the first explosion occurred in the French magazine train depot, which is only separated by a pathway from the English right slope train depot in rear of the Light Division. The French depot leaned towards the right, on the shallow part of the ravine, near its commencement, which ultimately terminates in Curwening Bay. This part of the ravine separated it from the great gunpowder magazine of the English, from a French communication depot, and the late and tents of a divisional ambulance, from the French road leading to Inkermann, and the old encamping ground of the 2nd Regiment of Zouaves, immediately on the left of the French depot was the English right slope train depot. Around each depot were the tents and huts of the artillerymen and men of the field train department connected with them respectively. In front of the two depots were the regiments of the First Brigade of the Light Division: commanding from the right, the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade, 7th, 33rd, and 52nd Regiments. The 34th Regiment and a field battery of artillery were still further in front; and to the right, not far from the Curwening Bay ravine, the regiments of the 2nd Brigade of the Light Division, 19th, 88th, and 77th Regiments, full back, so as almost to flank the slope train depots and encampments on their left, the 10th Regiment being the nearest. In front of these, again, were the 97th and 99th Regiments attached to the Light Division.

In rear of the depots was a large open space, vacated by some French regiments, which a very short time since were moved towards Inkermann. It is necessary to recount the positions of these regiments with regard to the explosion, as they were chiefly exposed to its effects. Next to the artillerymen in the immediate neighborhood, the regiments of the first brigade of the Light Division appear to have suffered chiefly; this is attributed in a great measure to the fact that many men from these regiments happened to be working in the vicinity of the slope train when the explosion occurred, while large parties of men from the other brigade had gone on fatigue duties to Balaklava and other localities more or less distant from the scene of the calamity. Had the event occurred in the night time, when all the men were in camp, the result must

have been greatly more disastrous.

It is impossible to give any distinct description of the effects of the first crash; it varied according to circumstances of position and distance. Those who occupied the front of the artillery tents and immediate vicinity of the slope depots appeared utterly bewildered. The force of the blow from the impelled air, the straining noise, the flashing of the fire, the suffocating smoke, arrested every reasoning faculty, and took away all sense, save the instinctive impulse to fly from the scene of evil. Those men ran on in all directions, huddles of the shells and grape which were falling around, without looking back at the scene of destruction they were leaving behind them, and never stopping till they had reached or passed the tents of the neighboring regiments. Among the regiments themselves of the Light Division, whether in tents or huts, a sudden sensation was felt as if of an earthquake of the ground, at the same time that a violent shock was experienced from the concussion of the air. Almost instantly followed the loud report of the explosion; not sounding as if a single charge or magazine had been fired, and without the ringing tone or decided character of a salvo of artillery, but seeming rather as if a number of magazines had been discharged, one after the other, so rapidly that all the reports were blended into one. As the thunder of the first report subsided, its place was occupied by the sharp crackling sounds of shells bursting high in the air, the rush of fragments falling to the ground, and the loud bangs of shells which had been scattered and were exploding on all sides. Simultaneous with these, almost from the very commencement, was the crashing of wooden huts, splitting of timbers, and noise of falling glass from the broken windows. The tents were violently agitated, and sometimes the cords or poles were engaged under. This followed a continued succession of minor reports, and the roar of flames, and cracking of burning wood, as the fire advanced and increased among the huts and artillery stores of the slope train depots. Those who rushed out of their tents immediately after the first shock, or who happened to be standing outside at the time, saw the air filled with shells, some bursting at an elevation such as they used to be seen in the slope operations when propelled from mortars by the heaviest charges, some exploding on the ground. Grapes and the small iron shot, about the size of bullets, of which such great quantities were found in every case in some of the Russian magazines, were falling thickly on all sides. Every one sought the nearest shelter, crouching beneath the stone walls of the huts and buildings lately erected, or wherever any protection from the iron shower could be most readily discovered. The air became speedily darkened, as if by a mist, from the smoke which spread around, but this was soon dispersed.

Those who were at a still further distance, approaching towards the front from the plain, say that they first saw a swelling column of smoke, out of which shot rays of light, according to a great elevation, and that these, curving and bursting with brilliant star-like centres of light, had precisely the appearance of a magnificent display of fireworks. The agitation of the ground, and the report of the explosion which followed, together with the direction, informed them of the nature of the occurrence. Their impression was at first, as indeed it was among the greater number of persons in the camp near the catastrophe, that the great English powder magazine had exploded. It may well be excused if the majority of men and officers—subjected as they were to the double horrors of an earthquake and sudden bombardment—in the camp around the parts of the slope train were for the moment panic-stricken. But to the credit of all it is to be said, that the confusion of the first event had no sooner passed, than men hardly desire seemed to aim all ranks to be instrumental in saving the main and wounded,

who were unable to escape from the neighbourhood of the fire, or who were lying on the ground, struck by the fragments of shells or by other projectiles. Stragglers were got from the surroundings of regimental hospitals, and the wounded, French and English, rapidly carried to them. Medical officers from other divisions, and from the General Hospital, hurried over to render assistance. The staff of the Light and Second Divisions were quickly at the scene of action, and not long afterwards General Odlington arrived with the headquarters staff, many of whom were returning on their way from the Artilery review in the plain near Balaklava. A train of ambulance wagons arrived quickly, and was of essential service. Many of the regimental hospitals, being in rear of their positions, and therefore nearest to the place of the explosion, had been very much shaken or injured by the shock and shelling, and as the danger of fire and further explosions had not ceased, the opportunity of removing the wounded rapidly to a greater distance was urgently required. Fortunately the General Hospital, in the rear of the Third Division, which previous to the expectation of an attack on the part of the enemy, it had been intended to break up and convert into winter huts for the troops, was still intact, and to this hospital, many of the wounded were at once removed. There was great danger in approaching the fire from the constant explosions, and both men and officers had frequently to be recalled while searching for those who had been injured, or while attempting, by tearing down canvas or cutting down timber, to stop the communications of the fire. One young officer of artillery, of the name of Dawson, had his leg carried away by a shell bursting, and was conveyed to the General Hospital. Second-Major the Hon. H. Clifford, Rifle Brigade, who is acting as assistant quartermaster-general of the Light Division in the absence of Colonel Airey, was particularly conspicuous in giving directions. It was known that in one part of the English siege train depot, towards which the fire was tending, there was a large collection of rockets and some shells, and it was found impossible to save these from combustion. As it was uncertain what havoc might be committed through their agency, whether in setting huts or tents on fire, or from the missiles with which they were loaded, it was thought prudent to remove the greater part of the troops to a distance. The regiments of the Light Division were therefore marched some way to the front of their camps; one brigade towards the Victoria Redoubt, another towards the picket-house on Frenchman's-hill. A guard from the Second Division had been brought down very soon after the first explosion, and a line of sentries was stretched across to prevent a nearer approach to the scene of danger than the lines of the 98th Regiment. Fortunately the rockets were packed in slow benches, and very without sticks, so that, when they exploded shortly before 10 o'clock, they burst almost as if they had been some combustible composed fixed in a single case. A powerful white light, rushing upwards with great fire, and accompanied by showers of sparks and a loud whizzing noise, followed by simultaneous explosions of comparatively insignificant character—and this scene of danger was at an end.

One source of apprehension, it has been already mentioned, was the great English magazine of gunpowder. Most providentially, at the time of the first explosion there was scarcely any breeze, but what wind there was came from the north-west. This bent the flames towards the magazine, chiefly evident from the volumes of smoke driving in that direction. Everyone was aware that fire consequences must have resulted if the magazine were once reached; and for some time the anxiety on this account was very intense. But the fire had hardly raged 20 minutes, when the smoke was observed to move in another direction. The current of air had changed, and was blowing from nearly due north. The force of the flame was therefore directed towards the ground in rear, left vacant by the French regiments, which had not long since quitted it. This direction has been maintained since. Had the wind come from an opposite point, that is, from the south, a wind which in short time ago was prevailing, the huts and tents of the first brigade of the Light Division, being so close to the siege trains, could scarcely have escaped. At it was, the large communication stores of forage and provisions which have been accumulated for the winter consumption of the

regiments of this brigade, and which were in great danger of being set on fire, wholly escaped. They were piled in rear of the regimental encampments, between them and the artillery camp. Great pains is due to the troops, who, while the fire was burning, covered the sides and roof of the magazine, where the English gunpowder was stored, with wet blankets and sheepskins. The individual who, by his watchful vigilance and want of caution, caused the irreparable mischief, as well as the witnesses of the act, must have met with instant and agonizing death. At first the most absurd statements were made as to its origin. The first impression—and a very general one—seemed to be, that a train had been laid and the depot blown up by a Russian mine. When it was discovered that the English magazine was safe—long a conspicuous object—and the difficulties of such an undertaking were considered, this idea was dispelled. Then it was said that a Zeppelin, excited at having received punishment, had set fire to the siege communication. But even if the supposition of such a mad and foolish act could be admitted, the well-known caution and strict rules of the French administration prevented it from being entertained. No one at any time was admitted into the French depot without he was engaged there on duty, or was accompanied by a French officer. The more probable story is one that was told by a French artilleryman, that some live Russian shells were being emptied at the depot, and the gunpowder contained in them collected for storage, and that the ignition of one of these must have led to the firing of the principal magazine. Smoking was forbidden within the precincts of the depot, but some soldier may have been guilty of the act, and a spark fallen in the gunpowder. A commission of inquiry will no doubt be appointed to investigate the subject.

No idea can be formed at present of the number of men destroyed or injured. Some of the men who have been carried by, or picked up among the various camps, are greatly mutilated. The wounds are chiefly shell wounds. Some of the patients are badly scorched—some severely lacerated by falling timber. But among all the disfigured objects around, none perhaps was more miserably, more calculated to excite feelings of pity, than an artilleryman who had been, either by the concussion or by sudden alarm, rendered blind. He attracted general attention as he was led by, bare-headed, between two of his comrades, uttering silly exclamations, and quite lost to consciousness of all that was passing round him. He seemed to be possessed by a feeling that he was in England, for all his rambling remarks referred to home; while a smile on his face, vacant and meaningless as was his expression, seemed to show that he had at least as much satisfaction as he was any longer capable of enjoying.

Wonderful cures are related on all sides. Perhaps none are more striking than the following—A soldier was leading in the rear of the 27th Regiment a valuable charge belonging to Major Robert Bruce. A shell burst, disintegrating the horse and tearing him into nearly two parts, but the soldier escaped unhurt. Two of the large magazines occupied by the sick men of the regiment were torn by shells, and a round shot passed through one of the wooden huts, in which were several patients, finding its way not alone to the head of one of them, who was perfectly disabled from moving; yet none were injured. Some remarkable escapes were told at all the hospitals nearest to the siege train depots, for after the regiments had been marched away for safety, many sick and wounded remained in the hospital, attended by the surgeons. The very closeness of some of the camps seemed to be a source of safety, for the shells, which were projected, chiefly, and afterwards fell and exploded on the ground, apparently fell more thickly at a considerable distance from the depots than in the immediate neighbourhood. Many burst among the huts of the Second Division and in the Worcester ravine, and some fell as far as the camp of the Fourth Division.

There was a painful story spread about that the sick men in the English siege-train hospital were all burned, from the hospital having sprung down overhead and preventing their escape. This, however, happily, to be wholly untrue. The hospital had been blown down by the force of the first explosion in the French depot; but not one of the patients, of whom there were eight or nine in the hut, was injured by the fall of the timber. Their escape was almost miraculous.

It is attributed chiefly to the men having crept under their feet beds before the yielding timbers of the roof had fallen to the ground. The sick of the French camp were in the divisional ambulance on the opposite side of the ravine from the depot. The ambulance is reported to be very much injured. No man within the boundary of the French siege train could possibly have escaped without loss of life or most severe injury. The English commissary of the food train department is said to be missing.

When the writing of this account was commenced, a little after 5 p.m., the fire was still burning feebly. It arose chiefly from the consumption of timber remaining from the huts, portions of platforms, gun-carriages, shell-boxes, and other wooden articles used in artillery purposes. The rising air was becoming misty, and a strong glare was reflected in the sky. But the materials were quickly exhausted, and about 7 p.m. the flames were extinct, and smouldering embers alone remained.

The explosion and subsequent fire attracted the notice of the Russians camped on the north heights and along the range overlooking the Tcherkassa valley. They advanced in considerable numbers towards the edge of the Inkermann cliffs, and stood in evident doubt at the spectacle presented by this view. Presently the French opened a fire upon them from the guns of some batteries, which, it is said, were previously masked, and of the existence of which the enemy was in all probability unaware. The Russians were at once driven back, and they appeared to retire in such haste that little doubt was entertained of the French shot having forced their way among them.

There was a review of the field batteries of the Royal Artillery this morning at 10 a.m. in the plain near Balaklava, by General Odlington. It was a magnificent sight, as there were no less than 74 guns brought to the ground. Yesterday there was a review given to the several divisions. Notice of this affair was given to the several divisions, and many officers as were able to attend took advantage of the opportunity of witnessing the parade. Many had not returned to the front, when the explosion of the siege train depot took place, and this may have been the means of saving some lives.

The following incidents were noted down shortly prior to the occurrence of the catastrophe just detailed. They may as well stand as they were written. It is to be feared, however, that the immensity from fireworks, which is alluded to in the first paragraph, as having been observed in the British camp for some time past, will no longer exist for several days to come.

Fatigue had been rare in camp since the few days immediately following the first assault. Yesterday, the 14th instant, however, early in the afternoon, the attention of those who happened to be near the camp of the Light Division, was attracted by the solemn strains of the Dead March in dead, poured forth in the clear sonorous tones of a full brass band. Presently a long dark line was seen coming from the direction of the Rifle camp, on the extreme right of the division. The procession moved slowly across the slope of the hill, covered by the Victoria Redoubt. The white robes of the clergyman, walking between the bandmen and the coffin, formed a striking contrast with the dark uniforms of the troops who followed, but scarcely more so than the saintly audience, made more bright by the brilliant sunshine, of the officers of other regiments who brought up the rear. It was the funeral of a very young officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, Lieutenant Richard Borough, eldest son of Sir Edward Borough, Bart., of Hilditch, who had died from fever. He had not been long in the Crimea, but long enough to be a favourite in his corps, and to hold out the prospect of becoming a valuable and efficient officer. At the attack on the Redoubt on the 8th of September, when he underwent his baptism of fire, he received a contusion in the chest from a stone, and was twice struck by rifle balls, but escaped without any serious hurt from them. The grief of his sword protected him from the effects of one ball; the other passed through the cloth of his coat without even grazing his side. He was not aided with his serious case, so the sad event proved fatal illness until three weeks ago. During the progress of the case the military funeral was very solemn attended by the regimental bands; the constant occupation of the men, and the daily occurrence of casualties, caused the practice of this customary honour to be discontinued.

On the same day, an explosion occurred in one of

the expense magazines in the Redoubt. Two men of the Coldstream Guard, who were on duty in guarding the Redoubt, were exploring one of the unexplored "books" in which ammunition had been stored. Whether they made use of a light is not known; but suddenly the compressed wind of an explosion of gunpowder was heard, and the earth above the bank was observed to be upheaved and broken, and then to sink in. There was not gunpowder enough to scatter the timbers and stones around, or in all probability more accidents must have occurred. The first soldier who was dug from beneath the ruin was found to be blackened by the exploded gunpowder, and quite dead from the injuries which he had received; the other was still alive, but little hopes were entertained of his recovery. A sergeant, who was near the entrance of the magazine had his face and hands blackened. There are still many "live" shells lying about the batteries of the Redoubt, and, considering the number of persons who have wandered through the wreck and the madman habit of smoking, it is curious that they have not led to any accidents. The rains which we have now every right to expect from day to day will soon destroy all risk on their account.

November 16.—All the divisions in the right of the British camp were under arms before daylight this morning. It was ordered last night that the regiments should parade at half-past five, but this was afterwards changed to an earlier hour. It was thought possible that the enemy, if contemplating an assault at all, might attempt it now, hoping to gain some advantage from the destruction of our ammunition which he witnessed yesterday. General Odlington passed before six a.m. towards Inkermann to reconnoitre the enemy's movements. The morning passed by, however, without any demonstration on the part of the Russians.

On visiting the ground where the explosion occurred, the signs of devastation are hardly as great as might have been anticipated. The explosion had not formed any funnel-like excavation, such as was caused by the destruction of our ammunition. This was of course attributable to the French magazine being short ground, consisting of powder cases piled one above the other, and simply protected by an appropriate shell, while the Russian magazines were deeply buried. Some of the shells had been projected upwards to an amazing height; had it not been for the position and great depth of some of the shell-holes in the ground where the depot had been. Pieces of charred timber, broken cases in which were packed new artillery shells, broken carbines, tin cases rent into fragments, pieces of shell boxes, portions of gun carriages, heavy steel whetstones by the axle from exploded gunpowder, were strewn about the place where the French siege train stood. The destruction in the English siege train depot was less than had been supposed, but a great part of the stores had seemingly been destroyed. Sappers were at work pulling down some of the shattered huts on one side, and halting parties of line soldiers were busily employed in clearing the ground at other parts, on assisting the combustion of still smouldering heaps of rubbish. The French commissariat depot and ambulance across the ravine presented an extraordinary spectacle. Nearly every tent was blown over, and but stone or shattered. It appeared as if the blast of a hurricane had passed over it. One hut was singularly demolished. The two sides had bulged outwards, and the roof had fallen in. The ridge-beams had fallen to the ground along the middle passage of the hut, but the sides of the roof had maintained their contact with the walls. The roof thus appeared inverted, and the pillars in the beds along either side of the hut, if they remained quiet, must have been protected from harm. The huts of all the regiments of the Light Division are more or less strained or injured, those nearest to the centre of explosion being the most so. Some have been so twisted and torn that they are quite untenable; in some the roofs have been partly turned round, or forced inwards; many have been perforated by shot or fragments of shells. Many of the tents also have been perforated. The quantity of fragments of shells and grape shot strewn about in some parts reminds one of the former state of the ground in the neighbourhood of the advanced trenches.

The number of casualties reported is favourable beyond all expectation. Of the artillerymen occupied at the siege train depot, the number killed is said to be nine, while 40 are known to be wounded, or are missing. In the Light Division there are 10

killed and wounded. These two deaths occurred in the camp of the 7th Regiment. Only two sick men in hospital were wounded, and one of these was a man of the 31st Regiment, who ran out of bed into the camp ground, and was struck in the arm by a fragment of shell. The number of patients in the hospitals is said, however, to have been very limited, and the absence of so many men from the camps on fatigue duties will explain the remarkably few accidents among the troops, compared with the number which might have been anticipated. The amount of gaspewder lost by the English is very small—only two tubs full, which were kept ready for immediate use at the depot. There is room for such practice on our side that so frightful an explosion was not attended with more fatal results. It is greatly feared that our allies suffered much more severely.

The weather has continued most favorable. No rain has fallen, and the temperature has continued comparatively mild. This has been of the utmost importance in enabling the troops to bring up into and commission their arms. Many of the new arms are now occupied in various parts of the camp. On the 16th instant, the anniversary of the great storm of last year, no greater contrast could be imagined than was afforded by the weather of this year. The day was bright, mild, and clear, there was scarcely a breeze of wind, the air spread around a great influence, and the atmosphere was exhilarating in the extreme. It was the very perfection of an autumnal day. Every road and communication was in excellent order, while last year the passage of a vehicle was the work of almost insupportable labor, for the whole plateau was a pool of mud. And even in the minority of yesterday there is, as already mentioned, great reason for thankfulness. This is not only true in the comparatively limited number of fatal accidents; for had it occurred during the carrying on of the siege, how much more grave might have been the consequences on the progress of the campaign? and had it been attended with strong wind, such as might well have been expected at this time of year, who can say in what part of this widespread camp of wood and canvas the destructive consequences would have terminated?

THE EXPLOSION IN THE CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL: REDAN MASSEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY NEWS.
Sir.—I beg to send you an extract of a letter from a Regimental Sergeant, a friend of mine, which I think will interest the public—I am, &c.,
Dec. 4.
A CONSTANT READER.

Extract of a letter from the Sergeant of the 11th Regiment to a friend in England—dated, Camp, Nov. 17th, 1855.
You will have had ample reports of the facts connected with the great explosion of the 15th. But the sensations experienced by those who were subjected to its influence, who can describe them? Language has not yet arrived at such perfection as to enable it to impart to others a veritable perception of either our moral or physical impressions. Imagine, therefore, as you best can, the utmost limit of startling effect which, without previous warning, the sudden outbreak of a volcano close by you would produce on yourself. But even this will not answer, for in the neighbourhood of an active volcano mountain one must always anticipate to some extent the possibility of some such an event as an eruption while most of us, though living near the siege train depot, regarded them as almost innocuous from the precautions taken against accidents—and, even should an accident occur, as quite inadequate to furnish such a powerful, concentrated, and appalling explosion. Part of our camp is side by side with the English and French siege depots, separated only by a ravine which is shallow, and not very broad. Our own right siege train was, however, between us and the French one, where the first explosion occurred. We were thus sufficiently near to feel the full force of the concussion; but in respect to the shells, those who were not so near fared worse. We received a shower of small case shot and grape, and the fragments of shells which, having been projected nearly perpendicularly upwards, burst while they were still in the air. The shells which came towards us, but with a more parabolic course, passed over our heads, and exploded in camp more distant. We had not one man killed in our regiment, while three were killed in the 7th, the second camp beyond us, by

shells which fell and burst there. I was sitting in a small hut, by the side of the ravine, when the crash occurred. It is not easy to collect and separate the mixed and confused sensations of the first shock. I remember well falling, with the camp stool on which I was sitting, to the ground, to stand, slightly from the low roof over my head being forced down upon me, while a report loud as thunder, mixed with crackling noises of every kind and character, bewildered me. My senses were stunned, but not so far as to deprive me for a moment of consciousness. Before reflection came, an idea rushed into my mind that the ground had been mined and we were being blown up. I fancy that I noticed an undulatory character in the first great report, as if a number of magazines had been fired in rapid succession. Almost immediately after the skylight was driven in, the hut was filled with smoke. I think this must have been from a shell having crept close to the roof. At any rate I found subsequently all the fragments of a shell about the hut, and one large piece struck the side of it. Provisionally mine laid on the right roof. A pipe went through the servant's tent close by, but no one was in it at the time. As soon as I scrambled up from my fall, I sought shelter beneath the arch of the doorway; this was built of stone, and thick enough to save me from ordinary projectiles or fragments falling, for I heard them rattling in the air and on all sides. Presently, when these noises had partly subsided, I went for a moment to the outer door, and looked toward the interior, to see what had happened. The air was thick with smoke, but at the same time a strong body of flame was visible. I concluded the English gaspewder magazine had been blown up, and that the fire had now reached the siege train parks. Shells were still being projected, and bursting, so I again sought my place of shelter, being joined with me a man whom I found at the door, but in confusion. After a very short time the various sounds subsided into the rattling noise of the flames, with the crackling of burning timber, and an occasional explosion over at the siege depot, and I went out again. The fire was spreading rapidly. I went over to the hospital, and found some men wounded in the camp already arriving there. As soon as stretcher-bearers were procured, men from all sides volunteered to go for wounded from the neighbourhood where the fire was raging. Staff officers and others, with a number of the troops, exhibited the greatest daring and zeal in seeking for these unfortunate and helpless men. It was a service of no little danger, for explosions of shells or gaspewder were taking place every instant, and several times it was thought necessary to call away all who were near the spot. Some very serious cases of mutilation and injury were brought to the hospital, chiefly among artillerymen, but the ambulance waggon having arrived—and they were brought up with the greatest speed—it was thought better to send them off as soon as the general hospital, near the Third Division. Fortunately all our sick escaped without hurt, though one of the hospital boys and one of the tents were perforated by fragments of shell. A shell burst over the hospital kitchen, and the pieces tore through the roof; a small iron shot also went through the roof of the surgery with great force. All the windows were broken, and one of the hut roofs was lifted by the concussion of the air. It is wonderful that so few casualties occurred. A poor fellow in the 7th hospital, already wounded and lying in bed, lost an eye from a fragment of shell, and another man within the hospital enclosure was killed by a shell bursting there. But the escapes were more wonderful in the other brigades, for the hospitals of the 73rd, 74th and 11th and 12th regiments, hospitals were in front of the scene of the explosion, and were greatly shattered. One score of hospital sanitary men was young Massey—Redan Massey, as his pluck and endurance at the assault on the Redan have led to his being called. Favored by youth and a sound constitution, notwithstanding his dangerous wound, he has been progressing most favorably. It was a great object to me not to move him if I could avoid it. I was with him a long time after motives of proper precaution had led to the men of the regiment being marched away some distance from the camp; and, after deliberation, having made up my mind that the disadvantages and risk were less in his remaining there, he was thus in carrying him away, I determined to keep him in camp. I had heard from an artillery sergeant that there was some of rockets, and some shells, still unexploded, and he considerably added that the former were all pointing in the direction of

our camp. I observed, too, that all the ground between us and the fire had been cleared of troops, and that not even a straggler remained. This I attributed to ordinary precaution; the rockets pointing at us I considered problematical. Presently an officer brought down an order that all servants who had remained in camp were to leave it. I thought then that the grounds for apprehension must be very serious. It was an anxious time, and as Massey heard the order given, he would not have been very easy either although he placed himself with great anxious activity at my disposal. He had already had enough to unnerve him, for at the first explosion, the wooden hut in which he was lying was greatly shrouded, and some of the timbers split, and the knowledge of his own helplessness to escape a broken thigh was not calculated to re-assure him respecting his safety. Just after the order for servants to leave was given, a staff officer rode by, and I observed him on the approach of danger to which we were exposed. His reply was, that the fire was spreading towards a store of combustibles, some of which were not unlikely to kindle and set fire to our camp. I reflected that the regiment was away, that the fire, if once established, must spread quickly, as some of the tents were struck, and that I was therefore no longer justified in keeping Massey where he was. I had previously made the necessary preparations in case of necessity, had knitted out some boots from a porch put up to shelter the entrance, and a stretcher at hand, and having detained some men for the purpose, we carried him off to his cot in the 11th, in the Second Division. As it turned out, he would not have been touched had he remained in his hut. The rockets exploded with a loud noise as we were going along, but, being without sticks and packed closely together, their progressive noise was continued, and they burst on the spot where they caught fire. Most fortunately the more did as little harm to Massey as a journey of three-quarters of a mile, under such circumstances, could possibly do.

I have heard nothing calculated to give a better idea of the power of this explosion than the following:—A party were shooting in the mountains some miles beyond Kanara. The noise of the explosion was so loud, that they concluded it must proceed from the Russians blowing up Fort Constantine or some large fort on the north side of Sebastopol. They then considered that the report and the concussion were so much greater than any perceived at the destruction of Sebastopol, although they were so much nearer than that they abandoned the idea of the explosion being near the front of the camp at all, and could only find a solution in the supposition that some ship, freighted with gaspewder, had blown up at Balaklava.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
[The following appeared in our Evening Edition of yesterday.]
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Nov. 16.

An important change has been made in the plan of distribution of the clasp added to the Crimea medal on the final success in the siege operations before Sebastopol. It is notified as follows:
Head-quarters, Sebastopol, Nov. 18, 1855.
With reference to General Order No. 1, of the 13th October, it is notified, that the clasp for inclusion to be granted to all who have been present with the army between the 1st of October, 1854—the day on which the army set down before the town—and the 15th of September, 1855, the day on which the town was taken. Supplementary medals to the officers and men entitled to receive it will therefore be immediately prepared in duplicate and forwarded to the chief of the staff, on or before the 6th of December, the transmission is directed.
The arrangement published in the General Order alluded to, was that the clasp should be conferred on those officers and soldiers only who were serving in the Crimea on the 15th of September, 1855. This, which perhaps was intended to mark a distinction between those who had left the field for personal considerations during the progress of the siege operations and those who had kept to their work till the successful issue, led to many justly complained of omissions of the clasp and omission. The omission, too, occurred among the deserving officers and men who had passed through the ordeal of hot winter and months afterwards in the trenches, but who, from wounds, sickness, or other causes, being

absent on the 15th of September, were deprived of the clasp, while some who landed on the morning of the 15th of September only became entitled to it. It is impossible, perhaps, to make such a distribution of honours as shall be free from all inequality and injustice; and many will now wear the clasp of Sebastopol who, whether length or nature of service be considered, have but slender title to such a mark of distinction.

The great explosion which occurred on Thursday last has been a fruitful subject of conversation in camp. There is very little to add, however, to the information which I forwarded you on the 16th inst. The damage done by the mere concussion, irrespective of the injuries from shells and shot, exhibited in the number of hats shattered and distorted, and of falling walls in stone buildings recently erected, makes appear very forcibly the magnitude of the escape from the fire our having revealed the English powder magazine. All the gaspewder has now been removed and distributed in various directions, being divided into several smaller magazines. There can be no harm in mentioning that the whole of this gaspewder was stored in the spacious stone windmill near the road leading to Inkerman. The door and part of the roof were forced in by the first explosion in the French siege train depot, and so close was it to the fire, out of which shells and incendiary rockets were continually springing, that the very highest prize in due to those who exacted themselves in covering and guarding it, from the contact of the ignited matters which were scattered in all directions. Major-General Van Straubenzell, commanding the first brigade of the Light Division, is mentioned as having displayed great presence of mind and being very active in directing the execution of this work. Eighty tons of gaspewder are said to have been stored in the windmill at the time of the fire. Being a spacious and very solidly constructed stone building, and, when first employed as a magazine, it a comparatively isolated part of the camp, it offered great advantages as a depot for gaspewder; for some time past, however, it has been closely surrounded on all sides by camps. A strong guard has always been placed upon it, of course. After the explosion of the gaspewder in the French depot, the chief danger arose from the incendiary rockets, of which the French had a store in the park. These were ignited immediately after the explosion of the gaspewder, and to them is attributed the very rapid and fierce spreading of the flames among the sheds, gun-carriages, and other stores in the siege-train depot. The powerful and distant fight and destructive effects of these lately invented missiles were often noticed during the progress of the siege operations.

The officer of the Field Train Department who lost his life on the occasion was Deputy-Adjutant-Commissioner G. Yellow. His body was so shrouded that his identity was only established by a ring which remained on one of his hands. Some brass spurs, which it was remembered he had been wearing, were found near his corpse. He had been a most respectable non-commissioned officer in the Artillery, and was promoted last year to the position he held at the time of his death. Lieutenant Dawson, Royal Artillery, who was reported to have been very dangerously wounded, is going on favorably. He suffered amputation of one foot. Through having come to the Crimea very recently, since the fall of Sebastopol, and being a very young officer, his activity and presence of mind at the fire are highly spoken of. He and a sergeant of the Rifle Brigade were carrying away a box containing combustibles, when a shell fell and burst near them. The sergeant was killed; Lieutenant Dawson escaped with the severe injury to his foot, which led to its removal. The other officer of Artillery wounded, who, from wounds, sickness, or other causes, being

Lieutenant Roberts, is severely burned, and has received other injuries. One or two accidents have occurred since the catastrophe of the 15th, from the casual burning of shells—each case, I believe, through carelessness. A roomful of loaded Russian and naval shells remained scattered about the neighbourhood of the ground where heaps of rubbish were still accumulating, in order to obviate the risk which their removal would occasion, orders were given to cover them over by heaps of earth sufficient to avert all danger on their removal.

The most important events which have occurred since the last mail have been certain personal changes in the higher commands, and some new arrangements in the transaction of the business of the army. These are notified in the general orders. The Chief of the Staff is to be no longer the nominal functionary he has hitherto been; he will be the responsible head, as in the French service, of the two great departments of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General. In addition to the great advantages of direct control, and, as regards the public service, of distinct responsibility, this arrangement will afford a very great relief to the Commander of the Forces in supervising and deciding on matters of detail connected with the two departments referred to.

The weather, although threatening more rain and more cold, has continued dry and favourable for the progress of the public works and winter preparations until this evening, Nov. 18. Rain is now falling, but the temperature is comparatively mild. The enemy has availed himself of the continued dry weather in adding to the earthworks and fortifications on the north side. The actual fire across the roadstead is actively maintained.

The following successful operation has been announced to the troops:

Head-quarters, Sebastopol, Nov. 20. The Commander of the Forces has great pleasure in informing the army, that the details of operations in the defence of the city have succeeded in destroying six rows of corn stacks, two miles long, some thick, on the sea. The enemy had collected this corn to take across the ice in the winter. The details of this were announced by about 3,000 Russian troops, which, however, were kept at a distance by the sentries, who the exercises of the Royal Army, with rocks and cannon, destroyed the stacks by fire.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT'S CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, NOV. 21.)

Our first wintry day came on the 21st instant. During the previous night it froze sharply, and some snow fell. The frost was accompanied by a biting north wind, which lasted throughout the day, but subsided again on the following night. Snow was also for the first time visible on the higher peaks and ridges of the mountains to the eastward, where the numerous tributary streams are found which afterwards unite to form the rivers Belbek, Kizilsa, and Alma. Last year the snow appeared in these situations much earlier, and the army was wholly unprepared to meet the exigencies of the cold season. Nothing could offer a more striking contrast than the different circumstances of the troops now. The greater part of the winter clothing had already arrived, and was deposited in the divisional or regimental stores, and the first day on which cold of any severity was felt, a telegraphic message sent from head-quarters round to the several divisions was that all that was required to cover the clothing to be issued.

A general order of the same date directed the winter clothing to be taken into wear. The articles appear to be not only calculated to meet all reasonable wants, but also to be of a superior quality and manufacture. This in the end must prove the wisest economy. Each soldier is provided with woollen under-clothing, and has also a pair of unlaced boots reaching to the knee, the trousers being worn

inside, a fur jacket, similar to that worn by the officers last winter, and a fur cap, covered on the outside with glazed leather. The possession of this clothing in this season, at the very commencement of the cold weather, will doubtless prove of essential importance in preserving the health of the troops. The hats are rapidly increasing in number over the camp. The weather is again favourable for sewing them, and for all the other field works and winter preparations. This day and yesterday, November the 22nd and 23rd, the weather has been delightful. The air has been remarkably clear and transparent; the sun has exerted considerable power, and there has been no wind. The nights have been frosty and cold, but bright and moonlit. The water supply from the reservoirs is scanty, owing to the continued drought. The Tartars assert that such long-continued absence of rain, as well as the condition of the springs in November, are almost unparalleled, and, judging from the experience of November, 1854, and remembering the little loss that now occurs from exposure, the dryness would appear to be one of the remarkable circumstances connected with the present season.

The report has again been gaining belief that the Russians were evacuating the heights above the Belbek, and probably the Crimea. The rumour appears to have been started afresh by a communication from Bagration, announcing that a very considerable force of the enemy had taken up a position between that place and the nearest of the main roads leading from Simpheropol to Persepok. It was argued that this force had advanced to protect retreating bodies of troops from being harassed on their flank by the forces under the command of General d'Almeida. The rumour received confirmation from observation of some of the enemy's movements on the north side of the roadstead. On the 22nd instant several large bodies of troops were noticed marching along the heights towards the eastward. They appeared to be in busy marching order, and accompanied by a baggage train. No other troops were seen to come in to fill their place, so that it had not the character of being simply a route of certain battalions. About the same time, including the day previous, there was a cessation of firing from the north side, which lasted about thirty hours. This, however, was actively resumed on the afternoon of the 22nd instant, and has been continued as usual since, with the exception of a few hours this morning, when a flag of truce was hoisted, and some communication took place between the two sides of the harbour. On examining the enemy's positions to-day, both on the north side of the roadstead and on the Inkerman plateau above the Tchernaya valley, no indication of departure could be distinguished. In the latter situation, although at a considerable distance towards Mackenzie's farm, the clearness of the atmosphere permitted a Russian battalion to be plainly visible; and the character of the movements, as well as the glitter of the bayonets in the sun, showed that the troops were at drill. It is stated that the Emperor has been visiting the Russian army, and carefully examining its several positions, more especially where the French troops are threatening it on its left flank near the upper valley of the Belbek.

Colonel Wichham, who gave up his appointment in the Turkish Contingent for the purpose, it was understood, of assuming the duties of Quartermaster-General to the army in the East in succession to Gen. Airey, and Colonel Row, late military secretary, left yesterday for England in the Indiana transport. General Codrington is directing attention to the interior economy of the Army, and enforcing some very stringent regulations affecting its discipline and police arrangements. A code of Rules has been published in a general order of the present date, Nov. 23, by which the system of punishment for soldiers sentenced to solitary confinement with hard labour will be very materially changed. It will be assimilated, so far as is practicable, to the system pursued in the military prisons in England. Hitherto the duties and circumstances of the troops have been

such as to prevent in a great measure the ordinary punishments of offenders from being carried into effect, and this fact has doubtless had its influence in rendering many men of indifferent character very reckless in their conduct. The great increase of loss in the crime of drunkenness has, perhaps, particularly attracted attention to the necessity of a stronger control being exerted. Attention has also been directed to the numerous custom men and other camp followers. Arrangements are to be made to permit a residence to be always kept in possession, in the Daily News of September 9 there appeared some remarks on the necessity of a more extended system of camp police, in order to ensure the general safety against the machinations of Russian spies and emissaries, as well as for the protection of the public property. Since that date the number of provost marshals and their assistants has been greatly increased, and the organization of their duties considerably advanced. A military magistrate and principal provost marshal has been appointed to superintend the whole system. Captain R. S. Haynes, of the 8th Foot, who had been previously employed as captain of the Mounted Staff Corps, was selected for this office. He had the advantage of being a good linguist, and familiar with French, as well as the languages prevailing among the sutlers, who are chiefly Maltese, German, and Italian. An intimate knowledge of French and Italian was also essential for the communications with the French and Sardinian authorities; and the three police establishments are now working in perfect accord. An instance of the advantage deriving from a thorough system of supervision has just occurred in the new English bazaar behind the 11th Division—Carmichael's Village, as it is sometimes called, from the name of Captain Carmichael, the provost marshal, in whose district this bazaar is situated. One of the camp police had the suspicion of a store kept by a Maltese, and made an examination of the contents. It is found twenty-six sacks of flour, each sack being marked with the usual "Vivres Militaires" of the French commissariat. They were subsequently proved to have been stolen, and to have been sold to the Maltese by some French soldiers. It was also proved that the Maltese shopkeeper was well aware how they had been obtained. He was therefore expelled from the Crimea, his goods having been confiscated and sold for public benefit, as an example to other receivers of stolen property. It will be known that numerous robberies have been committed in camp from time to time, the robbers escaping in some of the trading vessels to Constantinople, where all traces would be lost, notwithstanding the most diligent search. Quartermasters and others have also left by the same means. Any one seen to be at liberty to go on board ship at Balaklava, and leave the port without inquiry. By arrangements with the naval authorities this will be prevented in future. No person will now be allowed to embark on board a transport or other vessel without an authority, and the captain or other vessel without a passport will be liable to immediate punishment of a severe character. An office has been established at Balaklava for the registry of the names of all persons coming and going, and for the issue of permits of residence and passports. One of the Provost-Marshal's has been appointed to attend to this particular duty. A branch, under the direction of a Provost-Sergeant, will be established at Karaman Bay. Police stations are being erected in certain situations about the camp, one being at head-quarters, and these will be marked by lights at night. Some of the Maltese's assistants will always be in attendance. With the aid of the electric telegraph, and by means of other arrangements for speedy communication, the effective working of the establishment will be secured, and order and other advantages obtained in the camps.

The troops in camp remain very healthy. We hear that cholera has broken out severely at Scutari, but the source has not visited the troops in the field. Such few cases as do occur from time to time are evidently attributable to local circumstances, and have no appearance of an epidemic character. All the cavalry have now left, with the exception of the 11th Hussars, who are to remain throughout the winter, the 8th Dragoon Guards, the Greys, and the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons. One troop of the latter regiment has already embarked. Nov. 24. A change in weather has occurred. Heavy rain has been falling since daybreak.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER. Camp, Crimea, Nov. 23. We have just had a telegraphic message, at least I heard so on good authority, to suspend all hunting and road making. What does this mean?—can it be peace? They are hardly likely to move on now, that we have made our way along for the winter. Report says, too, that the Russian are about to evacuate the Crimea. Are we to go to Simpheropol? They will not leave us very comfortable lodgings there. I hear that the reports that 2,000 shells exploded at the great crash on the 16th—rather a considerable amount of loss to be sustained! The miracle is how so many exploded. Here is an instance of good luck. In rear of the commissariat stores of the 2nd brigade of the Light Division, near the Last Transport encampment, were three bell tents. Two were filled with small arms ammunition in barrels, the third was occupied by men in permanent charge. He was the habit of smoking, and carrying on all his baggage, cartridges in the two tents, being the whole of the reserve ammunition of the Light Division. They were contained in between five and six hundred small barrels. On the occasion of the explosion a shell fell into the trench dug round one of the tents to keep the rain out, and burst without causing any serious mischief. Had it fallen on the tent the whole contents must have gone. A light breeze of wind was carried over and fell by the side of the other tent, but was picked up and cast aside, also without causing any harm. A Russian is now being constructed for this commissariat. There was also a wonderful escape in the battery camp near the 6th Regiment. A shell fell into the tent of one officer, named Drivas, who was on duty on the ground. His servant was with him at the time. Everything in the tent was cleared or blown away, but the servant had his leg shattered, and the officer escaped without a hair, and only the traces of having been struck by a passing fragment of the shell. But the most wonderful story of the day, and the escape of the man named who conducted all the arrangements. There was one man, and therefore cannot stand for his account. The account is this:—In the distribution of the property found in Sebastopol, the gunpowder fell to the lot of the French. It was brought up from the Russian magazines and hidden in temporary boxes. At the time of the capture of the explosion some of this gunpowder was being transferred from the temporary boxes to more secure and durable cases. Three men were employed in the operation. One had charge of the box in which the powder had been brought up to the magazine depot; the second had a copper roller to flatten, through which the powder was passed into the permanent press; one, and the third man had charge of the contents. The artificer, who had the first box, while pointing out the powder into the flattened, found it in a piece of shell. Without being aware of it, he threw it down upon the ground, and then the catastrophe following instantly, he concluded that the iron machine upon which he was sitting, which ignited the gunpowder, of which a considerable quantity was lying scattered about. The two men who were assisting him in transferring the powder were blown away, and not to be recognized; he, much stunned and wounded, as well as covered with his life, and is still a prisoner in the French hands. This simple story, the story was credited to me by a person who had good opportunity of ascertaining its truth. The only relation is that the explosive force radiated from the centre of which he formed the focus. One other point different from completeness in the story is, that all the men in the neighbourhood of the situation, and of a sort, almost wholly absent. I have never seen such a thing happen as a shell caused by its being struck with the iron of shot or shell, and do not understand its happening with soft shot, such as shells or dangerous made, if, however, it is lighted pipe, or any other deadly agent, around the subject, or witness present.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 17.

The failure of the Land Transport is still a subject of conversation in camp. It is said that last month the loss in mules and horses missing and dead amounted to twelve hundred or upwards, and that in one week after the bad weather set in five hundred animals were lost. If this statement be only an approximation to the truth, what a serious expenditure of money is involved in the account. Surely there ought to be some searching public inquiry into the subject. The means adopted for the protection of the animals, and the cause of so many being permitted to stray and be lost, should be investigated. Even now it can be seen, on riding through the camps, that many of the divisional transport animals are without a shawl, roof, or any other protection against the inclemency of the weather than their clothing. Engines of greater power are required for the railway, and, it is understood, have been sent for. We are now experiencing the benefits of having formed central and divisional commissariat depots, the absence of which was one of the many sources of the calamities which befell the army on those heights during the last fatal winter.

Notwithstanding the season and the trying weather, the health of the British troops continues very satisfactory. As might be expected, there has been an increase of the number of sick admitted into the hospitals, the prevailing ailments being those which usually follow exposure to wet and cold; but there has not been a proportionate increase in the number of deaths, indicating that they have not generally been of a dangerous character. Our French allies are said to be suffering more severely, and one division is named as losing no less than 25 men daily, although without cholera or any other epidemic prevailing. The cause assigned is the influence of the sudden change in the weather which occurred a short time since, and the continuous rain and cold which followed. Lieutenant Basil H. Brown, of the 7th Regiment, a young officer, who had not been long in the Crimea, died on the 16th inst. from fever.

In addition to Marshal Plevnikoff, there is a rumor of General Codrington leaving camp, to be present at deliberations to be carried on in London or Paris, respecting the future operations of the war. But although the winter is fully set in, and all chance of active hostilities at an end for some months, the presence of the Commander-in-Chief in the field can by no means be easily dispensed with. The discipline of the British force, compared as it does so many departments, either newly remodelled or even lately organized, requires constant supervision, and the presence of a chief armed with proper authority and powers is absolutely necessary to ensure the efficiency of the whole establishment. Neither in the royal navy, nor in the army of our imperial ally, have there been any changes in system or organization, so there have been in our military service. Their chiefs can, therefore, be better spared.

Dec. 21.
Frost has continued during the past week, and the cold has been intense. The lowest temperature which has been met with during the present winter occurred during the night between the 19th and 20th instant. Its effects were felt the more severely on account of strong northerly gales prevailing at the same time. At 7 a.m. of Wednesday, the 19th, the mercury stood at 5 degrees below zero in Fahrenheit's thermometer. During the night mentioned, and in the course of the following day, many soldiers and others were frost-bitten, but it would seem that, in the majority of instances, this was the result of imprudent negligence. In some instances the men had brought it on by lying out while in a state of intoxication; in some, the frost bite had occurred during sleep in ill-secured tents; in a few cases,

it took place while the men were engaged at target practice or employed on fatigue duties. The parts frozen were generally the fingers, feet, or ears. I only heard of one death, and this was evidently in consequence of excess in drinking, for the man was found lying in the snow, frozen, but bearing evidence of previous intoxication. No men were frost-bitten who were properly clothed, or whose occupations admitted of their wearing gloves. The women's suits served out to the soldiers might be much improved; they are put on and off with difficulty, they shrink in washing, and the sharp wind, by passing between the meshes of their texture, chaps the skin of the hands. The dark-colored cloth mitts of the Russian soldiers are much more appropriate; they reach higher, protecting the wrists, and are as easily removed as put on, while a large loop attached to them admits of their being suspended, when not worn, to a convenient part of the uniform. The four fingers sewn together in one space, the thumb being in a second. The texture is close, so that no wind can pass through; at the same time the cloth is sufficiently pliable to admit of every necessary movement of the hand while the glove remains on. Their cost need be comparatively trifling, especially when their durability is taken into account. The long boots have this year proved a failure; in most instances the material, sewing, and shape, all are bad; and the troops are on many occasions resorting to the short ammunition boots, which they had in wear previously to the close of the winter boots.

This day (21st) there is a change of wind to the south-east; the temperature is slightly above the freezing point, and there are indications of a thaw continuing until the wind shall return to the cold quarter. The transport animals are still suffering severely; so many as sixty in the establishment, it is said, die daily. The greater number of those which are sick appear to be disabled by sore backs, and the debility resulting from the excessive discharge from the ureters. Many are also said to be suffering from disease of the lungs, consequent on exposure during the late wet weather, and some also from glanders. In some divisions the officers' private mule horses are being employed for purposes of public transport, and this is a subject of discontent. The officers of the Land Transport say, however, that the killing of all the animals will soon be completed, and that after a short rest the department will be in full operation again.

Some decorations of the Legion of Honor have been sent by the Emperor Napoleon to the Crimea for distribution in the English army. A certain number has been sent to the General of each division, and commanding officers of regiments will report and recommend the officers or soldiers whom they may think most deserving of receiving such a mark of distinction. An opportunity will thus be afforded of rewarding meritorious services, under other circumstances than those of simple bravery in action. Three crosses of the Legion of Honor are to be given in those regiments which have served throughout the whole of the campaign, two in those which have arrived subsequent to the commencement of the service in the Crimea.

The French troops camped in the plain and towards Balizar are said to be suffering a good deal from diarrhoea and other sickness. The English troops continue healthy. Although the number of sick has increased, the proportion has not been great, and the cause, generally attributable to the changeable character of the season and its temperature, have not been of a serious character. No casualties of note have occurred in the English portion of Sebastopol, although both on public works and in the private companies of trench firewood and other materials, the number entering the Karabeltina has been by no means limited. There has been no interruption in the enemy's fire from the north side. They have lately been employing red hot shot, with a view of setting on fire some of the few buildings which remain there timbered, but have hitherto been unsuccessful in their attempt.

Many wild turkeys, or rather buzzards, have been shot about the plain of Baliklery, and beyond Kamasa. They are larger and heavier than the domestic turkey, and are of excellent flavor when properly cooked.

THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I wish to call your attention to the following order, issued yesterday in the Light Division. I remember the letter of your Special Correspondent on the 12th inst. in January last, descriptive of the manner in which the 17,000 mules of public transport animals, and the officers' baggage animals, left behind at the depot at Varna. I fear some of his remarks would be again applicable to present circumstances.

Dec. 17.
All the private mule animals of officers of the First Brigade will be assembled, provided with such orders, at the Commissariat Camp of the Second Brigade, at 9 a.m. to-morrow, for the purpose of making entries from the lists kept by the officers, who will receive instructions from Assistant Quartermaster-General Darling.

The Brigade Major will report to the Assistant Adjutant-General the number of animals employed in this duty. Commanding officers will make arrangements for the necessary number of mules required to take charge of the animals of their respective regiments.

In consequence of this order, our mule animals were assembled, and were employed all day in performing two journeys and bringing up two loads to the Commissariat stores. The Commissariat depot at present contains stores of all kinds, to last six weeks, for the use of the division. The service of officers' private mule animals is to continue until the regular transport service can be re-established. Some officers appear to have neglected sending their horses, and the following order was the result:

Dec. 18.
The order issued yesterday, directing the attendance of officers' mule horses for appointment purposes and having been in many cases attended to, and in some instances entirely neglected, the Major-General directs that commanding officers will enforce more strict attendance to the details of the order on the subject. Particular attention is directed to the fact that mules are to be sent to the depot in pairs, and that the requisite equipment for them is to be supplied.

The return is furnished to the Assistant Adjutant-General of the number of mule animals for which forage is drawn, and the number provided for. In the event of mules being sent without such forage, or not appearing at the depot, they will be considered as having been lost, and will be dealt with accordingly. Particular attention is directed to the fact that the requisition for forage must be obtained by the Quartermaster-General's department.

Of course, any officer who values his baggage horses or mules must send them; for if their forage be discontinued, they must die. He cannot get forage elsewhere than through the Commissariat stores. Nor could any officer reasonably object, in case of emergency, whatever he may have paid for his mule animals or whatever the rank of the service, to devote them to the public interest, provided all shared the difficulty alike, and fair compensation could be obtained in case of injury. But in the present instance, the officers of the staff of the division are not sending their private mule animals; the service is confined to the animals belonging to the regimental officers. As to compensation, we know by experience how much of that is to be expected, for many of us lost horses, pack-saddles, clothing, and everything which, according to orders, were left behind at the depot at Varna, and we have not been able to obtain any compensation.

In the Second Division, which is engaged next to the Light Division, the public means of transport, such as waggon, cart, mule, &c., very greatly exceed in number the amount in possession of the Light Division. In respect to one item, waggon, they were, and I believe are, in excess as five to one. This difference is explained by the activity of the Quartermaster-General in the one division, and the inactivity of the Quartermaster-General in the other. Colonel Herbert lost no opportunity of securing for his division whatever stores he could obtain. Colonel Alvey let slip many opportunities of procuring the same advantages for his. The officers of the Second Division are not required to send their private animals, therefore, for public use, at least at present. In the French service a different mode of administration at the Quartermaster-General prevents this unequal distribution; each division of the army gets its allotted share. In case of difficulty, such as appears to exist at present, ought not the public transport to be equalized in amount in our divisions also?

The whole system connected with the transport of officers' baggage seems a very anomalous one, at least so far as it has been illustrated in this campaign. If we except the Bulgarians advance to Mesadin, the officers' mule horses have never been

employed for their automobile use. When required during the march from Old Part, they were left to be ruined or to die at Varna. As there has not been any mauling done, the enormous cost of their maintenance has been nearly repaid by any use to the country. But as officers are compelled to get them, and so they cost from 150 to 200 each, according to opportunity, or the views of the purchaser, and also their equipment, even when obtained by requisition on the Quartermaster-General, is costly, and not very durable, and both are to all intents and purposes the private property of their owners, it seems scarcely just that so large a sum should be expended for their public use—more especially when we have an opportunity of observing what the result of public employment is. Is it not too bad, after the enormous sums spent by the Government in organizing and furnishing the Transport Department—after the immense number of transport animals imported into the Crimea, some of them the finest ever seen, with vehicles of all kinds, and moreover a line of railway to assist—that such orders as the above should require to be issued?

Light Division, Camp, Dec. 18, 1855.

BREAK-DOWN OF THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

(EXTRACT OF A LETTER.)

CRIMEA, Dec. 21.
A very arbitrary order, as we think it, has caused our private mule horses to be taken for the public service, in consequence of the break-down in the Land Transport Corps. My two cost 250, so it is not pleasant to run the risk of giving them up to the tender mercies of public employment. If there had been a general order, saying there was a temporary need of transport, &c., and officers were requested to lend their animals for the general good, of course every one would give them willingly. But it is done in a most less gracious manner than that. I send them, or we'll stop their food. Is the God of the order. Some regiments have remonstrated to the General, but the reply is—The order comes from headquarters, and cannot be avoided. In the great difficulties of last winter, Lord Higham ruled that officers' private horses could be sent for their own forage, of course, but not to carry public stores. Besides, there is the wear and tear of the saddle and gear, and there is no small expense here in the aggregate. At the present time we are all anxious to keep our mule animals safe and sound, for we depend on them chiefly for bringing up the fuel for our fire. The fuel used as by the commissariat is only a nominal amount compared with the quantity necessary for use, and, as there are no public conveyances, all private supplies from Balaklava, Kadikoi, &c., are brought up on the officers' private animals. While the fuel is so scarce, a heavy load, careless balancing, or a slip or fall, quickly led to straits or evenness of the back, and the animal is for some time disabled. The animals of the Land Transport Corps will be all in a bad way, and I suppose the survivors will then be in working trim again. It is said in the whole corps they are now losing from deaths and loss by straying 100 animals per diem. I cannot exactly understand why you hear so seldom of an officer's private mule horse dying, or being lost from straying, excepting on the supposition that the public animals are less attended to; but there is no reason why they should not be as carefully looked after. What an amount of expenditure this transport, by sea and land, will be! There is one transport—the Queen of the South, which is used as a magazine, which has never been out of Balaklava Harbor since this time last year, I am told. Fancy what her hire has cost.

I hear that Sir Colin Campbell is coming out again; we are all glad of it, and look on him as a pillar of strength. He first went to Lord Higham, it is said, and told him he had come to give up his command—afterwards to Lord Panmure, the same. Lord Panmure agreed, but it was of no use, the resignation was given in, and Sir Colin Campbell left, thinking himself a free man. Then came a command to the Palace. There all was attention, a suite of rooms given up, and at dinner he was directed to take to the Princess Royal. Afterwards a Highland piper played behind his chair, "The Campbell's new coming." The next morning the Queen saw Sir Colin in Prince Albert's study; and who could resist the gracious desire which followed? At any rate, Sir Colin will have gained Court favor, which he never had before.

THE ARMY SURGEONS.

Excerpt from a letter of a surgeon serving in the Crimea, dated Dec. 21, 1855:

"Can you wonder that we surgeons, who have passed the greater part of the years 1854 and 1855 in the field, should be discontented? that what we have had to go through—bitter loss in the halcyon and chances of war than to the quiet and abiding we have had to endure—should be constantly present in our thoughts? There are some of us here, and not a few, who, having entered the army service at ages varying from 20 to 25 years—the limits of age for entering in our time—having waited eleven years and upwards as assistants for promotion, cease not as surgeons in charge of regiments, and have remained at our posts ever since, without quitting them for a day. We have seen honours, rewards, rapid promotion, increased pay and allowances, lucrative appointments, given with no sign of hand to our companions; and one gift to us. Officers who joined from school have become our equals in relative rank after less than three years' service, have been made field officers in six years; and others who started for the East on a level with ourselves as new lieutenants-colonels, Commissions of the Bath, and what not. Do not think we are jealous of this promotion when it has been obtained by 'disinterested services'; but we who are on the spot know how often, for the *Genetie* phrase, distinguished family interest might be substituted with propriety and justice. New military establishments on all sides, additions and extra aid to old establishments, have furnished situations for officers 'unattached,' or have provided others with staff pay and allowances in addition to their regimental pay. Commissariat officers draw 'war pay,' regimental officers 'double pay' in addition to the field allowance common to all. None of these advantages have we surgeons had. The authorized complement of medical officers for the field has never been maintained, so that the deaths and other casualties which have occurred among us have not led to the proportionate promotion of the survivors. The introduction of the 'civil element' has shut out from us the appointments which have sprung into existence with the institution of the new medico-military establishments. Our exertions, our endurance, our persistence in the performance of our duties, have gone for nothing; in vain have recommendations, from authorities medical or authoritative military, been forwarded home. Higher posts, not one of us has received decoration or reward. Nay, those who have quitted their posts, and gone home, among the medical officers, have fared best; higher situations have been found for them than they had in the zone of action which they quitted. When I remember all that occurred around me in Bulgaria, at Alma, and during the *Winter*—that climax of misery, when half-starved, half-dressed, the night I saw and the physical suffering I endured drove me at times almost to despair as I lay awake under the frail flapping canvas of my tent—I wonder that I did not quit too. Sick in heart and body, I could have done so had I shown. Little do those medical officers who left before that time, or who have only come since, know what we underwent during those dreary nights and days, when men had to be forced into the trenches who were fit only to be patients in hospital—when patients in hospital wasted and died away, and we, for want of the commonest essentials for nursing and treatment, could do little to alleviate their sufferings. Yet now we learn that a Board of Medical Officers in London, half of whom served a couple of months or so in the Crimea, and then left in the other half never having served in the campaign at all, have been called together to adjudicate upon our interests, and to offer advice to the Minister for War whether the service of medical officers in the field should consist of more worth than service at home; and they advise that it should not! Medical officers in the field, say they, have the advantage of gaining experience in surgery. For whose advantage do military surgeons acquire this experience—only for their own private advantage, or for the benefit of the State? They imply the contrary, and, therefore, the risks of the campaign are balanced by the acquisition of professional knowledge."

DESTRUCTION OF RUSSIAN DOCKS.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

One of the five celebrated dry docks in the Kara, belata suburb of Sebastopol, was demolished by the French engineers on Saturday last, the 22nd instant, at 2 p.m., by the explosion of mines. The destruction of the dock was fully accomplished, the blast having almost instantaneously reduced the massive fabric into a raised and confused heap of stones.

The intention of destroying a portion of the docks was not known in camp until an early hour of the morning of the same day. The six companies of the 18th Hussar Regiment, which for the last month or five weeks have been quartered in the Karabelina, or five weeks in the necessary preparations for the destruction of the three docks in rear, and the part of the basin in charge of the English engineers, were moved up at 6 a.m., before daylight. Their departure was thus unobserved by the enemy on the north side of the roadstead. It was considered prudent to march these men up in camp, in case the Russians might think proper, after the explosion, to direct a heavy fire on the suburb, and to avoid all risk of casualties, should any of the buildings fall from the concussion. This movement was a sufficient intimation that the explosion of part of the docks was at hand, but in addition all servants, and men on fatigue, going into the town for work, were early in the morning stopped at the Russian, and subsequently a cordon of sentries was drawn around to prevent officers or any person from approaching within the neighbourhood of the docks where there was the slightest chance of danger from the explosion. As it turned out, however, those precautions proved unnecessary, for the mines were so laid that the effects of their explosion were confined to a very limited sphere of action.

The dock selected by the French engineers for demolition on this occasion was the one placed to the west of the lock through which vessels formerly used to enter into the great basin. In addition to this dock, the French have destroyed another dry dock on the east side of the entrance lock, the lock itself, which, with its foundations and foundations of great masonry and magnificent lodges, has the appearance of another dock, and half the basin. It is understood that the engineering operations are completed for the demolition of the whole of these structures, and that the object in demolishing one portion only was to test the accuracy of certain calculations with regard to the quantity of gunpowder necessary for effecting the desired result. The quantity actually employed is said to have been a little over 2,000 pounds English, or 1,000 French kilograms.

The French engineers have followed a somewhat different plan from the English engineers for the destruction of the docks. They have treated principally by galleries carried across and beneath the bottom of the dock. They have also, however, parallel with each side, a horizontal gallery, to blow out the foundation and lower part of each side wall. In the docks to be destroyed by the English, perpendicular shafts have been sunk at frequent intervals along the sides, for the purpose of blowing the whole of the sides towards. Latterly also, galleries have been constructed beneath the foundations of the bottom of each dock, so that their demolition may be very effectual. Arrangements have been made for firing the English mines by a volta battery. The French mines on Saturday were fired by means of trains of laid gunpowder and fuses.

The report of the explosion was by no means loud. It was heard in camp, but was generally supposed to be the bursting of some of the Russian projectiles among the buildings of the town. Nearer to the scene of the explosion a tremendous agitation of the ground was felt, and this was followed by the peculiar compressed sound—more like the rumbling of distant thunder than the usual report of gunpowder

fired from within metal—which always accompanies subterranean discharges. Simultaneous with the noise of the blasting, the air over the direction of the dock became thickened with smoke, stones, and rubble. A large quantity, among which were masses of considerable size, rose perpendicularly upwards, while at the same time a shower of masonry was hurled from each side towards the centre. The greater portion of these blocks and fragments of stone appeared to fall downwards into the vacant space of the dock; scarcely any were observed to fly far beyond its limits. A dense cloud of smoke filled and veiled over the place of ruin, and this continued hanging over it for a considerable time, there was no breeze to waft it away. No sooner had the explosion occurred, the crash of the falling masonry had scarcely died away from the ears, when the sharp reports of several shells about the docks and neighbouring buildings told that the enemy had been an unobtrusive spectator of the scene. They hoped to kill some of the troops, whom they suspected to be in the neighbourhood of the explosion, the nature of which they so doubt understood, but, as usual, fired without effecting any injury or causing casualty. It is remarkable how very few casualties have taken place among the Sappers and Artillerymen, and in the six companies of the men of the 15th Regiment, who have been quartered in the Karabelina during the operations connected with the mining of the docks, notwithstanding the constant fire of the enemy. Until a short time ago, when a shell entered a company's cooking-house, whence the men could not readily escape, and where, in consequence, several were wounded, not a casualty had occurred among the men of the 15th Regiment. The Russians appear to have the range of all the principal points, and, moreover, seem to have men always on the lock out, who make signals to the guns in the batteries whenever a party of troops are observed moving in the town, for so soon as a group appeared to view than it is fired at. One principal source of security to our men is, of course, the number of stone buildings of the town: these not only intercept the missiles of the enemy as they fall towards the docks, but afford tolerably safe means of shelter when a well-directed shell falls too dangerously close not to be, if possible, avoided by hasty flight.

Report says that all the preparations will be completed for the demolition of the three docks to be destroyed by the English in the course of a week from the present date. The arrangements would have been finished already had it not been for the large quantity of water which has found its way into the shafts and galleries excavated for the reception of the blasting powder. It appears that the reason for the water having entered, is, as originally into these excavations, while those connected with the French mines have remained dry, is their relative position with regard to the termination of the Karabelina ravine, between the Malakhoff and Tinkoff hills, and at a short distance from the Dockyard wall. The three docks in charge of the English are separated from the end of this ravine, where an enormous amount of water had collected, and formed an immense pond or reservoir, only by an artificial caueway, constructed at an enormous expense of labour by the Russians during the formation of the docks, and through this earth the water gradually percolated. Under ordinary circumstances the water of the middle or Karabelina ravine would drain through the soil and find its way to the Karabelina creek or harbour, and in this direction the water collected in the shafts has now had to be conducted, after much labour, by pumping and other means of drainage. It would have been more easy to have drained the shafts through the great basin, into which the three docks open; but this would probably have led to flooding a portion of the French works. When the time shall arrive for the destruction of the English portion of the docks, it is hoped

that their destruction will be as complete as that of the French docks already demolished, and if the three are demolished at the same instant the effect will be proportionally more striking. I have heard it stated that the floor of the dock just destroyed by the French engineers has not been so effectually and completely broken up as it was anticipated it would be by the explosion, but hardly believe that this can be ascertained while it remains encumbered with the ruined masonry at present hanging over its surface.

The weather has been much milder since the last mail left. During the daytime there has been a constant thaw, and it has only been after sunset that the temperature has reached the freezing point. The missing mail, due on the 13th instant, was delivered yesterday, the 23rd. There is now only one mail due, that which was expected to arrive on the 26th instant. A second business day today. Great preparations are being made in the English camp to celebrate Christmas with the usual festivities observed in England, at least as far as the table is concerned. These merchants who have persisted in the course of comfort and luxury generally indulged in at this season have been besieged by customers for some days past. No doubt, amidst the rejoicing, many a thought will be turned towards other seasons far away, and many a sentiment of gratitude felt, if not uttered, for the present comparative affluence, and for many other benefits, as well as escapes, both of life and limb, since last Christmas Day.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, DEC. 26. There is very little interest to commandants from this part of the end of war by the great mail. In addition to the confirmation of the former intelligence respecting the fall of Kara, we now hear that the Russian forces have continued to intercept Great Paika's communications with the coast. The Ottoman Generalissimo is said to be in difficulties, unable to advance, or to fall back, without great hazard, and to have applied to the Allies for assistance. There was a rumour yesterday in camp that a force was about to be detached to Asia for the purpose of relieving the Turkish troops; but to-day we hear that a portion of the Turkish Contingent, previously destined to cooperate in that quarter.

The weather has continued very mild since the last mail left, until to-day, when the frost has again been severe. Christmas-day, like that of last year, was bright, dry, and sunny, with an atmosphere as refreshing as it was exhilarating. In all parts of the camp, from the headquarters of the Commandant-in-Chief to the base of the private soldiers, Christmas parties were assembled, and the usual fare of the season abundant. It is satisfactory, too, to be able to say that, although there was plenty of amusement, there appeared to be very little excess; for in the various camps there was less noise, and less evidence of intemperance, than occurred on several occasions a month or six weeks ago. The ration issued to the men continues to be excellent in quality and sufficient in quantity. The advantages which have accrued from the attention paid to this subject, as well as to the clothing, are nowhere more apparent than in the appearance presented by the greater number of the recruits and young soldiers sent to reinforce the older regiments in the course of the autumn. These young men are not only, as a general rule, in robust health, but are rapidly gaining sturdy frames and vigorous constitutions, which will cause them, on the return of spring, to be no trifling opponents in the face of the enemy. They feel the benefit of escaping from the crowded towns in which many of them have been habituated in England; and now that the duties are light, diet and

whether good, they have scarcely anything hostile to health to contend against, but the mischief arising from the temptations to intemperance. It is to be deplored that so little recreation is to be got by the men, excepting what is found in the content. The regimental hospitals are nowhere crowded, and what sick there are are reported to be suffering only from such ailments as are usually met with at this season in England.

It is stated in camp that some Russian and Serbian parties came into collision on the evening of the 20th instant, but the particulars are not known. The enemy is apparently very busy in the Mackenzie heights, increasing the defences. A large body of troops can be seen to be working at the summit of the ridge, near to which the main road leaves the Tchernaya valley, and winds to ascend toward Mackenzie's farm. They seem to be throwing up a square redoubt in this position. There has not been any slackening of the fire from the north side. On Christmas-day and evening the discharge of shot and shell was remarkably continuous. No gun opened fire from the south side. The Russians are closely watched, for in some of the bays some of the rounded large number of rafts and small boats can be seen lying alongside the shore. They seem to have ceased their fire. Should they come across for the purpose of discovering, they will find a fitting reception.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)
[The following appeared in our Evening Edition of yesterday.]

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 31.
The first reflection which the close of the year 1855 forces on the mind of each person who has witnessed the progress of the last twelve months' campaign in the Crimea, is a comparison between the condition of the army as it now is, and as it was at the corresponding date of the year 1854. Then, without depts of commissariat stores, roads, means of transport, huts, or proper clothing, the troops were in want of every necessary ingredient for maintaining bodily vigour. The season, bleak, too, proved unusually stormy and severe, and its inclemency was all the more felt on account of the want of the common means of protection against its influence. The duties were harassing and trying in the extreme. In the trenches, the hazard of being hit or sunk from the shot and shell of the enemy was not greater than from the constant soaking wet, or bitter frost, which the men were unable to guard against. The troops, officers and men, were equally inexperienced in the art of lessening the weight of the difficulties in which they found themselves placed. The consequence was that nearly all were out of health and spirits. The sick could not be carried away fast enough. The death of young soldiers which came out as reinforcements in a short time disappeared altogether; and the number of deaths in any one division was greater, period for period, than it is at present in the whole army. The very reverse of all the circumstances I have mentioned now exists. A stranger looking on the army now could no more form a notion of its appearance at the same date of last winter than a man who had never quitted the torrid zone could form a notion of the snows and ice of a polar region. The troops appear no less cheerful and spirited than they are conspicuous for sturdiness and health; their duties chiefly consist in perfecting their drill for future service, and the younger soldiers are readily advancing to a condition of firm and training which will put them on an equality with their more experienced comrades in fitness for campaigning. Whatever may be the nature of future operations, the British force will be found, judging from present observation, in a high state of efficiency whenever the spring loosens the facilities of communication and movement. As to the probable site and plans of the next campaign, the suppositions are so various and contradictory that they are hardly worthy of notice. Seeing the substantial quality of our roads, and of many of the dwellings and buildings which have been constructed by us, the French can hardly believe that we contemplate abandoning our present position in the spring. On the other hand

the fortifications which are still increasing around the ports of Kamish and Kessich, and which have already rendered their position nearly as strong as was that of Sebastopol, together with the absence of similar works elsewhere, seem to indicate a removal of the great mass of the Allied armies, a sufficient portion being left for the defence and security of the harbours before-mentioned, and their immediate neighbourhood. Armed as the enemy now is at every inch of ground against an approach from our present position, it is not likely that our Generals should select this for the seat of operations, especially when our possession of the sea offers so many other opportunities of more favourable approach and attack.

A large proportion of the tents lately occupied in the various camps have been struck and given into the stores of the Quartermaster-General's department for repair, or for protection against weather. The hutting of the troops is much more extensive and complete, in consequence of this change. A number of huts have arrived, which will not now be required for use as barrack huts. Whether they will be retained in the Crimea, and converted into other purposes than those originally intended, or sent to the reserve depots on the Bosphorus and elsewhere, is not known. Report says that some have been offered to our Allies at cost price, who declined accepting them.

It appeared in general orders yesterday that, until further notice, fresh meat and bread would be issued to the troops three days in each week, salt meat and biscuits on the remaining four days. The object of this order is not understood. It does not appear to arise from any deficiency of cattle, for several of the most intelligent among the commissariat officers say that both sheep and oxen abound, and that the arrangements made have been such as to ensure a continued supply. Large quantities of grain have lately arrived, and the harbours at Bahaklava and Kessich, as well as in some of the divisions, are fully equipped to supply fresh bread at more frequent intervals. It is also asserted that the cost of a ration of fresh meat, when applied to the men in the Crimea, is less than one-fourth of the cost of a ration of salt pork. The salt pork, including all expenses in England and of transport to the East, with allowance for ordinary waste from loss or deterioration, is calculated to amount in cost to the Government to a rate of 16, 4d. or 16, 6d. per pound, while the fresh beef is issued to the troops at a cost of about 8d. per pound. This estimate was formed by an experienced officer, and its correctness may be worth investigation.

The last two mails from England have arrived at their destination about at their stated time. No mail is now due.

The weather continues frosty and cold, but calm and dry.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 1.

The weather has continued very unsettled. The wind, which blew very strongly from a southerly direction during the night of the 30th of November and early on the morning of the 1st instant, caused some damage through the camp, but none of a serious nature. A goodly number of tents were blown over, and some few of the new huts in course of erection. The tents overturned were chiefly those occupied by young campaigners, to whom the effects of soaking rain in softening the earth about the tent-pipe, together with high wind, were novelties, and who omitted to take the necessary precautions of raising the tightness of the canvas, and securing the pegs, to meet the additional strain to which they were subjected. The huts only partially built and covered in yielded readily to the pressure of the gale, and, being neither secured in a sunk foundation, nor having an extended base, were easily overturned. The nature of the compartments in which they are constructed prevented the occurrence of any damage of importance, and on the wind subsiding the parts were placed together again without difficulty or much labour. Yesterday the wind was more westerly, and came sweeping along in heavy squalls, accompanied with leading showers of snow. Between the squalls and the approach was signalled by the sudden gathering and approach of dark masses of clouds from the seaward—the sun shone brightly, and the atmosphere exhibited the usual characteristics of a day in April. To-day (December 3) we have been without rain or snow, and the temperature has been mild. The covering of snow on the higher ranges of the mountains which rise beyond the plain of the Tchernaya to the eastward is still very scanty, and only seen in patches. The early migration which was noticed of various kinds of wild fowl towards warmer regions had led to the expectation of an early and severe winter; but the event has proved to be the very reverse of this supposition. The fitness of the weather attracted all the officers who could leave camp to witness the Great International Snow-globe which was fixed to some of to-day. It took place on some tolerably level ground between the French Headquarters and the Monastery. Some artificial obstructions were formed by banking up a small stream, digging ditches, and introducing other impediments of a like nature. The ground was not so heavy as had been anticipated from the quantity of rain which had fallen lately, owing to the soil being of a more sandy quality, and less frequented than in other parts of the plateau. Contrary to anticipation, there were very few accidents. Although a few riders were thrown in the course of the day, I heard of only one casualty of all a serious character. A lieutenant of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, Lieutenant Walker I believe, was ridden down in the first rush, and as he was carried towards his camp on a stretcher he appeared to be considerably shaken. There were many French officers present, but very few Serbians, in consequence of the distance of their camps from the scene of the sports. In the evening a very large party dined together at the restaurant established near the Third Division.

The fire from the north side has greatly increased during the past week, both against the part of the town occupied by the French, and also against the Karakolnakhah. Two men of the 10th Royal Irish Regiment, who were at work near the docks, were wounded this morning by the explosion of a shell, and yesterday Lord R. Browne, of the 7th Fusiliers, received a slight injury while on duty from a similar cause. Hiberto, although large parties have been employed, not only in the dockyard, but also in fetching supplies of timber and stone from all parts of the docks and suburbs, scarcely any one has been injured. A very heavy fire of shells was

maintained for several hours against this part of the town to-day, so that the usual fatigue parties were not permitted to enter it. The discharge was kept up partly against the remains of the White Buildings, either from some working party having been noticed there, or for the purpose of setting them on fire, and partly against the docks, where the enemy had no doubt against the presence of groups of soldiers. The French fire against the north side has been more reserved of late.

The Russian batteries bearing upon our position above Inkermann, have also maintained a frequent fire. Their shells reach a considerable distance towards the Greening Bay ravine, and the camp on the right of the Light Division, but are generally perfectly harmless in their effects. No change can be perceived in the disposition of the Russian detachments based on the heights overlooking the ruins of Inkermann and the valley of the Tchernaya. A few days since, a body of Russian troops, about three or four thousand strong, advanced from the Khaner Mackenzie road into the upper part of the valley, but the object of the movement was not apparent. It could hardly serve much purpose as a reconnaissance, on account of the commanding range for observation afforded by the position on the heights above; and it could hardly be expected to succeed, if it were, as some supposed, a bait to tempt an advance of the French against them, for they cover left the cover of some of their batteries. The lower part of the Tchernaya valley is becoming much flooded.

Dec. 4. Heavy and continuous rain fell during the whole of last night, and the surface of the camp ground, where not drained, is reduced to a mere swamp.

The general orders include the following: "Any application made by an officer for the sale of his commission must be accompanied by the following document signed by the officer:

"Having applied for permission to retire from the service, I do hereby authorize the regimental agent, in the event of my application being rejected, to refrain from the proceeds of my commission the usual sum for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the passage of the officer who shall be ordered out to join the service companies in my succession."

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 4.

The stormy and wet weather which has prevailed almost without intermission, since the last mail left, has tried the new roads very severely. They are now in many parts in a very broken and almost impassable condition. This is owing to the peculiar qualities of the limestones of which they are constructed, and the varying nature of the substratum on which the snows have been laid. A very considerable proportion of the limestones found near the surface of that part of the plateau occupied by the troops, is exceedingly brittle and porous, easily flaked, and readily crumbles into a gritty, almost pulverulent, condition on the application of moisture. A moderate degree of pressure with sufficient water, quickly changes this into a mass of soft mud, and the fragments are easily carried away. In other parts, again, the limestones are compact and hard. It can, then, be easily understood how the constant rain and the bringing of so innumerable masses of earth and transport animals, have destroyed, in the new main roads, all that essence of surface which they offered to view while the dry weather lasted. The smaller fragments have been converted into pools of plaster, which have formed wherever depressions in the general level were nearest at hand, while the larger fragments have been hoisted and displaced. Another source of disturbance has sprung from the kinds of soil in which the road has been laid; in some parts the bed consisting of soft alluvial earth, in others of comparatively firm rock. In former cases the road has been ground

down to a certain extent, while in the latter it has maintained its original position. The rain does not drain readily through the peculiar surface soil which is found here; on the contrary, after rain the soil assumes a tough, viscid character, such as is only met with in the most stiff, argillaceous earths in England, and the water lodges in the small hollows on its surface. The deep ditches which have been dug on either side of the roads, for the purpose of carrying off the water from the roads themselves, have not, therefore, proved of such full benefit as might well have been anticipated. These are difficulties which it was not possible to avoid, for, with the exception perhaps that there was not generally sufficient cover given to their surface, the roads were constructed on the best principles and in the most substantial manner. A large body of masons and laborers of the Army Works Corps are already actively at work, and in two or three weeks, should the weather prove as favorable, it is expected that the damage done to the roads by the late rains will in a very great degree be repaired. It has been a matter of surprise that that part of the Worcester road which runs across the plateau should have so long maintained its efficiency; but that highway had acquired firmness from age and certain attention—shown by the care in its drainage, and the large of broken stones placed at certain intervals by the side, to effect repairs as soon as required, on its first occupation by the Allies—and, moreover, was never subjected to the wear and tear by the passage of animals and vehicles in such numbers as the wants of the armies almost uninterceptedly demand, in their respective routes of transport and communication. It also has become greatly out of repair since the late rains.

The erection of the wooden huts has advanced greatly, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather. Various means have been devised to prevent the leakage, which is greatly complained of, and is indeed a serious drawback on the other advantages offered by the more secure shelter and protection of these Crimean barrack-rooms as compared with tents. One among the latest means adopted in the construction of the more used in the Russian batteries either for working the guns, or in the construction of their rope mounds, from oak. Certain quantities have been distributed among the various divisions of the army, and it is to be part of the employment of the prisoners undergoing punishment to pick this rope for the desired purpose. The huts in occupation have been tested in respect to their stability by some very high winds. During the night between the 6th and 6th instant a strong gale from the south prevailed, and some very heavy squalls passed over the camp last night; but though on the first-mentioned occasion several tents were blown over, to that which was completed, much less overthrow. A few huts, only partly erected, suffered from the gale. A little before midnight on the 4th instant a peal of the camp was startled by an alarm of fire, which broke out in one of the huts in the Second Division. The unusual sounds of drums beating the "fall in," and bagpipes sounding the "assembly," at that hour, created a general stir; but the persons were on the alert, the men were quickly at the spot, and the fire soon extinguished. It occurred in the camp of the 4th Regiment, and broke out in a hut used by the quartermaster as a store. Very little damage was effected.

The prevailing wind since the last mail left has been westerly, and the temperature has been remarkably mild. The snow, which had appeared to cover the distant mountains in very extensive patches, and some of the higher ridges entirely, has disappeared altogether. The valley of Inkermann, and the adjoining lower part of the Tchernaya valley, are now covered in a shallow lake, and from the borders of this water an impassable marsh extends between the Fokshin heights occupied by the French on the one hand, to the foot of the lower Mackenzie heights occupied by the enemy on the other.

Of the Russians and their movements, if they are making any, we know nothing in our camp. Their neighbourhood is rendered sufficiently apparent by the fire which they continue to maintain from their forts and batteries on the north side. The excavation done continues to be chiefly against the raised buildings and tettering walls; scarcely any casualties occur among the few soldiers and stragglers who occasionally visit what is left of the city and its suburbs. The bats of the Russian detachments and outposts above Inkermann, and along the Mackenzie ridge, appear to be occupied as fully as they were used to be; and the Comacks who watch the movements of the French videttes among the hills near Oukrova, do not indicate any signs of falling back from that direction.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec 11.

When the last mail left, the surface of the plateau of the Chersonese was a vast pool of mud, notwithstanding all the roads and drains; now it is enveloped by a hard coating of the same material in a frozen and solid condition. The temperature fell to a very low degree last night and the sun, which has been shining all day, has scarcely had power enough to counteract the influence of the northern breeze, and thus even the surface of the frozen ground. The winter seems at length fairly set in. Scarcely any occurrence worthy of record has taken place in the camp; the monotonous routine of the ordinary duties and winter occupations having been broken only by a slight outpost affair between the French and the enemy on the extreme right, and the various rumors which have again sprung up respecting negotiations going on for peace. The serious losses among the transport animals, from overwork while bringing up the huts and winter stores, together with the bad state of the roads and want of sufficient protection against the rain, have again led to the necessity of sending fatigue parties to Bakhkara and on employments which it was anticipated the Transport Corps would have relieved the troops from; but these fatigue duties will be very limited, owing to the accumulation of stores at the commissariat depot, while, after a short period, there is every prospect both of the roads being repaired, and the transport animals being again returned to a state of efficiency and strength. Many complaints are made of the long boots which have been issued to the men; some are said to be very badly fastened together, and already the soles have in many instances become separated from the upper parts of the boot. These boots are worn outside the trousers; they reach up to the knee, and are of very expensive make. The large size is intended to enable the soldier to wear several pairs of socks, and gives many advantages for winter use over boots of more contracted dimensions, but it seems to be in most instances carried to excess. In observing the men walking through the mud, the sole of the boot is certainly seen not to fall flatly on the ground; this is in consequence of the loose upper leather being pushed on one side, either beyond the inside or the outside of the sole, according to the direction of the soldier's feet. The men also state that they admit the wet very freely, notwithstanding the application of grease to the leather, probably through the interstices of the soles. These alleged defects may be worth notice and inquiry, as they are evidently not articles of cheap manufacture. Another point connected with them is, whether, considering all the varied duties of a soldier, they offer the most serviceable kind of protection for the feet and legs. For trench duties, on sentry, or for moving about a camp, when the mud is deep and the soldier is exposed for hours together to constant damps, without being able to take rapid or exhilarating exercise, long and large waterproof boots present many obvious advantages; but in marching, or in other active exercises, these advantages are very questionable. The movement of the foot and ankle are impeded by them, and their weight and looseness become sources of inconvenience. The "savvy" with his walking stick and boot and leather gaiter, seems to be much better provided for active movement and exertion, and equally well protected against damp and mud. Heavy boots and gaiters, or leggings made of leather, seem also to have been found the most efficient in the French service.

The outpost affair alluded to above took place on the 11th instant, towards Bakhkara. The accounts which reached the English camp vary in their details. The generally-accepted report of the circumstance is, that a force consisting of about 1,200 of the enemy's troops, in making a reconnaissance, took a French picket by surprise, and succeeded in making a French officer and 14 men prisoners. The news was given, a force rapidly collected, and the Russians were attacked and repulsed. The French say that in their sharp retreat, the enemy suffered severely, leaving above a hundred killed and sixty (including three officers) prisoners. The French loss consisted of five killed and thirteen wounded in the skirmish, besides the prisoners taken at the first capture.

The Russians kept up an active fire from the north side, while the fire from the French batteries has

been greatly slackened. It is difficult to understand what motives induce the enemy to expend so much shell and shot in completing the destruction of the town and suburbs, which already present little more than a mass of ruin. The injury effected to the few men who enter the ruins in search of wood or other articles amounts to nothing; and, from the various heights occupied by the Russians, both at Inkermann and on the north side of the roadstead, they must be well aware that the winter burning and establishment of the troops watching Sebastopol are now completed on the plateau. It would appear as if the Russians were anxious that no one but themselves should claim the destruction of the final destruction of Sebastopol, and that they were now bent on leveling those portions which had escaped the effects of the flames and gunpowder by which they had hoped to annihilate the whole at the time of their celebrated retreat. It has been suggested that these projectiles are accumulated stores which are thus used, rather than that they should be at some future day destroyed to no purpose, or fall into our hands. There is still a strong suspicion that the abandonment of the north side and the destruction of its forts, is only a continuation of time. In a strategic point of view its occupation will be of little importance when the spring operations commence, and the movements of the Allies take place on a wider field than circumstances have hitherto permitted them to do. The object of the Russian commander will thus be to concentrate his force as much as possible, and he will probably fall back upon some of the strong positions which he now holds in the interior of the Crimea. Although the fire from the north side has been very active during the past week against the Karabelin battery, as well as the parts of Sebastopol occupied by the French, only two men of the 3rd Buffs have been wounded, and they not seriously. A man of the 10th Royal Irish was drowned on the night of the 10th inst. by falling into one of the perpendicular shafts excavated with a view to the destruction of the upper docks. In some of these shafts water has risen to such an extent as to require the aid of pumps to admit of the necessary progress in the work. All the preparations, however, are now completed. A bomb-proof shed has been constructed outside the docks, in which the galvanic apparatus will be worked, to transmit the electric spark and explode the several mines. The signals are now required, and in a brief space of time the whole of the magnificent docks of Sebastopol, or which so much thought, labour, time, and money have been expended, can be blown into a shapeless heap of ruin.

On the 11th instant Captain A. W. Fraser, of the 63rd Regiment, was killed with the usual military honors, at the cemetery on Calver's Hill. A large number of officers of the Fourth Division followed. He was wounded in the knee by the accidental discharge of his pistol while he was examining the progress of the work. Amputation of the limb was performed subsequently to his return to the Crimea, but he sank under its effects, and died on the 5th instant at the General Hospital, near Bakhkara. He was a young officer, lately promoted, and much respected in his regiment.

There is a rumor in camp that Field-Marshal Pelissier is to leave immediately for Paris. Whether the presence of the French Commander-in-Chief is required for consultation respecting the future operations of the campaign, or whether, as some allege, his departure is connected with overtures of peace, and the consequent discussions they are likely to lead to, are matters merely of surmise. There can be little doubt that in one or two instances personal communication will explain more clearly the real positions and prospects of the respective armies than official telegraphic messages and replies, or numerous long despatches however lengthened. At the same time no operations of importance can now take place in the field, until after the end of the present season.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec 4.

There is a report here that Erzerum, the capital of Turkish Armenia, has fallen before the Russian forces under General Muraviev, and that Tabriz is threatened. It is not believed, but it is now travel fast, and the account of the surrender of Kars, which reached the Crimea very shortly after its occurrence, did not at first receive credence in this camp. We cannot understand how the necessary artillery and provisions could have been moved at this season of the year, even if the army could have marched over a tract of country intersected by mountains and covered by snow. Moreover, it is understood that the Turkish forces distributed in and around Erzerum amount to an army of about 20,000 men, independent of the troops operating under Omar Pasha in Mignolia. Should Erzerum have fallen, the gate to the victors will have been immense, for it contains a vast amount of military stores and munitions. There is a talk of a mixed force of French and English troops leaving the Crimea for Erzerum or Trabzon, but nothing seems to be decided; nor is it known what divisions would be likely to move, in case it were thought necessary to dispatch a force there. No notice of readiness for any orders on the subject have been issued. The condition in each person's mind seems to be that the Russian general is more likely to fortify and secure his newly-acquired position at Kars, than to attempt any further operations at this season of the year.

In consequence of the supposed difficulties of Omar Pasha's position it was determined a few days since, to despatch Lieutenant Colonel the Hon. P. Polking, of the Coldstream Guards, in the Russian steamer, to ascertain particulars. As Colonel Polking was riding to Bakhkara for the purpose of embarking, his horse slipped and fell, and one of his legs, on which the animal relied, was so severely bruised that he was unable to proceed on his mission. The Russian left, however, and has now returned, bringing despatches from the Turkish generalissimo. According to these, his position is sufficiently secure, and he has no present necessity for reinforcements or assistance.

Part of the three Karabelin Docks, the destruction of which has been entrusted to the English engineers, has been blown up. They have not been destroyed simultaneously as it was anticipated they would be. It is understood that the entrance of the water into the shafts and galleries has prevented this operation from being carried into effect. One of the three docks remains entire, and the sides of the other two have still to be destroyed. The Commander-in-Chief went down on Wednesday, the 2nd instant, to witness the blowing up of the floor of one of the docks. It was expected to take place at half past four p.m.; but the explosion did not occur till two hours after the time stated. The sound of the explosion scarcely reached the camp, or if it did, was mistaken for one of the usual Russian shells from the north side. The floor and foundations of two of these docks are now a heap of ruins.

There is scarcely anything but the usual routine of drill, parades, and duties going on in the camp. Target practice is being carried on very actively. The weather, until the last twenty-four hours, has continued dry and fine, and the surface of the roads has been in excellent order for the passage of vehicles and horses. A considerable number of soldiers are being taken from each division of the army to act as drivers in the Land Transport Corps until the regulated number is completed by reinforcements from England. At the same time the Turks, Greeks, and the rest of the infantry crew in whose care the valuable transport animals of the British army have been hitherto in great part consigned, are gradually being removed from their charge. Now that the washing of the transport animals is nearly completed in all the divisions, there ought soon to be rendered a very much more favorable account of their efficiency than

was lately given. Some of the poor males and horses still appear ready to require "medical boards," or recommendations from any other source, for leave of absence to some spot where milder air and fresher sustenance could be procured. Why should not a veterinary depot and hospital be established in some favourable region, with horse-transport steamers properly fitted up, for conveyance and constant inter-communication? If the amount of loss were calculated which arises from the deaths among the transport animals in the field, the greater part being disabled in the first instance simply by sore backs, it might be found that the probable saving would justify the necessary outlay for such an establishment.

Colonel Lefroy, Royal Artillery, who has been sent out on a special mission by the Minister of War, to leave the Crimea in a day or two, on his return to England. It is understood that the object of his journey to the East has been to investigate and compare the expenditure of the various civil and military hospitals established in the army.

During part of yesterday there was a thaw, and some slight rain fell. The temperature fell towards night, and it commenced to snow. This morning the ground was covered a foot deep or upwards. This has afforded immense amusement to the men, who immediately set to work and erected mimic fortifications in various parts of the camp. Amusements, games, riddles, and battles rose in all directions; rat stores and piles of white shot were rapidly accumulated, wing challenges given, or regiment challenged; regiment leaders were chosen, flags waved, and the old motto of "Stand to your arms," "Forward," &c., were again heard. In some of these sham fights the same ardour might be witnessed, which was not long since exhibited in contests of a more deadly nature. Communications were made under flags of truce. Prisoners were captured, and in many of the actions the number taken seemed to decide the victory; the remnants being driven ignominiously by overpowered numbers to seek shelter in their huts, or escape in flight across the camp. No serious kind occurred.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 7.

A gale has been blowing from the south-west all day across the camp. It sprang up shortly before daylight, and gradually increased in intensity as the day advanced; now it appears to be subsiding. The huts have withstood the high wind well, and sufficient warning was given to secure all the huts which weak on the ground against overthrow. The temperature has been mild, and the snow, which for some days past had been lying in a deep layer on the ground, has been melting and disappearing in vapour streams along the ravines sloping down toward the rearward. Yesterday, on the other hand, it was severely cold. The vapour rising from the Black Sea was condensed into a thick mist, which being driven over the plateau by a particularly wild, enveloped the camps in a dense white fog. The enemy appeared to think that this might be taken advantage of, in effecting some short-cut from the north side. It is understood that, as soon as practicable, steps will be taken to blow up and completely destroy the ships which were sunk by the Russians at the time of the evacuation of the south side of Sebastopol. The masts of some of the line-of-battle ships remain visible above the water, just as when the vessels were first submerged. If the opportunity were given, there seems little doubt but that some of the sunken ships could be brought ashore by the Russians, and, at any rate, much valuable property could be recovered by them without much expenditure of labour or money. The spiked line of ships across the mouth of the harbour serves as a breakwater, and protects the vessels which were submerged further up the road-

stead from a great deal of the injury to which they would otherwise be constantly subjected by the agitation of the waves during westerly gales. Collections are being made in the various regiments, in accordance with appeals from the Commander-in-Chief and Generals of Divisions, towards the Nightingale Fund. Both officers and men are responding with alacrity, and not a few are anxious to show their estimation of the devoted lady to whose memory the tribute is made by increasing the amount of subscription which has been generally suggested by the superior officers—namely, one day's pay. Many a man now serving in the field, who has not forgotten his strength to the care of Miss Nightingale and her nurses, at a time when the medical officers had no means at their command for procuring the necessary comforts and "appointments" for the sick, which were supplied from the skilled kindness of Sister, nor any way of obtaining the required help and attendance, which were freely given by the ladies and nurses themselves. These things seem to be gratefully remembered by the men, and it may be anticipated that the subscription from the soldiers in the Crimea will form an inconsiderable item in the list of names sent to the fund.

There is literally no snow in the camp. The only one of worth mention is, in a recess that Sir Colin Campbell, who is expected to arrive very shortly, is to have a separate and independent command of two divisions, and that the seat of war in Asia is likely to be the field of his operations.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, JAN. 12.

The scenery of camp life in the Crimea has not been broken by any event worthy of record during the past week. When the last mail left, on the morning of the 8th instant, it was blowing almost a gale from the south-west, and the snow, which covered the ground in some places upwards of a foot in depth, was melting rapidly. Now the snow has wholly disappeared from the surface of the plateau, and on the distant mountains it has very sensibly diminished in quantity. On the open ground, between the deserted earthworks of Sebastopol, and the long streets and villages of wooden huts which occupy the sites of the former tented encampments, large green patches of new vegetation are noticed, and many of the earlier hollow places are shooting up. This will sufficiently show the mildness of the temperature during the week. The wind has continued from the south-west or west, and, according to the 10th instant, has been blowing heavily. Yesterday it was accompanied with clouds and squalls of rain. Should the wind veer to the northward, in all probability the scene will be wholly changed in a few hours. Instead of wearing the aspect and giving the sensations of spring, the weather will have all the characteristics of winter. From being 15 or 20 degrees above the freezing point, as the thermometer has been lately, it will fall considerably below it. Instead of rain there will be snow. The troops who for some days past have been drilling, or marching, in red coats and serge caps, will find it necessary to resume their winter great-coats and fur helmets. The rapid changes in temperature, and the great degree of variation generally induced by an altered direction of the currents of air, are among the most striking features in the climate of this part of the Crimea.

The roads are invariably in a bad condition. Constant attention appears to be paid, however, to filling up holes as they occur, scraping off the accumulations of mud, and keeping the drains clear. The traffic upon them is immense and constant, especially near Bahkleva, where the Saracines and French use the roads as well as our own troops. The road police are found to be very serviceable in maintaining order, and enforcing the regulations for the passage to and fro of the lines of vehicles, transport animals, and fatigue parties of men. The appearance and condition of the transport

animals are fast improving. They are experiencing the advantages of better shelter, for they are now nearly all shined. One of the simplest, and, it is said, healthiest kinds of winter shelter for the transport animals is found to be of the following description—That stone walls are raised so as to form a large enclosure, or in whatever direction may be most convenient, having at certain intervals upright beams of wood fixed in them of the same height as the walls themselves. These pillars are, as it were, part of each wall, dividing the pressure and serving to support it in compartments, and thus rendering less urgent necessary. They also serve as points to which flat boards are nailed along the top of the wall, and from which, on either side, sloping shed roofs, sufficiently long to protect the animals, are carried to proper supports. On the outside a simple framework is found sufficient, and this can be easily made by a plank being nailed horizontally between each two supports, about half way down, the lower half being closed to by the staves of hoops placed upright at certain intervals. The refuse from the stables may be heaped against and form a wall as high as the staves, when no other protection will be required. The natural heat thrown out by the long line of animals keeps the shed sufficiently warm, clothing being put on each male or horse when the low temperatures render additional covering desirable. By this arrangement, one wall, which may be easily raised where loose fragments of stone abound, is made to serve as the support of two lines of stables, which can be kept clean and dry without much trouble. The animals, moreover, while sufficiently protected against severe cold, are not rendered so susceptible of injury from being subsequently picketed out when employed in active campaigning, as they are likely to be in some of the stable huts which are also in use here. The sick animals have not the same chance of recovering strength here as they would have in situations where excellent food and other advantages of a milder climate could be obtained. The reserve of transport animals, however, in Turkey, is said to be in good order, and to be rapidly increasing, large numbers of males having been lately purchased by the British government for transmission to the East. The apprehension, therefore, which was generally expressed a short time since, that our Transport establishment might be found very deficient for operations in the spring, may now prove to be without any foundation. The present Director-General of the Transport Department, Colonel Wetherall, is making great exertions to bring it into an efficient state. Six hundred carts for the Transport Corps have been loaded during the present week.

It would have been of great advantage if some of the suggestions which have been made at home for reading beds, with sufficient fuel and light to render them useful, could have been carried out. In some respects, especially in the evening, the caissons are still the most attractive places to which the soldier can go. The ration of candle is a very limited one, and many circumstances combine to render more light a great desideratum in the soldier's barrack rooms. Candles are among the dearest articles here, and it has often been a matter of surprise that more had not been sent from England for purposes of sale. The tallow candles sold at the caissons and stores are Turkish; the stearic candles, generally of a very ordinary quality, are of Austrian or French manufacture. The Austrian candles are weakly found in the caissons attached to the regiments in the English camps. They are carefully packed in parcels, each weighing one pound, and containing six candles. These candles are sold to the men at sixpence each. The Turkish tallow is very soft and bad, and candles made from it are seldom kept in the caissons, where they are not easily preserved. The men use also melted fat in their rooms for light; they place it in tin receptacles, into which they insert

a piece of cotton or rag, to serve as a wick. At the Engineer Park a large hospital hut has been converted into a lecture-room, and lectures have been delivered there. The Sappers have the advantage of being nearly all handiermen, so that they can easily construct many things which are required for purposes of lecture, but which are not so readily obtained elsewhere. Attempts are being made, however, in several divisions to institute courses of lectures for the men; and, as huts have been given over to the respective chaplains to serve as churches, these will no doubt be available for the purpose. Many of these church-huts are now conspicuous for their great wooden spires or small bell-towers—common without walls.

In the early part of the week the destruction of the remaining portions of the three Karabelina docks in charge of the English engineers was effected. The Commander of the Forces went down to witness the explosion, and, in consequence of some defect in the electric apparatus, a delay occurred, and General Colingwood was absent without seeing the destruction achieved. It was subsequently accomplished, though not so completely as was desired. Part of the great basin still remains to be destroyed.

The Russians have postponed their fire from the north side, and a few cannonballs have occurred among men fetching stores from the ruins of the town.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, JAN. 13.

During the last three or four days the camp on the extreme right have been on the alert, in the expectation of an attack from the enemy. Rumour fixed upon the 12th instant, the Russian New Year's day, as the probable date of this event. Nothing more than usual transpired, however, nor did observation of the enemy's position indicate any signs of movement. In the course of the morning of the 12th General Colingwood rode over towards Inkermann to reconnoitre, attended by two of his staff, and, as usual, a single orderly dragoon. The limited number of his escort forms a striking contrast with the brilliant cavalcade which generally announces the approach of Marshal Pélissier, or even with the escort which ordinarily accompanies a French general commanding a corps d'armée or division.

There has been a sudden and remarkable change in the weather. When the last mail left it was difficult to believe, judging from the temperature and appearance of everything around, that spring had not already arrived. On Saturday, the 12th, the sun shone brightly, and the weather was so mild and fine that the winter clothing was universally laid aside. The following day we had mild and constant rain until evening, when the wind, which had been previously blowing from the west, changed to the northward. The thermometer fell rapidly, and yesterday morning at nine o'clock indicated only 19 deg. F. above zero. The temperature continued very low all day, and, being accompanied with a strong wind from the north, the cold was felt very severely. Snow found its way through every crack and crevice of the wooden dwellings, and every precaution was necessary in the open air to prevent frost-bite. The roads, which were previously in an exceedingly muddy and uneven condition, became suddenly and severely frozen, and have since been trying enough to the transport animals and passengers from their hardness, irregular, and slippery surface. The troops everywhere appear very healthy and vigorous, notwithstanding these sudden variations of climate. Some of the French troops in the plain are reported to be suffering from a form of scurvy disease.

No occurrence of note has taken place in the camp. A few days ago a French officer wandering too near the Tcherany River, in pursuit of game, was shot dead by a Russian sharpshooter. Two English officers, who had managed to get in front of the French entrenchments in the same valley, had a narrow escape of a similar fate the day

the several divisions, and the increased care exhibited in the transport establishments, testify to better management or supervision somewhere.

A weekly horse-fair, for the convenience of officers, has been established in a central situation between the Bazar in rear of the Fourth Division known as "Little Kadikov," or "The English Bazar," to distinguish it from the French Bazar on the Worcester-road, and the Iron Bazaar. A place, to be called "The Corner," has been set apart for these sales, a sergeant appointed as auctioneer, and the other arrangements completed and rules printed. The first sale is to take place to-morrow; the plan is intended to meet a want which has been extensively felt in the camp, both by officers leaving the field and desiring to part with horses or baggage animals, and new comers wishing to purchase them. The situation is well chosen. The main military road from Bakhkara to the front passes close to it, and it is here intersected by two other roads: on the one hand, leading to Inkerman, on the other towards the English and French headquarters. The railroad also divides here, to branch towards the Engineers' camp on the left, and the Worcester road, near the Light Division, on the right.

The announcement that three regiments of Imperial Guard are to be formed from officers and men at present serving in the line regiments in the field has excited much attention among the French troops. The honorable nature of the service, and the superior pay and advantages, have stimulated a strong desire among them to be selected for admission into the ranks of this distinguished body. It is understood that the selection are to be determined by merit only. Good military character, as well as physical endowments, distinguished acts of bravery, length of service in campaigning, superior attainments in scientific knowledge, and knowledge of languages, are to regulate the choice of officers of all ranks. The men will also be chosen on the same principles. These three regiments, comprising nine battalions, are to continue on service with the army in the East, and on this account many officers who would have hesitated to accept service in the regiments which have lately moved to France are now anxious to join the ranks of the Imperial Guard here. It is said that the three regiments about to be organized will consist of three battalions or one regiment of Grenadiers, and six battalions or two regiments of Voltigeurs. A depot for each regiment will at the same time be organized in France. Although it is understood that the selections for the regiments are to be made very shortly, it seems doubtful whether the actual formation and clothing of the regiments can possibly take place before the spring campaign opens.

The weather has continued mild. Southerly and westerly winds have prevailed since the last mail left. Yesterday afternoon and during last night a considerable quantity of rain fell, producing its usual effects on the roads and peculiar mud of the plateau.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, JAN. 26.

It is stated that during the heavy fire which was opened late on Sunday night, the 20th Infantry, from the batteries on that part of the Malakof's Ridge which abuts on the Tcherassy Valley, the Russians made a reconnaissance near the Upper Tcherassy, and had a collision with some of the French corps stationed in that direction. The account given is that the night, although misty, was sufficiently moonlit to prevent the enemy advancing across the upper part of the Tcherassy Valley without being observed, and that they themselves approached by the broken, irregular hills which project towards the angle formed by the junction of the stream of the Tcherassy and the Tcherassy River. They came upon the French pickets suddenly, who, observing that the Russians were in force, and strongly sup-

ported, immediately retired. They fell back upon Traktir and Tcherassy. The alarm being given, the French were quickly under arms, and, assuming the offensive, succeeded in cutting off the retreat of a small body of the enemy, who remained prisoners in their hands. It is very difficult to ascertain the facts connected with these important affairs now that the communications are so bad, and obscured in consequence of the prevailing wet weather and deep mud. For a time, while the fire from the batteries along the Malakof's ridge was in its furthest, the bursting of shells in the air and whizz of shots recalled the old sounds when the siege operations were in progress; and many troops of the French regiments encamped along the east edge of the plateau assembled to watch the firing. The French batteries on the Malakof's heights did not reply, neither did the new works constructed in the valley, between the heights and the river, open fire. The last two days the Russians have been firing rather constantly at these works, four of which are completed, and must be plainly visible from the Russian position. To enable them to reach the French works the more easily, the enemy has raised two small batteries on the slope of the more western of the two rounded hills, which are connected with the cliff wall abutting in the Tcherassy valley on the north, and which appear like two large buttresses attached to it. By these means the Russians have contrived to reach the more advanced of the French batteries with solid shot, but they have not been able to effect any damage. The batteries are evidently intended chiefly to sweep the valley and protect the French position on the Malakof's heights in case circumstances should favour an advance of the Russians towards that direction. They are too low to operate with much advantage against the troops on the Malakof's heights. At present, therefore, while the whole valley is little more than an inundated marsh, there is no object in keeping troops in these works, and the Russian shot falls harmlessly into the earth of which they are constructed. A new redoubt, which the French have constructed on the heights above the Inkerman Pass, as it is chiefly commands the Tcherassy Valley, appears destined for the same object. It is beyond the General Rodowik, in a westerly direction, and seems intended to receive a powerful armament.

The rumor of Russia having accepted the propositions of the Allied Powers with a view to a cessation of hostilities has met with little favor in camp. The Russian transport Tchernaya, which arrived on the evening of the following day, brought private letters which stated that telegraphic intelligence had reached Constantinople from Vienna of the terms having been accepted, and it was also reported by some of the passengers that at the time of the Italian leaving Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was holding an interview with the Sultan on the subject. Another mail has arrived this afternoon, and the despatches brought by it may probably set the question at rest. The belief in a cessation of hostilities being close at hand has given rise to various reports respecting the movements and destinations of the several divisions of the army. Some of these are stated to be determined on in case of peace being declared, but they are scarcely worthy of notice at present.

The blasting of some further portions of the Karabelia Docks in charge of the English engineers took place on the 25th inst. Some time after the explosion, when it was supposed that all the smoke and deleterious gases had been dissipated, some men descended a shaft to proceed with the mining operations. The shaft communicated with a gallery where the poisonous vapors, as was proved by the effects, were still noticed, for the men had no sooner reached the bottom of the shaft than they were seized with violent coughing, and, in addition, the symptoms which mark poisoning by charcoal gas. The men who were brought into the open air soon recovered most quickly, but in the instance of one soldier of the 89th Regiment, who was for some time in the shaft, all efforts to restore animation were fruitless. An example of great personal courage and disinterested energy is quoted in connection with the attempt to save the life of this unfortunate soldier. A man of the 18th Royal Irish Regiment, who was one of those to descend the shaft, had himself been seized with giddiness and loss of

their power than they have been at any time since the army was first collected and formed. With good generalship and prudent administration, a new campaign must add glory to the British name, in whatever field the exercise of British strength and valor might be required, and the fruits of the early victories of Alma and Inkerman be increased by the fresh achievements and labors of the men who were never better, and we hope that the good generalship is also present to turn these to the best account. We are present to turn these to the best account. We are present to turn these to the best account.

Yesterday an order of the day was published by Marshal Pélissier announcing to the French army that several officers having obtained leave of absence, that several applications for the indulgence would be received, in consequence of the close approach of spring and the incertainties respecting the period when active operations might be resumed. This is, perhaps, simply a precautionary order to prevent unnecessary correspondence, but hardly appears consistent with the belief that a cessation of hostilities is close at hand.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, JAN. 26.

Although a general belief prevails that the conditions of peace laid down by the Allied Powers have been accepted by Russia without exception or reserve — *par sit motu*, of *sans réserve* — according to Marshal Pélissier's despatch, yet it is known that no official confirmation of the news was sent from the British ambassador at Constantinople to General Codrington by the mail which arrived on the 26th instant. The steam transport Tchernaya, which arrived on the evening of the following day, brought private letters which stated that telegraphic intelligence had reached Constantinople from Vienna of the terms having been accepted, and it was also reported by some of the passengers that at the time of the Italian leaving Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was holding an interview with the Sultan on the subject. Another mail has arrived this afternoon, and the despatches brought by it may probably set the question at rest. The belief in a cessation of hostilities being close at hand has given rise to various reports respecting the movements and destinations of the several divisions of the army. Some of these are stated to be determined on in case of peace being declared, but they are scarcely worthy of notice at present.

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consciousness, and some time elapsed before he was recovered. He had no sooner regained his senses, however, than observing the absence of the man of the dock, who, he was aware, had gone into the shaft, he seized a rope, and went on the perilous errand of searching for him. He succeeded in bringing him up, but it was too late; he was quite dead from suffocation. Some detached portions of the masonry of the docks will remain to be blown up, and the rest of the docks will remain to be blown up. Our engineers explain that, by this piecemeal destruction, a more complete breaking up of the structures and foundations of the docks has been effected; the destruction on the French side, it is asserted, has not been so thorough and extensive.

A large number of men of the Siege-train Artillery have left camp to proceed to England. It was arranged that seventeen companies should return. In order to secure all men going to whose health the voyage and stay in England might be beneficial, the weakly men and oldest campaigners were selected, not only from the siege force, but also from the garrisons of the dock batteries. These men were drafted into the companies of the siege train going home, and replaced by the more robust artillerymen from the latter service. A double advantage will thus be gained; the siege train companies who are no longer required here will comprise men to all of whom the change to England will be beneficial, and the Artillery force remaining in the field will consist of all the strong and picked men.

On Saturday, the 26th, twenty-six *troups*, chiefly belonging to the Light Division, who had been ordered to the final assault on the Great Redoubt, landed from her Majesty's steamer "Fowler" at Kerch. They left Odessa on the morning of the 23rd instant. They were accompanied by seventeen men of the 10th Hussars who fell into the steamer's hands at Kerch, by a few sailors, and by one of the ship-stewards who accompanied Lieutenant Goussard, and was captured at Kerch. The POWsland called at Kinburn on his way to Kerch. The men who were taken prisoners at the attack on the Great Redoubt were hurriedly sent to the north shore, and even after reaching Fort Mikhailoff on the north shore, they were in frequent danger from our shot and shell. They were detained two days in an enclosed fort on the north shore, immediately above Fort Mikhailoff, and then removed to Simpheropol. After a short stay there, they were marched to Simpheropol, where they were kept one month, and then sent to Odessa. At Odessa they remained during the time they passed at Odessa. According to reports brought by the officers of the Biberstedt, peace was confidently expected by the merchants at that port when the vessel left.

It is painful to have to relate that another case has occurred in the army which will lead to a general court-martial for alleged murder. The two instances which recently occurred, and which terminated in such case in a verdict of manslaughter, excited great attention, the more so perhaps that the British force has hitherto been remarkably free from crimes of violence. Remembering the circumstances under which this large army has been placed, it has been a capital punishment has yet been furnished by it. It is indeed that the power to make this credible assertion will shortly come. If true as related, the circumstances under which the serious offense should be considered are of a very aggravated nature. A young soldier of the 7th Regiment, under instruction from a corporal of his regiment for wounds inflicted by himself on his hand, with a view to render himself unfit for military service. He had been ordered by a court-martial for selling some government property, and had been sentenced to a certain punishment for this offense. It was subsequent to this trial, that he took a razor, and, drawing it across his fingers, tried to mutilate himself so that he might not in future be able to handle a musket. He was placed under the surgeon's care for these wounds. With him in hospital, was an artilleryman belonging to the right siege train, who had been severely wounded in the chest at the great explosion on the 16th November last, by the bursting of a shell. This artilleryman, whose injuries were very

severe, and who was recovering but slowly, was placed in a hut by himself, for the advantage of better air and special treatment. The soldier of the 77th, whose wounds across the fingers did not prevent him from walking about, sometimes went, it appears, into the hospital hut. On Friday evening, the 29th, he went in and borrowed a small sum of money from the artilleryman. The latter kept his money under his pillow, and while handing the shilling or two which he had been asked for, showed at the same time a number of sovereigns which he had in his purse. The sight of this money, twelve pounds, acted as the temptation to the crime which followed. The following morning, taking an opportunity when all the hospital attendants were away from the hut, and fancying apparently that his victim was asleep, the 77th soldier seized a bar of iron, and aimed a blow at the artilleryman's head. He was awake, however, or roused, and had time both to call out "murder," and to raise his arm. The arm was broken, and the second blow struck him, but the alarm brought the hospital surgeon in to the hut before the perpetrator of the crime could effect his escape. A struggle ensued, but the victim was quickly secured, and is now a prisoner awaiting trial for murder. The artilleryman escaped till the afternoon of the day following that on which he was assaulted, and then died. There may be doubts raised on the trial to what extent the soldier's death was owing to the consequences of the injuries he had received at the time of the explosion, and how far attributable to the direct injuries received on the 29th inst., but the apparently evident motives of the aggression, his previous very bad character, and a feeling which appears to have been had even by the commander-in-chief, that the sentence of the court-martial in a recent instance was too lenient, may cause the extreme penalty, should the court-martial find the prisoner guilty of murder, to be carried into effect. It is stated that the prisoner—who has not long retired in the 77th Regiment—has acknowledged to have enlisted for the purpose of escaping from the consequences of a robbery he had committed in England.

The weather has continued remarkably mild. Southerly and westerly winds have prevailed. To-day it has been blowing almost a gale, with great advantage to the camp ground, for, excepting in places where the sand was very deep, the surface has become solid and dry, and capable of being traversed by foot passengers, which scarcely was possible before. The roads are in good order.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 2.

As may be readily imagined, the chief subject of interest and conversation in the camps, as well of our allies as of ourselves, since my last letter, has been the question of peace. The intervals which have elapsed between the arrival of the several mail messengers have lately appeared to be double in length, and never, since it first broke down, has the absence of the telegraphic communication with the western continent of Turkey been so much missed. On the 29th ultimo a despatch reached the Commander-in-Chief, from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, confirming the intelligence which had been previously communicated through the French ambassador to Marshal Pellissier. The absence of a letter from the British ambassador had before caused some doubt as to the authenticity of the telegraphic news sent to the French authorities. It is now explained that Lord Stratford was unwilling to write on the subject to General Cobden, until he had satisfied himself established the fact that no misunderstanding or torkery were connected with the telegraphic reports sent to Constantinople. The mail which arrived on the 31st brought us newspapers from London up to the 19th of January, but they have by no means established what was previously stated, that all the terms of peace had been concluded, without reserve or chance of interruption from further negotiations. We are therefore still in doubt on the issue of this important subject, and are anxiously looking for further intelligence from Vienna. In the meantime, so there is a general belief that the negotiations will not improbably lead in

the end, to a cessation of further hostilities, speculations are rife as to the probable movements of this army consequent upon it. It is not believed that, under the most favourable circumstances, the removal of the main body of the forces could be commenced before April, and a long time must then elapse before the vast stores and material which have been accumulated with the army could be carried away. There is a prevailing idea that the several divisions of the army will not be broken up, under any circumstances, for a twelvemonth or so, and that not improbably three or four will be retained in Turkey until all the Russian engagements connected with the cession of territory at the mouth of the Danube, and the other points insisted on by the Allies, shall have been carried into execution. Suvarof and Semyra have been talked of as likely to be sites occupied by British troops. All these speculations may prove to be premature. The preparations for taking the field against the enemy are therefore not neglected. The general drill and rifle practice are being actively pursued. The generals of some divisions are now engaged in making close inspections of the regiments under their command. A grand review of the whole army by the Commander-in-Chief is also talked of, to take place as soon as the state of the ground and weather permit.

On Tuesday evening, the 29th of January, occurred the heaviest fire which has yet been directed from the north side against the town and suburbs of Sebastopol. While it lasted it reminded one forcibly of those sudden commotions which occasionally occurred in the trenches when a number of batteries were roused into unusual activity by a sortie on one side or the other. This resemblance was the more striking to those who were near the scene of this unexpected bombardment, but not in a position to look down on the harbour and forts on the north shore, because, in addition to the vivid reflections of light in the atmosphere, the whizz of the shot and the clang of bursting shells were mixed with the sharp reports of musketry. These were distinctly audible at the commencement of the fire. The bombardment commenced about half-past 6 o'clock. It began with a rapid fire from a battery towards the head of the harbour, and quickly spread into a furious cannonade from all the forts and batteries on the north side—from Fort Constantine to the works near Inkermann. The fire appeared to be concentrated on that part of the Karabelnia suburb where the docks now lie in ruins, and the part of Sebastopol immediately behind Fort Nicholas. Very few of the projectiles fell into the heart of the town of Sebastopol, or to the east of the dockyard. Many fell into the water at the entrance of the south harbour, and into the Karabelnia port, so frequently indeed was heard the "plump" of solid shot and the loud splash from fragments of shells in this direction that some were led to surmise that the Russians were anticipating either our being so incautious as to make an attack on the opposite side, or that we were engaged in operations for the purpose of blowing up some of the wooden ships of the entrance to the South harbour. When the batteries first opened, a sentry near Fort Paul, or rather the keep of cross which was once Fort Paul, gave the alarm that he saw a number of boats crossing the harbour. He thought he saw fifteen or sixteen boats, and subsequently others of the guard supported his assertion. A musketry fire was poured in the direction along which the boats were supposed to be advancing, and there were the small arms which were heard by the outlying pickets and in parts of the camp.

The night was misty, and the stars were hidden by clouds, so that the Fort Paul guard may have been readily deceived in supposing they saw boats in the harbour. Even the sudden, rapidly repeated flashes of light may have encouraged the mistaken idea, if it was due, by throwing into prolonged shadows the part of the fragments of the wooden ships which rise to a certain distance out of the water. Subsequent observation by others could not detect the boats, and admit it is, that if there were any in the first instance, they retired speedily on finding the garrison of the Karabelnia on the alert. The more probable cause of the extraordinary fire from the north side is that the Russians had observed lights, and probably heard sounds of working parties, about Fort Nicholas. For some days past the French have been busily employed in undermining in the neighbourhood, and engaged in operations which, it is understood, are preparatory to the destruction of that

extensive and formidable fort by explosion. Tunnels of gunpowder have been conveyed towards it, and as they have been taken down in the daytime they have been very probably noticed by the look-out men on the opposite side of the bay. It is known, too, that from time to time, on dark nights, Russian boats move about the harbour, and approach the south side, for the purpose of making observations of our movements. They could not readily fail by some of these means to notice that some work was in progress at Fort Nicholas, and might have hoped by the sudden and severe fire to have taken the troops engaged in it by surprise, and to have caused not merely interruption to the progress of the work, but also a serious number of casualties in addition. This seems a more reasonable explanation of the bombardment than that it was intended to cover a night reconnoissance, or to commit chance havoc among the troops which the discovery had caused to be collected in the neighbourhood. Whatever the object, however, or in whatever way the fire was intended to effect less to the troops supposed to be subjected to it, it proved a signal failure, for it was harmless to all excepting some of the shattered rails which it reduced further to destruction. Although the bombardment lasted about an hour only, the garrison of the Karabelnia continued under arms, as well as the various garrisons in the neighbourhood, for several hours afterwards. They were not dismissed till 2 a.m., when all was quiet. Although ready to act at a moment's notice in case of emergency, they were well secured by their position against the enemy's fire. One of the town-major, Capt. James Dewar, of the 49th Regiment, had a narrow escape. A heavy solid shot, weighing 12lb., penetrated the roof of the house which he occupied, and alighted in a room which he had just quitted to join the troops, who were assembling near the dockyard; had he remained in the apartment ten minutes later than he did, he could scarcely have escaped with his life. The heavy fire of this cannonade attracted many from the camp to the ridges above overlooking the harbour and north side. The spectacle from these points of view was very fine. Each gun, as it was fired, threw a momentary glare over its immediate neighbourhood, and lit up the surface of the rounds. The prominent buildings of the town, the surrounding hills, the assembled groups, appeared and disappeared each instant. Flash followed flash in rapid succession—more rapidly than the eye could turn from one end of the north heights to the other, to observe the work from which it proceeded. Shells from the summit of Fort Constantine, and from all the forts and batteries close up to Inkermann, hurried through the air. Occasionally, as many as twelve or fifteen fiery meteors were flying forward at the same instant, all converging towards the same point. No sooner did a bright flash appear than, the moment after, the spot from whence it issued leaped into complete darkness, and so it remained until another flash, equally vivid, illuminated the spot. The distance caused the sounds of the successive discharges to reach the ear, long after the flames which had accompanied them, had passed from the sight. To the usual uproar of the artillery, and the ordinary whizzing rattle of the shot, increasing in force the nearer they approached, there were added the peculiar crashing noises of falling masonry, solidifying through the empty streets of the town and suburb, and, every now and then, the dull heavy thump of the shot, as they struck the water in the harbour. Turning from the scene of the bombardment, every thing seemed to be impenetrable darkness and obscurity, one spot alone excepted. This was in the direction of the Malaklava valley, where either a burning hut, or a watch-tower larger than usual, cast a red glare in the sky.

Should the report prove true, that an armistice is to be immediately announced, this may be the last of the many bombardments by which these hills have been so frequently shaken since the beginning of the siege operations. Among other suggestions, one has been that news of the approaching armistice had already reached the Russian garrison, and that the boats shot and sunk in the batteries were fired on this occasion as a final blow or parting salute. There was some encouragement given to this idea, for, after the cannonade ceased, not a shot was fired all night, nor even the following morning at the hour when the Russians are aware from their facilities of observing that the guards are relieved, and when they usually fire more heavily than at any other hour of the day. It was only towards noon that a

shell was fired at a straggling party getting wood, and this was subsequently succeeded by an occasional dropping shot for the remainder of the day. The night of the 30th passed off quietly, and there has been scarcely any firing worth speaking of since. I omitted to mention that on the night of Monday, the 29th, about 11 o'clock, there was a heavier fire than usual from the north side, but, besides occupied with the bombardment which occurred on the succeeding night. This lasted till nearly midnight. Some brigades of troops had been at drill on the slopes of Green-hill and Frenchman's-hill during the morning in sight of the north heights, and the firing at night led to the supposition that the enemy had suspected these troops had entered the town. It now seems more probable that they had observed, on this occasion also, lights through the embrasures of Fort Nicholas, and had, as they usually do whenever lights are visible, opened a fire against it, though not with the same vigour and determination as on the following night. No wall known as it is in the town that the appearance of a light invariably attracts fire from the enemy, that all openings in houses occupied by officers and others, are carefully bricked or boarded up on the side which faces the north.

A short armistice occurred on the 29th ultimo. A flag of truce was hoisted from the south side, from a conspicuous building on an eminence just above Fort Michael on the north side. As soon as the white flag was raised at this place, a boat manned by Frenchmen left the south harbour, and advanced to the middle of the rounded, near the top of one of the wooden vessels. A Russian boat also left the north side, and came alongside a communication took place, lasting scarcely a minute, and the boats separated. As soon as the Russian boat reached the side of the harbour, the flag of truce was struck; the French boat, having a longer distance to pull, did not reach the north harbour for some time after. The Russian building, from which the white flag was hoisted, is enclosed by a high wall, and it was here that the few British and French prisoners, who fell into the hands of the Russians at the final assault, were detained before being marched to Simferopol. There is an observatory in it much used by the Russian officers for watching our movements on the south side.

About 5 p.m. of the 31st of January the last portion of the Karabelnia Docks was blown up by the English engineers. The destruction of the whole of these magnificent works and the large basin connecting them is now complete. In consequence of the fragmentary manner in which their demolition has been effected, and the long intervals between the several explosions, the operation has lately attracted but little interest in camp. It is only fair to mention that unexpected difficulties have been encountered in consequence of water entering the shafts and galleries and occasionally from the front. There is a strong desire to witness the destruction of Fort Nicholas, which it is understood, is shortly to be blown up by the French; and as it is one of the most conspicuous buildings in Sebastopol, from its position, curved outline, and its peculiar striking length of arched galleries, and may be viewed in perfect security from the high ground in front of the camp, there seems to be no reason why the time fixed on for its demolition should not be made generally known. The Russians, either from not having time to complete the necessary preparations, or from some imperfection in the galvanic wire leading to the magazines, failed to destroy the work, as they did Fort Paul, when they occupied the south side. They had evidently made the attempt. A considerable part of the interior was destroyed by fire; but the progress of the flames was arrested before they reached the east end of the building, where a large hospital, with many officers and private apartments remained entire, with all their furniture, in the same state in which they had been left when hastily abandoned. At this end of the building was also found a large magazine of gunpowder and explosive materials, apparently arranged in such a manner as to secure the safest destruction.

The weather has been very changeable the last few days. During the night between the 29th and 30th of January rain fell heavily, and there were occasional showers on the 30th and 31st. Early yesterday morning snow fell to the depth of a few inches, but the greater part disappeared in the course of the day. It was only towards noon that a

changed to the north and afterwards to the north-westerly direction. It has since continued blowing from the east-north-east, and, as usual, a preponderant direction in temperature has accompanied the wind. The mountains and lower ranges of hills to the eastward are again covered with snow.

The arrangements made by the Post-office authorities to enable soldiers to send home small sums to their friends by post-office orders, instead of sending them through regimental agents, has just been circulated in the several camps. For sending money under and up to 2*l.* thereupon, under and up to 5*l.* expenses will be charged for the money orders, and the usual particulars to secure delivery to the proper person will have to be recorded at the post-office. The distance at which the two offices, one at Balaklava, the other at head-quarters, are from certain parts of the camp, will lead to some inconveniences, as the soldiers employed in the front can seldom leave their regiments to proceed so far without special permission. But the opportunity afforded by this new postal arrangement is felt to be a boon for so long a time intervened, in consequence of various forms, before the money sent to the agents reached the friends for whom it was intended, that the soldiers generally preferred transmitting costs in letters sent direct, and the money was thus not infrequently lost.

DEMOLITION OF FORT NICHOLAS.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, FEB. 5.

Yesterday, about half-past one o'clock in the afternoon, the Russian Fort Nicholas was utterly destroyed by the French engineers. This immense work, calculated to receive an armament of 192 guns, was one of the most conspicuous objects in approaching Sebastopol, as well from its peculiar form as the long extent of ground which it covered, and was, perhaps, the most celebrated of the fortifications in the Russian territory on the Black Sea, excepting Fort Constantine. This latter fort, though by no means of the same magnitude, has become famous on account of the celebrated bombardment to which it was subjected in 1854 by the allied fleet, and has the reputation of having been more skillfully constructed. Fort Nicholas, which occupied nearly the whole of the promontory of land dividing the south harbour from Artillery-bay, commanded the entrance to the roadstead, and swept with its guns the whole surface of the water, from thence to the South Harbour itself. Looking toward the sea, it exhibited a plain stone front, with two lines of embrasures at regular intervals, one above the other; the monotonous appearance of the long lines being broken only by a central projection and observatory above. To the east of the central projection the guns were in three tiers, the uppermost tier being on the roof; but in the western half, that nearest to Artillery Bay, there were only two tiers, and none on the roof. Seen in reverse, the appearance was that of two long galleries, one above the other, the side towards the spectator being built so as to show a succession of arched openings, with balustrades. These arches corresponded with the bomb-proof casemates, each of which was prepared to receive one gun. Its general form was that of a luncheon, the east end being the most curved, and the part of the plain solid masonry of the front which was thus brought into view near the opening of the south harbour, formed a striking contrast, to the view of a person looking from the heights above the town, with the light and elegant series of arches which characterized the remainder of the structure. It was always one of the first buildings which was noticed by a stranger going towards Sebastopol, by the Womensoff-road, and one reason of this was, besides those already named, that it bounded the view of the town, for a considerable space, towards the sea. Its outline was thus strongly marked by the surface of water beyond. On account of its strength and distance from the approaches, the women and children who remained in Sebastopol

at the commencement of the siege were removed to this fort for protection. Subsequently it was for some months the residence of General Uden-Sacken, General Tschibulski, and other officers of distinction. There were always many troops here, it being one of the places where reserves were kept, in case of emergency. There were also here a temporary church, hospitals, apartments for the Sisters of Mercy, and numerous stores. For some time a market was held on the narrow strip of shore between Fort Nicholas and the bay, the soldiers coming over by boats from the north side. The stalls and booths could be seen plainly from our ships stationed to watch the harbour.

Yesterday, it was known to a limited number of English officers and others that the last day of Fort Nicholas had come. The French had fired on an early hour in the afternoon for its entire destruction. It was no secret in camp that they had been aiming with the intention of blowing it up at an early date. The precise time fixed for the event appeared to have been communicated very freely, both to Sardinian and French officers, judging from the number who were seen arriving towards one o'clock along the Womensoff-road. This occurrence, together with General Cadrington's passing by with his staff, attracted attention among all that something unusual was about to take place, when, shortly afterwards, the French marshal passed also. He drove in the usual low phaeton drawn by four greys, with soldiers in uniform, as position, and accompanied by an escort of cavalry. Two French officers, and Colonel the Hon. G. Foley, attached to Marshal Pelissier's staff, were with him. In a short time the top of Freshman's Hill, and the high ground at Colchester Hill and near the Victoria Hotel, were occupied by large groups of British officers and soldiers. Lines of men were also seen making their way by the old site of the Kanakabaki Battery, and towards the north-west on the Middle Cliff Hill. General Cadrington passed on to the town; Marshal Pelissier took up his station at the well-known spot on Freshman's Hill which was used during the progress of the siege as an observatory, and which was generally spoken of as the "look-out near the Pink-house." This point had the advantage not only of a good view of the town and Fort Nicholas, but also embraced a comprehensive panoramic view of the fortifications along the north side of the roadstead. A vast number of French and English officers assembled at this spot.

The weather was as fine as during the two or three preceding days; it had been stormy and disagreeable. It was scarcely possible that a more favourable day could occur for such a spectacle. The air was so brilliantly clear that every outline was sharply defined of the buildings in the town, and every fort and earthwork on the north side was plainly visible. The water of the roadstead was as smooth and calm as a lake. The tops of the sunken ships, and in some instances the yards and cordage, stood out from the water without the slightest evidence of movement, or except the least ripple of the surface. The sea outside seemed equally smooth; its uniform dark blue colour being broken only by a white line where the waves were breaking on the shoals beyond Fort Constantine. There was scarcely any breeze, but what little there was came from the north. The ground was covered by a thin layer of snow, and in the shade it was still freezing, so that the crisp surface crackled under the pressure of the foot; elsewhere the sun, which was shining brightly, caused a slight thaw. Altogether it was one of the most exhilarating days and best fitted for excursions that we have had for a long time past; and this, no doubt, was one of the reasons which aided in determining so many Sardinian officers and others to come all the distance from Taborago and Kama to see the explosion.

At first, while the concourse of spectators were assembling on the heights, not a gun was fired from the north side. The silence continued uninterrupted for twenty minutes or upwards, excepting by the sound of one discharge towards Ischermann. By means of a telescope the Russians could be observed gathering about the batteries, standing in the embrasures by their guns, and collected in small groups on the heights. They appeared to be trying on, and wondering for what object so many horsemen and pedestrians were assembled. They must have seen distinctly the soldiers running, and riders galloping, over the crests of the hills and along the slopes. Presently a white spot appeared at one of the lower batteries. This expanded, and slowly crept away, and then came the report of the gun. The same thing was immediately repeated at another battery a short distance off, and then came a large puff of smoke, which rose in brilliant whiteness, and another loud report from Fort Michael. This last was probably from a large mortar. The concussion of the shot, and the bursting of the shell, were heard among the buildings lying on the Kanakabaki side. From this time for some ten minutes or so a moderate fire was kept up from the north side. The Russians were evidently in complete uncertainty respecting what was about to happen on the south side. They directed all their fire toward the Dockyard, not knowing perhaps, that the destruction of the docks had been completed, and thinking that some operations were in progress in their neighbourhood. This fire was going on, and serving to distract a little the attention of the spectators, who were now assembled in great numbers, when a sudden exclamation among the crowd drew all eyes toward Fort Nicholas. The gaze of the enemy was equally fascinated towards the same direction, and all firing from their batteries ceased. From the west extremity of the long fort, partly concealed from our view by other buildings, was slowly rising and swelling a huge dense cloud of smoke, which as it rose and spread enveloped all the neighbourhood in a thick fog. At the same time came a slight sensation of trembling of the ground, and a dull rumbling sound like a distant clap of thunder. It was not loud, and there was no echo. While watching this scene the muzzle-looking east end, where it turned round toward the south harbour, and the arched galleries for some distance toward the centre—all very conspicuous to the sun was lighting up the white stone of which they were built, and without anything to intercept a full view of their structure—appeared suddenly to be split and rent asunder, and as the walls fell and crumbled away great blasts of smoke and dust rose out of the ground and stood in their stead. It was a most exciting sight to witness such destruction accomplished, suddenly, as it seemed at a distance, and as if by magic, for there was no visible human agency, in the midst of a bright still atmosphere, and therefore without any of the usual concomitant circumstances of a natural convulsion.

The cloud which rose from this end of the building was very dark—almost black in the centre. It rolled and dilated over the ground from whence it had issued, but ascended very gradually. A thick sprinkling of white spots in the water of the roadstead showed that fragments of stone were falling there; and as they continued for many seconds after the explosion, some of them had evidently been projected to a great height. Nearly five minutes must have elapsed after this second discharge, the great masses of smoke were bending over towards the town, the spectators were remaining that only the two ends of the fort had been blown up, when another explosion took place on the west side, and was succeeded, almost immediately afterwards, by a fourth, at what remained of the east end. The two reports from these explosions seemed louder than the reports which had followed the two former blasts. Still a part of the fort remained upright, and between the dark

side of drapery which shrouded the wide spaces left vacant by the fall of the two wings might still be seen, though faintly, the high central tower and observatory. These did not exist long. A fifth and then a sixth shot was sprung, and the whole of the gigantic work which, not long ago, stood offering defiance to the waves of the whole world, was levelled to the ground. The clouds of smoke drifted away slowly, and, driven gently by the breeze from the north, passed over the ruins of the town, for a time enveloping it in fog and throwing it into dark shadow. The removal of the accustomed outline, and the long gap which was left by the destruction of the fort, was then seen to have changed in its most striking feature the aspect of the whole town of Sebastopol, and to have left it more wrecked in appearance than ever.

As an engineering operation the success was complete. Not one stone is left above another to define the nature or form of the building which so lately existed on the site of the long line of raised heaps left by the explosion. The destruction of Fort Paul, at the opposite point of entrance to the south harbour, was a comparatively easy task; for it was a lofty building, and its base was very limited in area. The French engineers say that Fort Nicholas was by no means so solid and firm a structure as it appeared to be, for the east tower was confined in a great degree to the outer walls, and to other parts where deception could not be easily practised. The interior, and especially large spaces in the masonry of the walls, were filled up with rubble and small loose fragments of stone. It has also been stated by Polish officers who have fallen into the hands of the Allies, and who had been quartered in this fort, that experiments were made, when the invasion of the Crimea was first talked of, to ascertain what amount of concussion the building could stand, and it was then found, with one gun only in every third or fourth embrasure, that the walls endured very considerably.

The Russians did not resume firing from the north side for some considerable time—nearly half-an-hour—after the blowing up of Fort Nicholas. They subsequently kept up a dropping fire for the remainder of the day, seemingly directing their shots at random through the town and suburb. It was generally expected that very heavy bombardment would have been opened, similar to that which occurred on the evening of the 25th ultimo, and which was described in my last letter. Although the immediate intention and object of the very heavy fire which was poured into the town on that date is not yet known, it is now very generally believed, that Russian boats were crossing at the time it first occurred. Several officers, as well as the men at the Fort Paul Guard, assert that they distinctly counted six boats on the water. Whether a daring attempt was about to be made to cut off this guard, and that it was intercepted by the vigilance of the sentry and the military fire which followed, will probably remain a mere matter of surmise. Some additional precautions have been taken in consequence of the occurrence alluded to.

No further news respecting the progress of the peace negotiations has yet reached us, since the arrival of the mail which brought us the London papers of the 19th of January. The mail despatch yesterday did not arrive at a late hour last night. There is a report that Colonel Wilhelms, C.B., Assistant Adjutant-General of General Baranoff's Division, the 2nd, is about to leave on special service for Rumania.

We have had very variable and severe weather since the last mail left. On the 2nd and 3rd instants there were heavy showers of sleet, hail, and snow, with strong gales of wind from the west and north-west. Yesterday, as already mentioned, the weather was settled and frosty, with a breeze from the north. This still continues.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 9.

The latest papers received bear the date of January the 25th. By some of these we learn that it was confidently believed in London that the Emperor of Russia had despatched orders to his generals in the Crimea to suspend active hostilities, on the 15th of January. Of course, had such despatches been sent, they must have arrived long since. We conclude that this report, wherever it originated, was a pure fabrication; for at no time during January has there been a suspension of fire from the whole of the Russian position. Occasionally, the north side of the roadstead has remained silent for several hours together, while firing has been going on from the heights above the Tchernaya, or from the coast's line farther off, above the Chalin. For the last few days, since the destruction of Fort Nicholas, continual dropping fire, day and night, has been maintained from the forts and batteries on the north side. It does not seem to be carried on at any regular intervals, but whenever a few soldiers are seen or supposed to be, by day, and wherever a light shows itself at night, there a shot or shell is sent. When daylight dawns, there is a thick fog, this dispersed fire is still continued, either from the attention of the Russian men or watch being attracted by sounds supposed to indicate movement in the town, or on the more chance of causing casualties among the guards and troops on duty there. The Russian riflemen also try to aim across the water to the Karabelina, and at the width of the roadstead varies at this part from four to six hundred yards only, so one can approach the shore from the Port Paul guard to Crenning-bay without risk. On the 7th instant the Russians kept up an unusually strong fire from the Ickerman heights and lower Makariev heights over the Tchernaya valley. They attempted to reach the position of the French camps along the Pedikine ridge, but, as usual, without success. Some shells shot burst at an immense elevation. They also fired grape, in addition to round shot and shell, at parties going to the reserve, and at the advanced posts of the French, in the plain. The French made no return, either from their batteries in the valley or from the Pedikine heights, but their riflemen stationed in the embankments near the river kept up a constant fusillade. The Russian riflemen on the opposite side were by no means inactive—the little paths of white smoke were seen frequently from their places of concealment, and the sharp cracking of this cross fire was constantly audible in the intervals between the reports from the cannon on the summit of the cliff above. The Russians have not repeated the experiment which they tried about three weeks ago of bringing a field battery out upon the valley; they, no doubt, saw that the result, as affecting the French position, was altogether a failure. Additional measures have been taken to strengthen our guards in case of necessity and position generally in the town and Karabelina, in consequence of the deaths which have lately respecting boats being on their way across the harbour on the 20th ult., when the enemy opened up heavy fire on the south side. It would not have been a very matter for them to have established a fortling before, long enough to effect any object of importance, on the south shore; it will be a still more difficult matter should they make an attempt now.

The destruction of Fort Nicholas has proved to be completely accomplished as it appeared to be when looked at from a distance at the time of the explosion. As an example of engineering skill in mining, the success is perfect. The foundations are rooted up, and from one end to the other the whole fabric lies now an utter ruin, a mere heap of shattered masonry and rubbish. Measures are in progress for the demolition of Fort Alexander, and it is stated that the walls of all the principal buildings remaining in Sebastopol are shortly to be levelled to the ground. On the 6th instant, part of the north wing of the Karabelina barracks, or White Buildings, as they are commonly called, was blown down. The building was not undermined, but the explosion of bags of gunpowder against the wall, applied in the usual manner, effectually ac-

ceeded the purpose intended. It has been ascertained that the blocks of stone which formerly composed the side and basin of the Karabelina docks have not generally been much injured, but only separated from each other, so that they would readily be available for the construction of fresh buildings. This remark will apply to many other of the stone buildings in Sebastopol, and there can be little doubt, whenever the Crimea is abandoned by the allies, the materials left will furnish the means of rebuilding very quickly such a town as the simple demands of habitation and commerce would require. The chief difficulties will be to clear the blocked up roadstead and harbour, and to provide the necessary plank and timber, of which articles, in all probability, no very great quantity will remain after the winter has passed. There does not appear to be any available amount of building timber on the north side, judging from the kind of burning in which the troops are placed. In several orders of the 7th of February the commander of the force has ordered in flattering terms the final accomplishment of the demolition of the Karabelina docks; recording the several difficulties which impeded the undertaking, and the zeal and perseverance of the principal officers, who are mentioned by name, in the execution of their task.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hensley, C.B., commanding the 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was very nearly meeting with a serious accident on the 6th instant. The regiment was about to be inspected by Lord William Paulet, general of the division, and was drawn up to receive him on the open space in front of the regimental encampment. Just as the general approached, and the usual salute was given, Colonel Hensley's horse started, and the general being very slippery from frost, fell on his side, carrying the rider's leg under him. Fortunately the pistol holster, attached to the saddle, was made of very stiff material, and this protection saved the colonel's limb from being broken. He was, however, so much bruised as to be compelled to quit the ground. General inspections have been taking place in all the divisions of the army during the past week. Each regiment has been examined as to its state of efficiency for taking the field. The drill and exercises of the men, and the camp equipment, have been especial objects of attention. It is reported that the results of these inquiries have been most satisfactory.

The collection of the subscriptions from the Army in the Crimea for the Nightingale fund is very nearly completed. The sum collected amounts to little short of £4,000, and the money has been paid over to the commissariat chest. To turn to a less pleasant theme. It appears that the unhappy criminal, in the 77th Regiment, has been found guilty by court-martial of murder, and is sentenced to be hanged—the finding of the court, having been confirmed by the commander-in-chief, General Codrington. From the facts of the case which have transpired, no other result could have been anticipated. The murder appears to have been a brutal, unprovoked one, an extraordinary circumstance. The life of a fellow-creature was destroyed, in open day, with revolting extravagance, the barbarity being increased by the fact that the victim was wounded and bedridden. The culprit asserts that he was instigated to the dreadful act solely by a fascination with which he was seized and is unable to account for; not for purposes of robbery, for he had been chosen to rob, he could have done so long before, and without chance of detection. This, perhaps, may be readily explained by his having spent the money which he borrowed the evening before the commission of the crime in buying a bottle of raki, and which it is stated he drank wholly himself. The effect of this poisonous spirit had not in all probability ceased at the hour of the morning, half-past 6 o'clock, when he attacked his victim, on the following day.

This dreadful event has caused great distress to the minds of both officers and men of the 77th Regt. It is manifestly wrong, however, to associate the occurrence of this crime in any way whatever with the regiment at large—one of the most-distinguished and most-orderly in her Majesty's service. The prisoner has been only rarely lately joined the headquarters of the regiment in the field. Had the fatal act not taken place, he would in all probability before long have been removed from the ranks, on account of his general ill-

conduct. His history is related to be the following: His name is George Day. He is quite a young man, and before his enlistment, which occurred in London, he earned his livelihood chiefly as a pick-pocket. His mother died when he was a child, and his father, an abandoned character, sent him into the streets to pick up anything he could steal, as a means of living. His father has been transported, and he has also a brother undergoing penal servitude. Since he has joined the headquarters of his regiment in the field, he has been constantly making trouble on all around him. Circumstances have brought to light that he has been the cause of many of his comrades being punished undeservedly, he having stolen books and other articles of great value from their possession, which they had most assuredly to have made away with and sold themselves. He was convicted of selling a furocoat which had been loaned to himself, and, while undergoing punishment for this offence, he cut his hand, which led to his being taken as a patient into hospital. He was convalescent, and in the habit of belittling about the works, when he committed the murder. He does not appear to hold any proper appreciation of the dreadful crime for which his own life is likely to pay forfeit. There is one source of consolation respecting his poor victim. It is believed that he had become so enfeebled by the consequences of the severe injuries which he had received on the occasion of the great magazine explosion, that under no circumstances would he ultimately have recovered. In addition to the depressing effects of his wounds, he was at the time of the average treatment to which he was subjected labouring under water on the chest. His name was Thomas Kirkby, and he is described as having been a very respectable soldier in the corps to which he belonged, the Royal Artillery. He was unmarried.

There is talk of a reprieve, until communications have taken place with the authorities at home. This does not appear probable, as it is known that orders have been given to proceed with the necessary preparations, and the commander of the force is armed with full powers and authority without further reference. Monday, the 11th instant, has been named as the day of execution. He is not to receive a soldier's death by being shot, but to expiate his offence by the ignominious punishment of hanging. The Rev. Mr. Wallace, the chaplain of the division, has been in frequent attendance upon the prisoner, and he has also been visited by the acting chaplain-in-chief, the Rev. Mr. Taylor.

The health of the troops is still remarkably good. Scarcely a prevalence to a great extent in some parts of the French army, and many French soldiers have been lately quitting for change of air and hospital treatment, to Constantinople and France. The French government have ordered reports to be furnished at once, on the nature of this disease and its probable cause.

The weather during the greater part of the past week has been fine. There has been frost at night, but during the daytime the weather has been mild, and the atmosphere clear. Yesterday a change occurred, which is still continuing. The wind, which had been previously northerly, went round to the westward, and the usual mists and showers followed. Rain has been falling in considerable quantity in the course of last night.

DESTRUCTION OF FORT ALEXANDER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

(The following appeared in our Evening Edition of yesterday.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 10.

Yesterday, precisely at 1 o'clock p.m., Fort Alexander was exploded into ruins by the French engineers. This work, which was immediately opposite to Fort Constantine, and commanded the approach and entrance to the roadstead, was second only in extent and importance to Fort Nicholas, on the north side. It was constructed of stone, and calculated to mount ninety guns. The day was by no means so favourable for witnessing its destruction as it was on the occasion of the blowing up of Fort Nicholas. A tolerably stiff breeze was blowing from the westward, and heavy masses of grey and inkly clouds were riding from the horizon, and sweeping rapidly over the plateau. The sun was quite lost to view. The water of the roadstead, and the sea as far as the eye could reach, were enveloped by white mist. The north shore and heights, as well as the batteries and forts, were much obscured from the same cause, and appeared more distant than usual. The day before they had seemed remarkably near, owing to the transparent clearness of the atmosphere. It was evident, from the limited number of spectators who assembled on the hills above the town, either that the intention of destroying the fort was not generally known, or that the revolting weather had counterbalanced the curiosity of officers and men of duty. The groups collected on Fomelshin's hill and Catherine's hill, were very small compared with the number when Fort Nicholas was blown up. From neither of these points of view, nor indeed from any part of the English position, could a general observation of Fort Alexander be obtained. From certain spots, in clear weather, a spectator, familiar with all the objects about Sebastopol, could just distinguish part of its outline, but that was all. The difficulty of descending this fort came not only from its low position on the sea-shore, being close to the water's edge, but also from the number of buildings which were interposed in the higher parts of the town. Without, therefore, being able to fix the sight on the work itself, the attention of each spectator looking towards the direction in which it was situated, was anxiously expecting the explosion, was excited, just at the time fixed, by a sudden exhalation of grey-white smoke, which rapidly broke into two columns. One rose almost perpendicularly upwards; the other bent towards the eastward. While watching these volumes of smoke swelling and expanding, there came the report of the explosion. Unlike the fall-detonation which accompanied the springing of the mine by which Fort Nicholas was destroyed, the report of this explosion was intensely loud and accented, was accompanied by a violent agitation of the air, so that a strong concussion was produced against the hats and buildings in the camp, and was followed by a grand roll of echoes like a peal of thunder. This had scarcely died away, when a second mass of dense, almost black, smoke, rose a little to the westward apparently of the first explosion. The dark colour of this cloud formed a striking contrast with the light grey hue of the former columns of smoke. It maintained this deep tint even after it had risen and expanded to a very considerable extent, and when the first cloud of smoke had become almost dissolved into this vapour. The report which followed the explosion was not quite so loud nor so shock as that of the first explosion. There a third broad cutting cloud was seen proceeding from the same neighbourhood—not so dark in colour as the second, but darker than the first—and after this had risen to a certain height in the air, it was caught by the west wind, and driven, in company with its fellows, to join the low vapoury clouds which everywhere covered the sky, and were hastened by to the eastward. The violence of the concussion caused by these three explosions, and the loud reports, roused all the persons in the camp, and both officers and men came running in crowds to the crests of the hills to gain a view of what had happened. The effect of the explosion was not visible at such a distance. The appearance of Sebastopol had been

very much changed since the disappearance of Fort Nicholas. The dome of the cathedral, and the roofs of one or two of the larger buildings, are now the most conspicuous objects.

It is said that all the mines necessary for destroying the Quarantine Battery, and various palace works and buildings still remaining in the parts of the town and fortifications entrusted to the keeping of our allies, are nearly finished. Between three and four o'clock p.m. of the same day, the English engineers destroyed, by a succession of explosions, all the groups of buildings, some of them rather massive in character, which occupied the area comprehended within the enclosure framed by the Barrack, or White Buildings. It is expected that the whole of these buildings, together with the terrace in front, will be blown up in the course of the work. The terrace, which is faced by a very highly isolated wall of compact masonry, has been a work of great labor. On the low ground in front are the foundations of the new Admiralty buildings, which were in progress prior to the breaking out of the war. They are also on a magnificent scale. The whole of these works are to be broken up and destroyed.

The Russians have maintained a heavier fire than usual during the last three days. On Sunday, the 10th inst., the day being clear and fine, and the temperature mild, the troops marched down to furnish the rifle in their scarlet uniforms, without great coats. They were evidently observed as they entered the great Redan to descend towards the Karabelina suburb. A very heavy fire was opened from the North side, some of the shot falling into the Redan, and some even beyond it. There were no casualties, however. They fired about frequently during the day in the neighborhood of Fort Alexander, where they had either observed the French working parties, or hoped to cause annoyance, from supposing that the destruction would shortly follow that of Fort Nicholas, and that preparations for this operation would be then going on. On the morning of the following day a steady fire was kept up against the South side, the reports of the Russian guns being particularly audible, not only in the camp, but as far as Haklavla, on account of the peculiar condition of the atmosphere. At the time of the explosion, and for a short time afterwards, there was a fall in the drizzle, but it was renewed, and went on as usual during the remainder of the day. It is said that intelligence has been received, through the secret service, of a very large portion of the Russian force being quartered in the North side, and proceeded towards Chirgopetrov, probably with a view of moving towards Perekop. As many as 25,000 men are stated to have left the North and Mackenzie heights together during the last few days on a fortnight.

There is scarcely any change worth noticing in the British camp. Some companies of artillery, which have been for some time employed in landing duties at the Odessa wharf, and in unloading ships, were moved up to the front the day before yesterday. They are now engaged in removing guns from some of the Russian fortifications. There is a talk of one division of the troops in front moving down shortly to Haklavla, for the purpose of putting on board ship shot, shell, and other artillery and Quartermaster-General's stores, preparatory to evacuating the heights above Sebastopol. It is not known what division of the army will be selected for this duty. The French fortifications round Kamush and Kazatch are still advancing; they are on an extensive and substantial scale, and provided with so powerful an armament, that they excite the wonder of all who visit them. Our wharves at Kazatch are also making progress, but the depot of stores deposited there has already accumulated to an inconvenient extent. The detachment which was furnished from the 7th Division is scarcely strong enough to ensure the necessary protection. A difficulty exists respecting the transport of these stores, as the French object to our using their macadamized road from Kamush, and the open plain is quite impossible for vehicles. The French traffic alone makes constant repair of their road to be necessary; the most substantial roads in our own camp can only be kept in order during wet weather by the most unremitting attention, so peculiarly soft and friable is the limestone found in this part of the Crimea.

We hear that General Sir Colin Campbell has arrived at Constantinople, and that he will probably come by the packet bringing the mail to the Crimea. It was due yesterday.

A match in rifle-shooting, which excited considerable interest in the army, came off yesterday afternoon at the practice-ground in the Karabelina ravine—Lieutenant-Colonel Evans, military secretary, and Captain A. Pannsey, aide-de-camp to General Codrington, had challenged the whole army. The firing was to be at two hundred yards' distance, the Maud rifle, with fixed bayonets as employed on actual service, was to be the weapon used, and the point of victory was to be decided in the usual manner by the target. Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy, of the Adjutant-General's department, who was formerly chief instructor in the Musketry School at Hythe, and now superintends the small arms department in the army in the East, selected the men who were to compete with the officers already named. One man was to be chosen to represent each division of the army.

To select the candidates for the principal match, the best shot was ascertained in each regiment, and these picked soldiers were then pitted against each other; the best proved shot among these remained the representative of the division. Four divisions were, however, only represented in the contest—The Guards, 4th, 4th, and Light; it being understood that the men selected from these were so superior to all others as to distance them beyond a chance of success. The match came off at 5 p.m. A trial shot was first made by each candidate, which did not count toward the decision of the contest. Four rounds were then fired, each firing one shot in succession. The result gave the victory to the soldiers—a sergeant of the 25th Regiment being first on the list. Next to him a corporal of the 7th Regiment gained the greatest number of points. The Guards' candidate followed, and then Colonel Bland. Captain Pannsey, who is reputed a good shot, was singularly unfortunate on this occasion. General Codrington, and a very numerous assemblage of staff and regimental officers, as well as a large body of soldiers, were present to witness the match. Some file firing and other peaceful amusements followed.

The Sebastopol elaps, to be added to the Crimean medals, have arrived, and are shortly to be distributed to the army.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 16.

The most important incident in camp since the departure of the last mail has been the arrival of General Sir Colin Campbell. He came from Constantinople, in the East of Aberdeen steamer, on Wednesday, the 10th inst., accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Sterling, who, from being Assistant Adjutant-General of the Highland Division, is to hold the same position in the new corps d'armee which Sir Colin is to have under his command. The general is staying, for the present, with the Commander-in-Chief, at headquarters. Nothing certain has yet been promulgated respecting the divisions to form the corps d'armee, but it is understood that the 1st, 4th, 4th, and Highland Divisions will compose this force, the selection having been determined by the relative standing in seniority of the general commanding. As the Highland Division is detached so far from the main body of the British force, it is thought not unlikely that General Campbell will take up his quarters in some central position, near General Codrington's perhaps, so that he may be within a convenient distance of the divisions under his command in Kamara. The distance of the Highland contingents from headquarters is between seven and eight miles. Brigadier-General Duncan Cameron, C.B., Lieutenant-Colonel of the 42nd Regiment, is to be permanently installed in command of the Highland Division, which he has been holding during the absence of Sir Colin Campbell in England. Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie, at present on duty at Haklavla, is named as the probable head of the Quartermaster-General's department of Sir Colin's corps d'armee. These arrangements are all dependent, it is presumed, on the negotiations for peace being abortive; for should peace be realized, the formation of the corps d'armee itself, not the appointment of the necessary staff, would be required to take place, and nothing will be finally determined, therefore, in these respects until the probable issue of the peace conference becomes apparent.

The companies of the siege train embarked in the last mail today for Haklavla, to embark for England. They were accompanied by the beds of nearly all

the neighbouring regiments, as well as, for some distance, by many of their friends in the line, with whom they had been serving during the late arduous labors of the siege. "Should you acquaintances be forgot" was the prevailing and appropriate melody played by the bands. As the artillerymen marched through the various camps the men off duty, roused by the familiar sounds, turned out in crowds, and cheered their departing comrades.

The work of demolition has been making progress, both in Sebastopol and the Karabelina suburb. The explosion of small mines are now frequent sounds, and it is difficult to distinguish them from the reports of the guns fired on the north side, or the shots bursting among the ruined buildings in the town. Now and then, under peculiar conditions of the atmosphere, the reports of the guns in the Redan; batteries round wondrously near to the camps, towards which their missiles, through a long distance off, are directed, while at other times their discharge is not even audible. Several of the under-ground banks and bomb-proof barracks in the Redan were blown up yesterday. Some of these works were so solidly constructed, framed of such massive timbers, and so deeply imbedded, that it would have required infinite manual labor to have extricated the wooden beams from the mass of earth and stones which was lying above them. Now that they have been broken up, the wood can be removed with comparative ease, and much of it is valuable for various purposes. It may also be a matter of policy, looking forward to future operations, to destroy all means of cover and materials for construction of batteries, which might be taken advantage of by a hostile force on some heights after the allies had retired within the lines of Kamush. A portion only of the stone barracks of the Karabelina has been overturned, but the whole will shortly disappear.

The branch line of railway which runs towards the hill known as Caserobert's-hill, in the Haklavla plain, has been opened, and the engines are now at work upon it. It is said that the whole of the Crimean railway materials, including all the engines, carriages, and stores, have been sold to a company, who intend to transport them to the neighbourhood of Herakleia. The railway is to be used in connexion with the head-mines.

The expected execution of the soldier convicted of murder has not taken place. It is supposed that General Codrington has referred the case of the unhappy criminal for decision to the home government, and in the belief of many, as will from the youth of the prisoner as from considerations of the general good conduct of the army, and the stigma which would attach, though undeserving, to the regiment to which the man happened to belong, a commutation of the sentence of death is not unlikely to take place.

The weather has been very variable during the past week. The prevailing winds have been blowing from the westward. A small amount of rain has fallen. The temperature on the whole has been mild, and in sheltered places in the valleys several of the early bulbous plants may be now seen in flower. The yellow crocus is conspicuous in all directions. The mail arrived early on the morning of the 14th inst. London newspapers of February 7 were received, only twelve days being then occupied in the transit. Newspapers from Paris were received, as usual, a day later.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 15.

Yesterday there was to have been a review of the whole of the British infantry in the field, but a sudden change of weather prevented the intention from being carried into effect. Notice had been given the evening before to all the divisions, including the Highland Division near Kamara, to form in review order on the open ground near the Guard's camp. It was anticipated that the force assembled for inspection would amount to twenty-four or twenty-five thousand men. In the course of the night, however, the wind, which had been previously blowing from the westward, took a northerly direction, and the temperature became greatly diminished. At half-past six a.m., Fahrenheit's thermometer indicated eleven degrees below the freezing point. There was also a slight fall of snow, sufficient only to whiten the surface of the ground, but the sky was covered with clouds,

and were a threatening aspect. The review was therefore postponed. The cold continued severe all day, the mercury falling at 7 p.m. to 10 deg. F., and the wind occasionally high. Last night at intervals the force of the wind amounted to almost a gale.

On Sunday, the 17th inst., a sailor in a drunken quarrel inflicted a fatal wound on a comrade near the Redan. Both men were foreigners, and belonged to a Swedish transport vessel, the *Bornetta*, hired by the British government, and lying at anchor at Haklavla. Being Sunday, they had gone leave to visit the neighbourhood of Sebastopol, and had been drinking on the way. A third sailor, a mere boy, belonging to the same ship, was of the party. On the occasion taking place a struggle ensued, and one of the men, drawing a long, sharp-pointed bowie knife, stabbed his antagonist in the body. The wounded man was carried to the nearest hospital, that belonging to the 90th Regiment. Very little hope was entertained of his recovery, from the deep and severe nature of the injuries he had received. The assassin was secured, and made a prisoner. The boy having some knowledge of English, which the wounded man could not speak at all, was detained at the hospital to act as an interpreter to his unfortunate comrade. There is no doubt that the sailor who used the knife was drunk at the time he did so. The case will be handed over to the naval authorities for investigation.

There is scarcely anything going on in the camps beyond the usual routine of drills and parades. The health of the army continues excellent. The amount of weary and fever in the French army has attracted the attention of the authorities in France, and various measures have been adopted to arrest its increase. A general order has been circulated throughout the French regiments to prepare small plots of ground for the reception of seeds. Each company is to have its own vegetable garden, and the seeds are now on hand from France. The French authorities are so impressed that the seeds of such plants only are safe of rapid growth will be seen. In the meantime the men are ordered to collect the young plants of dandelion which are now appearing, and to use them, in the form of salad, as an ingredient of daily diet. Fresh potatoes are also purchased by the regiments when they can be obtained, but they have never been found to the French troops as a ration. Scarcitv disease also exists among the Serbian soldiers, but to a much less extent than among the French. The Serbians appear to be warmly clad, and their rations are reported to be of a superior description. They have lately had issued to them a long close-fitting woollen vest, which they wear outside their ordinary dress. It is of a bright green color, and being worn with a short cape over the shoulders, of brown cloth, grey trousers protected by long brown gaiters, and, instead of a cloth sash, an elastic bandage made of scarlet wadded, it gives them a very shrewy and rather picturesque appearance when entering camp, or employed in other work about the camp. The French troops have now been in the Peninsula Heights, or in the Haklavla Valley, month towards Haidar, each man on returning carries on his knapsack a bagful of wool. As a general rule, the men who are thus seen on the line of march appear healthy and in good spirits, and it is probably among the younger soldiers principally, or individuals of weakly frames, that the sickness alluded to has manifested itself. The *Zouaves*, who are all comparatively old campaigners, appear as strong and active as usual.

The fire from the north side and along the lower Mackenzie ridge has been more slack than usual, except on the morning of the 17th (Sunday), when it was kept up briskly against the town. No casualties occurred. The removal of the great beams of timber from the bomb-proof barracks in the Ormal Redan continues, and large fatigue parties are employed in clearing the earth away, and afterwards carrying the wood to the commissariat depots. To facilitate the means of carriage, the heavier beams, many of which are of solid oak, and large abutment, evidently originally intended for shipbuilding purposes, are split and sent up by exploding small charges of gunpowder in holes bored for the purpose, and afterwards properly tamped and secured. The quantity of timber remaining in the old Redan works is still immense. It appears as if in the Redan alone there is enough to supply the whole of the British forces before Sebastopol with firewood for the next three months. A

road had been made to connect the Redan with the Western road, and that the guns and heavy machine can be brought away with greater ease. Parties of the Royal Artillery are daily employed at the occupation. The 25th Regiment has quitted the ground where they have been hitherto encamped, and proceeded to Bahaklava. A part of the 14th Regiment, whose tents adjoined those of the 25th, has also left, and it is understood that the whole of the regiment will leave as early as possible, to join the 25th, 26th, and 28th Regiments, for the purpose of carrying on the duties of reorganizing stores and loading ships at Bahaklava. The four regiments are to constitute a brigade, under the immediate orders of Brigadier-General Warren, who formerly commanded one of the brigades of the Second Division. The troops are to be encamped on the Marine Heights. It will be seen by general orders, that this brigade, as well as all the other British forces about and to the eastward of Bahaklava, including the Highland Division, are to be under the direct command of General Sir Colin Campbell.

Another military theatre was opened last night—the "Faulter Theatre"—by the amateurs of the 7th Royal Fusiliers and 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, of the Light Division. The theatre, scenery, and decorations were admirably arranged. A large audience assembled, in spite of the severe frost and high wind. "The Unfortunate Gentleman" and "Gleadow, Boudshaw, and Hagshaw" were the pieces played, and the performance was very successful. Lord Richard Dufferin and Mr. Hinkley, of the 7th, and Major Bell, of the 23rd Regiment, were conspicuously good among the actors, and received continued applause. The understanding of the Welsh language is understood by all the neighboring works is understood to be completed, and nothing remains for their destruction but the final orders to be given. It is believed that these are looked for from home.

The frost continues severe.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, FEB. 22.

The monotony of life in the camp has not been disturbed since the last mail left. There has not been one event worth recording. The time is occupied by the troops in parades, drills, route-marching, road-mending, and the ordinary military duties. The officers find amusement for their leisure hours in private theatricals, billiards, there being a few tables in the several bazars, or in such sports as paper balls, and occasionally, by way of variety, in a dog hunt. The arrival of the mail from England is the great incident which all look forward to with most interest; and from which, when its budget of letters and newspapers is delivered, most derive matter for reflection, discussion, or rumour. Fortunately the mails have been delivered with great regularity of late. Yesterday, the 21st, the mail steamer arrived at Kerasbi, exactly in its time, and the bags were distributed the same evening. The latest newspapers bore date of February 9.

If there has been monotony of occupation, the weather has afforded an example of sufficient variety. The last English mail which left the Crimea was made up on the morning of the 19th inst. The cold, which had come on suddenly the day before, with a change in the direction of the wind from west to north, was then continuing, and did not again take its departure until yesterday. At 7 a.m. of the 19th, the mercury in the thermometer stood at 0 deg. F. on the high ground of the plateau. The frost continued intense throughout the whole of that day, although there was scarcely any wind, and a bright sun was shining through a cloudless atmosphere. Everyone was glad to revert to fire, and all the warmer clothing which they could conveniently wear. Early in the morning of the 20th the thermometer indicated 11 deg. F., but later in the day the wind, which at first blew freshly from the north, veered round to the westward, and the temperature became milder. The wind returned to the north the same afternoon; but on the following morning, the 21st, suddenly came from the quarter directly opposite, and, as usual, the frost at once disappeared. The wind is now (Friday

evening) blowing strongly from the south, and the cloudy aspect of the sky gives indication of rain. It has been made known that the extreme penalty is to be paid to-morrow by the unhappy criminals who a few weeks ago caused the death of a wounded comrade in the lines of the 77th Regiment. He is to be hanged at an early hour of the morning, near the Western road, where it skirts the encampment of the Light Division. A detachment of officers and men from each regiment is to attend. The Rev. Mr. Watson is the chaplain appointed to read the funeral service. The murderer, who is a mere youth, attributes his fearful offence against the laws of God and man to a vicious career systematically pursued from childhood onwards, between immediately to the seducing effects of recent indulgence in ardent spirits.

A large number of invalids of the artillery, and from several divisions of infantry, embarked to-day on board the Andros steam-transport at Bahaklava for England. Among the invalid passengers is Lieut. Maury, of the 10th Regiment, whose conduct and sufferings at the assault on the Redan attracted so much notice at the time in England. Russian guns and stores are constantly coming down from the front for shipment. The French are also actively employed in removing their trophies of the war from the town to within the lines at Kerasbi. The large clock from the main street of Sebastopol, bearing the maker's name, "Barrie, London," has been carried to the French head-quarters. It is understood that the naval monument, which forms so conspicuous an object and highly ornaments the terrace near the spot where Port Nicholas stood, will not be disturbed, and it is expected to commemorate individual gallantry. We hope that the same respect will be paid to the monuments which we shall leave behind us in the Crimea.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, FEB. 22.

The review of a large portion of the British Infantry, which had been expected for some weeks past, but which had been postponed on account of unfavourable weather, took place on the 21st instant, and offered a magnificent sight in a vast concourse of French and Russian officers and soldiers, and perhaps among other spectators to a few Russians. The sites chosen for the parade and inspection was the brow of a hill behind the Guards' camp, and must have been plainly visible from the Malakofe Heights. All the six divisions of the army were represented on the occasion, but many of the troops of each must have been absent on duty and in camp. Only one Brigade of the Highland Division was present, the other being required to guard the position beyond Kerasbi, in conjunction with our allies. The regiments at Bahaklava were not required to attend. Without these, however, there could not have been less than 25,000 men on the ground, all in the most effective condition of health and strength. The Commander of the Forces, Sir William Colclough, arrived about one o'clock, with a large staff, and was received by the divisions in line. The troops each division being headed by its general and staff. Each brigade, in the manner, was preceded by its brigadier-general and staff, who, after saluting, wheeled round and fell out to reveal the brilliant column which surrounded the Commander of the Forces. The bands of the several regiments forming each brigade were moved together, and played under one leader, while the brigade was marching past. This combination produced a fine and powerful effect, and prevented the confusion of sounds which would have arisen from the band of each succeeding battalion playing its own march. The appearance of the troops as they moved past was as favourable as could well be imagined, and the whole scene was remarkably brilliant and striking. The rigour of the weather, could not fail to strike the attention of the officers and men of the French and Russian armies who were present, evidently looked on with admiration. The Guards brigade, and the Light Division, which marched past with their arms at right angles, together with the two battalions of the 10th Brigade, while the rest carried their arms with bayonets fixed, were in for the share of attention. Marshal Pelissier was present in the carriage, and seemed to examine each regiment as it went by with scrutinizing closeness. There were also several French general officers on the field; among others General Estimote, who had only arrived a few days

before the Crimea, and a very large body of other officers, both on horseback and foot, who manifested great interest in the proceedings. The Sardeian officers attended innumerable, though not appearing very conspicuous among the crowd of French and Russian officers who formed the line of spectators. After the detachments had marched past the first time General Colclough took up a position lower down, and the troops again marched past in the same order as before, but in quarter distance column. General Sir Colin Campbell was on the ground.

The weather was, on the whole, very favourable for the review. The atmosphere was clear and dry, and although the sky was overcast with clouds, the sun broke out from time to time with great brilliancy. The wind came from the north, but was at no time high, and the cold was agreeably tempered by the sun's warmth. Had the day been warmer and more constantly sunshiny, it is doubtful whether the review would have passed off so well. There was just cool enough to give clarity of movement, in addition to the regular and measured step of the troops, and to make the exercise a source of pleasure; while the clouds made the brightness of the display, when the sun lit up the scene, all the more striking by contrast; at such intervals, indeed, the spectacle became very dazzling; the glittering lines of bayonets, row after row—the brightness of the scarlet uniforms—the waving columns of smoke showing by their tattered condition the rough usage they were subjected to at the Alma—the martial aspect—the large concourse of staff and mounted officers—the thousands on the ground, or present as spectators—the variety of foreign uniforms—combined to form a picture which few, certainly no Englishmen, could look on without emotion.

A general order appeared last night in which General Sir William Colclough announced very strongly on the conduct of some correspondents of the London press, who had described the fortifications at Kerasbi with unguarded misstatements. The Commander of the Forces also alludes in the remarks which have appeared from time to time in the London journals from correspondents in the Crimea, respecting the siege works, batteries, and other matters connected with the operations or condition of the army. It is scarcely credible that any Englishman would knowingly communicate for publication any observation or intelligence which could be of use to the enemy and detrimental to the cause of his own country, or that any respectable journalist would publish information of such a nature, even if furnished. Instances mentioned to English and French prisoners by the enemy, and other circumstances, have proved that so complete were the means of intelligence possessed by the Russians as to what was passing in the camp of the Allies, that comparatively trifling circumstances became known to them, almost as soon as they occurred, long before any letters from the camp could have reached England; and it really seems doubtful whether they ever acquired a knowledge of one fact of importance from this latter source. It is possible that the enemy might not have known to the full extent the amount of success which attended at one time in the British army, had it not been for the repeated communications of the press; but it is very doubtful whether the congratulations which were announced in the first general order of last night, on the peace of health and admirable condition of the troops, could have been now offered excepting for the communications which were then made.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON NEWS-PAPER CORRESPONDENCE.

The following is the order of the day referred to by our special correspondent:

Head quarters, Sebastopol, Feb. 20. The notice of the Commander of the Forces has been brought to the publication in a newspaper, by a correspondent at Kerasbi, of minute details of lines and works, strength of garrisons, and military arrangements, all, however old and unimportant they may be, published for my notice, under the signature of such things are necessary for the interest or amusement of the people of England.

The people of England have more common sense. They do not want to see the interior of the army betrayed by the thoughtless activity of a correspondent, or by the work of any one else so ill qualified to perform it. The Commander of the Forces has referred General Vialba to the details published in the district he occupies. He instructs him to arrest the individual and send him away at once, unless he has reasons to believe that such duty will not be repeated.

The Commander of the Forces has considerably seen and sent things from the camp—strength of regiments, situation, batteries, guns, quantity of ammunition, the state of preparation, means of transport, the very situation of several batteries, the strength of pickets, the best means of attacking them—all minutely detailed, as if a purpose to instruct an enemy.

Common prudence, for the sake of the army, requires that this should cease. The Commander of the Forces speaks to the right sense of duty in the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the army; he is sure that when the order will not be in vain. It is our policy, as Englishmen, to feel that we may write anything to our countrymen if we do not believe we should publish anything about any strength or weakness of discipline and part, of success and disaster, to be put in our own daily. The Commander of the Forces trusts, however, that private friends in England will limit the extent to which they can help.

There are also known circumstances of newspapers, not belonging to the army, printed by papers to be sent in several of the camps here. General of Division will, by means of their assistant adjutant-generals, bring the bear of this order to their notice; for a common feeling of justice and propriety must be followed by all who, being under the possession of the army, are equally bound to the observance necessary for its safety.—By order, (Signed) G. A. WARREN, Chief of the Staff.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 1. On the 28th ult. a flag of truce was hoisted on the north side of the redoubt of Sebastopol, and shortly afterwards a boat left the shore and pulled towards the south harbor. About the same time a French boat put off from the south side, and the two met each other about mid distance between the two shores. The communication occupied a little longer time than usual, and there appeared to be something more than the usual interchange of courtesy. Some spectators said that they observed the French and Russian officers shaking hands. It soon became known in camp that the interview had been connected with the arrangement of an armistice, and the particular object in the visit of the Russian officer in charge of the boat was stated to be the ascertaining if the Allies, like themselves, had received instructions on the subject. Subsequently it was agreed that a meeting should take place on the following day, at noon, near Traikir bridge, and this took place accordingly.

A short time before the hour fixed for the meeting a group of horsemen were observed to leave the opening at the east end of the Tchernaya Valley, where the Bahaklav-Bera road passes to ascend the Malakofe Heights. A bright sun was shining, the atmosphere was magnificently clear, and objects were conspicuous and well defined at long distances. The cavalry had not advanced far into the plain when they were shot from one of the lower French batteries. This was quickly succeeded by another, and the guns were evidently turned towards the approaching horsemen, who, not liking the reception, it is presumed, came to a halt. Everyone saw a mistake had occurred. The officer in charge of the battery could not have been informed of the intended meeting, and, seeing the Russians, had treated them as an advancing enemy. The error was at once corrected, either by signal or by some more direct means, for after the second shot all remained quiet in the batteries, and the Russians continued their approach. At the same time the Chief of the French Staff, General Martigney, who has lately returned to the Crimea, and General Wigham, Chief of the Staff of the English Army, with a select body of staff officers, and their respective escorts, left the French lines at the late de post, and galloped along the high road, where it crosses the plain, to meet the Russian general. The meeting took place at a distance of about half-a-mile or thereabouts beyond the bridge. Shortly afterwards the whole party turned round, and mixing together, came leisurely over the ground which had just been tra-

viewed by the French and English commissioners. A short distance in front of the Trakir bridge the French had pitched a marquee, and into this tent the principals retired. The particulars of what took place at the interview have not been made known, but it is understood that the engagements were only preliminary to a more important meeting which is shortly to take place between the respective commanders-in-chief.

The Russian general and his staff were escorted by a detachment of Cossacks, from 50 to 60 in number. The horses are described by those who were near as in very bad condition, and the men looking thin and worn—altogether very different from what they were prior to the commencement of winter. General Kodrigton was near the place of the interview, but seemingly only a spectator. He wore his ordinary uniform and cap, while the staff officers on duty were distinguished by their cocked hats and dress appropriate for the occasion. Many officers left the English camp to see the meeting, which naturally excited considerable interest, but they were properly not permitted to go beyond the stone bridge.

The fire from the north side of the harbor has been very moderate for some days past. Two or three shots were said to have been directed against some parties getting timber from the Karabalaia yesterday morning, but no gun has been heard since the interview, described above, took place. A few days ago the Russians threw shells which burst over the centre of the Redan; until that time they had only succeeded in casting solid shot to that distance, at least in that direction. Not only the projectiles must have been very great to effect this object, but from the necessary course of sight of the missiles, the fuses must have been of an unusual length. Shells have been thrown over the Makahoff, and as far as the side of the Marston Ver-hill, but these came from batteries at the narrower part of the roadstead.

Many officers and others went to the crests of the hills overlooking Sebastopol, or took up positions in more advanced spots, for the purpose of witnessing the destruction of the White Buildings, or Karabalaia Barracks, on the afternoon of the 25th instant. The hour at which it was said to have been done to take place was half past three, and many arrived at that time. But after waiting some time, no explosion occurred, and most persons became impatient; more especially as the ground was rendered very damp by the melting snow, and the air, although the sun was shining, was sharp and chilly for soldiers. The groups, therefore, gradually dispersed. About an hour afterwards, however, a rapid succession of rumbling reports was heard in the direction of the suburb, and soon afterwards a dense cloud of dark smoke rose in the air. Although the atmosphere was thickly studded with masses of clouds overhead, and in some directions around, yet towards the north the sky was perfectly clear and free from vapor, and as the sun was declining, appeared at this time particularly bright and lustrous. As the dark smoke rose and spread, changing its form each instant, and slowly drifting towards the south-west, its outline was rendered strikingly distinct by having so light a background as a medium of contrast. After it had become dispersed from the immediate neighborhood of the White Buildings, the spectators were surprised to see that, in all appearance from a distant view, very little of the buildings had been demolished. Some officers returning from the neighborhood of the town, mentioned that the explosions had been only partially successful, and that more would have to take place before the portions of the barracks intended to be overturned were completely levelled to the ground. Accordingly another series of explosions were heard to take place about an hour after those just mentioned. It was on this occasion that a most painful accident occurred, involving the

death of a highly meritorious and distinguished Engineer officer, Brevet-Major George Ranken. According to a stated account, he had given notice to several persons engaged at the work to retire to a safe distance, as he was about to light a fuse connected with one of the charges. One of the last persons to whom he addressed a remark is supposed to have been an officer of the 25th Regiment, to whom he announced that the fuse would only burn one minute before the explosion would take place. At last, seeing that all were apparently at a safe distance, he ignited the fuse, and, either from something wrong in the quality of the fuse itself or from the accidental ignition of loose gunpowder, at the same instant, and before Major Ranken could move from the spot, the charge exploded, and the wall fell, burying him in ruins of masonry. Aid was immediately at hand, but from the enormous heaps of stone which were piled up, and from the fact that there were no beams of timber which could offer a chance of protection from the superincumbent weight, little hope could be held out of extricating the unfortunate officer alive. No efforts were spared. Additional fatigue parties were sent for from the camp to clear away the masonry; but it was only in the evening that the body was arrived at. Life was quite extinct, and from the nature of the fearful injuries received it was evident that death must have been instantaneous. The remains were carried up to camp the next morning. Major Ranken, who was an officer of ample private means, which he devoted to the best purposes, was much respected, not only in his own corps, but by a wide circle of friends. His name will be remembered as that of the Engineer officer who conducted the assaulting party on the ever memorable 25th of September, in the attack upon the Redan. He was then a subaltern, but getting his company on the 25th of the same month, he was worthily promoted to his present rank. His death has been a great loss to the army, and has created the greater sensation from its occurrence just at the time when all the ordinary dangers of active service had apparently ceased. It is said that Colonel Gordon and a sapper, who were in a part of the White Buildings at the time this last explosion occurred, also had a narrow escape. Feeling a wall above them, which was shaken by the concussion, tottering and about to fall, they had just time to effect an exit through an opening which had formerly been used for a window, when the whole tumbled to the ground. A great part of the outer shell of the barrack buildings still remains upright. These walls are said to have been retained in this position for a specific object.

It is impossible to converse with the more thinking, even of the younger officers, or with the better educated class of non-commissioned officers of the army, without discovering that the "new Order of Merit," the regulations of which have lately been promulgated here, has not given that satisfaction which its institution was evidently intended to produce. According to the preamble of the document the decoration of the Victoria Cross has been instituted and created for "rewarding individual instances of merit and valor" but the rules and regulations for the government of the same limit the claim to the distinction, so far as merit is concerned, to the "merit of conspicuous bravery" and in several of the rules "acts of bravery" are pointed out as alone worthy of the decoration. Hence it is now talked of as the Order of Valor. In the same part of the warrant it is set forth that the new decoration owes its origin to the Third Class of the Order of the Bath being limited to the higher ranks of both services, while the gallant conduct of officers of the lower grades, and private soldiers, passes unrewarded in

consequence of this limitation. The remark which one generally hears in reply to this consideration is, "But why not create a fourth class, then?" This would be more simple, and save the trouble of creating a new order, while it would prevent an unnecessary addition to the list of British military decorations. It is presumed the same power exists to add to, as there was to institute, the Order of the Bath, provided the objects of its formation are not interfered with. But what is most complained of is that the new order falls far short of what the many announcements respecting it had led persons to expect. There has been so much talk about it, and the long delay in its appearance having been excused by the explanation that all Europe was being examined to compare the rules and regulations of the respective orders of each country, everyone looked for something very comprehensive and perfect when it made its appearance. Merit, it was believed, was at last to be the order of the day; its claims were at last to be recognized, whether the distinguished service rendered to the state was civil or military, whether the superiority which was to obtain honour consisted in superiority of skill, science, enterprise, or self-sacrifice in all its varied aspects. The really brave man hoped no longer to be confounded with the multitude whose merit had consisted in accidents of fortune and temperament, or in rushing precipitately into danger, heedless and without thought; or with that other crowd, who have gained their honors by the acquisition of power, routine custom, or private friendship. Many officers of the civil departments, though less generally exposed to dangers from the enemy than purely military officers, have yet endured the risks and exposure of the campaign, and have exhibited devotion to their country by persevering performance of their duties—not leaving their posts, as others have done, at the earliest opportunity; and these also looked forward to the new order of merit as a means of destroying the exclusion to which they have hitherto been consigned by the high and mighty who rule in military matters. If the sentiments which prevail among many of the officers in the field were generally known, it would be a matter of surprise, perhaps, to find in what estimation the French Legion of Honour is held, compared with some of our own decorations—evidently arising from the belief that it is an honour really conferred for meritorious service alone. It is no unusual circumstance to hear the remark—"I'll get the Legion of Honour, I think I would wear that on all occasions." The estimate of the purity of the Legion of Honour decoration may or may not be exaggerated, but the remark above has a similar decoration, if conscientiously awarded, would have been valued.

The Commander of the Forces, General Kodrigton, has been visiting some of the military theatres during the week. On Wednesday evening, the 27th instant, he was present at a theatrical performance in the Light Division; on the following evening he patronized the Royal Theatre in the Fourth Division. Everything passed off satisfactorily on each occasion.

There was a heavy fall of snow—perhaps the deepest which has fallen this winter—on the evening of the 25th instant, the day on which the last mail left the Crimea for England. There were occasional showers of snow and sleet on the following day also; but on the 28th the sun exhibited great power, and under its influence a great part of the snow disappeared. Still, a good deal remains in sheltered situations, and places in which it has drifted, while the distant mountains remain completely clothed in their white attire. Each morning and evening during the week the mercury has fallen below the freezing point, but only a few degrees, and so soon as the sun has gained any ascendancy the thaw has commenced. Last evening the temperature was milder, and some rain fell. The prevailing winds have been from the north and north-west.

The last mail from England arrived on Thursday, the 25th. Newspapers were received up to the 16th instant.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 3.

It was last night announced to the army, by general order that all hostile firing was to cease on our side, pending arrangements which were in progress for concluding an armistice until the end of the month. At the same time it was ordered that no military or other persons in camp should attempt to pass beyond the outposts of the allies. The Russians had ceased firing on the 1st instant, and both in the neighborhood of the Tchernaya, and about the town and shores of the harbor, persons gradually exposed themselves with impunity in places where a day or two before their appearance would certainly have drawn down a hostile shot. No official notice was given that any understanding on the subject of an armistice had been entered into, nor was a flag of truce exhibited, and it was therefore not without some lingering feelings of hesitation that one left the usual safe distances from moat, shot, or proximity of shelter in case of fire being suddenly opened. There was a story, generally believed in the camp, that at the meeting at Trakir the officer deputed by the Russian commander-in-chief had asked, in the course of conversation, "Do you wish orders to be given for the fire to cease at once from our batteries?" To which the French chief of the staff had replied, "Just as you please about that; it does us very little harm. We shall not fire while the arrangements are under consideration." On the following day, Monday, the 2nd, it seemed to be generally concluded that the order to cease firing on the north side and Inkerman heights had been issued, and as the day turned out magnificently bright and fine, many visitors, military and others, walked about the town and south shores of the harbor. A flag of truce was hoisted in the morning, but was kept flying only while a communication took place between the authorized boats in the roadstead. As soon as the communications had been concluded the white flags were struck, but in other respects the two sides of the harbour presented the same unusual features as before. On the north side the Russian soldiers could be seen assembled in groups, looking idly over the earthworks, or standing on elevated spots about Fort Siverskaya, watching what was passing in the old city and Karabalaia suburb. There were four or five small boats, scattered at various distances, out in the roadstead, but none very far from shore, in which parties were employed in fishing. There was very little movement along the roads on the north heights, and very few Russians showed themselves; indeed, it seemed as if scarcely any persons were present, beyond the number of troops necessary to work and defend the various batteries and fortifications. On our side, the rumour of the cessation of firing and the fitness of the weather tempted many soldiers from the transports at Bahalava and civilians from Kadikoi, as well as the usual military from the camp, to visit the front. French and English officers on horseback, and groups of soldiers on foot, leisurely examined the ruins of Fort Nicholas on the French side, on the confined banks of stones and rubbish which once formed the fine docks, on the English side of the south harbour, and many other exposed places, of which they had only been able before to make a hasty and shabby survey. Others strolled along the beach, and choosing the most favorable points of view, watched with interest the forts and various works on the north shore. The noble elevated terrace in front of the remains of the White Buildings seemed a favorite place of resort. The views from this promenade are very fine and extensive, comprehending in front the whole of the roadstead and north heights, a fine expanse of sea, and a great part of the city on the opposite side of the south harbour. The foundations for the new Admiralty buildings, and a little farther to the right, the Karabalaia port, flanked by its spacious wharves and line of lofty storehouses, lie at the foot of this terrace, so that the spectator looks down upon them as he looks against the snow balustrade. If it were to

the western end of the terrace, and turns his eye in a direction towards the head of the south harbor, one of the prettiest spots in the whole neighbourhood of Sebastopol to be seen. The quiet water, confined between high banks, presenting a gracefully curved outline on each side, terminates in a shallow bay, and the small valley beyond either opens into picturesque ravines, or is walled in by lofty and precipitous hills. Notwithstanding the desolate character imparted to the place by the ruined houses, trees cut down to low sapling-stumps, the earthworks crumpling to ruins, the absence of the smoke-bell-shaped vessels, and the absence of movement upon the water, enjoying by the passengers across the rail-bridge, which the French repaired to connect the two sides of the harbor, the main features of the scene are naturally arranged in an picturesque and pleasing manner that the prospect is still a very charming one, under the influence of a bright, cheerful sky. A curious scene occurred the same day between some of the late belaguerers, near to Liserman. As is well known, the valley of the Tchernaya at this spot becomes very contracted, the cliffs which flank it on either side being within easy rifle shot of each other. On the Saturday the usual dropping fire had ceased on the part of the Russian riflemen, but some of the Roumanians came out of their ambuscades or showed themselves outside their works. It seemed as if they had received orders not to fire, but were doubtful whether the French had received similar instructions. On Sunday, however, they approached freely, and in common with the French and some English officers and soldiers who had gradually collected together at this part, led by a desire of having a near inspection of the scene and curious dwelling-places in the cliffs on the Russian side, assembled on the banks of the small river which divided them. Mutual salutations took place, and to establish a fraternization, as far as the obstacle which flowed between would permit, cigars and tobacco were tossed across and interchanged. This was not sufficient, and various attempts were made to cross the river; but the water was deep, and they all ended in failure, which gave rise to amusement on both sides. At last the Roumanians hit upon an expedient. They felled a high tree, and projecting it across the water, formed a temporary bridge. The invitation was accepted. Over went French and English, and nothing could exceed the civility of their late antagonists, but now their friendly intercourse. They showed them the Rock Chapel, the iron battery of which, projecting from the face of the cliff, had often been an object of curiosity, and have hollow places which, instead of being simple chambers or natural excavations, proved to be spacious underground barracks. There was also a spy, rail, or the pipe, for such as desired them, and it is asserted that under the influence of this sudden friendly, assisted perhaps by the raki, there were more than one or two instances of soldiers not finding the way back to their camps for many hours after the time when they first crossed the river. Some Russian officers were present who spoke French fluently, and received with politeness the French and few English officers who were near the spot. This meeting took place before the general order appeared confining all persons within the camp from going beyond the outposts, an order which will, of course, intercept any further visits to the Liserman chapel and caves.

It will be observed that the order relating to the armistice limits its application to land operations. This is important, for, were it otherwise, the period of a month would enable the Roumanians to convey a very large amount of arms and reinforcements by sea. They would also be enabled to make use of the coast roads, from which at present their transport is excluded. Were the attempt to be made, our vessels would still be permitted, without inflicting what are understood to be the terms of the armistice, to disturb them by means in their power, but no attack is to be made on any maritime towers or places which have hitherto been respected by the belligerents. Our difficulty in arranging the suspension will be the settlement of the boundary lines which are to be held while it continues in force. It will be necessary for the allies to extend their outposts to the seaward, at least to the position which they held from to-day setting in the winter season, for the sake of observation as well as protection. Without such precaution, it is obvious that the Roumanians could collect, if they chose, an immense force in this direction, ready at any moment, after the armistice had expired, to descend into the very

camp of the French and Sardinians on our right. Various other points have to be settled before the agreement will be in a state to be signed by the respective commanders of the forces in the field. It is mentioned that the instructions respecting the cessation of hostilities received by the Roumanians were dated St. Petersburg, Feb. 29th, and that they reached Simpheropol on the next day, the 27th, of course by electric telegraph.

The demolition of the Karabelnia barracks was continued on the 1st inst., the explosions being confined chiefly to the spinnacles or magazines beneath one of the wings, and to a few blocks of masonry which it was necessary to throw down. Nothing now remains of this magnificent pile of buildings but the outer walls, and some portions of the partition walls which serve as buttresses to support them. The walls which formed the great quadrangle are reduced to irregular heaps of stones, extending in long lines, and mixed with beams and planking of doors, or the timbers and short-logs carried down from the roof. The single upright walls which remain on the north, west, and south aspects of the inclosure, with the clear sky visible through these long lines of window openings, offer a curious spectacle of ruins. All the detached buildings within the area, such as stores, officers' cooking places, &c., which were very extensive and numerous, are also now destroyed. The warehouses and extensive wharves of the Karabelnia creek remain undisturbed, and, as before mentioned, the foundations of the new admiralty buildings have yet to be destroyed, as well as the masonry facing the lofty terrace above.

Havel, Lieutenant-Colonel K. Makarska, 22nd Foot, assistant quartermaster-general at Sebastopol, is expected to leave to-morrow for England, to convey documents and affidavits connected with the statements in the report by Sir John M'Neill and Colonel Finkel, implicating the administration of General Sir Richard Airey while acting as quartermaster-general in the Crimea. Colonel Makarska, who is generally regarded as a particularly active and zealous officer, was moved from the Light Division to Sebastopol towards the latter part of the winter of 1854-5, and has continued ever since discharging the duties of the quartermaster-general's department at that post. It is also understood that Col. Wettern, who was serving formerly in the quartermaster-general's department under Sir Richard Airey, has been telegraphed for to go to London, but that his duties as director-general of the Land Transport will prevent him from leaving the Crimea at present.

The weather continues very changeable. On the 1st inst. we had frequent showers of rain and sleet, continuing all day. The following morning there was a sharp frost, but this disappeared under the influence of a bright sun, and a perfect May day followed. To-day has been as dull and cheerless as yesterday was clear and exhilarating, heavy clouds covering the sky, the wind blowing from the westward, and rain, which has fallen at intervals, still threatening.

MARCH 4.

The wind rose towards evening, and during the night has been blowing in violent squalls, accompanied by heavy rain.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 8.

The weather has been more trying and severe since the last mail left than during any week, perhaps since the commencement of the winter. We have had instances of more intense cold, but some of such a rapid series of changes in temperature, force and direction of wind, and general atmospheric disturbance, as the last four days have presented. We appear to be now paying for the advantages enjoyed at the commencement of this winter season, for, as may be recollected, the cold weather set in nearly three weeks later than in the preceding year. On the other hand, March, 1855, as compared with what has transpired of the present month, was marked by warm and fine weather, and no heavy fall of snow occurred after February.

On the night of Monday last, March 3d, there were heavy squalls of wind, unaccompanied by rain, the wind blowing from a westerly direction. The following morning the wind changed to the northward, and a very heavy fall of snow ensued. The temperature fell greatly, and shortly after sunset the thermometer indicated only 15 deg. F. Snow

storms continued all night, and on Wednesday, the 5th, the whole surface of the plains and neighbouring hills was buried in deep snow. The uniform whiteness, where no trees, no tracks, nothing but the lines of wooden bars offered themselves to break the monotony of colour, was painful to the eyes, more especially when the sun at intervals broke through the low, misty clouds which swept rapidly along, and threw a dazzling glare over the scene. The suburbs of Sebastopol were all the more striking by contrast with the usual brown colour of the mud which forms the surface of the soil, and which has seldom so wholly disappeared. The marks of the roads were gone, from the ditches having been filled up by the drift, so that few carts attempted to move out; and from the deep holes in the ground where snow has been quarried having become filled up in the same way, it was a matter requiring no slight caution to go over the plain on horseback. About a foot and a half of snow seemed to have fallen, judging from the depth in places protected from the wind. At 6 a.m. on the 5th, Fahrenheit's thermometer showed only 8 deg. above zero, but the mercury rose as the day advanced. Still, the wind, which veered a little to the eastward, remained very biting and severe. On Thursday, the 6th, the wind changed suddenly to the south, the temperature rose, and the snow began to melt rapidly. This day was very stormy, the wind amounting at intervals to a gale, and the sky being covered with thick clouds, while occasionally there fell showers of rain mixed with snow. At night the wind grew more violent, and rain fell so heavily that after a few hours the greater part of the snow on the plains had disappeared. The ravines leading towards the rockward of Sebastopol became swollen rivers, the water rushing along with considerable force and a loud noise. Yesterday, the 7th instant, a change again occurred; the wind resumed its old quarter in the north, and some more snow fell. The day continued frosty and cold, but the atmosphere has now assumed a calmer and more settled aspect.

The severe character of the weather put a stop to all but the most necessary duties, and nothing has occurred in the camps worthy of being chronicled. The line of the aqueduct, as it winds from the opening at Tchernaya, along the side of the Tchernaya heights, and then under the cliffs on the Sebastopol side of the Liserman valley, has been fixed upon as the boundary beyond which the British troops are not to pass, and strict measures are adopted to enforce this regulation. Before the snow fell the Russian soldiers were taking advantage of the armistice, and employed themselves very busily in collecting the coarse grass which grows in the sheltered part of the Tchernaya and Liserman valleys near the river, but, as in our own camps, the sharpness of the weather which shortly followed seems to have driven them to seek the shelter of their huts, for very few have been seen near the outposts.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 11.

Snow I last wrote, the frost has continued severe, but the intolerable weather which prevailed during the greater part of last week has gradually subsided, and the last two days have been comparatively calm and serene. The cold was very intense on the 8th, the day on which the last mail left, and it was the more severely felt on account of a sharp north wind which arose round the whole day. The highest temperature in the shade was at noon, and then the thermometer indicated seven degrees below the freezing point. At 7 a.m., and 7 p.m., the mercury stood at 15 deg. F., and at a later hour it fell considerably lower. Towards night, a slight fall of snow occurred. The following day the wind, though blowing from the same quarter and sufficiently strong, was less strong, and the temperature gradually rose under the sun's influence,

but, at the highest, was still four or five degrees below the freezing point. It was too cold for the usual church parades to take place in the open air. Yesterday, the 10th, there was scarcely any wind, and the atmosphere was clear, bright, and cheerful. The sun carried so much power, that the hardened surface became dissolved into the usual mud, and nearly all the patches of drifted snow gradually disappeared. The hills and mountains to the eastward, however, retain their white aspect, and appear as if still deeply covered. At present there is every indication of settled fine weather.

The continued succession of storms greatly delayed and delayed the arrival and departure of the mails last week. The mail due on Thursday last, the 9th, was not delivered till the morning of the 10th instant, and the mail due yesterday has not yet come to hand. Our latest London dates are at present up to February 23. The mail for England, which should have left the Crimea on the 4th instant, was detained, the mail boat not venturing to sea until the 8th, when another mail was made up in due course; so that probably the two mails of those dates will have reached their destination together. The rifle practice and many other outdoor exercises of the troops have also been interrupted, for it was not possible to pursue them with any advantage in such inclement weather. The rifle matches, which, according to arrangement, were to have been held yesterday, did not take place. The spring race meeting is also postponed for a week. Arrangements had been made for a grand exhibition of athletic games, to have come off to-morrow, the 13th, but the state of the ground precludes the probability of there being any assembly for the purpose. These Christmas games are to consist chiefly of foot-races, at long and short distances, and of trials of strength in leaping; some of the contests being open to all troops of the allied armies. A sufficient sum has been collected by subscription for prizes of a very fair amount to be offered for competition. The Highland Division, at Kamarska, are arranging a meeting for the celebration of Highland games.

Some fine drafts of troops from Malta landed at Sebastopol on the 9th inst., and marched to join their respective regiments in the front.

The survey has ceased to a very great extent to exist among the French troops, but it has been followed in some regiments by typhus fever of a severe character. The epidemic, in consequence, is unfortunately very high at present in the French army. It is reported that the lines of both were formerly occupied by the men of the 16th and 50th Regiments, and part of which were used as a general hospital during the siege operations, have been offered to our Allies for hospital purposes, but that the offer has been declined. The health in our own army continues all that could be desired.

The line of separation between the positions of the two hostile armies is now entirely preserved. Any stragglers who venture to cross the prescribed boundary are at once brought back and punished.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

OBSERVANCE OF THE ARMISTICE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 14.

A very delightful change in the temperature and general condition of the weather, which lasted for several days, gave rise to an amount of activity, and appearance of cheerfulness through the camps and their neighborhood, far beyond what they had been lately accustomed to. No season could be more genial, no atmosphere more bright and exhilarating, than was enjoyed here since the last mail left on the morning of the 11th instant, with the morning of this day, when the north wind, with its

mits and chilling breezes, again obtained the ascendancy. The patches of snow, which were scattered here and there over the surface of the plateau, or were lying in shallow hollows in the ravines, disappeared rapidly, and a strong breeze from the south and southwest greatly aided the influence of the sun's rays in drying up the roads and ground about the base. Everywhere were seen troops drilling in brigades, regiments, or squads; the crack of the rifle was heard coming from the practice places in the ravines, or on the open slopes in front of (Gambel); large fatigue parties carrying timber, or conducting laden lit animals, were coming from the works around the base, or the raised down itself; boats were proceeding; and all the thousand duties which occupy the troops were being actively pursued in every direction.

Along the roads lines of mules and trains of waggon and carts, appearing almost endless, were moving towards the railway stations at the Col di Balaklava, or the central depot at the iron pits, every now and then passing other lines of mules and vehicles, which were returning laden to the commissariat depots of the various divisions along the front, or crossing, or being crossed by lines of French transport animals and waggon moving in the same errand from the Kaniatch route towards the French positions on the right about the Tcheraya. After duties and parades were finished, playing at football, or listening in groups to some of the numerous bands about the camp, seemed to be the favorite amusement among the men, while the officers found pastimes for the most part, in riding over the country, or visiting the shores of the residential and other parts of the allied position within the prescribed limits, which are now, for the first time, to be inspected liberally, and without risk.

Neither men nor officers have in many instances kept within the bounds laid down in the orders, and this has given no little occasion to the officers whose duty it is to see that the neutral boundary is not transgressed. A large number of officers have been placed under temporary arrest, and some confined, for disobedience of the orders on this head. Among others a brigadier general, at present in temporary command of a division, is mentioned as having been seen riding with his staff on the Russian side of the river, by the Commander of the Force, who sent his aide-de-camp, Captain Fosseby, to take down the names of the officers. One or two colonels of regiments likewise, it is said, have been detected transgressing the limits. Of course, if officers of this rank break through bounds, it cannot be wondered that sometimes the soldiers do so also. The place where the soldiers of the opponent armies chiefly congregate is the narrow part of the valley of Ichermann, along the middle of which the little Tcheraya river flows, to fall into the head of the covelet. To be exact, the line of which has been laid down by General Codrington as the limit not to be passed by the British troops, follows slowly the sides of the hills on the west side of the Ichermann valley, being carried across the open termination of the ravine which descends at the point from the plateau, and which is celebrated for its extensive fountains, on a lofty series of rather general stone masses. The attraction which induces persons to pass beyond this aqueduct and go to the margin of the river seems to be, in most instances, a simple curiosity to have a closer view of the Russian soldiers who are generally assembled on the other side of the river, or to exchange with them some money for the small crosses, or brass figures of saints, which they willingly take across to those who are inclined for this traffic. Others are tempted to trespass still further by invitations which the Russians make to them, to visit the celebrated chapel and city of carvers, the openings of which are plainly seen in the fons of the cliffs on the opposite (the Russian) side of the valley. The old towers and ruins of Ichermann, which crown the gently-sloping east of the precipice, are also objects of interest. The French have not received orders to keep within the limits laid down for the English, and both officers and men are seen freely mixing with the grey coats on the Russian side. By means of a few trunks of iron laid across one part of the river, they go over readily, and the Russians seem very willing to receive them and show them

the natural and artificial fortifications on their side. Neither the attraction ceases beyond the place already intimated, or the Russians do not choose to permit further access, for though the French are observed in considerable numbers threading their way along the banks of the dykes, and over the drier spots, which it is necessary to select with some care while crossing the marshy valley on each side of the river, or inspecting with them the ruins, or the long-polluted faces of the cliffs, they are not seen to pass beyond. The freedom with which our allies are permitted to cross over among the Russians has not been so strictly and uniformly respected as the rules of discipline would require. The English general orders and it is stated that many of these visitors consist of parties who have come from the districts even of Bahah-Berd and Stambourol for the purpose of looking on the remains of Sebastopol, and seeing something of the Allied armies from the close point of view as presented by the opportunity of the armistice.

The removal of the guns, and other warlike stores, from the Russian works and fortifications, continues to be pursued very actively, but immense quantities still remain, and a long time must elapse before they can be conveyed away. Hoops of shot and shell are seen piled to all directions over the ground still furrowed by the old trenches and crumbling earthworks marking the sites of the siege batteries. The French are being employed in removing anchors, some of which are of the largest size, from the anchor-wharves by the side of the south harbour. The removal of these ponderous masses of metal by land-carriage is a work of immense labour. Had water-conveyance been available, their removal could have been effected with comparative ease. Our allies have the advantage of being able to convey the stores which have fallen in their charge into security within the powerful defences which they have constructed around Kaniatch and Kanah, whence they can readily remove them at leisure to their transports, as opportunities occur. Their prizes are thus held safely under all circumstances. Our stores, on the other hand, cannot be accumulated in any quantity at Balaklava, without encountering the small party, and were piles not arranged, and but the site of the platform to be abandoned, all that remained unshipboard would have to be abandoned also. There would be only time and opportunity for carrying the more valuable and necessary portions of the army stores and equipment to Kaniatch harbour.

Our Sappers are still pursuing the work of destruction in the docks. The large blocks of valuable granite, and all those parts which might be rendered available in the future construction of similar works, are being broken up by minor explosions. The great terraces in front of the barracks, and the wharves and storehouses which bound on one side the Kaniatch port, still remain unimpaired.

The public games and contests in rifle shooting, which were suspended to take place during the present week, have been postponed till next week.

The spring race meeting is arranged to come off on Monday the 17th. The change of weather which has occurred today, should it continue, may lead to still further postponement. Snow is now (Friday evening) falling, though not heavily, and a strong and biting wind is blowing from the north. The sky is overcast with thick gloomy masses of grey clouds, and everything around wears again a bleak and wintry aspect.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 18.

The cold weather which set in on the 14th instant has continued to the present date. Each morning and evening Fahrenheit's thermometer has indicated from 12 to 14 degrees below the freezing point, and as a strong north wind has been prevailing, the cold has been felt very severely. The sun's influence has raised the temperature in the daytime considerably, but it has not ceased to freeze in the shade. Yesterday the wind assented at intervals almost to a gale, and on the higher and more exposed parts of the plateau it was necessary in the open air to put on furs and the warmest covering to avoid frost-bite. The atmosphere has, however, been bright and clear from report, so that the weather has been admirably suited for brisk exercise. No further fall of snow has taken place, but the hills and mountains to the eastward of the Tcheraya plain have not parted with their white covering, and wear at present as bleak and cheerless an aspect as they have exhibited at any time during the winter.

The cold has in a great measure put a stop to many of the ordinary exercises of the troops, such as rifle practice and various drills. There have been, however, some military marches on an extensive scale, to practise the arrangements which would be enforced in case of the army taking the field. On one occasion a division, with its artillery, commissariat, and transport attached, marched out; on the second, a corps of three divisions went out in complete marching order, and with all the requisite equipment for the field. The Third Division left its camp ground early on the morning of the 14th, and marched to the high ground near the Monastery of St. George, where the six regiments and their artillery bivouacked for the day. The rations were carried by the commissariat waggon, and cooked on the spots taken up by the several regiments. The division returned to camp the same afternoon, and arrived back before the severe cold change in weather which occurred the same evening. On Sunday, the 16th, the First, Second, and Fourth Divisions marched in the same direction. They left their respective camps in the morning about eight o'clock, and reached the ground fixed on for the bivouac nearly at the same time. This was on the north side of the cross line of hill, along which the Ottoman troops used to be encamped, and where they held one or two redoubts, stretching from the Col di Balaklava at one end to the sea cliff near the monastery at the other. This hilly ridge falls abruptly on one side towards the valley of Kanah, but has a gradual slope, broken into several shallow ravines toward the barren slope which descends in a northerly direction to the coast, between Cape Chersonese and the bay near Sebastopol. It was across this slope that the three divisions were formed up—the Guards on the right, in a direction towards the English head-quarters, the Fourth Division on the left, towards the Monastery of St. George. Lieutenant-General Bernard, C.B., commanding the Second Division, being the senior of the three division generals, was in command of the corps d'armee. General Codrington inspected the troops on the ground, but, having decided that the weather was too severe for further operations, dismissed the divisions to their several camps, where they arrived about 1 p.m. They had marched prepared for remaining throughout the day. The situation where the inspection took place is admirably adapted for the purpose: the whole British army might be reviewed without inconvenience in this position.

It will, no doubt, have been announced by telegraph that the armistice has been agreed upon and signed by the generals in the Crimea. They met for the purpose on Friday, the 14th. It was not generally known in the camps that the meeting was to take place, and very few spectators were present. Two masques were erected near the Trakler bridge, one for the official business and signing the treaty,

the other for refreshment, and it was remarked that the time passed in the latter was much longer than what was spent in the other masques. It is presumed that all the preliminaries had been settled before the meeting took place. General Lobov came escorted by a body of cavalry, about three hundred in number. They were regular troops, and appeared to be well appointed and equipped. He was accompanied also by a young lady in a phanton, reported to be his daughter.

There is a story going about the camp that after the general had parted from each other General Codrington rode for some distance over the plain, attended only by an aide-de-camp and an orderly. When at some distance from the lines of the Allies, he was overtaken by a Russian cavalry soldier, who attempted by signs and gesticulations to make him comprehend a request on his part, the meaning of which neither General Codrington nor his aide-de-camp could for a long time understand. At last the soldier gradually explained his desire by taking the General's whip, and, in exchange, giving him his own. No opposition being made to the bargain, the soldier soon afterwards went away with his whip. Presently a Russian officer came up, and a few words being interchanged, General Codrington's aide-de-camp mentioned the story of the whip, adding that it was to be presented to the soldier little expected he had got the whip of the British Commander-in-Chief. This announcement seemed to make no little impression on the Russian officer, and on leaving, he was seen to pull up the soldier alluded to in the conversation, the whip there is very little doubt, was not long before it again changed its owner.

It was decided at the armistice that the river Tcheraya was to form the line of demarcation between the positions of the two hostile forces. This, which is the natural line of separation, is more easily preserved than was the course of the aqueduct. The latter might in some places be passed over without being observed, as in certain situations the conduit for the water is arched in and covered over by earth, and is scarcely to be distinguished from the ground on either side. For some days past the boundary has been more strictly kept, in consequence, it is said, of a complaint of General Lobov on the subject, and a line of Russian sentries on the north side, and of French sentries on the south, have been posted near the river at Ichermann and the narrower part of the valley of the Tcheraya. The Russian soldiers still come down to the bank and throw over to the French and English soldiers on the left bank of the stream, crosses, amulets, and coins, for which more than the value is usually exchanged in money. To prevent the noise, or small crosses, falling into the water, they are usually enveloped in a ball of clay, or tied up with a stone in a piece of rag, so that they can be thrown more effectually, but they not infrequently fall into the river, when, to the disgust of the spectators in this novel kind of traffic, they are, of course, inevitably lost. Two officers took a fancy in exchanging words in this way, and one was dropped into the water. This, being a large and conspicuous object, might be recovered. The stream runs very rapidly, and appears deep in some places. Notwithstanding the restrictions imposed, no judge from stories which are in circulation, it would appear that persons still contrive to cross from one side to the other of the river unobserved by the respective authorities. Two or three Russian officers are said to have been seen within our lines, walking with French companions. There can certainly be very little information which an enemy could now gain by observation likely to be of use to him. He would see on all sides in the British camps the evidence of strength and confidence, and as to the works which exist to defend our naturally almost impregnable position, they can be well examined from the heights already held by the Russians.

There is a strong belief that we shall hear by the mail now due that telegraphic news has been received at Constantinople of peace being settled. It is stated that the question was asked at the armistice meeting, on the 14th inst, if any intelligence had been received by the allies of a treaty of peace having been signed. The Russian commander-in-chief receives his communications more rapidly than the allies do, now that the telegraphic communication with Yveris is broken. A direct line exists without any interruption from Paris to St. Petersburg, and from the last-named city to Simferopol.

Colonel Withersell, who has been doing the duty for some time past of the Director-General of the Land Transport Corps, has left for London, to give evidence before the military commission. When first sent for, his duties were of such a nature that Gen. Codrington, it was understood, objected to his leaving his post in the Crimea. He was in the quarter-master-general's department at headquarters during part of the time General Alvey was quarter-master-general of the army in Turkey. Colonel M'Murdo is expected to arrive shortly, to resume his position in the direction of the Land Transport. This important establishment is now in a very efficient state for taking the field. It is a subject of much speculation what will become of the immense number of transport animals and stores of transport equipment, in case active operations should cease. The general opinion is, that while the nucleus of the establishment will be kept in England, the greater part will be rendered available for service in the colonies.

The removal of guns and heavy stores from Sebastopol continues. The railway branching to the right, and terminating at the Womansoff-road, between the Second and Light Divisions, is now turned to valuable account.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 22.

The weather has continued severely cold, and occasionally very stormy, since the last mail left on the morning of the 19th inst. Northerly winds have prevailed during the whole time. On the 20th it blew a complete gale from the north, and the non-arrival of the mail-boat due on that day was fully accounted for by the tempestuous state of the weather and rough sea. Yesterday was more calm and mild. During part of the day the wind showed a disposition to change its quarter, but towards the evening returned to the north. The direction of the wind is watched with more interest in this place, perhaps than in any other country in Europe, for the temperature and condition of the atmosphere seems at certain seasons to be immediately dependent upon it. The south wind, blowing from Arabia and Egypt, comes tempered only by the snows on the higher mountain ridges of Asia Minor, while the opposite cold wind, blowing from the ice-bound regions of Northern Russia, falls on the Crimea, in winter, mitigated in severity by contact with any warm territory. The atmospheric variations which cause in consequence of these circumstances are very sudden, and often very great in degree, and need be very trying to the health and frames of the inhabitants—excepting probably in some of the deep sheltered valleys of the south coast, where the influence of the various winds must be very considerably moderated. One reason, among others, why the health of the British army has continued so remarkably good during this winter on the plateau has been, no doubt, the liberality shown in the supplies of different kinds of clothing issued to the troops. The men have thus had the opportunity of adapting their dress from day to day in kind and quantity, to the varying emergencies of the climate. The Tartars and others of the agricultural population of the country, who have come into communication with us, have been noticed for constantly wearing sheepskin caps and long coats, even in comparatively

warm weather,—a habit which has doubtless arisen from experience teaching them that the means of guarding against sudden sharp cold are among the most urgent requirements of a limited wardrobe in the Crimea. The Tartar long coat is loose and easily thrown aside when heat becomes oppressive. The round fur cap seems a necessary part of the Tartar head-gear under all circumstances.

It was reported in the camp in front, on the morning the last mail left, that a fire had occurred the night before at Balaklava, in which a whole bat-fall of men of the Army Works Corps had fallen victims to the flames. The story was supposed to be one of the usual exaggerations, but unfortunately the greater part of it proved to be true. The fire occurred in an encampment of this corps on the sloping side of a hill, forming part of the entrance to Balaklava, between it and Kadikoi. The flames broke out in one of the uppermost huts, and were directed upwards by the force of the wind blowing from the north, so that only two of the man's huts and a store-house above were destroyed; had the fire commenced in one of the huts at the bottom of the row, the whole encampment would probably have been sacrificed. Successive bodies have been taken out of the ruins, dreadfully burned and charred, but twenty-two men altogether are reported to be missing. From the positions in which some of the bodies were found to be lying it was evident that the men had not moved after they had fallen asleep. The fire may have smouldered some time, until the apartment had become filled with smoke and suffocating vapors, and the men have thus been steppled and killed before the flames appeared. When they did break out, they spread with the greatest rapidity, and the slight building was quickly consumed, so that some described its disappearing almost in one flash. Of course, nothing is known of the origin of the catastrophe, but it is feared there must have been some very careless neglect on the part of the inmates of the hut where the fire first occurred; and taking place, as it did, on St. Patrick's night, when there was a good deal of drinking, indiscretion may have been one of the causes of this neglect. It was supposed at first that sparks falling from the chimney upon the dry asphalt felt covering the roof had occasioned the fire, and accounted for the rapid dispersion of the flames; but if it had happened in this way, it is scarcely credible that some of the men within the building would not have caught alarm and escaped. In the camp, on an evening when the wind is high, the air cold, and the draught strong through the stove pipes, little showers of sparks may be observed streaming out in all directions upon the tiled roofs of the huts, and it is strange that no accidents have arisen from this cause. In all the instances where fire has first broken out, they have been traceable, I believe, in overlooking the stove or pipes and burning the adjoining wood, or to some other similar neglect within the hut itself, not to an accidental cause from without.

On Wednesday, the 19th, the Crimea games took place, which had been announced for the week before, but deferred on account of the severity of the weather. The temperature was still very cold, but the atmosphere was clear and the sun bright. Now and then puffs of wind came from the north, chilling through the warmest clothing, and exciting pity for the men who were from time to time induced to strip off all outer garments in preparation for the successive races. As usual, Major Astley, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, was the most conspicuous victor among the officers, and Private Hickey, of the 33rd Regiment, among the men of the British army. Major Astley, by his strength and speed, distanced all his competitors in the 100 yards race for the Officers' Stakes, and also came in first in the Alliance Flat Race, of 440 yards, which was open to French, Sardinian, and

English. He was also well in advance to win the Officers' Hurdle Race, in distance three hundred yards, and having ten three-foot hurdles to be leaped over, when an accidental fall, not against a hurdle, but from tripping against something on the course, threw him out of the struggle. No French entered for the Alliance Flat Race, but some Sardinian soldiers ran in it. Private Hickey, who has been so conspicuous on several occasions in similar meetings for racing and other exercises, never having been beaten by any one in running, I understand, but by Major Astley, won the contest among the regiments of the Light Division, and afterwards carried off the champion's belt from the whole army. He received a great ovation after the games had terminated, being carried in triumph by the men of his regiment round the neighboring camps, preceded by some volunteer drummers and fife, who assisted in attracting notice to the hero of the day. There was a sack race, of eighty yards, open to the Allies, but the English seemed alone to comprehend the nature of this amusement. Some of the Sardinian officers took it with evident amusement at the line of men forming at the starting place, with their arms thrust to their sides, and nothing but their heads appearing out of the ranks in which they were lined up, and were plainly trying to imagine what connexion this arrangement could have with foot racing. After the start they, like the rest of the spectators, joined in the mirth which was occasioned by the grotesque efforts at progression, hapless falls, and helpless condition when prostrate, of the weights engaged in the contest. The sack racing seemed to be a favorite amusement, for twice the number of men entered, who could be accommodated with a fair start in the course, which was marked out by posts and string ropes, and they were therefore divided into two parties, the stakes being divided equally also. The games were continued until a late hour of the afternoon, and the groups of spectators gradually dispersed on account of the severe cold. The last race, which was to have been a wheelbarrow-race, blind-fold, did not take place.

As the afternoon was made a general holiday throughout the army, the number of officers and men assembled on the ground was very large. A sheltered spot, between two undulating slopes, near the Guards camp, was selected for the course. In the main race the starting place was on the verge of the plateau overlooking the Tcheraya valley. The air was remarkably clear, and the distant prospect afforded from this position was exceedingly fine. The Fodine rise height, with their lines of tents and scattered huts, and their chalky soil laid bare by the constant movements of the troops thickly encamped upon them, lay below, separating the Balaklava valley on the south side from the Tcheraya valley on the north. The tents and huts appeared divided in size, but could be each distinguished to the further end of the hills which they covered near Yabrupan. Across the valleys, the lines of hills, each rising in succession to the eastward, until they were crowned by the highest mountain, lay covered with snow, were all clearly seen, and their outlines defined with unusual distinctness. This part of the plateau appeared to be on a level with the top of that part of the Malakova height which forms the north boundary to the Tcheraya valley. The movements of men could be distinguished among the batteries looking towards the valley, the guns of which before the armistice used to be constantly puffing out their white tails of smoke, but now appeared merely as so many black dots in the earthworks on the summit of the cliff. General Codrington, attended by a single orderly, and occasionally dressed in a fur costume appropriate to the weather, was present at the races. General La Marmes, who appeared conspicuous in a bright uniform, was also present, and remained for some

time on the ground. There were many Sardinian officers, more than French officers, in the assembly; perhaps the change of day for the meeting had not been generally made known in the camp of the latter. There is to be a Highland gathering at Kamara on the 27th inst, when none but the usual Highland games and exercises will be introduced. It is settled that the Spring games are to take place in the Tcheraya valley, on the plain between Traklin-bridge and the large reservoir made by the French at the time the communication of the aqueduct with Sebastopol was cut off. This will be, of course, on the side of the river reserved for the Allies, but on this occasion the Russians are to be asked across to join in the meeting. General Codrington, it is reported, has written to General Lobanoff on the subject, and sent an invitation to himself and his staff to attend the races. There has even been a talk of ladies being asked, and a monster ball room being erected by the French, the English having furnished the timber and planks for its construction; this entertainment, however, will probably be deferred until peace is declared. Should the Russian officers and soldiers come to the races, the meeting will be a very interesting one on many accounts. In any event, their joining in the assembly can give them no information or advantage in a military point of view. It could only be in case of observation being permitted at some distance from the front of our lines, that any advantageous knowledge could be hoped to be gained. One or two Russian soldiers who have advanced too far beyond the limits laid down in the French camp have been sent back under escort, but it is erroneously asserted that there has been privately some fraternizing and visiting among the French and Russian officers. In the valley the Russians come thickly on occasions down to the river, and some of the sentries have taken advantage of their presence to dispose of the various articles which they keep in the cantons for sale. English beer has the reputation of being the beverage chiefly sought after by the Russians. It has been remarked that most of the soldiers who come down to the river wear one or two medals, and that they are generally stout and in good condition. It has been stated to be ascertained that the men who thus show themselves are picked men, and that some are allowed to come down who are not previously paraded and inspected; but this is probably a camp "shave." On the 20th instant a whole Russian division, apparently about seven or eight thousand men, marched down from the Malakova height by the Balaklava-Sera road, and advanced some distance into the plain, where they halted. After a short time they returned by the route they had come. They appeared to be route-marching for exercise.

Preparations for some bonfires on a large scale have been made by the Highland Division, for celebrating an event which is looked forward to with great interest at Paris, and probably has occurred before this time, though the news has not reached the Crimea. Some enormous piles of wood have been collected, in such conspicuous sites upon the mountains above the Highland camp at Kamara, that when ignited their light will be seen for many miles around.

Our last papers reach to the date of London, March 4. The papers to Saturday, March 8, were due on the 20th instant, but have not yet been delivered.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 23.

The mail due on Thursday, the 20th instant, did not arrive till Sunday, the 22nd. The bags reached headquarters at an early hour of the morning, and no long time elapsed before it became known that the report, which had been prevailing in camp the last two days, of an imperial heir having been born to the throne of France, was confirmed by authorized intelligence from the British Embassy at Constantinople to General Codrington, and by despatches to Marshal Pelissier. Orders were sent, in conformity with preconcerted arrangements, it was understood, to Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Duerre to assemble the whole of the Royal Artillery on the open high ground near the Grand camp, for the purpose of firing a salute and undergoing inspection by the Commander of the Forces. A double object was thus effected. An opportunity was afforded of passing in review the whole of the artillery, which has not been done since the grand review in Balaklava plain in November last, and which was to take place under any circumstances about this time, and a more striking and imposing character was given to the complimentary salute paid to the House of our illustrious ally by the assembling of such a vast array of artillery on the occasion. In the French camp the salutes were fired, as usual, by repeated rounds from one or two field batteries. The orders for the parade were received at the stations of the various batteries about 10 o'clock, and at noon they were all assembled at the position indicated.

This position was in the right flank of the plateau, on the summit of the high ground overlooking the Balaklava and Tchernaya plains with the Pelenkine heights, and near to its extreme verge. Here were drawn up in line such an array of guns and men, and all in such perfect condition and order—men, horses, guns, and all belonging to them—as it falls to the lot of few to see collected at one spot. The force assembled consisted of thirteen batteries, comprising eleven field batteries and two batteries of the heavy brigade; and also two and a half troops of horse artillery. Altogether ninety guns looked over the plain, and were pointed towards the lines of hills and mountains rising on the opposite side. The sun was shining brilliantly, and the atmosphere was clear, so that they must have been plainly visible to the Russians in their camps along the verge of the Makhmetke ridge.

The salute first fired in the camp was a French salute of 101 guns. This took place at a commanding situation near to the point where used to be the headquarters of General Bugeot, and not far from the village of Little Kamouch, on the Worosoff road. Here Marshal Pelissier was assembled with an immense staff, and, amid waving standards, among which the Eagle of France was conspicuous, the first gun of a battery of brass guns was fired precisely at twelve o'clock. A few guns only had been fired from this spot, when the reports of distant guns were heard from the direction of the sea. These were from the forts at Kinross and Kamouch. By a curious effect of echo, sounds were heard also as if from guns on the north side of the harbour of Sebastopol, so that many who were not aware of the intention of the salute, mistook that the Russians were firing at the same time as ourselves. Of course the only common event, which could be supposed so much to interest the allied and the hostile armies, was an official declaration of peace; and this was consequently imagined by many to be the object of the firing, until its true purpose was discovered. The general delivery of letters in the divisional camps only took place shortly before noon, and to the principal part of the troops the first announcement of any extraordinary occurrence having been communicated by the mail was the sound of the cannon booming in the midst of them, and the sight of the white volumes of smoke which rose from Bugeot's Hill, and swept rapidly by towards the plain, driven by the westerly breeze, which was then blowing rather stiffly.

After the salute had been fired from the station just mentioned, Marshal Pelissier and his staff descended by the Worosoff road to the valley in

rear of the Pelenkine camp. Here a large body of troops was assembled with some field batteries, and another salute was fired.

The English salute was fired about half-past twelve o'clock. The effect was very impressive, as gun after gun in the long row, commencing from the right and following towards the left in regular time and series, discharged its white curling cloud, and sent its roar over the French camp below, to lose itself among the gorges and ravines of the Russian mountains beyond. General Codrington's might well be proud of having such a force under his command. When the salute had been fired—and it required a second discharge from very few guns to complete it—the order was given for the whole of the artillery to retire to ground at about two hundred yards distance, preparatory to marching past. This movement was performed by the immense force in line, and was admirably executed. The guns were then wheeled round and formed up into batteries. The commander of the force, surrounded by his staff and other officers, having taken up a favorable position, the artillery prepared to march past for inspection. Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Duerre rode at the head of the troops, and, having paid the customary salute, fell out, and took up a position on General Codrington's side. At first the intention appeared to be to move in distinct batteries, but, at an order from the General, this was changed, and men and guns went by in single file, at a steady pace, so that an opportunity was given of making a most minute inspection of the whole. The heavy howitzers and batteries attracted much notice from every one present, each of these ponderous guns being drawn by twelve horses, four abreast. The horses were in the finest condition, and in every respect the whole force, regarded in mass or examined in detail, seemed to be all that a commander could desire, if a new campaign were imminent. The French, who were looking on, expressed their admiration at the discipline and condition of this fine force in loud terms. There were few strangers present, and comparatively few British officers witnessed with the proceedings, in consequence of the short notice at which the review took place.

While the review was proceeding guns were heard across the plain, probably from the Surlidians. The great event of the day, the future importance of which can scarcely be estimated, perhaps, at present, was celebrated, as may be imagined, in a marked manner in the French camp. Mass was celebrated in the morning, and a Te Deum sung at the various chapels and stations, when all the troops of duty attended. A triple ration of wine was distributed to every soldier; each ration being issued after fixed intervals of time, to avoid disorder resulting, as would probably have happened had the whole been given at once. At night there were bonfires in various parts of the camp, and here and there displays of fireworks. The bonfires raised by the Highlanders above Kinross attracted general notice on account of their elevated position, and from their large size they continued to burn all night. The Russians also had a series of fires, which appeared at a distance like a festive illumination, along the Makhmetke heights; and the purpose of these lights—it not being supposed that they would exhibit satisfaction at the event which had caused the congratulations of the Allies, even if they knew of its existence—was a subject of curious surmise among all who saw them. It was again imagined either that they themselves had received news of peace, or that they attributed the rejoicings of the Allies to having received an announcement of a pacific cessation in the Confederates at Paris.

The Sebastopol Spring Meeting was held yesterday, March 24, in the Tchernaya valley. The ground on which the course was laid out was in the most perfect order, the entries for the races were very numerous, and the racing carried out with great spirit. The weather was exceedingly favorable; the course of spectators immense; no accident of a serious nature occurred; and the whole passed off under most auspicious circumstances. General Lister did not come down to the plain, nor did any of the Russian officers or soldiers join in the throng on the south side of the river, as it was generally anticipated some of them would be permitted to do. But yet, quite apart from the race themselves which called it into birth, this assemblage was one of the most remarkable spectacles which has been witnessed in the Crimea since the commencement of the campaign. It is generally understood that General Codrington

wrote to General Lister, intimating to him that the race were to take place, and that, in case his officers might like to take the opportunity of seeing this national pastime, the Allies would be glad to see them at the meeting. It was stated that General Lister replied that some would attend; but either the statement was erroneous, or something occurred to change the General's intention, as the result proved.

I include a programme of the races. The circumstances of chief general interest connected with them, was the fact of the prize-money—the two-mile stepple-chase—being won by a French officer, Viscount Talon. Throughout the race he exhibited great judgment, took the various leaps in good style, and proved himself a good rider. He also carried off the handsome wispstakes for points of fourteen hands and under, half a mile in the flat. Viscount Talon is, I believe, serving at present as a non-commissioned officer in the Chasseurs d'Afrique. He is a gentleman of good fortune, has passed some time in England, and is very fond of English sports. The horse which he rode in the second race is English-bred.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, MARCH 23.

Since the 21st, the day on which the great race meeting took place in the valley of the Tchernaya, the weather has again been severely cold, with a strong and cutting wind from the north. Coughs and colds are now more prevalent in camp than they have been at any time during the winter; and these affections are very probably due to the circumstances just mentioned, and neglect of the precautions necessary in consequence. There is, however, no serious illness of any kind in the English camp. The French are also much healthier than they were a short time since. We hear that at Tchern the mortality has been very great from typhus fever. It has been stated, as a curious and striking evidence of the different sanitary conditions of the French and English armies, that for some time the mortality among the French surgeons and apothecaries from contagion was as great as the mortality among all classes of the British forces. One of the chief physicians of the French army, Dr. Baudet, has lately arrived from Constantinople to inspect the French ambulances, and has also been visiting many of the English hospitals in the Crimea. Among other articles connected with the hospital establishments has also been that of Miss Nightingale, with eight hospital nurses. The latter are said to be intended for duty at the hospitals of the Land Transport Corps, the men of which establishment have been suffering from sickness more than any other parts of the army for some time past. Miss Nightingale has also brought up a quantity of hospital stores.

It is understood that an extension of the armistice has been agreed to between the respective Commanders-in-Chief. The terms are differently stated. All kinds of rumors prevail respecting the things to be done in the event of the negotiations terminating peacefully, the destinations of divisions and regiments, and many other matters, but they are not worth repeating. Hitherto, from the mere outward appearance of the arrangements, one might suppose that the armies had taken up their positions for many months to come. The French are making gardens in all directions, and in places even ploughing up the ground and sowing seeds. Many evergreens have been brought up from the side of the hills looking toward the north side, and various places too exposed to be reached prior to the cessation of hostilities, and these have been transplanted for the purpose of ornamenting the neighbourhoods of the tents and huts. Even these small patches of verdure offer a great relief to the eyes in looking over the bare and barren ground of the plateau about the encampments. The same succession of paradises and dells is observed on all sides; though occasionally the marching out of a whole division, with its artillery, transport, commissariat, and field equipments, and the reviews of larger bodies of troops, would indicate preparations for quitting winter quarters and taking the field. The second division is preparing to march out to-day. On the 20th instant General McMahon reviewed the whole of his corps d'armee in the plain of Balaklava, on the north side of the Pelenkine heights. The constant daily removal of Russian guns and stores, both by the French and ourselves, from the front, show that every effort is being made to remove these prizes before the time shall arrive when the greater part of the troops must be engaged in other occupations.

The cold weather has interfered in some degree with the preparations for the grand contest in rifle

practice which was announced to take place at the beginning of the month. Numerous trials have, however, taken place in the several regiments and brigades, with the view of arriving at the best marksmen, to compete hereafter in the general contest. There is but one opinion among men and officers of the great superiority as a weapon, in all respects, of the British rifle over the Minie rifle, for which it has lately been exchanged.

The mail due on the 27th instant has not yet come to hand. The latest dates of London news in camp are up to March 11.

The following is among the general orders: Headquarters, Sebastopol, March 23. The Commander of the Forces publishes to this army the resolution of a general order, issued by Marshal Pomeroy to the French army.

Headquarters, French Army, March 23. "The firing you have just seen has induced you that the Emperor has given to France an Imperial Prince. Our hearts and loyal arms, the English and Russians, have also decided to fire a salute in honor of this happy birth."

"Soldiers! You will be assembled on the day of the same joy that the Emperor has sent for our Emperor, a new prince of the great dynasty of France, with a smiling mark of the blessing of Heaven."

"The Marshal Commanding in Chief."

"A. FELLNER."

THE CRIMEAN WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD. Sir—Mr. Gifford Smith, in his article on "Progress and War" in "Standard's Magazine" for July, says of Quakerism, "In one common, perhaps, it even, by maintaining the Cause in the language of Great Britain, helped to bring on a war."

This reference to the mission of my late father and his companions to St. Petersburg in 1814 is an apt illustration of the lines— "A foolish thing, that's said but not enough, Shall pass, at last, for absolutely true, And not with food exclusively."

My father's mission is probably based on England's financial history on the subject. I would, therefore, ask you to allow me to observe that, in the last of my letter, neither Kitchin nor my late father was ever able to address a word of evidence that the Court or his advisers was misled by the Cabinet's Declaration.

Any one who will take the trouble to read the Address which the latter presented and the report of their interview will see that their protest was made on a political, and not on a political, grounds, and some only from a small sect whose opinions and position were already well known to the Court.

The interview took place after the Russian Army had crossed the Polish, after the Turkish Fleet had been destroyed at Sinope, and after the English and French ships had gone up to the Bosphorus. To speak of it, therefore, as a manifestation of the war is scarcely consistent with facts.

The whole story is a curious attempt to transfer the blame of a war, which the English government afterwards admitted to be a general one, to the only people who had the courage to protest against it at the time.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, JOSEPH STURGE, Birmingham, July 1.

THE BALACLAVA CHARGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD. Sir—I shall feel obliged if you will allow me to add a short supplement to the remembrance of the writer of the letter headed "The Charge of the Six Hundred," which appeared in your columns of the 26th inst.

At daylight on the 25th of October, 1854, the Russians commenced an attack on the position which we occupied. Shortly after daylight, Sir John Burgoyne, Major-General, was brought into action. Captain Maude, there were present with the troop only two officers; they were Lieutenant Dabrowski and myself.

After being in action about half an hour, during which time many serious casualties were sustained by the enemy's superior force, Captain Maude was severely wounded, and retired to the rear. The remaining few were ordered on Lieutenant Dabrowski, under whose action was continued for about another ten minutes, during which period he had a horse killed under him by a round shot, and immediately afterwards he was wounded by the fragment of a shell.

As the remainder of the troop was beginning to run short, and it was again overwhelmed by the enemy's numerous batteries, Lieutenant Dabrowski went to Lord Lucan and reported the exact position of affairs. He returned with the order to open firing, such as it was. Later on the day Captain Dabrowski arrived in the field, and retired. Lieutenant Dabrowski of his command.

Subsequently the troop was attached to the Light Brigade under Lord Cardigan, but was unable to effect a charge.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, F. J. WILKINSON, Major-General, United Service Club, October 25.

THE CHARGE OF THE SIX HUNDRED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD. Sir—The Charge of "The Light Brigade," called "The Six Hundred," took place 25th October, 1854, and in still a household memory with us, though thirty-five years have elapsed, and I have been asked by many to place on record the anniversary some circumstances other than mere eulogium, eulogy, harangue, and strong language—all of which are very similar on like occasions, and are often said to prove and reward to the point to best effect to what is required of me. No ill-humour any more.

Major's Horse Artillery, with me second in command, opened fire at daylight, and kept in action until an ammunition was exhausted, when it retired a few yards down hill, and remained there for a while, covered from the Russian shot and shell, with the hope of giving confidence to some wavering Turks. Maude was seriously wounded by a shell bursting in his horse, and there were also several casualties amongst the officers, men, horses, and gun wheels. Some of our Field Battalion were present, and continued the outposts.

In the course of an hour or an hour two brigades of Cavalry and Horse Artillery formed columns near the height of the plateau of Sebastopol, when suddenly a line of Cavalry with supports in column, probably five thousand, poured down the grass slope toward Balaklava, and were gloriously opposed by our Heavy Brigade of Cavalry, under General Scarlett.

In the course that followed I deemed it desirable to learn what the Russians were doing, and as the horse I had ridden was wounded by the splinter of a shell I mounted a baggage pony and rode up the grass slope to near the crest of the low forest valley, where I beheld him to a last gasp, and crept on through the long grass with my telescope.

Behind the woodwork on the hills opposite was full of men, and down the valley were troops by thousands. Captain Charles, one of Lord Lucan's aides de camp, now rode by, but as he did not see me, I hailed him with the information, when he replied, "The Light Brigade is ordered to attack," and while we were speaking it drove right, advancing and deploying at the first and center. There was not time for warning, so I ran to my pony, and getting back to the guns as fast as he could carry me, brought them up at full speed, and placed them over the edge, where but able to aid the remains of the Six Hundred in their inevitable rout.

At this time Lord Cardigan rode up and told me what had happened, at the same time pointing to a long row of ten cherry trees made by a Colonel Lanyon, who had otherwise named his aim. Others rode off by the guns. Amongst the last was Captain Godfrey Murray, 17th Lancers, now Lord Trollope, whose horse had been killed and his helmet lost. However, he came to me, sword in hand, and speaking as cool as he would on parade, said, "Is not this an awful business, Shakespeare? What shall I do?" My reply was, "Chick! stop on a gun-horse, and go to the rear with us, or in the front if we go into action, when you may help fight a gun."

We must not forget the valley from the 25th Highlanders, which covered many Russian soldiers, near the entrance to the village of Balaklava; on the attack on the Russian Artillery in the brushwood by the French Cavalry on white horses. I am sure that now, as companions were they on the hill, so keen is memory harked on the battle-field, that even now I fancy I see Nolan and his horse lying dead, like many others whose names I did not know.

Of my friend Charles I have a remarkable remembrance of him to recall. On the previous evening I had a long talk with him, and he spoke very freely of his being the last. My saying, "Well, we have been under fire together twenty years, and yet here we are again," did not cheer him. "No; it would be his last." A round shot killed him directly we passed on the night before named. As the spot was doubtless ground and grasses looked him then and there.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN SHAKESPEAR, Colonel, late R.A., Balaklava-day, October 25.

ARMY IN THE EAST.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 28 June 1858.—for.

"COPY of a REPORT, called for by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, relative to the SANITARY CONDITION of the ARMY in the EAST, and furnished to him by Dr. Mapleton in June 1857."

War Office, } 7 July 1858.

J. PEELE

COPY of a COMMUNICATION forwarded by me to the War Office, 5 February 1855, relating to the SANITARY CONDITION of the ARMY in the EAST, and called for by the Letter of the Director-General, dated 22 June 1857.

The Communication was marked "private;" a copy of a portion of it was afterwards sent to the Director-General of the Army Medical Department. I received the thanks of Mr. Peel for it.

5 February 1855.

The state of the army in Turkey may reasonably lead us to fear a large increase of sick, and in the event of a general action that increase will be greater.

The barracks and hospitals for the accommodation of sick will not admit of expansion.

The Turkish buildings in their neighbourhood are very badly adapted for the use of soldiers, being built of wood and roofed with tiles, consequently very hot in summer and cold in winter, for, except in one apartment, to which the Turk in winter confines himself, there are no chimneys or stoves. The water has to be brought from the public tank, perhaps at a great distance; the drains and privies are very defective in arrangement. In addition to this, the floors and places under them, the roofs and wooden ceilings, are saturated (if I may use the expression) with fleas, bugs, and all kinds of vermin, which I know, from experience, it is impossible to dislodge.

These objections obligate you to depend entirely upon the public barracks and hospitals for your sick.

The buildings are of the form of a square, in the centre of which is a drill yard; they are of three stories in height, with a covered corridor on the sides facing the yard. In the corridors, on each story, are the men's privies, cook-houses, water cisterns, &c., and also door places leading into the men's rooms and officers' quarters; these again face the outside of the barrack, with their windows opening in that direction; thus, it will be observed, that when the wind blows from the exterior, the foul air of the rooms will pass into the corridor, and vice versa, proving that it is not only not safe, but in the highest degree dangerous, to occupy the corridors with sick, or even to crowd the rooms. Hospital gangrene in the wounded, plague, or typhus fever, &c. is sure, sooner or later, to destroy the inmates, and the number of deaths now reported as caused by "diarrhoea" is too sure a sign that the fatal work is threatening; what it will be when the heat begins, I fear to contemplate.

The medical officer there has no alternative at present; he must crowd, and it is only to be feared that, in a very short time, we shall hear he has no place to put the fresh arrivals in.

There are two remedies for this state of things: one, to open fresh hospitals at Smyrna, Abydos, Malta, &c.; the other, to bring the sick to England.

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Now, the objections to the first are, in my opinion, insuperable, if the second can, at any expense or difficulty whatever be carried out.

These objections are as follows:—First, a man who has had a serious illness in Turkey hardly ever perfectly recovers there, on account of the enervating effects of the climate; in the summer the heat in Malta, Smyrna, &c. &c. is very great indeed. This is proved by the many officers who were able to command the luxuries of hotels at those places, but who were obliged to return to England after all. A man may become convalescent, thought fit to return to his duty; he does so, gets a relapse, and most probably dies.

2dly. Before occupying any building, barrack, or hospital in Turkey, such as Smyrna, Abydos, &c., you must go to the expense of sending out an engineer who understands this branch, with his staff of workmen, with stink traps, metal tubing, &c. &c. &c. to put the drains and privies into a condition that will render the occupation of these buildings by sick soldiers safe.

Having done this, you must then send out every single article and man that you require in a hospital in England, for Turkey is an impracticable country, and from the Turks you will get no assistance.

To prove the necessity of the privies being altered before occupation, I may mention, that these in a Turkish (building) barrack are in the immediate vicinity of men's and officers' quarters (sleeping-rooms), they are merely separate apartments, with holes in the floor; the hole is the top of an earthenware tube, perhaps 15 inches in circumference; this tube passes through each story down to the bottom into the sewer, this again empties itself into the sea at Smyrna, and into the Bosphorus at Scutari. Now, when the Turk goes to the privy, he uses water, and this tube is strong enough, but the Englishman uses paper, hay, old cloth, anything; the tube gets blocked up, perhaps half way down, and from the accumulation on the stoppage, bursts, and the walls, &c. become saturated; hence a fearful and insupportable nuisance, and cause for generating deadly disease in the hot season; and I have no hesitation in giving my opinion, that this very state of things (unless it has been altered since I left) will next summer, if not before, be the cause of some such disease at Scutari. I did all in my power in expressing my opinions to the then authorities in May last on this subject in the strongest terms.

Lastly. It is well known that Smyrna, Abydos, &c. &c. are very hot indeed in the six summer months, and consequently likely to prove fatal to a man badly wounded, or diseased; tell a man in this state that he is to be sent to either of these places for change of air, he will probably not bear up, but give way and die (had I been so told when ill, and many saw how ill I was, I think it would have had a fatal effect); but put that man on board a ship, and tell him he is to go home, he will in a majority of cases become convalescent before he reaches England; this was proved lately, for the ship "Libertas" brought from the East many invalids, yet very few on arrival were taken into hospital.

The other remedy is, to bring all men likely to be long ill to England.

The objections to this are, expense and difficulty in getting transport.

The number of lives likely to be saved to the country by this plan will, I am quite certain, far exceed the cost of transport.

Let a sufficient number of large ships, screw steamers if possible, say of 2,000 tons, be fitted up for 500 sick men, with berths, cots, &c. &c. &c.; let the medical staff be complete, orderlies, cooks, washermen, &c., with medical stores and comforts of every kind and description be complete, and on board and within itself; let no man or article belonging to these ships be interfered with as to removal, by any authority whatever in Turkey or abroad, but let them be considered as permanently employed on this duty, by which means they become accustomed to the sea, and you will be able, if necessary, with four such ships, to bring every six weeks, between 2,000 and 3,000 men to England; you by this plan get rid of the enormous expense of the proposed establishments at Smyrna, Abydos, &c.; you save an immense amount of individual suffering, and also valuable lives to their friends and country; and you will be able to husband a good amount of medical staff, as it is not likely that the wear and tear of these will be so great as their brethren on shore.

I think

CONDITION OF THE ARMY IN THE EAST. 3

I think these advantages far exceed the cost and difficulty likely to be encountered in getting transport.

(signed) Henry Mapleton, M. D.
Late Staff Surgeon attached to Lord Raglan.

P. S.—I calculate that, except the men permanently disabled by wounds or otherwise, 2,000 lives out of the 3,000 would be saved, and fit for duty in six or eight months after leaving Turkey, that would have been lost altogether by remaining.

(No. 911.)

FOOD, CLOTHING, DUTIES, &c., &c.

5 February 1855.

In approaching this subject, I may mention that a campaign in Turkey during the summer season is the same, and requires the same precautionary measures in every way that an Indian one does; this it is very difficult to make a campaigner who has not served in India understand, and I found a great wish on the part of some officers in the East to treat suggestions, and even Lord Raglan's General Orders, cavalierly. One told me (a general officer) that the white covers to the caps (used as a protection from the sun) was damn'd clap-trap; another I heard say, that he thought it necessary to drill the men in the sun to acclimatise them.

Knowing from my Indian experience that if the system of long drills in the heat of the day, bathing, &c. &c., was allowed to go on, a fearful amount of sickness must follow, I made many sanitary suggestions to Lord Raglan, which his Lordship instantly took into consideration. Many were put into General Orders. (A copy of these is enclosed.)

As the above difference of opinion, in the event of Lord Raglan not being in command of the army, may tend to operate to the disadvantage of the soldier, I think that a body of memoranda should be issued by authority, and in all cases when practicable be considered as General Orders, should there be another summer campaign.

The tents served out to the army must by this time be worn out, and therefore immediate attention should be paid to this subject, and a different kind altogether constructed. Those now in use are neither protection from the heat in summer, nor from the cold in winter, and I am quite certain that the men can hardly exist in them. A great increase of sick will be caused by non-attention to this next summer.

A tent for a hot climate should have double roofs and sides, not bell-shaped, but high at the sides, like those used in India, and two feet at least between the walls. All articles of soldiers' clothing should be larger than at home, boots especially; these are best made of fisherman's leather, waterproof only as far as grease can make them so; strictly waterproof material is likely to prove injurious, as the insensible perspiration of the feet becomes condensed, wets the socks and lining of the boot itself, which last then is most difficult to dry.

The trousers should be of cloth, winter and summer. The chaco is a bad head dress, for when a man is sick it is cumbersome to carry, and no better protection from the sun than a good forage cap, peak and white cover; of course woollen socks, flannels, and drawers are necessities.

The knapsack could, I think, be most advantageously superseded by some sort of long bag, say 6 feet by 2 1/2, waterproof at the bottom; at one end a partition for necessaries, which would form a sort of pillow, and the rest might be stuffed, when practicable, with the ration forage; this, when the man is under arms, shaken out, and the bed folded like a knapsack. When in camp it would be invaluable, as no man is likely long to stand the bare ground for his only bed in such a climate without injury to his constitution. I think the weight of this can be brought down to a few pounds.

The bread in Turkey is another serious cause of mischief. In my opinion, as a rule, it was very unfit for issue; but you could get no better at Varna, or even Scutari, it was said [for the troops is meant—H. M.] because there is no

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yeast, and therefore always more or less sour; the flour is always, also, mixed with rye, even the best. The contract system was in full operation here.*

In May 1854 I brought this subject to Lord Raglan's especial notice, and he immediately entered into it; but the Commissary-general differed from me as to its quality; but it was so sour that I and a number of officers bought the article from an American baker in Constantinople, who baked a small supply for the English residents; and at Lord Raglan's own table I have seen the French ration bread used when his Lordship's private baker was ill, as our own was so nauseous to stomachs unaccustomed to it.

By examining the contract prices paid for bread in Turkey, it will be seen that 40,000 rations cost about 350 L. a day. I understand from a respectable baker here, that such a supply daily could be furnished if you sent out 20 bakers, flour, ovens, fuel, yeast, &c., for about 300 L. a day, and this to include the pay of the people and cost of every article.

I consider this subject of such paramount importance to every other for the health of the army, that I earnestly intreat immediate attention to it.

Sour bread, sour wine, and the constant use of one meat, such as goat or mutton, is sure to bring on bowel complaints.

The meat is generally bad in Turkey, and if the animals are not given over alive to the soldiers, goats are imposed for sheep by the contractors, and therefore strict orders should be issued on this head.

Vegetables should form a portion of the ration when practicable.

Tea in the summer is better than coffee, as the latter often, in hot climates, produces diarrhoea; but in winter I think the soldiers prefer coffee.

(Here follow observations not relating to sanitary measures.)

I have also to call attention to the fact, that fires are constantly happening all over Turkey, and therefore large depôts of stores should not be put into the Turkish buildings; but iron houses should be sent out, and a supply of fire-engines.

(signed) Henry Mapleton, M. D.

MANY of the following Suggestions were made Verbally to Lord Raglan, others in Writing (also) to the Adjutant-General for his Lordship's consideration; others have been added since I left the Eastern Army.

I do not know whether similar suggestions were or were not made by the principal medical or other officer to Lord Raglan.

1. No drills or parades of any kind or description, except roll-calls or necessary fatigues, to take place after 7 1/2 a.m. or before 7 p.m., and never to be more than one hour and a half from the time of "general assembly."

1. Given in writing by me to the Adjutant-general of the Army, in May 1854. This was followed by a General Order from Lord Raglan, dated 12 May 1854. Until further orders, no parades, drills, or field-days, whether for practice, instruction, or punishment, shall take place in the open air between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. All parades of great coats and necessities should be within the same hour."

2. Fatigue

2. Carried

* Result of Suggestion.—In May 1854, soon after landing, I brought this subject verbally to Lord Raglan's notice. He desired me to write officially, as he considered it of great consequence. He sent instantly for the Commissary-general, and tasted the bread in my presence.

His Lordship made many inquiries subsequently as to the quality of this article; indeed I may say that during the few months I was with his Lordship, that this subject was one of constant anxiety to him.

Many officers thought the bread pretty good; still every exertion was made by Lord Raglan, in May, June, July, and August 1854, to make the commissariat improve the bread.

The Quartermaster-general of the Army, Lord de Ros, ordered an officer of his department to report upon the mode the French adopted. This officer sat up all night to watch the process, made his report, and sent it, with sketches, to Lord Raglan, who ordered it to be sent to the Commissary-general as a guidance; but the answer was, I believe, there were no bricks or other such materials available for the purpose.

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2. Fatigue parties, whenever practicable, to be relieved in time to take their meals in camp.

2. Carried out by the Quartermaster-general, Lord de Ros.

3. Marching out for exercise when in cantonments to be always before breakfast, care being taken that the regiments return to their camps by 7 1/2 a.m., and that the men are not under arms more than two hours from the time of general assembly.

3. Given in writing by me to the Adjutant-general of the Army. Answered by the General Order of 12th May 1854.

4. Privies in the camp to be dug in fresh places once a week; the soil to be covered over every day with common earth, a capital deodoriser, in the absence of lime.

4 and 5. Given by me in writing to the Adjutant-general of the Army. Followed immediately by a General Order from Lord Raglan, dated, "Scutari, 12 May 1854," as follows: "Medical officers of regiments should examine well the vicinity of camps, with the view to discovery and removal of every cause of malaria.

5. Privies to be made always to leeward of camps; medical officers to find out from the natives the prevailing winds.

"Every privy should be inspected daily by a quartermaster and a medical officer, by whom a report should be made weekly, stating that they have so visited these places, and whether these were clean or otherwise. Lime should be thrown down the privies daily; when lime is not to be procured, earth must be substituted for it."

Cautionary measures on the same subject repeated by his Lordship in General Orders, 27th June and 1st August 1854.

6. Goats are likely to be imposed by contractors for sheep; all animals should be handed over alive, or some responsible soldiers be present when they are killed, and who also should see them sent off for issue.

6. Verbally brought this subject to Lord Raglan's notice in May 1854. Followed by a General Order, dated 28th June 1854: "The Commissary-general will cause live cattle to be delivered over to officers attached to divisions and brigades, to be slaughtered by regimental butchers, and issued in detail by the Commissariat to the troops."

7. Spirits recommended to be substituted for porter, and the sour wine of the country, as far as possible, forbidden to be drank.

7. Verbally brought to Lord Raglan's notice, at Scutari and Varna, as the porter that I tasted often was sour. I do not know whether the following General Order was in consequence of my opinion, or the principal medical officer, in which his Lordship concurred.

"General Order, 30 July 1854.

"The Commander of the Forces deems it expedient to caution the men against a too free use of vegetables, and urges them to abstain entirely from fruits, and the wine of the country, &c., and authorises a ration of spirit, which was recommended by a Board of medical officers, &c."

8. Bathing

8. Given

8. Bathing in the sun between 7 a. m. and 7 p. m. should be strictly forbidden.
9. The caps to be covered with white cotton, on and off duty, from sunrise to sunset.
10. All reliefs of guards to take place before $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 a. m.
11. Troops, when on the move, or shifting ground, to leave their encampment half an hour before sunrise.
12. A halt for five minutes on reaching one mile from the previous encamping ground, and every hour afterwards; for the first few days the marches should not exceed eight or nine miles; this will gradually get the men into it, prevent sore feet, strag- gling, &c.
13. A medical officer should always accompany the party sent on, to mark out encamping ground, whose duty it would be to see if there were any marshes in the neighbourhood, and to find out from the natives the prevail- ing winds; and if there was a marsh, to encamp to windward of it, as one night to the leeward of a large marsh might give numbers intermittent fever.
14. A very small quantity of alum is sufficient to clear a large bucket full of dirty water.
15. Every man should be compelled to have two pairs of socks, two flannels, and his boots especially looked to.
16. The meat of the ration should be alternately of beef and mutton.
17. Soldiers always ought to wear cloth trousers, and not be permitted to half undress after a march.
18. In wet weather the halt should be made on slopes or elevated spots, sheltered from the wind, if possible. In these times the number of fires should be increased, and kept up all night.
8. Given in writing by me to the Adjutant-general. General Order from Lord Raglan, dated "12 May 1854. No man allowed to bathe between 8 a. m. and 6 p. m., or to go to sleep in the sun." Repeated in General Orders, 3d June 1854.
9. Ditto.
10. Included in the General Order, 12 May.
11. Ditto.
12. Given by me to the Adjutant-general of the Eastern Army.
13. Given by me in writing to the Adjutant-general of the Eastern Army.
15. Given by me in writing to the Adjutant-general of the Eastern Army. Brought to my notice by Dr. Balfour, Royal Military Asylum, before leaving England in March 1854.
17. Given in writing by me to the Adjutant-general of the Eastern Army. Brought to my notice by Dr. Balfour, Royal Military Asylum, before leaving England in March 1854.
18. Given by me in writing to the Adjutant-general of the Eastern Army. Brought to my notice by Dr. Balfour, Royal Military Asylum, before leaving England in March 1854.
19. In

19. In wet weather, an extra distri- bution of spirit should be given, when starting from and on arriving at a bivouac. When the men are heated on the march, care should be taken that they do not drink much cold water.
20. When sentries in a camp are posted, advantage should be taken of trees, &c., for protection from the sun; and if the camp is stationary, tem- porary sheds, formed of a couple of long sticks and matted boughs, should be made. A sentry should be allowed (unless in the immediate vicinity of the enemy) in hot weather to take off his pack, but to have it with him.
19. Given in writing by me to the Adjutant-general, Eastern Army. Brought to my notice by Dr. Balfour, Royal Military Asylum, in March 1854.
20. Given in writing by me to the Adjutant-general of the Eastern Army. Part of this brought to my notice before leaving England in March 1854, by Dr. Balfour, Royal Military Asylum.

Having now, as requested, given the result of any sanitary suggestions made by me to Lord Raglan or his Adjutant-general, I have to add that these sug- gestions, even so early as May 1854 (a few days after landing), were consequent on frequent conversations with his Lordship on those and almost every other subject that affected the welfare of the soldier; food, clothing, tents, carriage, ships, field and general hospitals, drills, &c., and sanitary measures, all in their most minute detail, were constantly discussed by Lord Raglan and his Adju- tant-general with me, from the time of my joining in May to the time of my getting ill in August.

The intimate knowledge his Lordship possessed of all and every requisite for the soldier gave me but little to suggest that did not meet with Lord Raglan's approval.

The General Orders of the Eastern Army for May and June 1854 prove this.

The well known kindness of disposition, the extreme care and anxiety which his Lordship showed in everything connected with the army, prove that if his general orders, detailing the articles of the soldier's ration, time for drills, for sanitary measures to be adopted in the camp, &c., &c. were not carried out, any departures therefrom were either not brought to his Lordship's notice, or that it became an impossibility to execute them under the peculiar circumstance of the operations performed.

(signed) *Henry Mapleton, M.D.*
Surgeon, 15th Hussars.

[Faint, mostly illegible text from the reverse side of the page.]

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Under 100

Ordered by The Board of Command in its Privy Seal
13 July 1830.

(Colonel Keppeler)

COPY of a Report, asked for by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, relative to the Services performed by the Army of the East, and furnished to him by Dr. McPherson in June 1837.

ARMY IN THE EAST.

(Forms of Certificates regarding Wounded Officers used during the Peninsular War.)

106 1/2

Place Camp Sebastopol

Date October the 7th 1855

We do declare, upon our honour, that we have duly and impartially inquired into the Case of Private Walter William Young of Her Majesty's 19th Regiment who appeared before this Board, and according to the true spirit and meaning of Her Majesty's Orders and Regulations, and the instructions issued by Her Majesty's order on this head.

Here give a particular description of the wound

We find that the abovenamed Officer labours under a severe wound of the left hand from a musket ball, received at the assault upon the Redan on the 8th of September 1855 — and as there is no prospect of his being soon sufficient for duty, his ~~is~~ recommended that he receive leave of absence to England for the recovery of his health.

Severe dangerous or slight as the case may be

We do further declare, upon our honour, that we consider the injury received in action with the Enemy on the 8th of September to be a severe wound of the hand and that a period of three months will be required for his recovery.

President J. A. Mordaunt
J. S. Galt
Members Edw. P. D. Armstrong
Staff Surgeon P. C. Low
W. Russell
Surgeon P. D. M.

(Bristol)
(Dunlop)

(Turnover)

Certificate of the Surgeon.

Ernest Walter William Young of
 Her Majesty's 19th Regiment received
 a severe wound in action with the Enemy at the
Battle upon the Redan on the 2^d of
September 1855. The ball, a musket
 ball, entered on the inner aspect of the
 Metacarpophalangeal joint of the 4th finger of the
 left hand, and striking against the bone, made
 its exit near the Carpo-metacarpal joint
 above. The bone is denuded and carious,
 and not improbably an ankylosed joint will
 take place, or excision of the Metacarpophalangeal
 joint have to be performed. The joint, and soft parts surrounding, are
 at present (October 7th) inflamed and
 painful.

A minute
 description
 of the wound
 and its
 probable
 result to be
 given here

Signed Thomas Symonds
 Surgeon
19th Regiment

Certificate of the Commanding Officer.

This is to Certify that Ernest Walter William Young
 of Her Majesty's 19th Regiment of Infantry
 was wounded, in action with the Enemy at the
Battle upon the Redan on the 2^d of September 1855

Signed W. B. ...
 Commanding Her Majesty's
19th Regiment

Certificate of the Officer applying for Compensation.

I declare upon my honour, that I have not received or elsewhere
 applied for any gratuity or allowance in consideration of my wound
 received in action at the
Battle upon the Redan
 on the 2^d of September 1855

Signed Ernest Walter William Young
 Ensign 19th Regt.

Proceeding of Board of Medical
 Officers, Certificate, etc. relating
 to *Kerley's Gallies*
 by *William Murray*
 wounded in action *at the Battle*
of Malakoff 1855



Bridge across a ravine resting on *Cannibal* barrels with
 their heads removed for water to pass through after heavy rains -

(Left) (Right)
 This was the upper end of the Karabelowia ravine, leading down to
 Sebastopol. The hub indicated on the right hand, the hub of the
 2nd Brigade of the Light Divⁿ. To the left, but not shown in the
 sketch, was the 1st Brigade the 19th Reg^t being nearest to the ravine,
 & the 00th + 77th further on. My tent, which Col. Bennett gave
 me, was above, on the top of the sloping ground, the commencement
 of which is shown on the left hand. (See also sketch, p. 138)

GRAVEYARDS OF BRITISH HEROES.

Brigadier-General Adye's report upon the condition of the cemeteries and monuments of the British army in the Crimea, having been presented to Parliament, has been issued to-day. Accompanied by Colonel G. Gordon, the British Commissioner on the Danube, General Adye, in the autumn of last year, visited the Crimea and inspected the graveyards. With the exception of a few monuments at the Alma and at Kerch, the whole of the cemeteries and monuments, 180 in number, are on the ground which extends from Sevastopol to Balaklava, and from Kamisch to the Tchernaya. Brigadier-General Adye says:—

The cemeteries vary much both in their position and in their condition, which varies not only on the hills and down the ravines, which surround Balaklava, some lie in the sheltered valleys about Kadikoi and Karaidi; but by far the greater number extend along the bare plateau in front of the city walls which the army has been compelled to occupy; and, moreover, among these is that on Viceroy's Hill, distinguished alike by its commanding position and by the numerous monuments it contains, many of them of officers of high rank and distinction. The cemeteries also differ considerably in the number of graves and monuments which they respectively contain. Some are large, with hundreds of graves and numerous tablets and crosses; others are isolated spots, with only a few. A considerable number contain no monuments whatever. There are three conspicuous exceptions—St. Ignace, at Balaklava, and in front of the Redan—and there are few general monuments to brigades and special regiments. The majority of the monuments are those of officers, but there are many also of soldiers, and a few of women, nurses, or the wives of soldiers. A small proportion of the monuments have been erected since the termination of the war; some are of marble, but as a rule they are of the soft stone found upon the spot. The trees for the most part have been hurriedly erected towards the end of the campaign, often by unskilled hands, without sufficient foundations, and with slightly-cut inscriptions. Originally there were also a considerable number of wooden crosses. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that, exposed to the vicissitudes of climate, especially in the winter of the Crimean winter, a large number of them have perished, and almost all of those remaining show signs of weather and decay. Tablets and crosses have gradually become in their foundations, many have fallen and have become broken, and the weather-worn inscriptions are hardly distinguishable. The trees have in some instances contributed to the destruction. The walls which inclose the cemeteries are in the first instance roughly built, without mortar or foundations, and of the loosest stones in the neighborhood. Time and weather have led to the rapid decay of these also, and the sepulchres have occasionally sustained the destruction by sliding masses on their backs and foundations. Reports have been received, not from time to time, but to the monuments and walls subsequent to the departure of the Allied armies. Colonel Gordon, of the United States army, lately volunteered his services in 1855, and contributed much to their preservation. Between 1851 and 1853 Mr. Eldridge, the consul at Kerch, rebuilt, by order of the Government, a large number of the walls and repaired the monuments, at a total cost of about £10,000. Since that date, with the exception of a few cases of repair by private individuals or relatives, little has been done for the care and preservation of the cemeteries. Of the total number of monuments we found altogether in finding graves, the details of the 120 cemeteries, are as follows:—With many monuments, 9; containing a few monuments (sometimes one or two), 62; without monuments, 45 (could not be found); 11; unnumbered tablets; 7; total, 135.

With regard to the alleged desecration of the tombs, we made careful inquiries, and endeavored personally to satisfy ourselves on the subject by close inspection. The Tatar shepherds of the Crimea are a well-to-do, educated people, and have received their flocks and herds to stray amongst the graves; and they may in some instances, probably except from the mistakes of their wild asses, have broken or pushed down some of the decaying monuments, but, as a rule, the natural destruction caused by time and weather has been far greater than that by man. Nevertheless, there are a few exceptional cases in which monuments have been directly overthrown and their contents disturbed; and as the largest and best-kept tombs have usually been selected, the general impression seems to correct, although—namely, that the desecration has been the act of persons who have hoped to find money or valuables on the bodies of the dead. The tomb of Sir Lydell Norton, and that of some officers of the Guards, and the general monument to the officers and men of the Royal Artillery, all of which are at Viceroy's Hill, are the most noticeable instances of violence and destruction. The first, which was a handsome monument, has been more than once overthrown, and that

of the Royal Artillery has been spilt and broken with the last few months. The Russian authorities expressed their regret at these occurrences; but in the absence of sufficient means to have been in their power altogether to prevent them. In a few cases the inscriptions have been defaced, apparently with some instrument, and the soldiers of the Redan and Tchernaya are destroyed by the names of various battalions been cut upon them. The famous stone which was at first the head-quarters of the British army is well cared for and in good preservation, and in the ground in which Lord Blandford and a number of his own lieutenants lie in the wall, with the following inscription:—In this room died Field-Marshal Lord Blandford, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the British army in the Crimea, 25th June, 1855.

General Adye visited the field of Alma. There is a handsome tomb to the memory of the 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers in front of the old Russian entrenchment, and there are a few isolated monuments to officers on the plain near the river. Before leaving the Crimea he also paid a visit to Kerch. The monuments there, and at Yenikale, are in Russian graveyards. The above remarks will perhaps convey a sufficient general representation of the present condition of the British cemeteries in the Crimea; but in order that the actual condition of the graves may be known, and bearing in mind that the surviving relatives of those who fell in the Crimea may wish for further information in particular cases, an appendix is added showing the state of each tablet, cross, or monument at the time of the visit. Before proceeding to offer suggestions as to the measures which may be considered expedient with a view to the restoration and future care of the various cemeteries, it will be as well to consider shortly the steps which have been taken by the Russian and French Governments under similar circumstances. General Adye says:—

The chief Russian cemeteries are on the north side of the harbour, near the Fort Severnia. The principal one has been the object of great care ever since the war. It is surrounded by a substantial wall, many trees have been planted, and handsome crosses and monuments of various kinds have been erected, and more are still being added, some to individuals and others general ones, to the private soldiers. On the high ground overlooking the cemetery a Greek church has been built, entirely of pyramidal form, 100 feet high, and tastefully decorated internally with paintings and ornaments. The names of the officers who fell are inscribed on marble slabs inserted in the walls, and on the outside are inscriptions cut in bronze, detailing the number who were killed in each regiment, brigade, and division. The church is said to have cost £20,000, and that of the walls and monuments about £10,000, a portion having been destroyed by public subscription, but the greater part by the Russian Government. The French determined to destroy the remains of their officers and men not to remove them to any central spot, near the former French headquarters. This arrangement was carried out in 1855, each country being cleared of its dead, and their abandoned. About 25,000 bodies are said to have been removed; those of the officers having been, so far as possible, identified. The French cemetery now consists of one principal massing, situated in the centre, surrounded by several smaller monuments, all built after the same type. The chief one contains the remains of the generals and staff officers in marble, and their names are inscribed on marble slabs on the outer walls; the others are devoted to the sergeants, the artillery, engineers, Imperial Guard, and each division of the *lignes corps d'armee*; the remains of officers being deposited in columns raised in and those of non-commissioned officers and privates in a pit beneath the structures. The name and rank of the officers interred in each massing are, as far as possible, inscribed thereon. The whole is surrounded by a substantial wall some wall. There are pointed in the interior, which is about 100 yards square, and there is a small cottage for the custodian, at the gate. The cost is stated to have been about £20,000. The French monuments, constructed of the soft Crimean stone, are mainly showing signs of weather, and some repairs were being made at the time of our visit. The salary of the custodian is £144, and repairs cost about £50 per annum.

Neither General Adye nor Colonel Gordon recommended the general destruction or removal of the bodies of the British officers and men who were buried by their comrades on the ground where they fell; but they observe:—

As regards the cemeteries generally, our view is that those which contain no monuments should be covered with mounds of earth and turf, and that the ruined walls should be removed; that the numerous small isolated burial grounds, containing each but few tablets or monuments, should be suitably fenced, the monuments

being removed to the nearest large cemetery. We are of opinion that the larger cemeteries, which contain numerous monuments and fragments, should be preserved, a substantial wall being built round them; and that all monuments, tablets, and crosses should be repaired, and the inscriptions preserved. The three monumental obelisks at Inkerman, Balaklava, and the Redan should be protected by a good wall, with a substantial railing. The cemetery at Calverley's Hill deserves special consideration. From its commanding position the spot can be seen from every part of the city of Sebastopol. We think that the numerous monuments should be thoroughly restored, the wall rebuilt and surrounded by handsome railings and gates, which might be used from England for the purpose. It seems also worthy of consideration whether a large obelisk or general monument might not be erected on this spot by the memory of the officers and men of the British Army who fell in the Crimean War. It would appropriately mark the centre of the English position. Should our views in this respect be adopted it would be advisable that the monument should be made in England of granite or other durable material, and sent out to the Crimea. We understand that no difficulty need be anticipated in carrying out the above proposals on the ground of the ownership of the land, which, we were informed by General Kotzebue, is at our disposal. With regard to the expense of carrying out these several recommendations, we calculate the amount, exclusive of any general memorial at Calverley's Hill, at about £65,000. In our interview with General Kotzebue, the Governor-General of Southern Russia, His Excellency entered with much interest into the various proposals and details, particularly insisting on the great difficulty of adequately maintaining and protecting the 150 cemeteries so widely distributed over many miles of country. In this view we entirely concur, and our proposals, if carried out, will render unnecessary any further maintenance or watchfulness over the great majority of the burial grounds. After the necessary repairs have been carried out, it will be desirable that a commission should be appointed, to reside on the spot, and to make periodical inspections of the remaining cemeteries. An old non-commissioned officer, or a pensioner of the Royal Engineers, would seem to be an appropriate person for the office, who should have authority to expend small sums for incidental repairs, which need not exceed £100 per annum. Whatever measure may be adopted, we may feel confident that the Russian authorities will offer us every facility, and that they are equally desirous with ourselves that the graves of our officers and soldiers shall be duly respected and cared for.

THE CRIMEAN CEMETERIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES. 1873 Sir,—During a recent excursion in the South of the Crimea I did not, of course, neglect the opportunity of visiting our cemeteries in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol, and feel compelled to say that the tombstones, walls, the broken gravestones, and the total want of any surveillance whatever is a shame to our Government. From one cemetery the large doors are stolen, cattle driven in to graze there, and stones piled up to prevent their escape, in case our sleeping warriors should take up arms against them for distasteful reasons. The French cemetery is kept in excellent order. It is true the monuments are all alive, and resemble a number of little white-washed mud huts, with a cabbage garden in the centre, rather than the resting-places of men of arms. But, at any rate, it is not used as a workshop. The Russian cemetery does honour to Sebastopol. Chaste and elegant monuments are still being erected there; the British flag, or emblem of the British Empire, are simple, massive, and expensive; and the principal monument in commemoration of the officers, though very roughly enough outside, forms a little clump of respectable beauty. But I refer to the French and Russian cemeteries only as a contrast to our own. I was travelling with a Russian family, and when the turn came to visit the English burying ground I could not but blush with shame at the neglected ruin which everywhere met our eyes. There is one exception, however, which deserves notice—namely, the grave of Halley Vinton, which is evidently kept in order by some devoted friend. If the Government is too much occupied to attend to so small a matter as the discharge of obligations to those who have died in accomplishing its commands, our own individual Englishmen get it done by private subscription. Surely, if the honour of our soldiers who lie unburied there is not considered a matter strong enough for action, our own honour in the eyes of a nation of such political and commercial importance as Russia should not be neglected? It is not necessary to follow the example of the French in dismantling all the existing buildings, but it is necessary to have some substantial monument erected, and to bury those graves that are already enclosed in a respectable condition, in order to show that not only the Government, but every man to do his duty, but who cannot be sensible of the obligation which the burial fulfils of duty entails.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROBERT TILLEY,
Major-General's Chamberlain, Government of Russia,
South Russia, July 1873.

THE CEMETERIES IN THE CRIMEA.

The condition of the British graves in the Crimea has been from time to time the subject of much anxious consideration in the public papers, and many and different were the accounts given of their condition, and preservation, at one time reported to be in good order, and at another that they had suffered from neglect and desecration on the part of the enemy's troops. In the end, sufficient facts and experience were sent out by the English Government to the Crimea with the view of reporting on the actual condition of these cemeteries, where the bones of some of the best and bravest of England's men lay laid. On their return home it would seem that their report was considered satisfactory, as no further notice was taken. We have received a letter from an officer who has visited the spot, and who returns to England in the commission, and he gives a report of the state of affairs, which is truly most deplorable to a country like ours. We give his relation in his own words.

Last autumn I went to the Crimea, and amongst the first places I visited were the graves of our men scattered in the various cemeteries before Sebastopol. From what appeared in the public papers a few months previously, it was understood that competent officers had been sent from England to examine into the state of the graveyards, and that they had reported them to be in a satisfactory condition; but I was surprised to find in the state I did. At Calverley's Hill the wall was broken down in several places, the tombs to be found in the most of a wretched state, and in other cases the graves had actually been dug up and the bones were shown the ground. In the hope of finding rings or other valuable articles, I was given to dig up the bones of Calverley's Hill, one of the principal graveyards, but the others were in a more deplorable condition, so much so that they could hardly be recognized as graveyards at all. A gentleman who was with me, and who had spent some years in the Crimea, showed me the tombstones of a well-known gallant officer; he said he had recovered it three times in the space of 18 months, and the fragments of two of the former tombstones were lying close to the grave. This was what I saw nearly a year ago; only two months ago, a friend of mine visited the Crimea, and I asked him to let me know the state of the various cemeteries. His report then I have just received. He states—'They are all in a most deplorable condition, although the wall round Calverley's Hill has been repaired; this I knew was done by the kindness of a Russian officer just now, and I believe at his own expense.' My friend goes on to say that at the graveyards before the British lines are not only above the ground, but are actually thrown outside the wall, and that he has replaced a great many of them himself.

What a contrast is presented to all this in the burial place of our gallant allies, the French! A visit to their one large cemetery, which is situated behind the French head quarters, will show this. At the entrance is a gate and a hedge, a good wall surrounding the whole. In the centre stands a large mausoleum, in which the generals and officers of the staff are buried, their names being inscribed on the outside. Everything here is in perfect order—and why? because the French thought fit to send an old soldier to live in the Crimea, for the express purpose of keeping in order the graves of his fellow-battlemates, and well he does his work. The question then, must arise—'Why should we do the same?' In England, so seldom, or, if possible, if those who have fallen so gloriously fighting for Britain, that she will not attend to the burial of her warriors, necessary to ensure their graves being kept in order, and their bones buried with respect? This is no light matter to be dismissed in silence; something should be done to-day, and a permanent provision well not be reported on the grave, but to keep them in order, and to prevent other nations, although they are not the best of us, from being able to see the bones of our gallant soldiers and sailors should be exposed to desecration and mutilation for want of a little care, and what more to say now a most trifling expense; which, were it a hundred times as great, should be incurred for the sake of the well-earned honour and credit.

Let some member from the place in Parliament during the coming session demand, in the name of the country at large, that some measure be taken without further delay to see that the mausoleum which the present speaker on our part most anxious in the eyes of his people, and we venture to say that our Government are not slow to do so.

Melbury Park Sept 26th 1874.

110a

REPORT ON THE CRIMEAN CEMETERIES.

War Office, December 1872.

Sir, In fulfilment of the instructions received from the Secretary of State for War, I have the honour to submit the following Report upon the Condition of the Cemeteries and Monuments of the British Army in the Crimea, and of the steps which appear desirable with a view to their due restoration and care for the future.

Leaving London on the 19th August, I arrived at Galatz on the 26th, and was joined there by Colonel C. Gordon, C.B., R.E., the British Commissioner on the Danube, who was associated with me in the performance of this duty. Her Majesty's ship "Antelope," Lieutenant-Commander Woodruffe, having been placed at our disposal by the Lords of the Admiralty, we proceeded at once to Odessa, to wait upon General de Kotzebue, Governor-General of Southern Russia, for whom we had letters; but at the time of our arrival he was absent in attendance on His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. We, however, had an opportunity of seeing His Excellency before leaving the Crimea, and of discussing with him the various details connected with the subject of our mission.

On arrival at Sebastopol, on the 29th of August, we waited on Admiral Kischinsky, the Governor, and on General Richter, commanding the garrison, and received from them every facility for carrying out our object. Colonel Himmelman, of the Russian Engineers, and Major Rocheliff, were good enough to place themselves at our disposal, and to accompany us day by day in our visits to the various localities, rendering us essential assistance in our inquiries.

From the day of our arrival until the 9th of September, we were engaged many hours each day in making a careful inspection of every Cemetery and Memorial of the British Army in the vicinity of Sebastopol.

Before proceeding to any detail, it may be well to recall for a moment the circumstances which have caused so large a number of Cemeteries to be found in one particular part of the Crimea. It will be remembered that after the battle of the Alma, in September 1854, the Allies marched on Sebastopol, and in consequence of their long detention before that city, the great body of the British Army did not move again during the war, but remained encamped on the plateau on the south side; consequently, with the exception of a few monuments at the Alma and at Kertch, the whole of the Cemeteries and Memorials, 150 in number, are to be found on the ground which extends from Sebastopol to Balaklava, and from Kamiesch to the Tchernaya.

The Cemeteries vary much both in their position and size. Some are in the rocky ravines leading down to the trenches, whilst others are on the hills and downs which surround Balaklava. Some lie in the sheltered valleys along Kadekoi and Karani; but by far the greater number extend along the bare plateau in front of the city upon which the Army so long remained encamped; and pre-eminent among them is that on Calverley's Hill, distinguished alike by its commanding central position and by the numerous monuments it contains, many of them to officers of high rank and distinction.

The Cemeteries also differ considerably in the number of graves and monuments which they respectively contain. Some are large, with hundreds of graves and many inscribed tablets and crosses; others in isolated spots, with only a few. A commemorative obelisk—at Inkerman, at Balaklava, and in front of the Redan—and there are a few general memorials to brigades and special regiments. The majority of the monuments are those of officers, but there are many also to soldiers, and a few to women, nurses, or the wives of soldiers.

A small proportion of the monuments have been erected since the termination of the war; some are of marble, but as a rule they are of the soft stone found upon the spot. They were for the most part hurriedly erected towards the end of the campaign, often by unskilful hands, without sufficient foundations, and with slightly-undeciphered inscriptions.

Lieut.-General the Right Honourable
Sir Henry K. Storks,
G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,
Surveyor-General of the Ordnance.

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Originally there were also a considerable number of wooden crosses. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that, exposed to the vicissitudes of climate, especially to the rigour of Crimean winters, a large number of them have perished, and almost all of those remaining show signs of weather and decay. Tablets and crosses have gradually loosened in their foundations, many have fallen and have become broken, and the weather-worn inscriptions are hardly distinguishable. Stray cattle have in some instances contributed to the destruction.

The walls which inclose the Cemeteries were in the first instance roughly built, without mortar or foundations, and of the loose uncut stones in the neighbourhood. Time and weather have led to the rapid decay of these also, and the shepherds have occasionally hastened the destruction by making entrances for their flocks and herds. Repairs have been carried out from time to time both to the monuments and walls subsequent to the departure of the Allied Armies. Colonel Gowen, of the United States Army, kindly volunteered his services in 1859, and contributed much to their preservation. Between 1861 and 1863, Mr. Edridge, the Consul at Kertch, rebuilt, by order of Government, a large number of the walls, and restored the monuments, at a total cost of about 3,000*l*. Since that date, with the exception of a few cases of repair by private individuals or relatives, little has been done for the care and preservation of the Cemeteries.

Before making our inspection, the previous reports which had been submitted to Government from time to time on the subject were carefully studied by Colonel Gordon and myself. That of Mr. Consul Edridge, dated 1861, is a carefully prepared document, and afforded us valuable information. Those of Lieutenant-Colonel G. Gordon and of Major Stokes, Royal Engineers, of 1867-8, also proved useful, and a work published in 1859, by Captains Brine, Royal Engineers, and the Honourable John Colborne, entitled, "Memorials of the Brave," with the reports above mentioned, enabled us to ascertain the various localities with comparative facility.

We endeavoured to visit every Cemetery and Memorial of which we could find a record, the total number in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol and Balaklava amounting to 130. Of these we failed altogether in finding eleven. They were originally situated in the valleys round Kadikoi and Karani, but as the greater part of this ground is now under cultivation for gardens and vineyards, and as the remainder is covered with thick underwood, it is probable that no traces now exist of these Cemeteries, most of which were small ones, and contained no tablets. Some few others were hardly distinguishable, except by the traces of their walls.

The details of the 130 Cemeteries, &c., are as follows:—

With many monuments	9
Containing a few monuments (sometimes one or two)	62
Without monuments	45
Could not be found	11
Memorial obelisks	3
Total	130

With regard to the alleged desecration of the tombs, we made careful inquiries, and endeavored personally to satisfy ourselves on the subject by close inspection. The Tartar shepherds of the Crimea are a wild uneducated people, and have allowed their flocks and herds to stray amongst the graves; and they may in some instances, probably more from idle mischief than wilful malice, have broken or pushed down some of the decaying Memorials; but, as a rule, the natural destruction caused by time and weather has been far greater than that by man. Nevertheless, there are a few exceptional cases in which monuments have been violently overthrown and their contents disturbed; and as the largest and handsomest tombs have usually been selected, the general impression seems a correct solution—namely, that the desecration has been the act of persons who have hoped to find money or valuables on the bodies of the dead. The tomb of Sir Lydston Newman, and that to some officers of the Guards, and the general Memorial to the officers and men of the Royal Artillery, all of which are at Calvert's Hill, are the most noticeable instances of violence and desecration. The first, which was a handsome Memorial, has been more than once overthrown, and that of the Royal Artillery has been upset and broken within the last few months. The Russian authorities expressed regret at these occurrences; but in the absence of custodians it has not been in their power altogether to prevent them. In a few cases, inscriptions have been partially effaced, apparently with some instrument, and the obelisks at the Redan and Inkerman are disfigured by the names of visitors having been cut upon them.

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The farm-house which was so long the head-quarters of the British Army, is well cared for and in good preservation; and in the room in which Lord Raglan died a marble slab has been inserted in the wall, with the following inscription:—

"In this room died Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in the Crimea, 28th June, 1855."

We visited the Field of Alma. There is a handsome tomb to the memory of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers in front of the old Russian entrenchment, and there are a few isolated monuments to Officers on the plain near the river. Before leaving the Crimea we also paid a visit to Kertch. The monuments there, and at Yenikale, are in Russian graveyards, and call for no observation.

The above remarks will perhaps convey a sufficient general representation of the present condition of the British Cemeteries in the Crimea; but in order that the actual condition of the graves may be known, and bearing in mind that the surviving relatives of those who fell in the Crimea may wish for further information, in particular cases, an Appendix is added, showing the state of each tablet, cross, or memorial, at the time of our visit.

Before proceeding to offer suggestions as to the measures which may be considered expedient with a view to the restoration and future care of the various Cemeteries, it will be as well to consider shortly the steps which have been taken by the Russian and French Governments under similar circumstances.

The chief Russian Cemeteries are on the north side of the harbour, near the Fort Severnaia. They are few in number, but each contains the remains of several thousand soldiers. The principal one has been the object of great care ever since the war. It is surrounded by a substantial wall, many trees have been planted, and handsome crosses and memorials of various kinds have been erected, and more are still being added, some to individuals, and others, general ones, to the private soldiers. On the high ground overlooking the Cemetery, a Greek church has been built, outwardly of pyramidal form, 100 feet high, and beautifully decorated internally with paintings and ornaments. The names of the officers who fell are inscribed on marble slabs inserted in the walls, and on the outside are inscriptions cut in bronze, detailing the numbers who were killed in each regiment, brigade, and division. This church, of simple form, and standing on high ground, forms a striking object on approaching Sebastopol from the sea. Its cost is said to have been 40,000*l*, and that of the walls and monuments about 14,000*l*, a portion having been defrayed by public subscription, but the greater part by the Russian Government. Such a monument, standing as it does in a commanding position, overlooking the city and harbour of Sebastopol, is a fitting memorial to the soldiers of the Russian Army who so nobly fell in the defence of their country.

The circumstances of the French Army were very similar to our own, and they had numerous Cemeteries widely dispersed from Kamiesch to Baidar. Feeling the inconvenience and difficulty as regards their care and preservation which have so long perplexed ourselves, they determined to disinter the remains of their officers and men and to remove them to one central spot, near the former French head-quarters.

This arrangement was carried out in 1863, each Cemetery being cleared of its dead and then abandoned. About 28,000 bodies are said to have been removed; those of the officers having been, as far as possible, identified. The French Cemetery now consists of one principal mausoleum, standing in the centre, surrounded by 17 smaller monuments, all built after the same type. The chief one contains the remains of the Generals and Staff Officers in vaults, and their names are inscribed on marble slabs on the outer walls; the others are devoted to the Navy, the Artillery, Engineers, Imperial Guard, and each division of the three *Corps d'Armée*; the remains of officers being deposited in coffins walled in, and those of non-commissioned officers and privates in a pit beneath the structure. The name and rank of the officers interred in each mausoleum are, as far as possible, inscribed thereon. The whole is surrounded by a substantially-built stone wall. Trees are planted in the inclosure, which is about 100 yards square, and there is a small cottage for the custodian, at the gate. The cost is stated to have been about 6,000*l*. The French monuments, constructed of the soft Crimean stone, are already showing signs of weather, and some repairs were being made at the time of our visit. The salary of the custodian is 144*l*, and repairs cost about 50*l* per annum.

Although a course similar to that followed by the French has been from time to time advocated with regard to the remains of our officers and men, it does not appear to Colonel Gordon and myself that any general disinterment or removal is necessary or even desirable. Independently of the difficulty, it might almost be called impossibility after

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the lapse of so many years, of collecting the remains or of in any way identifying them, we believe that it would be repugnant to the feelings of the Army and of the British public generally that any such plan should be attempted. Our officers and men were buried by their comrades on the ground where they fell, the whole scene is sacred and historical, and the remains of the dead should not be disturbed.

As regards the Cemeteries generally, our view is that those which contain no monuments should be covered with mounds of earth and turf, and that the ruined walls should be removed; that the numerous small isolated burial-grounds, containing each but few tablets or memorials should be similarly treated, the monuments being removed to the nearest large Cemetery.

We are of opinion that the larger Cemeteries, which contain numerous mementos and tombstones, should be preserved, a substantial wall being built round them; and that all monuments, tablets, and crosses should be repaired, and the inscriptions renewed. The three memorial obelisks at Inkerman, Balaklava, and the Redan, should be protected by a good wall, with a substantial railing.

The Cemetery at Cathcart's Hill deserves special consideration. From its commanding position the spot can be distinguished for many miles, both by sea and land, and from every part of the city of Sebastopol. We think that the numerous monuments should be thoroughly restored, the wall rebuilt and surmounted by handsome railings and gates, which might be sent from England for the purpose. It seems also worthy of consideration whether a large obelisk or general memorial might not be erected on this spot to the memory of the officers and men of the British Army who fell in the Crimean War. It would appropriately mark the centre of the English position. Should our view in this respect be adopted, it would be advisable that the monument should be built in England of granite or other durable material, and sent out to the Crimea. We understand that no difficulty need be anticipated in carrying out the above proposals on the ground of the ownership of the land, which, we were informed by General Kotzebue, is at our disposal.

With regard to the expense of carrying out these several recommendations, it is difficult to give more than a general estimate; but we have endeavoured to do so approximately, and calculate the amount, exclusive of any general memorial at Cathcart's Hill, at about 5,000*l*.

In our interviews with General Kotzebue, the Governor-General of Southern Russia, his Excellency entered with much interest into the various proposals and details, particularly insisting on the great difficulty of adequately maintaining and protecting the 130 Cemeteries so widely distributed over many miles of country. In that view we entirely concur, and our proposals, if carried out, will render unnecessary any further maintenance or watchfulness over the great majority of the burial grounds; but, for the reasons we have given, we cannot recommend any proposal for disinterment and removal of the bodies to one general central mausoleum.

After the necessary repairs have been carried out, it will be desirable that a custodian should be appointed, to reside on the spot, and to make periodical inspections of the remaining Cemeteries. An old non-commissioned officer, or a pensioner of the Royal Engineers, would seem to be an appropriate person for the office, who should have authority to expend small sums for incidental repairs, which need not exceed 50*l*. per annum. Whatever measures may be adopted, we may feel confident that the Russian authorities will offer us every facility, and that they are equally desirous with ourselves that the graves of our officers and soldiers shall be duly respected and cared for.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN ADYE,

Brigadier-General.

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THE GRAVES IN THE CRIMEA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD PAPER.
Sir,—With reference to the article on the Crimean cemeteries in your number of Saturday last, it may be interesting to your readers to know that a sum of money has been granted for the repairs, in accordance with the report of the commissioners (Major-General Sir John Adye, K.C.B., and Colonel Gordon, C.B.) in 1872. Having formerly served during the Crimean War, and having been residing for the last five years near Sebastopol, I have naturally taken a great interest in the state of our cemeteries, and in the spring of this year I accepted with pleasure Sir John Adye's proposal that I should undertake the superintendence of the repairs. I am now only waiting for the final arrangements concerning the plans for the repairs, the department through which the money is to be drawn, &c.
The monuments at Cathcart Hill were much injured last year, but were repaired by the Russian authorities previous to the visit of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. I may here add that it is entirely owing to the care and attention of Russia that a single monument or cemetery remains for us to repair. The few Russian soldiers quartered at a small barrack on the Werencesco road do all in their power to prevent the Tartars from injuring our monuments, and the proof of their vigilance is seen in the state of the cemeteries in their vicinity, many of which are in remarkably good order.

I received yesterday a letter from Colonel Binkler, the proprietor of the English head-quarters where Lord Raglan died. He wishes to sell the property, and has asked me to advertise it. Should any of your readers require any information concerning the estate, &c. I shall have great pleasure in giving it.—I am, Sir, your obediently,
S. H. HARRISON,
Army and Navy Club, St. James's square, Sept. 29, 1874.

SEBASTOPOL. 1875

We have received the following letter, dated Sebastopol, Oct. 11, from Mr. E. A. Ross, C.B., 21, P. —

"Having been invited to visit Sebastopol, with the opportunity of taking a passage from Nikoloff in the steam yacht of the Commander-in-Chief of the Black Sea, making a detour to Odessa on the way, I left Nikoloff accordingly very early on the morning of Wednesday, the 9th, and closed my previous letter to you on board the yacht. On our way down the river we stopped at one of the principal fortifications below Nikoloff to visit the works, and more particularly to inspect a new method of fitting guns on the disappearing principle first introduced by Captain Moncrieff. This new plan is the invention of Lieutenant-Colonel Bence, of the Russian Engineers, who is engaged under Colonel Ding in building the large fortresses now under construction between Nikoloff and Kishinev, mentioned in my previous letter. And I may, in passing, observe that, for my part, I cannot at all understand why, since the introduction of the disappearing principle of the Popoff, this mid-water fortress is being built at all; or, being built, why it is being placed where it is, for it seems to me that, if I had to attack it with ships, I would much rather have it placed in its present position than in some other which I might name. If such fortresses were, as I think they should be, built of iron, and fitted with small steam power, for moving them about if necessary, an error in the choice of their position would be easily remedied; but when military engineers deliberately take the trouble and go to the expense of building these constructions 'aground'—for a mid-water fortification is in just the same position as a landward Popoff—would be if the gun appeared—their errors in choice of position are irreparable, and the country and the national treasure are permanently sufferers from their blindness. But why should maritime nations expend their money at all on naval fortresses that cannot move? I fancy if in their great war with France and England, and a few other Powers, in 1854 the Russians could have steamed their navy to Nikoloff, they would be victorious, especially the fact of the war might have been very different; but all the time nations employ two totally different sets of defences, naval and military, with separate interests and separate professional traditions, we shall continue to see our maritime fortresses deprived of that most valuable property—the power of locomotion. But to return to Odessa. Having disembarked at Sebastopol, I went to the arsenal, which platform is made capable of raising up and down an incline laterally or sideways, to regulate the normal direction of the gun. When at the top of the incline the gun is in a position to be fired, when at the bottom of the incline it is entirely lower, and well below the level of the all of the embrasures. The gun, slide, and platform are all neatly balanced by a counterweight composed of a series of heavy discs, and the raising of the gun, &c., is effected by adding an additional weight to the counterweight. Colonel Parrott was kind enough to present, and kindly explained all the details and showed me the apparatus at work, and I must say that he deserves the greatest credit for the simplicity of his general arrangements and for the ingenuity exhibited in the minor parts of the system. One part of the plan is essentially preliminary, viz. that of connecting with the travelling platform a light shaft, so arranged, so to draw the shot and powder charge for each round from the shot-proof magazines to the place of loading along a railway. The machinery of this apparatus, particularly the winding, &c., was not nearly finished, and, perhaps, it is unfair to judge of it at present; but it seemed to me to be so neatly made as to put the system to some disadvantage, but intelligent practical men will easily make the proper allowance for this.
On re-embarking in the yacht Ekimovna we saw the cluster-headed Dergoel standing down the Bog in a steady manner, but at a very fair speed, and with all the handiness of the smallest gullboat. We gradually left her behind, however, as our yacht was a fast one, expecting to meet her again next day at Sebastopol. My stay in Odessa, which was reached some three hours, was too short, both on this occasion and on my outward journey, to justify any descriptive observations, but it was long enough to enable me to share the friendly hospitality of Mr. Murray, the Deputy Mayor, and the kindness of Admiral Calkhoff, the head of the great Russian Steam Navigation Company, which has done so much towards elevating Odessa to its present eminence among maritime cities. At 7 p.m. we left for Sebastopol, and a glorious night upon the Black Sea was spent. The deep, dark ocean, the star-bright sky, the moon's jetted splendor, and the burning and undulating shores composed a solemn picture—say, not a picture, but a scene too magnificent and too profound for even memory to paint. During the evening I heard a sound of chaotic music, and, feeling it proceeded from the crew at evening prayer, I went on deck, and there found the men assembled forward and chanting with much energy and spirit, and with voices which blended with wonderful truth and sweetness. I was quite astonished

at each station by such a cable, and the improvement was dependent by the nearest manner of the man and by the lightest but most light in which they stood—that mixed light of moon and stars, descending through fringed banners, which, in perhaps, more purifying to man than even the "dim religious light" of the temple which he himself holds. All I think in this morning was passed the Negroes, moving slowly through the night's gloom to watch that city of domes and domes—Sobotski. It was with a palpable interest in his powerful position that Admiral Popoff, who was on board the yacht, steamed close round her before passing her and leaving her behind. It was in the light of a glorious morning that I found myself approaching, for the first time, this city of domes and minarets, in which I now write. Neither Popoff nor the Almas men were, of course, within view, but away on the left it was easy to see where the Kalmaks and the Balakhs resided; the sea; on the right was the Klansmen light-house, never Kaminsk and other lights; and before us the ruins of the great Fort Constantine and Alexander on either side of the entrance to Sobotski, of which the former, at a distance, looks almost as formidable as if the allied fleets had never expended their fury upon it. As you approach nearer you see, however, the fearful wounds and scars they inflicted. Of the little Yash battery, which did so much mischief to our ships, I could see no trace left. The great haven of Sobotski, with its inner bay and harbours, is a magnificent sheet of water, very much like our own Milford Haven, but not so large. It differs both these great havens, which by situation and by natural conditions seem to have been adapted by Providence for great commercial purposes, have been nearly deserted to waste the objects and needs to which we ships and stores. But what my friends and I are doing for Milford Haven, I am delighted to learn, just as we bring down for Sobotski, and of both here and there it may be said that where war permits have abandoned, powerful fleets shall never more abandon. I will return to this aspect of Sobotski presently.

"On entering the bay and then the harbour (the Southern of Sobotski, the great ruin which held this fair city—fair, and more than fair, it was, by the beauty of its site, the glory of its climate, and the magnificence of the edifice—it is not nearly so obvious as it afterwards became when the streets are penetrated and the hills ascended. The noble Catherine statue at which you land, with the columned portico to which they lead, are almost exactly as they were before the bombardment. Two handsome staircases and a couple of stone lions surprise you by their unaltered appearance. But, even before you pass under" north the portico, you are confronted by the dripping ruins of a splendid chateau which was utterly destroyed, and wherever you go afterwards throughout the town, whether in the lower streets or on the higher levels, you meet among ruin and desolation. Popoff, so far as it has yet been discussed, is not, if I remember rightly, to be compared with Sobotski for magnitude and extent of visible destruction. The view from any of the higher hills on which the city stands is simply appalling, and far sadder than I had expected to see in this respect. Of course the scene is somewhat relieved by ruins and by new buildings, and this improvement is now rapidly extending by the construction of new churches, new hotels, and new dwelling houses. I can tell that Mr. Kait, the present Mayor (who is not only a man of considerable wealth, but who is much more important, a man of responsible ability, sense, and energy), has disclosed the intention to proceed rapidly with the restoration of some of the principal streets; but it is terrible to think of the extent of the ruins which have to be got rid of. On the highest ground of the city south of the harbour a magnificent church, a style unknown in England, but of exquisite proportions and of a beauty which grows rapidly upon you, has been erected by voluntary contributions over the graves of several distinguished admirals who were killed during the war. It is nearly finished, and is named after St. Vladimir; and is also another fine church, building from funds similarly supplied, which is being constructed in a short distance from Sobotski, on the sea shore, over the spot on which Vladimir is said to have achieved Christianity in the fifth century. After a short drive through the town, I accompanied Admiral Popoff to the Malakhoff Hill, and there had the advantage of hearing him—who performed an entire part during the war, both by sea and in the field—describe the great outlines of the famous battle field, filling much of them in with details which to this hour are of thrilling interest. We afterwards visited the site of the fourth battery, on the more western part of the Hill, then occupying the general view of the Russian positions and of the principal points from which the allied troops attacked. The day was slightly fine and clear, and it was easy to see not only such conspicuous objects as Lord Raglan's headquarters, the Hill of Isk-

man, the principal French and English batteries, and the French cemetery, but also such details as the English trenches in front of the British, showing that the average of time and tourists are rapidly obliterating those least features of the field over which the gods of war fought and thundered. But Mr. Murray's kindness for Russia to so excellent in its descriptions of this set of other places that I will not attempt any account of Sobotski or of its environs. Such a visit as mine, however, impresses one strongly with the waste as well as the havoc of war. In the cemetery over yonder, made conspicuous by a grand old church surrounded with a cross, and in another near, lie, as I am informed, more than 100,000 Russian men killed during the siege. Many holes and many hollows were, therefore, have taken effect. But those that did were, nevertheless, but few indeed compared with those that the allies projected against this devoted place. There are some upon scores of large buildings with their surfaces and all over with scars caused by shot and shell that would make but mean upon buildings. A fatal idea may be formed, perhaps, of the extent to which the place was fired upon when I say that from a box of 64, per cent. which the Government levied upon the proceeds of the sale of old iron, shot, and shell picked up and sold by the people a sum of nearly £15,000 was realized.

I am glad to turn from this unhappy part of Sobotski to the present and the future. It would have been a good and pleasant thing if the earthquake which happened here this year had shaken down all the ruined walls, which it would be well to get rid of; but, unfortunately, it took effect upon the useful buildings, and did some harm to most of them. Still, as I have already indicated, there is reason to hope that trade and commerce will spring up and spread here as to abolish the ruins and expand them by houses and warehouses and other places of business. The primary source of this prospective prosperity, of course, is the great railway which has now been completed, which joins this place to Moscow and Petersburg. The station of this railway is at the upper or inner end of the harbour, but it was recently estimated along its western bank by order of the Government, as a sort of *de facto* to be the ability of that corps of the army whose business it is to construct railway works for war purposes. Inconceivable as it may seem, I am informed on the highest authority in the place that, although 10,000 miles of earth had to be cut away and removed, and that of this piece of railway, one mile long, was formed, and also raising miles of rails laid down, in 24 hours! An immense number of men was of course employed, the shovels and rails were on the ground when they commenced, and the work was carried on continuously for 24 hours, but the time occupied, nevertheless, was exceedingly short. However, the railway now exists, and between it and the harbour back a long pier of warehouses is about to be built, a few necessary piers in front of them are already well advanced. The harbour itself is a splendid one naturally, and needs very little indeed to be expanded and to make it perfectly available for loading and unloading large commercial steamers along a great length of quay. Until the present year, however, Sobotski was a military port only, and unless Government had made it and finally decided to be by the Imperial will a commercial port it could not have had a great commercial future open to it. This, however, the Emperor has done during the present year, and this step once taken, the Government have lent money for the construction of the pier and warehouses and for the establishment of a Government bank, Government schools, &c. Two private commercial banks of Russia have also already opened branches in Sobotski this year. Water-works, gas-works, and other such necessities are being arranged for by the gentleman whom I have previously mentioned, Mr. Kait, to whom all the principal people—indeed, all the people seem to look up as the leading mind and leading will of all this great progressive movement. From what I have seen of the gentleman I am not surprised at this confidence. And now the question arises—What means are there for thinking that when the necessary appliances are ready trade will come to Sobotski? One very good reason seems to be that trade has already begun to come and to increase. I have myself seen two vessels in the harbour to-day bringing grain from Taganrog to this city. It is obvious that Sobotski must offer great advantages to trade and traffic between the European and all countries beyond the European and the interior of Russia, and between the Caucasus and it. Moscow may be looked upon as the great centre to which imports into Russia are sent, and from some other there seems to be an increasing influence at work at Odessa, for I know of one cargo of tea from Hankow, reaching Odessa, going all the way round to the Baltic, and getting by Jeddah to Moscow or Nijni Novgorod. But in this matter of imports, even if all other things be equal as between Odessa and Sobotski, the latter place is 60 miles nearer to the English bay and 90 miles nearer to Moscow by rail, and both superior and possesses not in such a great degree the steeper route. Of course the action trade from the Caucasus and the Persian trade from beyond must come to Sobotski, for otherwise it would have to pass this place on its way to Odessa, adding the whole distance between

the two ports to its own voyage, and adding the 90 miles to the railway transit besides. So much for import trade, in which there will necessarily be competition with Odessa. But this is not the case, or not so in any such degree, as regards the export trade. The western part of Russia may be taken to be divided into two parts by the Dnieper, an eastern and a western part. Of the western part the ports have hitherto been the Asaf ports—namely, Taganrog, Mariupol, and Berdiansk. The great question with reference to Sobotski is, does it offer great and decisive advantages for transporting the grain and other produce of this eastern half of Southern Russia as compared with the Asaf ports? For it is to these ports, and not to Odessa, that the bulk of the produce goes. Now, the number of the Asaf ports is a deep water port. Ships of the size usually employed for the ocean trade of such ports have to land from three to four miles of beach, and four to five miles off Mariupol, and 10 to 15 miles off Taganrog. The result of this is that there are great expenses incidental to these circumstances, which have to be borne at these ports; then, again, owing to the bar at the mouth of the Asaf ports, a certain amount of transhipping and re-loading cargo has to go on there, involving further expense and owing to the risks of Asaf navigation to such vessels, freight and insurance are substantially increased. There is no need to enter into details of the aggregate of these extra charges is estimated to be at least 100,000,000 roubles per quarter of grain. As a set-off to this must be added the extra cost of carriage to Sobotski over 100 miles of railway (taking Kharkoff as the centre of the trade), which amounts to about 60 roubles per quarter of departing this from 1,000,000,000 roubles, we have left a saving of 60 roubles per quarter, as the result of shipping at Sobotski instead of on the Asaf. But the advantage does not stop here, for the Asaf ports freeze for several months in the year, and after their close in November, the price of grain at these ports falls 15 and sometimes 20 per cent., to the loss of the producer, because the merchant will not buy grain to store till the navigation opens again without some such large reduction of price. On the other hand, Sobotski never freezes, and the grain and other produce may be exported all the year round, being shipped under most favourable conditions in a deep-water port—that is, on the open sea—and not subject to the risk of freezing. It will obviously, therefore, be to the great advantage, at least of the grower and of the shipper, to ship cargo at Sobotski. These seem to me to be the very substantial and conclusive reasons for believing in the rising prosperity of Sobotski, and they are fully confirmed by the history of the Asaf ports, and they are fully confirmed by the English destroyed after getting possession of the year, we saw the Negroes entering the Asaf, and promising a board of bay, steamed down the principal haven in bar, making certain further examinations of the vessel and amount of cargo, and, above all, testing the turning power of the ship under the action of the helm, and of the waves covered. The steered form to an extremely favourable to this kind of business that the Negroes can easily be retained to bar water at a speed which quickly makes one dizzy. The sea, nevertheless, is promptly brought to rest, and, as I said, have her return motion reversed.

"Since writing the above, I have driven over to the Ministry of St. George—which occupies a superb position, at an elevation of nearly 1,000 feet above the sea, at a short distance from Isakhava—and afterwards across the dreary steppe down past Karak, through Kullin, and into Isakhava. The sun was getting low when we left the Ministry, and had set before we entered the last-named village, but the remarkable ground on which the battle of Isakhava was fought, including that along which "the British" charged, was beautifully lighted as we approached, and passed it. On my way now I could not look, into the day as it was, the desire to enter one of the many English graveyards which are passed in this part of the ground covered by the allied operations, and I accordingly made my way across a field and passed into one through a breach in the low wall which surrounds it. The simple monument which recorded that the place was sacred to the memory of those who had served in the Land Transport Service was falling to pieces, the inscription was in part gone, and the Tartar doubtless turn their cattle into the enclosure to graze upon the graves of our fellow-countrymen. This need not be wondered at, because this is one of many more of British Chinese graveyards the further one of which has been abandoned by the Government. Those which lie within the Russian villages, and there are more than one in Isakhava itself, are protected by the Russian

villages; but those which lie out upon the open plain and despoiling a very few, and which only the British nation and Government could protect, have lost all further protection. I do not think it would be fair to complain of this without some previous consideration, because it is obviously a serious business to guard more than 120 small cemeteries, many of these scattered over an open and barren steppe several miles in extent. But what I think it is fair to complain of, is that when the Government has resolved to abandon all but a few of these, and those few have been reserved for preservation on account of the existence of the dead who lie in them, and of the pain that survivors have taken to keep the remains of their deceased friends named, they should, nevertheless, withhold a trifling subsidy which is essential to the object, and, after all, run the risk of having those few reserved tombs abandoned. The Government have already spent many thousands of pounds in constructing and repairing these cemeteries, and are at the present moment spending £5,000 more upon them; and yet I am informed that no question is to be appointed to protect them. The French nation spent £200 a year upon the grandeur of their late Emperor's cemetery, and nearly £200 or £300 a year would be afforded by Great Britain for the payment of a pensioned Russian soldier, or some other treaty man, to guard the great graveyards upon which we are even now spending a considerable sum for repairs. The Government propose to spend that such a man is unnecessary; but so near on the spot that I can find shows that opinion. The poor Russian, it is true, will not disturb them, for the presence of a cross is sufficient to keep him in awe. The poor Greek, no doubt, will keep far from a graveyard, especially by night, as he is not ceremonially, but the poor Tartar is a very different sort of fellow, and has given repeated evidence of his quality, not only by showing what is valuable from the monuments and breaking down the tombs, but also by digging up the bodies of our English officers in some Chinese cemeteries, and staling from them anything which he may fancy or consider of value. One officer of engineers, at least, he is this way more than one had. His bones brought to the surface from beneath a costly monument, and could only be spared this further desecration when his memorial had been buried with him. This is surely a case in which would surely be deemed to make experiments, and where more would only result in the saving of a paltry stipend, and failure would involve the renewed desecration of the remains of those who had died for us.

"The Village of Isakhava presents not but few reminders of the happy life open showing here. A few peaking piles on the edge of the harbour here and there are nearly all the evidences I could detect of the former presence of the Allied Armies and Navies in this little port. Probably the cottages afforded many more indications, but, owing to the place for the first time, I could not detect them. To my eye but little was visible beyond a few fading and agricultural villages, except the small and dark, but picturesque, houses, surrounded with well-dressed hills, and where, on the left, the old Chinese towers stood up and took the last light of the western sky. I learn that a French company is engaged about the harbour in recovering property from the Prizes and other transports that were sunk there in the great storm. They have recovered many things, and, among others, some belted steel in excellent condition. The drive back, in an open carriage and in the evening air, gave one some indication, however imperfect, of the cold which must have been endured on the plateau between Isakhava and Sobotski by the allied camp-followers. It was wonderfully keen and penetrating for the time of year, when the sun will be by day a warmer power. I must say nothing of the beauty of certain mountain scenes, or of the occasional splendours of aurora and sunset at this place, but I should not tempt beyond bounds."

THE LATE COLONEL SANDERS.

(ABRIDGED FROM THE BIBLE CONSTITUTION.)
Colonel Sanders, whose death on the 1st instant has been announced, joined the 10th Regiment as an ensign, in May, 1814, and from that period he served with the most gallant and distinguished of his countrymen...

On the 1st of October, 1814, he was ordered to the 10th Regiment, and on the 1st of November he was ordered to the 10th Regiment, and on the 1st of December he was ordered to the 10th Regiment...

The hands of the Alma must always hold its place in history as the most important in its composition, which, if we except Waterloo, has not occurred since that of Waterloo. The battle was great, and it was won by the brave valor of our brave men, who fought for the glory of their country...

In this position completely isolated, they remained for nearly two days, during which they had to sustain the most severe fire of the enemy's batteries, which were directed against them from the heights of the Alma...

The hands of the Alma must always hold its place in history as the most important in its composition, which, if we except Waterloo, has not occurred since that of Waterloo. The battle was great, and it was won by the brave valor of our brave men...

March 12, 1893.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE CRIMEAN CEMETERIES.

A large and influential meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, in the Theatre of the United Service Institution, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present unsatisfactory condition of the British burial places in the Crimea, with a view to placing them in a better condition, and to preventing them from further deterioration...

It was announced by Colonel Haycraft that a number of letters, expressing attention had been given to the subject, were sent to the Secretary of the War, and that the subject had been referred to the War Office...

Colonel Haycraft then read a report from the General Officer Commanding in the Crimea, and the meeting considered the same with great interest. It was decided that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the state of the cemeteries, and to report thereon to the War Office...

The Plans of CHRISTMAS, who you will perhaps, said-I have no apology, I hope, to make for having assumed in making this meeting together (less than)...

At this time, we have an idea that dealing with the question of this sort is not very easy. There is a great deal of natural feeling on the subject of burying our dead in the Crimea, and it is not to be wondered at that the subject has been so long and so fully discussed...

The Plans of CHRISTMAS, who you will perhaps, said-I have no apology, I hope, to make for having assumed in making this meeting together (less than)...

pressure of overwhelming necessity we must, of course, submit to many things repugnant to our feelings. But in the present case does that necessity exist? The evidence is the other way. It does not appear from the speeches either of the Duke of Cambridge or of Lord Wolseley that it is necessary to transfer the contents of the grave to any single receptacle, but only the tombstones and memorials. Lord Wolseley suggests that the memorials should be removed into a separate enclosure and the graves marked out by stones, like "a number of others, so that the actual spot where the soldiers were buried would be distinguishable." This plan is certainly much preferable to the removal of the actual bones, and equally preferable to the distribution of the remains among three or four Canteens, instead of the eleven which now contain them.

The Prince of Wales, when he was in the Crimea, was informed by General Kortsakoff, the Governor General of Odessa, that the Russian Government had done everything in its power to preserve the Cemeteries from desecration, but had been totally unable to prevent it. It may be so, but it is strange that the Russian Government should be so powerless in the matter. It has soldiers on the spot, and is accustomed to be obeyed pretty promptly. But assuming that the fact is as General Kortsakoff stated it, it becomes all the more necessary for the English Government to take the matter up. That famous hill has been the scene of so much heroism and so much glory as any spot in the world where the English flag has ever waved. The stubborn resistance, the desperate rally, the gallant charge, the unshaken discipline under every extremity of cold, hunger, and disease—every feat and every virtue which go to constitute the perfect soldier were there illustrated before the eyes of Europe, and have made Sebastopol as proud a memory as Waterloo. Let us remember, if it be even to the verge of sentimentalism, "the sacred dust" to which even the enemy with whom we then contended shows a generous respect, though he cannot protect it from outrage. Our duty is plain. Not a moment ought to be lost in applying to Parliament for the necessary funds, and to the local authorities whose consent and assistance may be either requisite or desirable in the work. We trust that the plan adopted will be the one suggested by Lord Wolseley. But any will be better than leaving the tombs of our brave countrymen prey either to the waste of the elements or the capriciousness of man, and exposing to winter insult that "hallowed mould," which, however far off, ought to be esteemed as precious and be as jealously protected as if it lay in Westminster Abbey.

TOMBS OF BRITISH SOLDIERS NEAR SEBASTOPOL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.
Sir,—The interest felt in the proper preservation of the tombs of our gallant soldiers who are buried in the immediate vicinity of Sebastopol induces me to ask you to publish these lines. I attended the meeting held in London last autumn under the presidency of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge to consider the subject, and my own interest was so much roused that I determined on my road to Tiflis and the Caucasus to visit these cemeteries.

This I have now done, and I have had the good fortune to meet General Conolly, who is specially deputed to superintend the operations, and Captain Harford, the well-known Vice-Consul of this place.

The policy of concentration of monuments is being thoroughly carried out. In the course of a very short time all the monuments in the existing cemeteries (1) in number will have been transferred to the greatly enlarged cemetery on Calverley's hill, which will become the sole depository of the memorials of those who fell. I found the spaces within the said masonry walls strewed with slabs, which had been brought in from the abandoned cemeteries, and I met on the walls marks laden with the same interesting, though mournful, records of the dead. The greatest care and judgment is manifested in all the military arrangements. In fact, if the transfer was to be made, it could not possibly be done better. In the entrance the road which will read, and have the entrance in proper order, as well as a staircase safety from violation and snuff.

No doubt the step was necessary, but when I visited the isolated cemetery of the Engineers, near the wall, which had by good chance escaped all violation, a well walled in and pitifully situated, a feeling of regret came over me as I passed from stone to stone that a necessity had arisen to separate the memorial of the dead from the grave which held, or once held, the remains of the brave men whose names were recorded. But the feeling was momentary rather than practical, and I feel sure that the surviving friends of the dead will be satisfied, as indeed they ought to be.

But what of the poor remains? They have not been, nor ever will be, disturbed. They have long ago become part of the soil which contains them. The removal of the memorial slabs is accompanied by a leveling of the ground; the walls will be knocked down, and the area now set apart will be returned to the state or to the cultivated field, as the case may be, and no one will know the spot where each brave man was buried by his remains. As a fact, some of the monuments which a few years ago were abandoned when the first concentration took place are covered with hawthorn coppice.

"None were set on Tiflis hill,"
"Lamented centre mingle purple hues."
One thing remains to be done, and this is the real object of my letter. More money is required, about £200. Arrangements have been made out of the existing fund to level the wall, remove the slabs, and level the old cemetery, but some alterations in the plan of the enlarged and concentrated cemetery on Calverley's Hill. A wall has been built, but trees should be planted around the wall, as has been done in the French cemetery. Something in the way of other embellishments seems still to be required. If by your powerful influence a sum of money could be collected and forwarded to the Vice-Consul a good work would be thoroughly and satisfactorily completed which would last for centuries.

Individuals are included in these arrangements, but the graves of those who fell in the battle of the Alma are intentionally excluded as being to be removed. I have just returned from a visit to the Alma, having the good fortune to have the Vice-Consul as my companion. Of the few monuments to remind that battle two have been removed to Calverley's Hill. Two others on the slope of the hill are being surrounded by a masonry wall, the inscriptions being carefully covered. One solitary monument of Aberdeen granite has been left as a garden on the north bank of the Alma on the spot where the officers fell. It is surrounded by a wall, which is being repaired.

From the foregoing it will be gathered that in three places only will the future be found monuments in the Crimea—on Calverley's hill, on the Alma, and on the spot where the British soldiers who fell in every way sustained the heroic and patriotic memory of the dead, but they have allowed trophies in the shape of crosses and obelisks to be erected, which, in fact, prevent their direct and the occupation of their country by the enemy. It is not every patriot which would rise to men nobility of feeling towards their foe.

As time passes, countless graves will be extinguished by the death of those who survive and friends who still mourn the absence of their gallant children. In the present campaign of 1854-55. The older generation, who fell the longer range of sea-windings of their children, have all passed away, and English soldiers and names will survive as long as English sentiment be a nation and a land. The Greek memorial inscription upon the base of the monument, serves to all ages as an incentive to future deeds of valor. On, Englishmen, do as those old men fell as those fell!"
Yours faithfully,
Robert Cued

Sebastopol, Sept. 25, 1857.

The new volume of Mr. KINGSLAKE'S history of the Invasion of the Crimea will revive some of the interest which the memory of that momentous struggle must always call forth, though this interest must be diminished by the strange fanciness with which Mr. KINGSLAKE discharges his task. His first volume was published in 1853, and the sixth, which has just been issued, takes us no further than "the winter troubles of 1854-1855." An author is fortunate in having a subject which will endure this amount of protracted incubation; and, perhaps, the delay would not be without some advantages to the reader if it insured maturity of judgment and perfection of workmanship in the volumes which so tardily see the light. But it has ceased to be possible to hope for this result for Mr. KINGSLAKE'S protracted labours. The present volume is conspicuously deficient in the characteristics which should mark a satisfactory narrative of the progress of a great military operation. We have no sooner commenced the actual history of events than, after five pages, we are carried away into a general account of the war-administration of England, and into a "retrospective inquiry" into its operations at and since the time of the Wellington era; and not until a hundred pages have been thus consumed do we get back into the facts of the history. But Mr. KINGSLAKE has encountered himself with other baggage, which alone would officially prevent his making rapid progress. He has taken upon himself the task of judging the personal and private characters of the individuals who come across the path of his narrative; and, in digression after digression, he indulges in a psychological anatomy of their moral and mental dispositions. Such a tendency, in addition to its artistic inconveniences, involves other dangers. It needs an unusually sagacious and generous nature to penetrate fully the motives of the actors in a great drama, even when by the lapse of time, all the requisite materials are at an author's disposal. Dog to pronounce these judgments with justice upon men who have only recently passed from us, and with whom the writer himself has had personal relations, is given to very few men. Mr. KINGSLAKE is not one of them. He is subject to the besetting vice of modern historians—that of being carried away by the impulses of personal attraction or repulsion. He has his hero—LEOP RASLAK—in whom he can scarce say any fault, and he makes him stand forward in the picture by casting most of the other figures into more or less dark shadow. Nor can this merely be ascribed to an artistic instinct.

The present volume, in particular, reveals unmistakable impulses of personal animosity or dislike, which lead Mr. KINGSLAKE occasionally into gossiping personalities which do equal discredit to his literary taste and his moral judgment. There are in particular two specimens relating to a former editor of this journal, one of which can only have been written in an interval of lapse of gentlemanly feeling, while the other is a feeble and childish berlesque.

But what we are more particularly concerned to notice in this stilted and tedious narrative is an elaborate attack upon this journal for the part it took in unmasking the country so an apprehension of the disastrous mismanagement with which the war was being conducted during the winter of 1854. It has generally been allowed that we rendered some useful service on that occasion—that the faithful and critical letters of our correspondents, which were first to be published and support, were in great measure the means of making the true position of our Army apprehended by the public, by Parliament, and by the country, and that we thus united to avert a great calamity. We cannot, after all, make out that Mr. KINGSLAKE

is able to deny this was the case, nor, indeed, that he is altogether disposed. But we were the means of drawing censure upon his hero, and he devotes one of his long digressions to a denunciation of the course we pursued, and to an elaborate dissection of the psychological causes which influenced the Editor of this paper. A great deal of "fair praise" leads up to the usual conclusion of such imperfections; and Mr. KINGSLAKE ends by practically charging The Times with allowing itself to be carried away by mere expressions of news into a neglect of its duty towards the country and of the true interests of the country. He even frames the accusation that at that critical time, when the fate of our army was hanging in the balance, we were "diminished" by a mean desire to be in the position of having predicted disaster. "We shall occupy no notice further these vulgar charges. We prefer to leave them to the contempt which they deserve. The one important point is whether we were right or wrong in calling attention to the state of our army, even at the risk of affording some encouragement to the enemy. As Mr. KINGSLAKE points out in a note, we were perfectly well aware of this danger. Our course was taken in full consciousness of the disadvantages it involved, and upon a clear calculation that matters had reached such a crisis that publicity had become the less of two evils. Mr. KINGSLAKE himself describes the method in which LEOP RASLAK—against whose personal worthiness not a word would be said—reported home the state of affairs. In one instance he told the Duke of NEWCASTLE that "the roads are in a dreadful state;" but in the next sentence he added that "everybody is as busy as a bee in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol"—thus, says Mr. KINGSLAKE, using "such words that, by the subtle power of language, giving in alongside of hard facts, they resemble phantoms a scene of animated and careful labour." Precisely so. But this was a false picture; and Mr. KINGSLAKE also admits the Duke of NEWCASTLE was not the man to detect its inconsistency. The "hard facts" failed to prevent "such a hold upon his mind as to prevent him from being influenced by the cheering tones" of the writer. Mr. KINGSLAKE considers the illustration thus produced "a wholesome read." To us, on the contrary, it appeared as the time peculiar in the extreme; and we devoted ourselves to the painful task of making the "hard facts" duly appreciated. Again we have only to appeal to this volume in proof that we were successful and serviceable. When unofficial accounts began to pour in upon the Duke of NEWCASTLE, he could hardly, we are told, have learned from them anything of grave moment which had not been before imparted to him by LEOP RASLAK. But the detailed narrative impressed his mind more acutely, and perhaps it might be said not so accurately that what probably he only had known, he now both knew and imagined. We need, we venture to think, no better justification than this admission affords. While the "shopping Cabinet," as Mr. KINGSLAKE calls them, were proving LEOP RASLAK'S official reports with more substantial coolness, we assailed the public, and through the House of Commons and the Government, to see and imagine, as well as to know, what was happening. It is unnecessary to excuse every eminent phrase which may have been used under the pressure of that great anxiety; and it is needless for a creeping historian like Mr. KINGSLAKE to bring to the test of a kind of legal exaltation language which had

by side with a signed engraving of the Duke of Cambridge, another of Sir John Burgoyne, and a third of a young officer of the 23rd Royal Welsh, William P. Campbell, an early friend, whom death met prematurely. The General's morning-room has many more such mementoes: a signed portrait of Sir Fenwick Williams of Kara, framed photographs of Sir Evelyn Wood and his staff in Zululand, including Captain Henry Lyons, who won the V.C. under Wood at the Tlokoeng Mountain; of Sir Daniel, surrounded by his Aldershot staff; of the whole garrison of the Tower—Lieutenant, Major, Chaplain, Beefeaters—surrounding their late Constable, Lord Napier of Magdala. Again, on the principal staircase, and up and down the reception-rooms, there are other campaigning pictures—of Barmese hills and Russian guns; of the regimental goat, carrying proudly his coronet of Prince of Wales's feathers; of the tombstone erected to the Royal Welsh who fell at the Alma, the stone itself now standing on the barrack-square at Wrexham, the depot brigade head-quarters of the Royal Welsh. Sir Daniel, as he points out the last, tells an interesting story of how he found the burying-place of another brother officer, Crofton, who died after the Alma in the great flank march to Balaklava, and was consigned then and there to a nameless grave. Some months after the dead man's friends sent out a marble cross to be erected to his memory. The difficulty was to find the spot; but Sir Daniel, assisted by Crofton's servant, succeeded beyond all doubt in recognising the poor fellow's remains by portions of his uniform, and they were reinterred, with the cross above them, in the Light Division burial-ground in the Woronzoff road. All these purely military mementoes are intermixed with many other valuable and artistic possessions: some magnificent pieces of Oriental china; five fine vases, with exquisitely modelled dragon handles, and rich in colour; numbers of beautiful plaques—majolica, Sèvres, and Chinese; a verily ancient Etruscan vase, perfect throughout, with the colour of the figures well preserved, which was the property of Sir Daniel's antiquarian uncle, the keeper of the records in the Tower; a valuable vase ewer of enamel on copper, of Oriental workmanship, minutely and delicately painted; and two tall bronzes, black figures bearing lamps, upon the stairs.

Sir Daniel Lyons's own private sanctum—wisely established on an upper floor—is perhaps the most interesting room in the house. It is studio, library, workroom, and record-room rolled into one. Its door is charmingly decorated, the panels painted in pretty designs of figures and flowers. Many drawings lie about, some in progress upon the easels, others on the walls, one especially noteworthy giving the broad expanse of the Norwegian river-valley where the General has his fishing; another a pretty Syrian scene, not a mile from Hyde Park Corner, a faithful sketch, made at the time of the site of the Great Exhibition of 1851. By far the most interesting, however, of the numerous treasures in this delightful room are the great folio volumes which contain the General's diary, amply and minutely kept from the days of his youth. It is an autobiographical record of every incident in his career, enriched with newspaper cuttings, pen-and-ink sketches, latterly of photographs, and with all manner of *pièces justificatives* to amplify and illustrate the text. The first volume opens with a letter from Lord Hill, then Commander-in-Chief, promising the young aspirant his first commission; in the last, that on which the General is now engaged, he has just entered full descriptions of Lord Napier's funeral, at which he was one of the pall-bearers. Here is the order signed by Sir John Colborne for the young ensign's embarkation for foreign service; here are playbills of garrison theatricals at Halifax and Montreal, in which young Lyons took a leading part; here are sketches of Canadian beauties and records of big bags and splendid runs. Ample chronicles of Crimean doings are to be found in these volumes. The skilful draughtsman has preserved an admirable sketch of the Allied flotilla as it approached the shore near the Old Fort. Sir Daniel, then ensign major of his regiment, the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was the first ashore, the first man to land in the Crimea—an interesting fact, although, strange to say, it is not recorded in Kinglake. Within a few days Lyons succeeded to the command of the Royal Welsh upon the field of Alma, where the regiment, which, with the Light Division, attacked the chief redoubt, suffered awfully from the musketry fire. He was closely identified with all that occurred in that memorable campaign. Although hit twice, he did not leave the Crimea, and, perpetually in the forefront, in the heat and toil of the day, won, as he richly deserved, higher rank and fresh honours. He went through the several assaults upon Sebastopol; stood by the side of ill-fated Lucy Yeo on the 18th of June, and when he was shot down assumed the command of his brigade; and he followed Windham against the Ruman in that disastrous attack which was little less than a *post-mortem*, to see his men swept away like dust and fall himself with a bullet in his thigh. His active campaigning ended with the Crimea, but in succeeding years Sir Daniel did excellent service in high staff appointments and important commands. As a brigadier at Aldershot, and afterwards as the divisional general, he had ample scope for the display of his tactical skill. His aptitudes in this branch of his profession were always recognised, and he has had a large

share in the compilation of the regulation drill-books. He was at Aldershot when the rage for mimic warfare, adopted from the Germans and practised at Autumn Manoeuvres, was at its height, and the cleverness, quickness, and solemnity with which he handled his troops so constantly gained him the advantage and the umpire's approving judgment, that he came to be styled by his irreverent but admiring subalterns as "Dodgy Dan Lyons," a sobriquet which still clings to him. The General has been pleasantly known, too, in all his garrisons and commands as the most genial and kindly of entertainers, great at garden-parties and social gatherings, the creator and chief supporter of sketching-clubs in all parts of the world, the most gallant of men in private life, as well as in the more serious adventures of his public career.



Temporary light on the Kerebthina basin, far left of central ridge of the Alps.

I had the above rough sketch made into a large drawing for the lecture room at Netley to show the nature of a remarkable first aid station in Crimean days - long before Bears Co. & regular Dragoon stations were organized, T.C.



Visit to the Monastery formed a pleasant excursion when officers could get away long enough for duty in Campaign.

The Hut in the Cairns in which



Interior of my Cairns Hut - 1855
 I. 2. door to firing and several other places. -
 built by Cairns and was killed at the final
 assault - came out my position ~~at the end of the~~ on 24th Feb 1855 when Col. Leff in with him to the front.



I helped the 2nd Winter of 1855-56 -

My Hut in the Cairns on the rocky side of the Narine which divided the 2 Brigades of the 1st Division. (See page 107.)



The Hut was built by Col. Leff & his men in the early part of the last winter of 1854-55 when it was difficult to get building materials of any kind. The roof was made of hides from the Government & all the timber was brought up from Balaklava. Col. Leff left for England on 14th Feb 1855 & gave me possession of the hut between 14th & 15th Feb. When Col. Leff returned he went into a larger hut built, I think, by Col. Leff, than this hut he had after his return. I added a porch to the hut, & made other improvements, towards the end of Sept 1855.



sketch by Col. Leff 1855
 Preparing a last remembrance 24th Feb 1855
 Cairns & Leff

This unfinished sketch designed probably for a colonial drawing, was the last in colored water from both plates of the Cairns of the 1st Division. It was killed at the final assault on 24th Feb 1855. There was no porch to the hut until after Sept 1855 (see p. 107-108). The sketch was done only a days previously to the inflictions of his fatal injuries. The stone roof completed & in the foreground is shown on 14th Feb during first day.



In Memory of Lieut.-Col. Knatt, C.B.
 He fell while leading
 The 19th Regiment
 To the assault
 2nd Sept^r 1855

Jan 3. 1856.

In
 Memory
 of
 John Longmore
 Medical Staff
 Aged 22 years
 Died
 August 21st
 1855

Longmore, John, 2nd Brigade, Light Division.
 Grand of Col Knatt's 19th Regiment.



View of the Bay of San Francisco, taken from the summit of the Golden Gate, looking northward. The Bay is filled with the masts of the ships of the Pacific. The Golden Gate is visible in the distance. The illustration is by the artist's own hand.

152 bells
 2/14
 My dear Comrade, May 27
 1856

I cannot say that there is anything of great importance to write about but thinking that you might like to hear the few items of camp news I determined to send you a few lines. First in point of interest for you is the fact that Matt Hunt told your mate for S. G. which I think was very well as things go at present: he handed me the money and I have a cheque for the amount signed by him which I have thought it better to keep and forward to the Club instead of to Marselles. Several letters have come out since I have resided in the expectation of your finding them on your arrival in France but they should not carry I may tell you that we was once out with the Plymouth Sanatics with the Fifth partment. On Wednesday there was a fair for horses about a mile beyond Smiths Bridge and the Com. Chief returned

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The horses were taken to the point of St. Michael, 17th July 1854. The horses were taken to the point of St. Michael, 17th July 1854. The horses were taken to the point of St. Michael, 17th July 1854.

all officers to dispo of their horses as the means of transport would be very limited and thus officers only would be allowed to take home horses who are entitled to them who is with an Army abroad but not with field. This cuts down the allowance for each regiment to two for the Col, one for each major, adjutant, surgeon & 2 "one each. Humeral indignation and disappointment are felt and expressed for no compensation is to be granted for horses left behind and by this rule new enlist on the Staff and all mounted officers are unable to take away their horses which they were obliged to bring here. That horses are entirely thrown out of field allow-ance is to cover their loss. ^{Somehow however} in the Fair. Jones who has gone away with the Brigadier, Chapp, etc asked me to sell him my horse and accordingly selected with him and my two forms. I was astonished to see how well the old horse went after a little time, but the Russians would make me bid for him at all. They offered me 15/- for one of mine and 2 1/2 for the other both of which he-ral offers I declined from what reason I do not know but the Russians offered such prices as no one could accept. They seemed either totally ignorant of the value of the horse or were under the idea that we were obliged to take them for any price. They offered Col Hyslop 95/- 20/- for a horse and Chapp 2 1/2 for one of his of similar value and reported the saddle, bridle etc included. Two pounds too was bid for a horse which his owner - a

Quartermaster

had paid 160 guineas. This will show you how little chance there was of getting to advantage. I may be wrong you believe that the destination of the following regts is published in G.O. The 3, 4, 6, 4, 6, 8 & 10 Regts. The 2nd of 1st 14, 21, 23, 31, 47, 48, 57, 77. 1st Cavalry 4th 30, 38, 12, 24, 92. 10th Cavalry. My Comm is accepted, as the prospect of going to Corfu. I heard from Andrew Smith this last week about the strictly business. Andrew said that he considered his only error had been one of judgment & that should by no means be detrimental to his prospects. Bayfield has had a communication relative to his application; the answer was unfavourable stating that in case of any reduction the coming company of H.M.S. 4th would be ordered to remain in our present positions the D. 9. would not be warranted in interfering on Bayfield's behalf. The 9th 1839 have to have embarked on Monday - the former 10th were marched down from the Camp (plus the Marines core) and the ship not being ready were marched back - a second time they went down and a second time had to climb the heights - so much for our Staff. They managed to get the two regiments on board yesterday. The 17th was to have gone today but at the last moment the ship was discovered to have a foul bottom and the order was countermanded. As soon as the five Canada regts are sent away, the Mediterranean regts are to go and tomorrow day that our other dearest go home. Warden has

The following instructions, issued from the office of the Inspector General of Hospitals, in a general instruction, containing as it does most minute directions for the care of wounded men.

The abdominal operations by which it is most safe to bleed. A small quantity of two fluid ounces of the fluid is more dangerous than a large one. The vessels should be examined, and, if necessary, tied, or, in order to remove all extraneous substances, even a small amount of them should be removed from the surface of the lung, the contents, being afterwards washed with cold water, and the wound should have a pack of lint, or some other substance, applied to it.

11. In wounds of the bladder, an elastic catheter is generally small, or requires necessary. If it cannot be passed, an opening should be made, either by the use of a trocar, or by the use of a pair of forceps.

12. In gunshot fractures of the skull, the loose bones in the parietal spaces of the head, and all extraneous substances, are to be removed as soon as possible, and depressed fractures of the bone are to be raised.

13. An arm is rarely to be amputated, except from the effects of a cannon shot. The head of the bone is to be removed as soon as possible, and depressed fractures of the bone are to be raised.

14. In a case of gunshot fracture of the upper jaw, in which the bone is much fractured, no time is to be lost in removing it, and the soft parts are to be secured as far as possible.

15. The head of a nerve is to be amputated, unless it is so situated that it can be preserved, and the soft parts are to be secured as far as possible.

16. The head of the thigh bone should be removed, when it is so situated that it can be preserved, and the soft parts are to be secured as far as possible.

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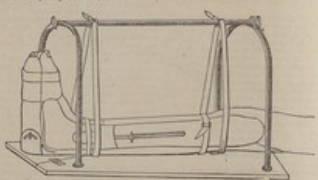
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The wound man should carry a canteen or other vessel of water. The third man, I think, should be armed, to prevent the party against whom he is directed, and to prevent the party against whom he is directed, and to prevent the party against whom he is directed.

11. The knee-joint should be cut out when necessary, but the limb is not to be amputated, unless it is so situated that it can be preserved, and the soft parts are to be secured as far as possible.

12. A gunshot fracture of the middle of the thigh, if it is so situated that it can be preserved, and the soft parts are to be secured as far as possible.

13. The apparatus (Mr. Lister's) for the treatment of gunshot wounds, consists of a small, light, portable, iron cabinet, and being so arranged as to admit of the greatest security, and probable chance of cure.

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LE GÉNÉRAL ANGLAIS ROSE
AU QUARTIER GÉNÉRAL FRANÇAIS DE
L'ARMÉE D'ORIENT.

Nous empruntons à la Liberté son intéressant
rapport militaire de la semaine :

Pendant la guerre d'Orient, les différentes
phases de cette brillante campagne ont mis en
relief la touchante harmonie qui n'a cessé de
régner entre les deux armées françaises et
anglaises.

Le général Rose, commissaire britannique
près notre quartier général, a contribué beau-
coup à cette union des cœurs par l'amabilité et
la haute courtoisie de ses relations ; aussi
n'est-il qu'à se louer, de son côté, de la bien-
veillance et de la grande hospitalité de nos
commandants de notre armée.

Le commissaire anglais est non seulement
général rapidement l'habileté de tous, mais il
s'efforce surtout de concilier les esprits, en
profitant de toutes les occasions pour se
montrer le premier au feu, avec cette même
bravoure qui est l'appas de tout soldat.

A la bataille de l'Alma, le colonel Rose ap-
porta un message urgent du maréchal Raglan
à lord Raglan ; tandis qu'il s'acquittait
de sa mission au milieu d'une pluie de feu, un
coup de main surpris du chef de lord Raglan
« Rose, il faut chasser, dit le général, je serai
là que je pourrai. » A l'attaque de Télégraphe, le
colonel Rose, dit-il, courut, avec Rose à ses
côtés pendant la charge à la baïonnette qui
décida la victoire. Plein d'admiration pour la
conduite du colonel anglais, le colonel Clerc
voulut que ses camarades occupés sur le plateau
figurant l'assaut de Télégraphe à la galerie de
Venise le rang glorieux qu'il avait eu le cou-
rage de prendre au moment suprême de
l'action.

Dans les reconnaissances, Rose voulait tou-
jours être au premier rang, en disant que si le
commissaire anglais n'allait pas au poste de
danger, il n'aurait jamais regardé en face ses
camarades de l'armée française. C'est dans une
de ces courses qu'un soldat d'obus contamina
le bras du général Daxnerst, et qu'un autre
atteignit le colonel Rose au-dessous de l'œil.

Dans une autre circonstance, Rose se trou-
vant sur le Mameluk-Yurt avec un officier
français, celui-ci, à cause de l'étréoussé de
l'épau, lui passa un bras autour du cou pour
le relever. Au même instant, un boulet emporta
la tête de l'officier, laquelle tomba sur l'épaule
du colonel anglais et l'étréoussé de sang.

A la bataille d'Iskenderak, où l'armée an-
glaise eut été compromise sans notre glorieuse
assistance, le colonel Rose fut renversé sous
son cheval, terrifié par la canonnade, et
tomba, jura contre jura, près d'un soldat russe
qui agonisait, et, dit-il tout haut, rêléta sa
dernière prière devant une image de la Vierge
dressée contre une truelle de brazier.

En récompense de sa brillante conduite en
Créte, Rose fut promu major général et fait
chevalier de l'ordre de St. Louis.

Dans tous les combats, le général Rose se fit
remarquer par sa bravoure et le maréchal
Palatin lui écrivit à la fin de la guerre :

« Je suis heureux de me faire l'honneur
des sentiments qui sont dus à vos brillants
services pendant la guerre, à la cordialité in-
épuisable par vous à chacun et au soin que vous
avez pris de maintenir cette bonne entente qui
a tant contribué à nos succès. »

La Chambre des lords, en votant des remer-
ciements à l'armée anglaise, glorifia aussi notre
armée. « Nous devons beaucoup à l'armée fran-
çaise, dit lord Tennyson, car nous avons appris
quelques choses d'elle, ce qui concourra la façon
de conduire une guerre. Nous devons beaucoup
aux Français pour la manière cordiale dont ils
se sont toujours mis à nos trousses, et pour les
bons sentiments qui n'ont cessé d'exister entre
les soldats de tout rang des deux armées ; nos
paroles de tout cela reviennent à la cordialité et à
l'habileté des officiers, qui ont rempli le rôle
de commissaires auprès de l'une ou l'autre
armée. »

Le général Rose mit le comble à sa réputation
par son succès dans la guerre des Indes de
1858 : « J'ai combattu, écrit-il, par une cha-
leur de 40 degrés à l'ombre ; j'ai été trois fois
paralysé par le soleil et il a fallu me jeter des
seaux d'eau froide sur la tête pour me faire
revenir. Grâce à la protection du ciel, j'ai
eu 15 combats dont je suis sorti vainqueur.
A Calpa, nous avions 45 degrés à l'ombre et
200 hommes de 49 indigènes sont tombés morts
d'épuisement. »

Son retour à Bombay fut un véritable triom-
phe. On lui offrit un bal qu'il accepta, dit-il,
pour l'amour des dames, car j'étais si fatigué,
dans l'Inde, elles dansent toutes sans excep-
tion.

Après le départ de lord Clyde, Rose fut
nommé commandeur en chef des forces de
l'Inde, et, dans cette haute situation, il eut la
chance de conquérir les suffrages de tous.

« Jamais, dit sir Napier, l'armée de l'Inde n'a
eu un chef plus sérieux de sa renommée ;
jamais elle n'a eu un chef qui ait écrit avec
plus de confiance notre essence. »

De retour en Angleterre, le général Rose fut
promu feld-maréchal et quelques années après,
moustré subitement à Paris ; l'armée anglaise,
en présence d'une carrière aussi brillante, eut
le vœu que des fabrications publiques fussent
faites à l'illustre vétéran.

C'est avec une touchante émotion que l'armée
française, qui l'avait vu à l'œuvre, s'assied à
cette pieuse manifestation. Si la France a eu
partiellement l'Angleterre pour ennemie, elle a tou-
jours rendu justice aux procédés généreux de
ses officiers. Elle se rappelle que lors de l'in-
vasion des Anglais dans le midi de la France
en 1815, l'armée de Wellington se distingua
par sa discipline et sa mansuétude envers les
habitants, les soldats payant tout ce qu'ils
prenaient, et les officiers engageant les proprié-
taires à leur faire connaître les actes répréhen-
sibles commis par leurs hommes. A nos
côtés de Toulouse, avec nous toujours, se
sont des tombes de nos soldats ennemis, qui
étaient meurtris pendant la guerre de vrais
gentilshommes.

FOR THE MASSACRES IN ARMENIA
The Duke of Devonshire, President of the
Committee, has just received from the
Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State,
the following reply to a letter of the 14th
inst. :—
« I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 14th inst., and to inform
you that the Government are deeply
sensible of the suffering which has been
inflicted upon the Armenians, and are
endeavouring to do all in their power to
relieve them. I have the honor to be,
Sir, your obedient servant,
The Duke of Devonshire.The Hon. Mr. Chamberlain.

THE MASSACRES IN ARMENIA.

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The Duke of Argyll presided last night over a special meeting at St. James's Hall, in London, to discuss the Armenian question. The Duke of Argyll presided last night over a special meeting at St. James's Hall, in London, to discuss the Armenian question.

My Dear Duke of Argyll, I have the meeting which you have recently undertaken to give me will produce an effect proportioned to the gravity of the cause which have led to its being convened. I trust it will be a success and that it will be a success and that it will be a success.

I cannot reasonably hope that the Armenians of the year 1896, together with the signal revolutionists they brought upon Turkey, would have the effect of producing a reformation of this, and perhaps even more rapid, reform in Armenia. The duty incumbent on all Europeans, plain or eminent, upon these walls, but to go forth, by all means, to the rescue of the Armenians, and to the rescue of the Armenians, and to the rescue of the Armenians.

I will not trouble you with more words, but I would not help sending an expression of my strong sympathy, and of my hope that by the use of moral means, if possible, and if not, then by other means rather than not in all, single security will be to bring about any form of relief to the Armenians and his address to these words of mine. I remain, my dear Duke, ever yours.

W. E. Gladstone.

The Duke of Portland and the Marquis of Oromeda are writing to Queen Elizabeth, regarding their withdrawal from the Armenian question. The Duke of Portland and the Marquis of Oromeda are writing to Queen Elizabeth, regarding their withdrawal from the Armenian question.

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and have not been photographed.

trained seamen than any number of Civilians offering an extra trespence a day to those who re-engage. That there must be great drawbacks to service afloat as compared with life on shore, we will admit, but there are many little difficulties which might be smoothed down, if more consideration were shown as to leave and small indulgences. The work of the seaman is hard enough we know, and a more willing and uncomplaining man than the British Blue-jacket it would be difficult to find. He does his work loyally while he is in the Service, but the majority throw up their chances of pension and higher pay, and simply get quit of the whole thing on the first opportunity, preferring to take the chance of employment on shore rather than remain afloat to be hounded about from morning to night, and to be denied privileges which could be readily granted without cost to the State or detriment to the Service. It is not too late even yet to stay the orders of the Squadron for the Spanish coast, and we trust their Lordships will take our counsel to heart, and see the policy of adding to the popularity of the Service, instead of sending away the ships with disappointed crews.

In the current number of *Blackwood's* is an article on "Army Reform," which might be read with advantage by the Authorities. We do not endorse all the opinions of the writer, but it is impossible to deny that he has thrown some light on a difficult subject, and made several suggestive remarks. He may be described as an advocate of qualified Cardwellism, as may be gathered from his opening paragraph, in which he says that "what has been called Lord Cardwell's scheme has so far proved a failure, not through any inherent defects, but from the attempt of the Government of the day to carry on war without seeking Parliament for the means of war." The result has been, he says, that the scheme has undergone a strain to which it was never intended to be subjected. Two difficult wars have been carried on at the same time, with all the establishments on a peace footing. The system was based on the principle that only one of each pair of linked battalions should be abroad, and that, if owing to stress of war, both battalions were out of the country, a proportionate increase should be made in the number of men at the Depôts. This increase has never been made, and unless the standard had been lowered, or the indentments to enlist increased, it would appear, from our recruiting experiences of the past nine years, that the men could not have been obtained. As it is, owing to short service, our demands are nearly double what they were before Lord Cardwell's changes, and it is very certain that we could not reduce the strength of our already skeleton battalions. That being the case, we should only be robbing Peter to pay Paul, if we made any large addition to the strength of Depôts. Moreover, as the writer of the article admits, the expedient would fall off effect, for it would only crowd the Depôts with boys unfit to be sent into the field. He confesses that the only method of obtaining trained soldiers is to invite volunteers from other regiments, or to call up men from the Reserve. To have recourse to the latter means in the event of little war would, he considers, be impolitic. We agree with him, but believe that, with proper indentments and management, a large number of Reserve men would volunteer. The calling for volunteers from other regiments we consider an objectionable practice. It temporarily reduces the regiments supplying those volunteers inefficient, introduces an element into the recruiting regiment which cannot be at once assimilated, destroys esprit de corps in both regiments, and promotes a spirit of rancor throughout the Army. The writer of the article maintains, in opposition to the universal opinion of the Army, that volunteering, "within restricted limits, constitutes a desirable and convenient assistance to the Adjutant-General in an emergency." We have no doubt that volunteering, unless within limits so restricted as to make it practically useless, is greatly to be deprecated. With another suggestion, we cordially concur. If it that a certain number of battalions should be always maintained at war strength. This has never yet been done, for though certain battalions have been kept up at a high strength, so that they may be ready at any moment for service, not a single one has yet been able to embark 1,000 layabouts in every man fit for the field, without calling for volunteers or assistance from the linked battalions. Two other subjects are dealt with in the article under

notice, and both are of importance. One is the establishment of General Officers; the other, the question of promotion. In discussing the former question, he administers a severe rebuke to Mr. Trevelyan, conclusively proving how ignorant of military matters that violent and arrogant military reformer is. According to Mr. Trevelyan, there are 626 Generals on the Active List, and "the Retired List of Generals is one that no man can number." As a matter of fact, on June 1 the number of active Generals was 475, and that of those on the Retired List—comprising Artillery, Engineers, Marines, and Indian Army—was 130. Mr. Trevelyan is equally inaccurate when he states that thirty-four Indian appointments which ought to be held by Generals are occupied by colonels, from want of a sufficient number of capable General Officers. The slightest inquiry would have shown him that this arrangement is solely due to economy. The writer devotes great attention to promotion by selection. He uses many arguments to prove that it is impossible in time of peace, without great injustice, and points out all the difficulties and evils which would ensue from introducing that practice. We shall content ourselves with saying that we admit the difficulties and the evils, but that we think a system of promotion by seniority tempered by selection could be worked out without injustice to officers, and to the benefit of the Service and the country.

The Naval Demonstration is, it would seem, to be brought home to the very palace of the Sultan, for on Monday two ex-Fleet Lords of the British Admiralty, Mr. Goschen and Mr. Smith, are to dine with his Majesty.

The Lords of the Admiralty have this year used their yacht, the *Endeavour*, merely as their hotel, and not to take passage in. With one or two exceptions their Lordships preferred travelling to the Ports by rail, and thought the passage via Holyhead better than round Land's End. And now it appears that the yacht is not large enough for them, and the construction of a new vessel is to be undertaken at Pembroke. Mr. Brassey stuck the *Endeavour* on her recent cruise, for although she was a little wet, it would have become a matter of the Mercantile Marine to show any desire to shirk a bit of sea water.

The Admiralty will not recall the *Iron Duke* from the China Station unless it be found absolutely necessary, and under any circumstances would prefer some little time to elapse before ordering her home after her grounding, as her sudden recall would accentuate the accident. The *Surfscourer* is, however, to be prepared for duty as a flag-ship and probable relief of the *Iron Duke*, and the building of a poop and other extensive alterations are to be taken in hand at once at Devonport.

Commander Versey L. Cameron, C.B., is staying at Constantinople, his visit being in connection with the overland route to India.

The Passer's yacht of the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, was lying off Constantinople on November 5, when the mail left.

Rear-Admiral Lecl. Chawhillam, C.B., with the whole of the ships of the Squadron under his command, was at Malabar on Sunday last, and sailed on the 10th for St. Vincent.

Mr. Edward Greenway, midshipman, who had served in the *Cherub* since February, 1877, has been permitted by the Admiralty to resign and leave the Service.

Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, K.C.B., has transferred his flag to the *Monarch* from the *Albatross*, which has proceeded to Malta to give leave and complete with stores. It is devoutly hoped in the Squadron that the ships may soon be relieved of the monotonous guard-mounting in Teledo Bay.

A full report of the gallantry of the Scotch boy of the *Wild Swan*, who saved a slave from being devoured by sharks, has been received at the Admiralty from Commander Harrie, and we hear that their Lordships will recommend the boy for the highest award for saving life from drowning. The details of the case have already appeared in these columns, and so more striking act of gallantry has come under our notice within recent times.

We trust a medical controversy may be closed by stating that the new regulations for Naval Medical Officers have been prepared and have met with the approval of the "Aethonides," which in this case would mean the Admiralty and Treasury. But as far our information goes, we have no confirmation of this pleasant rumour. That it must soon come there can be no doubt, but we rather fancy our contemporary is anticipating events.

The vexed question of stability, which has occupied so prominent a place in the *Aleatides* controversy, has

led to inquiries being made as to other classes of her Majesty's ships, and it has been discovered that the *Stalbridge* class is wanting in this most necessary quality. Steps will, of course, be taken to give warning to all ships of this class now in commission, and they are again sent on service.

Lieutenant Keppel Foote will temporarily undertake the duties of Lieutenant-Instructor of the Landing Brigade of Naval Artillery Volunteers, their Lordships having approved of him as a relief for Lieutenant Charles Bell, who, we regret to hear, is unfit for duty, owing to ill-health.

The speech of the Earl of Northbrook at the Lord Mayor's banquet, in returning thanks for the Navy, was certainly flattering to that branch of her Majesty's service, and the cheers of his audience showed the approval of his civilian hearers. His lordship gave the assurance that at no former time has the discipline of the fleet, at home and abroad, been in a more satisfactory condition. He also gave tributes of praise to Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour for the unanimity and good-feeling which prevailed among the officers and crews of the Allied Squadrons under his command while in Austrian waters. In speaking of the corps of Royal Marines, his lordship observed that he was greatly gratified at receiving from the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the expression of his opinion that nothing could exceed the condition and efficiency of what he was pleased to call "that splendid force." It is not the first time that his Royal Highness has been pleased to make use of such favourable expressions towards the Royal Marine Corps, and we feel satisfied that such a recognition has taken place in the feeling at the Admiralty as to over-ride any previous intention of reducing the establishment of this efficient body of men.

Admiral Sir Cooper Key, K.C.B., and Rear-Admiral Herbert were requested by the War Office to represent the Naval element on the Committee appointed to inquire into the defence of our mercantile ports. The duties of these officers at the Admiralty prevented their taking this additional duty upon them, and it was suggested that Vice-Admiral Phillimore and Vice-Admiral Henry Boys should be nominated in their stead. The offices lately filled by these two officers, namely, that of Admiral Superintendent of the Reserve and Director of Naval Ordnance respectively, make them peculiarly suited to adjudicate on coast defences, and they have consequently been selected as members of the Committee.

Why is not the *Fuero* ordered to pay off? She has been in commission since June 1, 1870, nearly four and a half years, and as will be seen by some particulars to her state and condition to be found under her name in another column, she adds nothing to the strength of the Mediterranean Fleet, for she is indeed a "weak link." Her serving service in the Sea of Marmora has been completed, and she is now only awaiting those orders which the Admiralty have, apparently, forgotten to give.

As will be seen by reference to the name of the ship in another column, the *Resoluer* has gained the reputation of being anything but a comfortable ship. Commissioned only in September last by Commander the Hon. A. C. Littleton, she has already had more than her fair proportion of offences and court-martials. Her commander had so serious difficulty with his men in the last commission so far as we know, but it would seem that his new command is, thus far, anything but a success. There must be something exceptionally wrong somewhere if all we hear be true, and either the ship has had the misfortune to receive a wonderful number of bad characters from the Naval Barracks, or there must be a want of tact in dealing with the men on board the ship. If it be true that the ship is made unbearable to the lower deck, it is not strange that men should commit crimes which lead to their being sentenced to imprisonment, rather than go to such a station as the West Coast of Africa in an uncomfortable ship. We always hesitate to accept grumbles from the discontented, but when charges are deliberately laid, and the matter becomes the talk of the port, then it is time that some inquiry should be made at head-quarters.

We are indebted to a correspondent writing from Arica on October 3, for the following most interesting account of the torpedo operations of the Chileans and the destruction of the *Covadonga*, the details of her loss being from the lips of a survivor. Our correspondent says—"Although the torpedo operations of the Chilean Navy during the war have been singularly unsuccessful, beyond establishing a wholesome dread of these engines of war in their opponents' breasts, the Peruvians, on the other hand, have not only sunk the *Loa*, a large armed transport, but now have destroyed the famous little *Covadonga*. The story in each case is very similar. On July 3, 1880, the *Loa*, Captain Peto, while blockading the port of Callao, picked up a boat full of vegetables, but with no one in her. Captain Peto, in common with the other officers of the squadron, had been officially warned that it was known the Peruvians would attempt to destroy the ships by means of explosives concealed in a boat, but in spite of this fact, which had been ascertained by spies, he

