

lowed up his plans. The bombardment had laid half the City in ruins. The works of the besiegers and besieged had approached so closely to each other that the combatants could call out to each other, and with perfect ease reach each other with their long pikes.

The siege had lasted now for four long years, and Ostend was not yet taken. But the United Republic began to be uneasy about the ultimate fate of the City, and they gave to their then Commander, Daniel De Hertuing, a secret order to close an honorable capitulation. De Hertuing honorably discharged that duty. After he had shipped off all the Engineers, the Protestant Clergy, the guns and ammunition, and all the most valuable private property, by sea to Holland, and Zealand, and had demanded and obtained from the enemy that he should be permitted to march out with flying colors, bands playing, and lighted matches, he surrendered the fortress on the second of September, 1804, leaving it a heap of ruins. On the 7th of September, De Hertuing, with his small, but gallant army, consisting of only three thousand men, marched through the besieging army, drawn up in two lines to receive them, the Germans and English carrying the swords and pikes, and martial music resounding; at the head of the column. The Prince of Orange waited to receive them at Sluys, and the Prince, his officers, and army, bared their heads in honor of the gallant defender of Ostend.

As the Archduke Albrecht, and his Arch-Duchess, made their entrance into Ostend, they saw nothing but ruined forts and buildings, and the decaying corpses of the slain. The army of the Archduke had lost in the siege 72,000 men, the United Republic 28,000; or 100,000 men in all. The siege cost the Dutch Republic monthly 100,000 florins, and to Spain it was still more expensive, the gain to the latter being piles of ruined masonry!!!

THE DEFENCE OF HOUSES.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

(Continued from our last.)

In selecting a house for defence, provided it be either of stone or logs, it should be, if possible, isolated from all others; if there be another near it, equally capable of being defended, that must be also occupied, and if the two buildings are so situated that the fire from each will cross with and support the other, it is a great point gained. But in the selection of a house or houses for defence the same rule must apply, that applies to all fortifications—no cover must be left to the enemy within effectual musquet range of the garrison. If there are outhouses they must be demolished. If these outhouses are of timber much of their material may be carried into the house and made use of in the defence. If at such a distance from the house that there is no danger, they may be set on fire and burnt; so also with all hay and corn ricks. All fences should be levelled and trees cut down. If the trees are of sufficient size, say, with the trunk five or six inches in diameter, they should be made into an abatis before the entrances into the house. In fact nothing at all should be left from which the enemy can find a particle of cover.

Many old houses, particularly on the Continent of Europe, are surrounded by a moat or ditch, and such a house if vigorously defended,

would resist the enemy, even were they provided with guns, for a long time, for it is always difficult to effect the passage of a ditch in the face of an enemy's fire.

Having decided on the occupation of a building, the chief commanding, should, if there be time, sweep up as much provision as he can collect, for it must be evident that if the duration of the defence is to depend on the contents of the soldiers' haversacks, it will not be a very long one. Water is also indispensable. Fighting and powder smoke had no thirst. The canteens should be filled, and every vessel that can be collected be also filled with water and placed in the upper story of the building, where it will be most available in case of the building being set on fire.

As a general rule the roof should be stripped off, and the floor of the upper story, attic, or garret, covered with earth, or wet dung, to the depth of a couple of feet. The walls then form breastworks or parapets, over which the soldiers can fire; if the wall is too high for this, that is more than four and a half feet above the floor, a barquette or platform must be made, and this can be done when the timbers stripped from the roof. The fire delivered from this upper story will be the most commanding as given from the highest elevation.

The object of covering the floor with earth or dung is to deaden the explosion of the shells, should any be pitched into the building, and should a shell fall and burst, the cavity made by the explosion should be immediately filled up. Moreover, a carcass falling among earth or wet dung, would burn out innocuously.

All the glass windows should be removed and pitched outside the buildings, that the garrison may not be injured by splinters of broken glass.

The windows of the ground floor should be bricked or walled up with stone, if there be time, but a couple of loopholes should be left in each. In order to secure them, if there be no time for a regular walling up, the timber of the roof, the inner doors, and wood work of the partitions, heavy tables, and other articles found in the interior of houses, can be employed. It is sufficient if they are blocked up to the height of eight feet from the ground. The walls of the house on the ground floor, if they are not too thick, should also be loopholed, at about every four feet distance. On this floor it is customary to make two rows of loopholes, on the other floors only one.

In order to the more general distribution of the fire, the several rows of loopholes must not be cut exactly above each other, but so that the loophole of the upper row should be a little centre of the interval between two loopholes of the lower row.

The lowest row of loopholes on the ground floor should be only just above the floor itself, to be fired from by men lying down. The other row to be four feet and a half above, thus one man will stand to fire between every two that lie down. The fire from these very low loopholes is very destructive, and from the fact that the loopholes are so low, the enemy cannot conveniently fire into them.

Some writers recommend making the upper loopholes eight and a half feet above the floor. In this case a platform may be formed, which can be constructed of planks placed on barrels, or trestles of tables, or in a Church, of the seats and partitions of pews. In a Church the gal-

leries themselves may be made use of as platforms, and in that case the construction of the loopholes must depend on the construction of the gallery itself. A young officer could learn a useful lesson by considering to watch for a few hours some masons or plasterers, while constructing a scaffold, but there would rarely be a strong detachment that did not contain some one or more tradesmen of this description.—When the Duke of Wellington, as Napier tells us, wanted to establish a Mint, in the South of France, he caused it to be made known that he wanted *coiners*, and he found plenty. It would be extremely impertinent to ask what kind of money these men had been in the habit of coining, but as a rule, in the ranks of a Regiment men can be found who are up to anything. The lower loopholes of the ground floor should not be more than eight inches high, and only just wide enough conveniently to admit the muzzle of a musket. Those on the next row should be about a foot in height and six inches wide. The rows on the first story should be about fifteen inches high and ten inches wide, and if the wall is more than one brick, or say, than one foot in thickness, the width of the loophole outside must be larger than that withinside, in order to obtain a more divergent range, and the lower part of the loophole must be made sloping downwards, towards the ground, to obtain a nearer view of the enemy.

(To be Continued.)

The colonelcy of the Commaught Rangers (88th) has been conferred on Lieut.-Gen. Robert Macpherson, hitherto of the 33rd Highlanders, the colonelcy of which is now given to Major-General C. G. Falconar.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.—The Victoria Cross consists of a Maltese cross, formed from the cannon captured from the Russians in 1856; the centre of the cross is the royal cypher; the ribbon by which it is worn is a scroll, bearing the words "for valor." The ribbon is blue for the navy and red for the army. On the clasp are two branches of laurel, and from it, suspended by a Roman "V," hangs the proudest honor an Englishman's blood can buy. The decoration carries with it a pension of £10 a year.

The Washington correspondents of the New York papers say that Lord Napier is still busily working to induce the United States Government to take part in the war against China. It is said that the United States are not unwilling to do so; but they require, first, the privilege from England, of having more of their own way in Central and South American affairs; which, it is added by the Washington letter-writers, will be given to them;

Adverts from the West Indies, dated at Kingston, (Jamaica), 13th March, represent the agitation against the Cuban slave trade as spreading extensively. Ministers of the gospel and manumitted slaves fanned the flame by addresses and remarks. In Antigua the sugar crop would be over the usual average, but in the other Islands the prospects were indifferent. Cholera prevailed all over Demerara. The reports from the mines of Jamaica are encouraging. Communication with the American continent by telegraph was advocated by the Legislature, Executive and people of Barbadoes. A cattle murrain was causing great loss in Jamaica.