

hours, or until the white flag is hoisted. I think our attack will commence on Monday, and by this fine arrangement of Lord Raglan's much loss of life will be saved to our forces. I fear Alma must have occasioned much mourning in England. Cholera does not now exist among the troops, and we are very healthy. The hand of the Almighty appears to be with us, and we are favored by weather and everything else, which is, of course, all against the doings of the tyrant Czar.

It was a maxim of Vauban's "that precipitation in the conduct of sieges never hastened the fall of a place, often retarded it, and always occasioned unnecessary bloodshed." In one remarkable point this canon certainly failed of its application, when employed, as it often was, in illustration of the sieges conducted by the British during the last war. The fall of the principal Spanish fortresses was undoubtedly hastened, in point of time, by what may be termed the precipitation of the besiegers; but the axiom is sound, nevertheless, and the success of our operations was only purchased by great risks of failure and a frightful sacrifice of life. As we are now, after so long an interval, once more engaged in enterprises of this terrible description, the reader may find, we think, some instructive matter for reflection in a comparison of accounts between 1812 and 1854.

It may, perhaps, create some surprise when we say that our most successful proceedings against the strong places of the Peninsula are universally condemned as imprudent and unscientific. In those days our army was totally deficient both in the personal and material aids for proper prosecution of sieges.—We had no Engineers' department, no specially instructed corps of Sappers and Miners, and no adequate force of artillery. This may seem strange to those who recall the triumphs of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz, but it is perfectly true, and it should be remembered that Badajoz itself was not carried until we had been twice, on previous occasions, repulsed from its walls; while at Burgos—a place of little strength or pretensions—we were entirely unsuccessful, and, after more than a month of fruitless operations, retreated in discomfiture. To state the case in a few words, we were not unfrequently defeated, and where we succeeded we did so by virtue, not of skill or science, but of dogged courage, and at a cost of human life deplorable in the extreme.—Neither Badajoz nor Ciudad Rodrigo provide us, except as regards personal heroism, with any examples to be followed at Sebastopol.

The trenches were opened before Sebastopol by the British troops on the 10th of Oct., and in the course of a week the fire of the batteries was directed upon the place. At Ciudad Rodrigo the duration of the siege was 12 days, though twice that time had been computed as necessary. At Badajoz ground was first broken on the 17th of March, and the city was stormed on the 6th of April. At St. Sebastian operations were commenced on the 14th of July, and discontinued after an unsuccessful assault on the 25th. The trenches were again occupied on the 24th of August, the town fell on the 31st, and the castle on the 8th of September. It will be seen, therefore, that the shortest period elapsing in these examples between the beginning of operations and the assault is eleven days, and this interval was in each case much shorter than it should have been. It is a maxim of military engineering that, if time and opportunities permit of the process, a fortified town may be taken by the instrumentality of science alone, and that the strongest defences may be penetrated without any recourse to the bayonet at all, or any necessity for a formal assault. The same skill which carries the approaches of the besiegers up to the walls of the place will carry them through it, and the daring of the individual soldier need never be brought into action. Probably few sieges have ever exemplified these axioms in full perfection, but in the Peninsula they were discarded altogether. The British commander was pressed by time and by circumstances—he had neither the option of delay nor the means at his disposal for thus conducting his operations, and he was thrown for support entirely on the courage and hardihood of his soldiers. The consequence was, that time was paid for in blood, and whereas, according to the doctrines of engineers, the operations ought to have cost us little more than those against Bomarsund, we lost at Ciudad Rodrigo 1,300, and at Badajoz no fewer than 5,000 men and officers killed or wounded, of whom nearly 800 fell dead in the actual assault. At St. Sebastian the loss to the army exceeded 3,000 of whom upwards of 200 were officers.

If such tactics as these were to be adopted at Sebastopol, and if the casualties before that place were to be computed in proportion, the prospect would indeed be terrible, for nothing will strike the reader more forcibly than the comparisons we now subjoin between the means of destruction employed at the two epochs. At Badajoz the siege artillery amounted to 16 24-pounders, 20 18-pounders, and 16 24-pound howitzers, which threw into the place during the operations about 32,000 round shot and 1,800 shells. At St. Sebastian we commenced the siege with 20 24-pounders, four 68-pounders, six 18-pounders, and 10 howitzers and mortars, which, when found insufficient, were increased by 48 pieces of ordnance sent out expressly from England. The expenditure of ammunition—unusually large—amounted to some 53,000 round shot and 16,000 shells; during a siege of nearly two months' duration. The case of Ciudad Rodrigo deserves particular attention, since, in comparison with the previous sieges, it is especially noted for "the magnitude of the means employed," the supplies of every nature being "indefinitely greater than at either of the other attacks." These means were represented by 34 24-pounders

and four 18-pounders, and the eloquent historian of the war, in describing the opening of the breaching batteries, records the effect in the following language:—

"Then was beheld a spectacle at once fearful and sublime. The enemy replied to the assailants' fire with more than 50 pieces; the bellowing of eighty large guns shook the ground far and wide; the smoke rested in heavy volumes upon the battlements of the place, or curled in light wreaths about the numerous spires; the shells, hissing through the air, seemed fiery serpents leaping from the darkness; the walls crashed to the stroke of the bullet, and the distant mountains, faintly returning the sound, appeared to moan over the falling city."—Napier's History of the Peninsular War.

Now, let the reader only picture to himself every feature of this scene ten times magnified, and he will obtain some idea of the probable spectacle at Sebastopol when the batteries of the allies, after so many days of ominous silence, replied all at once to the cannon of the Russians. Considering the artillery employed, first in the English and then in the French attack, the enormous fortifications of the town, and the armaments of the two fleets, it is not too much to presume that 800, instead of 80 large guns shook the earth with their bellowing, while many of these guns would be three times the calibre of those used in 1812. The British alone, according to the letter of our correspondent, were likely to have 130 pieces of heavy artillery in position by the 16th, and when the batteries were completed their power would probably exceed that of the batteries at Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, and St. Sebastian, all taken together. At the former of these places we only threw into the town 9,515 round shot during the whole siege; at Sebastopol our correspondent calculates that the French and English guns in position, irrespectively of the fleets, would be capable of hurling no less than 23,600 shot and shells against the enemy's works every day, and, if these shots were weighed as well as counted, the contrast would appear more astounding still. It is only to be hoped that with these prodigious resources at our disposal, and with the perfect command of time and opportunity which the security of our position gives us, we may make science do as far as possible the work of courage, and provide in the capture of Sebastopol as strong a contrast to the Peninsular sieges in economy of life as in the magnitude of material means which national energies have provided.—Times.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Rev. Messrs. Canty, Clarke, and Doyle, have just started for the seat of war, having received the necessary faculties from the Archbishop, making nine or ten Priests who have now been sent out.

NURSES FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED.—It is said that there are now upwards of 20 ladies belonging to religious orders in various parts of Ireland assembled in Dublin preparatory to departure on their mission to the seat of war. Among them are two sisters of Mr. G. O. Higgins, one of the members for Mayo.

Accounts from Cork, dated Saturday, say—"The barracks here are at present somewhat crowded, caused by the draughts from several regiments which have taken up their quarters in it, previous, it is believed, to embarkation for the seat of war. Draughts of the 39th (Dorsetshire), 14th (Buckinghamshire) and 3rd Buffs, expect to receive orders of embarkation, to reinforce their several regiments. The 59th (2nd Nottinghamshire) Regiment, serving at Hongkong, will, it is believed, be reinforced by a draught from this garrison. The public spirit in favor of the present war is such that the vast majority of recruits insist on joining regiments in active service, comparatively few being ready to serve in the regiments which are not at the seat of war."

An order was on Saturday received by the Earl of Clare for the enrolment of the County Limerick Militia.

Five hundred more of the Somersetshire Militia have arrived in Cork, and are quartered in the barracks.

The Marquis of Clanricarde, Colonel of the Galway Militia, has been on a visit in the neighborhood of Galway during this last week. Report says that the object of his Lordship's visit to the City of the Tribes has been to ascertain what prospects there were of raising the Galway militia to the extent named in the order of the Privy Council—that is to say, 1,480 men; and rumor also has it that all the information he could collect was of a very discouraging character. We cannot positively pledge ourselves to the accuracy of these rumors, but we have no reason to doubt their authenticity. Neither do we feel any surprise that it should be so. The policy of the English Government has been to neglect and to exterminate the Irish race. And now England wants an Irish militia to recruit her armies from, and to reconstruct an English garrison in their own land. She may put forth all her inducements, but they will amount to nothing. She may call spirits from the vasty deep, but they won't come; and thus her mischievous policy recoils upon herself. The Irish people were denied the right of bearing arms that belongs to the population of every free country, yet, when there is occasion for their services in a military capacity, they are expected to shoulder a musket, strap on a knapsack, and perform the "goose step," at the bidding of any marinet who may be sent to drill them. For that, however, the day is gone by.—Persecution, injustice, and religious intolerance have done their work, and that portion of the Irish peasantry who still cling to their native land, have no fancy for "sojering." When a militia was last raised in Ireland Galway made up its complement of 1,000 men, 500 of whom volunteered into the line, and their places continued to be filled up so as to keep up the numerical strength of the body. Will that be the case now? We take leave to doubt it very much.—Galway Patriot.

PATRIOTIC FUND.—The county of Kerry meeting was held on Saturday in the Court-house of Tralee, and was most numerously and influentially attended by all classes. Mr. H. A. Herbert, M.P., Lieutenant of the county, presided, and in the course of an effective address, in reference to the objects of the meeting,

read the following brief letter from the Earl of Listowel:—

"I am happy to tell you that Ennismore was doing well when I last heard from him, under date of the 4th inst.; he had a narrow escape of losing his leg, as the ball which passed through it grazed the bone. I hear that he has obtained much credit for his gallantry, as, after he was struck, he went on to the end, using his sword as a support, and was not exhausted until after the intrenchments were taken and the enemy put to flight. With kind regards to Mrs. Herbert, believe me, yours very truly,

"LISTOWEL.

"H. A. Herbert, Esq., M.P., &c." The reading of this portion of Lord Listowel's letter elicited tremendous cheers.

The Right Rev. Dr. Moriarty, "coadjutor" Bishop of Kerry, having been called upon by Mr. Herbert to second the first resolution, in the course of his speech, said,—"We are threatened with the loss of our peace and civilization, as well as the destruction of our liberty, by the iron despotism of the ruler of the Russias. (Loud cheers.) Our soldiers have gone forth to meet the peril; they have gone forth prepared to die to secure for us the blessings of peace, education, and civilization. (Cheers.) We must give honor to the brave. We must give honor to those men bearing lordly names who, laying aside their jewelled coronets and the splendors of their princely homes, have gone to lead our battalions. (Great cheering.) We must give honor to those young gentlemen—many of them the children of our own town and county—who, giving up the pleasures and enjoyments of youth, have gone forth to meet death by pestilence in the plains of Varna, under the leaden hail which showers from the heights of Alma, or in a still more momentous battle field, attacking that formidable fortress in which the Russian despot has deemed himself secure. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) We must give honor, too, and more than honor, to the poor private, (loud cheers)—the man without whom the battle could not be won (loud cheers) the man who has left behind him what is dearest to man—left both the wife of his heart's affection and the little children that tottered round his knee—we must give him more than honor—we must give him reward. (Cheers.) I am sure that, while there beats a noble feeling in the breast of an Irishman, the woman or child who bears the name of a soldier who has fallen before Sebastopol will not be forgotten by us." (Loud and continued cheers.)

The other speakers were Sir William Godfrey, Mr. James O'Connell (brother of the late "Liberator"), the Rev. Dr. Rowan (Protestant clergyman), &c. A subscription list having been opened, in less than 20 minutes a sum exceeding £300 was realised.

The citizens of Limerick met on Thursday to respond, in the words of one of the resolutions, to the appeal to the patriotism of the nation to provide for the families of the brave soldiers who have fallen in the service of their Queen and country. The attendance was numerous and influential, and included the Earl of Clare and the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan. Measures are in progress for meetings in the counties of Armagh, Westmeath, Sligo, and Queen's County, in addition to which the Earl of Portarlington and the local magistrates convened a meeting of the inhabitants of Portarlington and its vicinity, to be held in the Tholsel on Saturday.—King's Co. Paper.

The praises of the Times for the great victory of the Alma are for "the British army," and in that army it speaks of none other than "the Englishman" as "having climbed the heights of the Alma"—of "the Englishman" defying death—of "the Englishman" driving the enemy from the positions occupied; and yet, when we come to look at the list of "killed and wounded," we perceive that though "the Englishman" is said alone to have won the victory, it was because there were amongst the killed and wounded not only "the Englishman," but also "the Irishman." Upon the field of battle—and after the victory has been won—the Times cannot recognise an Irishman whose valor is to be recorded. Even Wellington was called by the Times an "Englishman"! In the Times we never hear of an "Irishman" but in the police reports.—Catholic Telegraph.

THE DEATH OF ST. PATRICK.—The riband vacant by the Order of Lord Ormonde, has, it appears, been offered to the Marquis of Londonderry and declined. The Northern Whig, which makes this announcement, "is not aware of the reasons which induced his Lordship to refuse this distinguished honor," and truly adds that it could not have been conferred upon a more popular Irish nobleman."

NEW WORK BY HOGAN.—Our gifted countryman Hogan is at present engaged on a group for the Paris exhibition, which, even in its rough state, has excited the warmest encomiums of the most competent judges. He has just completed a "Dead Christ," for the Rt. Rev. Dr. Mullock, Bishop of Newfoundland, which is to be placed in the Cathedral Church of St. John's. It is a most chaste and beautiful piece of work, and it is only right to say that in his dealings with Dr. Mullock, the artist bears testimony to the handsome and liberal spirit in which he was treated by the Prelate.—Limerick Reporter.

CITY OF LIMERICK ELECTION.—As long since announced, Mr. Sergeant O'Brien was elected on Saturday without the semblance of opposition; his proposer was Mr. John White, J. P., of Belmont; and the nomination was seconded by the Rev. John Braham.—As a devoted son of the Catholic Church, the new member, in returning thanks to the electors, gave expression to his feelings on a most tender point in the following terms:—"I regret that, after a wise and liberal policy had removed from the statute-book those oppressive laws, dictated by the bigotry of former ages; it should again be necessary to appeal to our religious feelings for the protection of our faith. (Cheering.) We cannot, however, be insensible to the position in which we are now placed, to the attacks which have been made, and will be repeated against us. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) In a country, the great majority of whose population profess the Catholic religion, where the Established Church is so richly endowed, what can be more just or equitable than that the Catholics of Ireland, who contribute to support the State, should get from the funds to which they contribute an adequate provision for the maintenance of their clergy? For many years a small allowance had been made—given with a sparing hand, and accompanied with angry and offensive discussions. (Hear.) At length Sir Robert Peel, influenced by a sense of policy, of justice, increased the grant, and placed it on a more satisfactory and permanent footing. And yet this arrangement is now sought to be rescinded; and some of those who concurred with Sir Robert Peel in its adoption are now joined with our opponents

in seeking to deprive us of this measure of justice.—(Loud cries of 'Hear, hear.')

Can we either be unmindful of the measures threatened against our convents? (Cheers.) For the last two sessions of Parliament the inmates of those establishments, endeared to us not merely by the ties of kindred, but by our grateful sense of the incalculable benefit they confer, have been made the object of an unjust and ungenerous attack. (Cheers.) Under the special pretext of protecting personal liberty, which is not violated, and of which the Catholic laity are the natural protectors, (Cheers,) efforts have been made to destroy the privacy and interfere with the effectual working of those institutions. I will not repeat the calumnies which have been put forward to justify this aggression.—(Hear.) It is impossible that the liberal and intelligent Protestants of the country, many of whom have seen these establishments and contributed to their support, can credit the assertions or sympathise with the motives of the authors of such measures."

PROTESTANT CHARITY.—Some strictures which appeared in a recent letter from the Venerable Archdeacon Fitzgerald, P.P., Rathkeale, on the dietary of paupers in the workhouses, having excited the wrath of certain poor law guardians, the very Rev. gentleman has published in the Limerick Chronicle another remarkable letter on the same subject. After some introductory remarks he writes as follows:—

"I believe that if ever any ray of human mercy shall penetrate the dreary gloom of the workhouses of this county, it will be the result of a pressure *ad extra* from the commissioners or from the public. I am persuaded that a thousand witnesses, backed by the unanimous opinion of the Royal College of Surgeons, and confirmed by the practice and experience of ten millions, will not convince any person of ordinary understanding and experience that a sturdy pauper boy of fourteen years and ten months, or a girl verging on womanhood, and within a month of her fifteenth birthday, will be treated to a health-sustaining, growth-developing, and life-prolonging supper in the Newcastle Workhouse. There the supper consists, for boys and girls of that age, through the year round, of pump-water—not measured as they there measure other refreshments, by ounces—but given liberally in full and free abundance, and no stint. Let it not be understood, however, that the supper is wholly composed of 'water from the rill,' *aditas* the pump. The sparkling draught is for the purpose of washing down a modicum of bread made from the sixty-fourth part of a stone of Egyptian meal. This quantity of meal at the present high price, costs the moderate sum of one farthing! and I have seen that weight of meal conveniently stowed away, about two days since, in a pewter naggin measure! This rather homopathic supper is quite in conformity with what my respected monitors call 'the principle of the poor law'; this may be the name they call it on high Olympus, but down here on earth it looks very like a supper got up on the purest principles of starvation. But, then, you will say this supper has been prepared by an ample dinner—no doubt of it. The 'rich repast' called a dinner in the Newcastle Workhouse consists, for boys and girls verging on fifteen, (technically termed class four), of double the supper! that is, two naggin measures of meal made into bread and purchased at the cost of one half-penny sterling! To this solid portion of the dinner there is added three naggins of sour milk, purchased at the rate of about two pence half-penny the gallon. The breakfast is six-sevenths of the dinner, or six ounces of meal, made into an overgrown and watery mass of stirabout; so that the solid food allowed to a sturdy boy of fourteen, or a girl verging on fifteen, for every day of the 365, consists of sixteen ounces and a half of farina divided into three meals, and purchased at the cost of one penny and half a farthing or thereabouts. Can it be that the *ex-officio* guardians of the union of Newcastle are aware of the barbarous torture and deadly harm thus visited on helpless boyhood and girlhood, under the high sanction of their names? Every one knows that a boy of fourteen, employed as a cow-boy, would require at least three times the food of a Newcastle dietary, and that a girl of fourteen, bound apprentice to a dress maker, would require, at the very least, twice the quantity allowed under this penny-a-day experiment. Every one must perceive the dreadful effects that must follow from limiting the food of the young to half, or one-third of what nature requires; the springs of life are dried up and vitiated; the vital powers are sapped, enfeebled, and deadened, hence shrivelled, dwarfed, enfeebled frames; hence stunted growth, scrofula, and, above all, ophthalmia, unknown except in workhouses. The Newcastle list of *ex-officio* guardians comprises three peers, one baronet, one member of Parliament, and twenty-one other deputy-lieutenants, justices, and other gentlemen. One of my objects in writing this letter is, that if you are so good as to give it insertion it will fall under the notice of every one of those high functionaries. I cannot believe that persons of their high consideration are capable of adopting the ideas and sentiments of English parish nurses, or English workhouse beaules. I cannot bring myself to believe that noblemen and gentlemen will emulate the Mrs. Brownrigg, whose name George Canning rescued from oblivion. I cannot imagine that men of rank and station will continue to inflict on young boys and grown girls the sickening and emaciating torture of unceasing hunger. All those who visited the exhibition of last year, will never forget the harrowing picture of the unhappy boy king, suffering under the brutal treatment of his *ex-officio* guardian, for such, in effect, Simon was, and yet I think that one might safely make affidavit that even Simon never stinted his victim to an allowance of daily food so slender as that laid down in the Newcastle dietary? Mr. Editor, it is a miserable thing to see paupers of all ages swallowing their stunted meal of half or one-third of what they could eat, in sullen silence, and then retiring almost as hungry as when they entered. It is surely not poor relief but human torture to doom to unceasing hunger—hunger never fully appeased—a helpless old man or some unhappy orphan boy or girl, whose crime is only unavoidable destitution? Torture is not allowed to be inflicted even by doom of the judges of the land, and what authority from God or man have guardians to inflict so dreadful a punishment? Give the pauper the cheapest food possible to be obtained—give him potatoes and salt—give him bread made of rye, of bran, of sawdust, if possible, but give him, oh give him what nature demands, what the beasts of the field seek and obtain—a bellyfull. Even once in the day a bellyfull, shameful to say, was never yet given in a county Limerick workhouse outside the hospital, or infirmary ward, except, perhaps, on a Christmas Day. Where is the humanity and the manly feeling—the chivalry, if I