



CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE.

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1857.

During the last few days certain officers of the Active force to whom the *Military Gazette* has been sent, have thought proper to return it, after having received, and appropriated, and we suppose read, seven numbers. They might surely have discovered before they had received so many that they did not require it, and they do not seem to be aware, that having received so many numbers, we could if so minded, make them pay for the whole year's subscription, if we were to resort to the law. As officers such conduct is the very reverse of "gentlemanly," to say the least of it.

We publish the names of the officers who have acted in this way, without further comment.

Captain Jeffreys and his Officers, Quebec—Cavalry.

Captain Cornell, Rifles, Quebec—Lieut. Barrow, Foot Artillery, Quebec.

Captain Stephens and his Officers—Rifles, Collingwood.

Major Ruttan and Officers, Cobourg.

The only four officers who declined to take the paper previously did so at once, in a gentlemanly way, and gave a sufficient reason.

The Siege of Ostend Compared with the Siege of Sebastopol.

[Translated from the German by HENR. LOUIS FAHR, late sub-officer in the 12th, of Prince Royal's Regiment of the Line, of the Prussian army.]

We have no occasion to go back to the Siege of Troy, as some English papers have done, whether in jest or in earnest, to find an example of a lengthened siege. We find one in the military history of the 17th century, which has a surprising resemblance to that of the great maritime fortress in the Tauric Chersonese. We allude to the Siege of Ostend in West Flanders which stood out so conspicuously in the history of the Revolt of the Netherlands against Spain.

It may not be quite uninteresting to give a slight sketch of the proceedings at this Siege, which we may call a companion to that of Sebastopol.

It was in the month of July, 1601, that the Archduke Albrecht, of Austria, the son-in-law of Philip II. of Spain, to whom the latter had entrusted the Spanish Netherlands, appeared with an army before Ostend, intending to wrest the fortress from the United Provinces, or Dutch Netherlands. The possession of Ostend was of the utmost importance to the Archduke, principally because it would deprive the Dutch of a splendid harbour navigable by the largest ships of war, from which the enemy could at any time throw troops into the heart of Spanish Flanders.

The besiegers under the chief command of the Archduke Albrecht, under whom were the Generals, Count Frederic Van den Berge, and Von Monroi, had hardly commenced to open the first trenches, and erect some siege works, when the

Prince Maurice of Orange, then Commander-in-Chief of the whole force of the Dutch republic, sent Sir Francis Vere with a few English troops to reinforce the garrison of Ostend. Vere, in conjunction with Charles Van der Noot took the command. Vere was a man who united the utmost personal bravery to great sagacity and theoretical military knowledge; he was to Ostend what Colonel Crauch was to Silistria, and Tottleben to Sebastopol.

The besiegers commenced by throwing up a series of small forts, and heavily armed bastions opposite to the works of the fortress. In fact they erected a fort opposite to every single (salient) work of the place, and Vere seeing that by a continuation of this process the enemy would soon dominate the fortress, immediately threw up three new redoubts, on the face of the important fort, Santa Clara, which he armed with his heaviest guns, and which he called the "Poulains."

After this had been done, Vere laid under water the south side of the country before the fortress, from which side the assaults were generally made, thereby much impeding the operations of the Archduke's army. But the Archduke was soon prepared to overcome obstacles of this nature, and gave orders to run a dyke straight through the water, the plateau of which he crowned with an immense redoubt, firing from it with great effect into Ostend. To cut off the fresh supplies of men and munitions which the ships of the Republic brought into Ostend, Albrecht destroyed the old harbour of the City.

But the indefatigable Vere knew here also what to do. He opened one of the Dykes which were constructed to keep out the water of the sea, and so created a new harbour where the ships of the Dutch found a secure anchorage.

Nor was the Archduke with his army, in a very safe position before the besieged fortress, for Prince Maurice of Orange was in the field with a very respectable force, and occasionally made a diversion, to relieve the pressure on Ostend, and compel the besiegers to desist from their works. He also laid siege to the fort of Herzogenbusch in North Brabant, but was obliged to desist, as Albrecht succeeded in reinforcing the garrison. Notwithstanding, the Siege of Ostend was never for one moment interrupted.

The Archduke had now lain seven months before the Flemish sea-fortress, without having taken even the smallest fort, or part of the City. By his spies, he, however, learnt, that several of the works of the fortress had suffered severely, and that the provisions and ammunition were decreasing to a serious extent. The garrison, consisting of about 7,000 men, mostly English and Germans in the service of the Republic, suffered horribly from sickness, and were reduced to a small number. This, and the circumstance, that Sir Francis Vere, during an armistice which was agreed on, introduced a considerable reinforcement of troops into the town, and a supply of provisions, by which indeed he broke the conditions of the armistice, induced Albrecht to order a general assault.

On the morning of the 2nd of January, 1602, the Archduke mounted his charger, and riding at the head of his staff, minutely inspected all his works and batteries. All was in the best order. The Walloon, Spanish, and Italian Regiments stood ready for the assault. The guns

were pointed against the works of the place, and the Artillerymen only waited for the order to commence firing. The Archduke gave it. All the batteries thundered forth at once, and tho' in those days there were no Lancaster guns, or Congreve rockets, the walls were so damaged by the heavy balls, that late in the afternoon a breach was effected, and the besiegers with savage shouts, advanced to the assault. There the Spanish veterans who had fought under Don John of Austria, and came with Alexander Farnese to the Netherlands, pressed irresistibly onwards, there the fierce Walloons overthrew every thing in their way, until Sir Francis Vere launched against them some regiments of German Lands knechts, and English pikemen, against whose firm ranks the Spanish charge failed.

The assault was almost immediately renewed, when Vere ordered the flood gates in the Dykes to be opened, and suddenly a torrent of water rushed upon the assailants, who thus menaced by a double death, now fought for safety and protection. The Archduke, in despair, ordered a retreat, leaving a thousand men upon the field, while the garrison lost but fifty. The feeling which prevailed during that night and the following days in the Archduke's camp must have been somewhat like that in the camp of the Allies, after the failure of the assault on the Malakoff, on the 18th of June, 1855.

The most distinguished officers in the Archduke's army implored him to raise the siege, as there was no hope of success, but Albrecht, a man, who according to the testimony of all impartial historians, though not exactly a hero, had much personal bravery, an iron perseverance, and sound intelligence, remained firm, and, though he did not use the emphatic expression of Wallenstein "that the town must be his though it were chained to heaven," most energetically resisted every argument used to induce him to raise the siege.

While the siege was slowly advancing and so far resultless, Albrecht made the acquaintance of a young Italian volunteer, Ambrosius Spinola, of noble family, who had distinguished himself by his sagacity and genius. The siege of Ostend, in those days, created in Europe the same interest, as lately the siege of Sebastopol. Young princes and nobles hurried to the Archduke's camp, there practically to gain experience in the art of war. Among them little groups discussed the question, whether it was possible to take Ostend, or not. In those days, there were no newspapers, no telegraphs; yet all men in Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Italy, France and England, talked of Ostend. The Archduke held frequent conversations with the young Italian, Spinola, whose brother Frederic, menaced with his war ships the waters of the Republic, and after he had satisfied himself of his high talents, sent him with a letter of recommendation to Philip II. of Spain, praying for money and soldiers.

In July, 1603, the third year of the Siege, Spinola arrived with fresh troops and a supply of money, and was appointed Commander-in-Chief before Ostend. A spirit of general discontent pervaded the ranks of the old Spanish and Walloon Regiments, when they heard of this appointment, and everybody asked, "Who is the man?" "What has he done to be made a Commander-in-Chief at 30 years old?" It is evident