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DIARY OF THE SIEGE.

Although our operations by land have not yet had all the success we had at one time anticipated, the last intelligence from the Crimea strengthens our hopes that from the 9th of April operations of a more active nature have recommenced. Some days must elapse before the full effect of the fire which has opened upon the place can be ascertained, and the longer it can be continued the more reason we have to expect that the guns of the enemy will be overpowered. In any case this bombardment must bring to a crisis, and probably to a close, the siege operations as they have hitherto been carried on; for, if the place cannot be taken now in this manner, it is high time to vary the plan of attack. The allied army is numerous and in high efficiency, partly from those gallant troops who have survived the rigor of the winter, and partly from the reinforcements it has received. The use to be made of this powerful force is, therefore, one of the most important subjects which can engage the allied Governments, and it is probably for the purpose of taking part in this discussion that the Emperor is accompanied by that able and experienced officer Marshal Vaillant. But in the execution of these plans, whatever they may be, we have no doubt that the Emperor reserves to himself a more active part. It is generally believed that the visit to England will be followed by his departure for the seat of war immediately after the opening of the Paris Exhibition; and, although we were at first opposed to the adventurous character of such an expedition, the want of authority has since become so manifest in the allied armies, that we shall view with satisfaction any measure calculated to give a more active and decisive effect to the operations of the ensuing campaign.—*Times*.

Heights before Sebastopol, April 2nd.—The French, who have hitherto enjoyed comparative repose, are now very hardily worked. They have three nights out of seven in the trenches, and take twenty-four hours at a time, as our men do. In proportion as they are employed our overwork diminishes. It is evident that with unlimited means of renewing their batteries and guns, the Russians will always be able to maintain the present relative position with respect to the allied armies unless our artillerymen are able on every occasion to establish a superiority of fire. Our approaches almost lead us to the advanced Russian works. On Sunday the English engineers threw on a trench within 150 yards of the Garden Battery. The sentries posted along in the front entered into that kind of rough joking with the Russians which is popularly called "chaffing," and the pickets were not more than sixty yards from each other. Although the Russians had a line of double sentries in front of this work, numbering at least 200 men, they did not attempt to disturb our operations. This indifference arose either from confidence in their own strength and contempt of the enemy, or from negligence and want of military enterprise. Their principal efforts for the last two days have been directed to the French works on the right, which they shell incessantly. Our allies do not care to return the fire. They are busy in making their approaches and preparing their batteries. The Russians sometimes use very heavy charges of powder, and propel their shot with extraordinary force. As an instance of this I may mention that the day before yesterday a 68-pound shot from the Redan passed right through the parapet of our battery, where it was from eighteen to twenty feet thick, and struck down, but did not kill, a gunner inside the work. They have some excellent artillerymen, and their practice with different charges of powder is very good; but their shell firing is indifferent, principally owing to their bad fuzes. It might be supposed that, with all our advanced mechanical skill, we should have the best fuzes in the world; but the fact is that great complaints have been made respecting some of the articles of that kind supplied to our gunners. We have, I am told, fuzes made in 1798 and 1804; but, old as these are, they are better than the fuzes of 1853 and 1854. There was another alarm of fire in Balaklava last night. About eleven o'clock the engineers' storehouse at the entrance to the town was found to be on fire. The alarm bells rang in all the ships in harbor. The crews hastened on shore. The Guards, who were on duty, hastened down to the spot, and were speedily followed by a fatigue party of the 71st Regiment; but the seamen and people on shore had already begun to pull down the shed. Boats from the Vestivius, with powder to blow up the building, under Lieutenant Sullivan, from the Caradoc, under Mr. Skead, and from several merchant vessels, at once put off and landed their crews. Admiral Boxer, Major Mackenzie, &c., repaired to the place without delay. The men worked with a will, and the fire was extinguished within the building in the space of half an hour, after destroying or damaging a considerable quantity of stores. It was observable that this fire

broke out to windward, and that had it spread the whole town might have been burnt, and the shipping could scarcely have escaped. How it originated no one knows, but three fires in so short a time are, to say the least, "suspicious." A large sum of money had just been stored in a house hard by for the commissariat chest. As there have been many conflicting statements respecting the strength of the army, I have procured the following returns, which, on a certain day now past, were accurate, and which show the total strength of the British army at 22,600 men. Of these about 6,000 would be only available in extremis, and the ordinary strength of the whole army in bayonets would not exceed 15,000 men.—*Times*.

APRIL 3.—Last night we had some heavy firing between the Allied and Russian batteries—the French advanced work against the Flagstaff, and our right attack against the Mamelon batteries. No particular results followed, except that each day it becomes more and more apparent that the Mamelon will prove a thorn in our side unless speedily stormed. Two new guns have lately been placed in it, but are not opened. From the advanced work in the middle ravine continued skirmishing went forward between our men, the French, and the Russian rifle-pits.—The Russians maintained their ground; and, indeed, beyond sharp-shooting, there was no attempt to drive them from it. The enemy are evidently on the *qui vive*, as large numbers of troops crowd their batteries now each night, so as to be ready on the instant. The Zouaves, it is said, with a party of *Tirailleurs d'Afrique* and *Chasseurs de Vincennes*, are to storm the Malakoff the night after opening fire; and the English have been allotted the Mamelon. These may be mere rumors, but they are universally believed here, and will very shortly prove true. The plan of the assault is, no doubt, to concentrate the fire of our batteries upon the Malakoff works and Mamelon, and storm directly; a sufficient number of their guns are disabled to enable us to do it with smallest loss.—From the Mamelon the town can be commanded at every point; and with the Malakoff towers in our own possession, the Redan would be untenable to the enemy, and the dockyard at our mercy. Yet from the specimen of their ships' fire, which the French battery got yesterday, it will evidently not at all be *couleur de rose*—a mere walk over the course.—Last night the Russian piquets were observed in the plain of Balaklava much advanced from their usual position, apparently regarding our lines, which now by the full moon can be seen at night as clearly as in the day time. The camp of the enemy still continues all out of the Woronzow road. Both parties are evidently anxious to bring the affair to as quick a termination as possible, and both seem confident of success. *Nous verrons*. The weather still continues splendid, that is to say, clear hard frosty nights, with hot days; just like November nights and June days in England. The men are in splendid spirit, but never make great progress. In the 79th Highlanders there are upwards of one hundred and fifty cases of fever.—*Morning Herald Cor.*

Stankovitch, who is governor of Sebastopol, and who commands the batteries, is represented as a man of energy and ability; he is young and active. Novossilsky is also young, not only as an admiral but as a man. He has just been "made" on account of his services. General Osten-Sacken commands the army in the field outside Sebastopol, and it is understood that he has expressed a confident belief his position is impregnable to assault. From the town itself we hear that the men are not on full rations, and that they get no pay. The soldiers are exceedingly discontented at the non-fulfilment of the promises held out to them that their arrears of pay should be made up to them. Much more do they grumble at not receiving their current pay. Provisions are "abundant," but the men receive only three quarter rations. The surplus quarter rations is stored up in magazines for future occasion.

AN IRISH SOLDIER'S LETTER.—The following letter from "An Irishman" before Sebastopol bears out the remarks we made upon a former occasion as to the heroic spirit which actuates our countrymen in the East:—

"To the Editor of the Dublin Telegraph.
"Before Sebastopol, April 6, 1855.
"Sir—As yet the Allied Batteries have not opened fire on the town, though many shot and shell have been exchanged. For the last two days and nights the Russians have fired much from the town. On last night they made an attempt to take our six gun-battery, which commands their shipping so well, but were repulsed with a considerable loss. Our loss was trifling. We expect every day that the combined batteries will simultaneously re-open and lead to glory, to victory, to the fall of this matchless fortification, though, I fear, at a great sacrifice of life. The railroad is nearly complete to head-quarters, and

already does great service in the carriage of ammunition, forage, &c. The telegraph is laid from headquarters to Balaklava, and to the different divisions. Weather as fine as a July day in Ireland. The troops are in excellent health and spirits; they want only the order from their prudent, gallant commander to do or die!
"AN IRISHMAN."

APRIL 7.—The Russians made a sortie on the 6th, and were repulsed with great loss by the English.—Lieutenant Jones, 7th Regiment, and two other officers, were wounded, and 30 men put *hors de combat*. Captain Cambridge was killed, and Captain Armit wounded in the trenches on the 3rd. The small-pox has broken out on board the *St. Jean d'Acre*, and she has been placed in quarantine. The Russians received an immense quantity of provisions on the 5th. They are constructing works near Kamara. The *Himalaya* has sailed with important despatches from Lord Raglan for Omar Pasha. The weather is fine.

BOMBARDMENT OF SEBASTOPOL.—VIENNA.—On the evening of the 9th of April the bombardment of Sebastopol commenced. The cannonade had lasted for twelve hours when the courier left, and the advantage appeared to be with the allies, but no signal success had been obtained.

PARIS, TUESDAY, APRIL 17TH, 8 A.M.—The *Moniteur* contains a despatch in which General Conrobert announces, under date of the 10th of April, that the fire of all the French and English batteries was opened on the 9th against Sebastopol. During the first day the fire of the besiegers was superior to that of the besieged, and the general impression in the allied armies was most favorable.

The *Morning Herald* states that when the accounts left Sebastopol on the 10th the French left batteries had made a breach in the indented wall.—The two fronts of the last battery were much injured; one of the works of counter approach near the Careening Harbor had been silenced. The English were equally satisfied with the result.

ST. PETERSBURG, APRIL 16TH.—Gen. Prince Gortschikoff reports from Sebastopol the following:—"On the morning of the 9th, at five o'clock, the enemy opened a cannonade from all the batteries, which lasted till evening. The bombardment continued during the night. On the 10th the enemy repeated the same operation, which we answered with success, the enemy having suffered a severe loss.—Our losses in killed and wounded amounted to 833."

The following report from the *Vienna Presse* of Wednesday morning must, says the *Times*, be received with caution:—

"The allies on the 9th of April made a breach in the bastion between the centre of the Russian works and the Quarantine Fort. Omar Pasha has landed at Kamiesch with 15,000 men, who will assist in the assault. Admiral Bruat has anchored in Strelitzka Bay, and waits for fine weather to commence. It is said that three Russian batteries have been dismounted. The allies say that their loss has been inconsiderable."

THE TURKISH EXPEDITION TO THE CRIMEA.—EUPATORIA, March 28TH.—The advanced works, begun on the 20th inst., are now all but completed; but they form only a part of the detached works which are projected for the fortification of Eupatoria. It seems as if the Turks intended to make a *pied à terre* for themselves in the Crimea; as the works are on too grand a scale for temporary entrenchments. This second line of works is to serve as an entrenched camp, and as such it will be of no small advantage, for if the large army, which is now at Eupatoria, had to remain in the already overcrowded town a great deal of sickness would be inevitable as soon as the warm weather sets in. In all these works the Turks have worked as I never thought they would. The redoubts seem to arise as if by magic. As soon as the embrasures are made the guns are brought up, so that every one of them is ready for an attack.

The *Militarische Zeitung* learns from the Crimea that Omar Pasha's army was increased by 9,000 infantry, 3,000 cavalry, and eight batteries, from the 20th of March to the 4th of April. It is now said that Omar Pasha will not attempt to reach the north of Sebastopol, from thence to aid in the reduction of the city, but will operate against Simpheropol. "A march over the Alma and the Belbec into the Inkermann Valley is rendered impossible by the strength of the Russians at these points."

EUPATORIA, APRIL 5.—The Allies have demanded 20,000 men to be sent down to Sebastopol; it is imagined for the assault. The embarkation began to-day. Omar Pasha goes to-morrow.

STATE OF THE SICK.
SCUTARI, April 2.—After an absence of three weeks I am able to report a marked change in the condition and sick roll of the hospitals in the Bosphorus.

There is a decrease of the total number, a diminution in the rate of deaths, a larger band of convalescents draughted off to their regiments. For the present these hopeful signs are not unlikely to have a certain permanence. The types of disease are modified, and its virulence abated, not suddenly, but by a gradual and necessary process, due to a variety of causes all working together. The largest proportion of new cases are men with fevers, intermittent, remittent, typhoid, or simple, whose condition varies from time to time as one of these forms passes into the other—an every-day occurrence—or as relapses seize the reputed convalescent. But fevers essentially climatic and only taking by accident exaggerated forms are not, when duly tended, very destructive of life. So long as the more putrid and infectious characters stand aloof or exist in but moderate number, the substitution of fever for dysenteric diseases is not any ground for regret. As a rule, the sick sent down from camp arrive here in no state of exhaustion or suffering comparable with what might be witnessed even six weeks ago. Few have to be carried to their beds, few or none die on the voyage down, few are beyond the chance of recovery. Of 120 who came down in the *Ottawa* last week, and whose condition I had the opportunity of observing, not more than six were in a highly critical or moribund state. There are now in the Bosphorus establishments altogether about 3,300 men upon the sick list, and the average mortality has dropped to less than a half per cent. *per diem*. There have been lately carried out, or are now in actual progress, a variety of measures tending to convert this more favorable state of the register from an exception into a rule.

IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITY.

(From the Dublin Telegraph.)

We are informed by the *Citizen* of New York, and other American papers that the lucky moment has at last arrived when Ireland can establish its own independence—if it likes—in the form of "a Republic" for itself.

The *Citizen* wants to know what the Irish people are about. We cannot refrain from putting its interrogatories in its own words. Are there, it asks, "Preparations for a coming struggle? The people beating their plough-shares into pikes, or sharpening the pikes already forged, or selling their coats to buy guns?"

The plain truth must be bluntly told. The Irish people are not only not doing anything of the sort, but they are not even thinking of it.

Before a nation goes to war—before a people rise in insurrection, there are two or three preliminary questions to be disposed of. First, what should they go to war far?—and then, having convinced themselves a war is justifiable: have they the means to carry it out to a successful issue—are they stronger than their adversaries?

To plunge into a war without the prospect of gaining some great advantage—so great as to compensate for all its horrors—would be the act of an idiot; to commence a war, with the assurance it could only end in one's own defeat, would be the act of a madman.

The Irish are neither fools nor madmen, and therefore they are not, because England has lost some thirty or forty thousand soldiers in the Crimea, either making preparations for a civil war, nor hammering out pike heads, nor sharpening them, nor "selling their coats to buy guns."

The Irish people have many valid and substantial reasons for being dissatisfied with their present position; but there remains to be ascertained this very important question—would a Republic improve their condition?—could "an independent Republic" make them one whit better than they are at the present moment?

There have been several experiments in the way of revolutions and of republics; but in none of the latter that we have ever heard of, in ancient or in modern times, was the great mass of the people any thing better than slaves.

You cannot in any place have a Republic without Republican manners, habits, and institutions; and you cannot make any one of these things, as you make a steam-engine—they are integral portions of the mode of thinking and of acting of a people. They grow up with time—they belong to the soil and the climate—they cannot be imported and planted full-grown in the midst of a people; and, if they are, they only sicken and die, and never can be upheld but by violent artificial means.

As Ireland never was a Republic, so do we believe she never can be man-made into a Republic. In fact, the only materials for a Republic to be found in Ireland are amongst the Presbyterians of the North—a foreign element in the country—and they tried the