

be borne by Government and half by the societies that submitted their names for the approval of the authorities."

We have received the following account of the battle of the Tchernaya, from our own correspondent. His letter is as follows:—

"*Heights above Sebastopol, British Camp, Aug. 16*

"The allies and the Russians have had another encounter, which, in point of importance, cannot but take its place among the great actions fought in the Crimea. On the morning of the 16th, long before daybreak, perhaps at one or two o'clock, 60,000 Russians, inclusive of 3,000 cavalry, with 120 pieces of artillery, issued from the pass through which the allies originally reached Sebastopol from the north, and attacked the advanced post of the Piedmontese on the Russian side of the Tchernaya. The single regiment which defended it was forced to fall back upon the main force on this side of the Tchernaya. This was supposed to be the key of the allied position, and no sooner did the Russians gain it, than they proceeded to place more than thirty pieces of artillery upon it. General Marmora, accompanied by Major Gavoni and the other members of his staff, whose quarters are near Kadkoi, made their appearance in an astonishingly short period of time, and by their prompt gallantry and skilful handling of the troops, did more, as will be afterwards shown, than recover the advanced position taken by the enemy.

"As soon as the Russians gained possession of the advanced post of the Piedmontese, or while they were doing so, they poured down a large mass of troops upon the bridge over the Tchernaya, facing the centre of the French camp. This body quickly drove in the pickets and guard stationed there, and instantly spread itself up and down the French side of the river and aqueduct which runs parallel with it. In an incredibly short time it mounted the heights on which the French, consisting of the Third and Twelfth Divisions, have their camp. On it went, until in one place it reached nearly to the centre of the camp, where the General's quarters were. So much were the French taken by surprise, that they could at first only bring four guns to bear upon the enemy. The 2nd Regiment of Zouaves is reported to have lost in this onset 800 men. By this time, however, the Piedmontese had regained their footing in the front, or on the Russian side of the valley, and a powerful body from the Piedmontese camp came up with great impetuosity along the courses of the Tchernaya and aqueduct, and also along the slopes of the heights on which the French were attacked, against the flank of the Russians. This move seems to have turned the fortune of the day, for it gave the French time to recover and bring all their available strength to bear upon the enemy. The Russians were driven from the heights into the valley. A dreadful struggle appears to have taken place near the bridge by which they retired or were driven back. The banks of the Tchernaya and of the aqueduct, on the allied side, were strewn with dead Russians. As many nearly were to be seen on the banks on the other side; thus proving that the combat had most obstinately been maintained after the bridge was recrossed by the enemy. Here there must have been very heavy artillery firing, for yesterday there were, within a few hundred yards of the bridge, nearly 100 French artillery horses lying unburied.

"Farther down the Tchernaya, near the reservoir or small lake at the extremity of the French camp, below the heights of Inkermann, there was another attack, probably made after the Piedmontese position was carried. The enemy crossed the Tchernaya and aqueduct by pontons. It did not, however, come to a successful result, but was intended probably as a diversion. Hand to hand fighting, however, seems to have taken place, the Russians carrying on the contest resolutely after being driven across the aqueduct. Here the French could not follow them to the Tchernaya, for the greater part of the plain is commanded by the guns on the cliffs held by the enemy. In fact, at no point did the French and allies follow the enemy far. The Russians retired in beautiful order, remaining for hours in the gorge or pass ready to face any force sent against them. Although Pellissier had hurried to the scene with large succours, the English artillery and cavalry in great strength came up, and the Turks, composed of many thousands, also were ready for action, yet no advance against the enemy was made. Their camp is said to be behind one of the great spurs or small hills jutting out from the mountain range of the Russian side of the Tchernaya.

"The object of the attack on the 16th, was the destruction of the allied troops in the plain of the Tchernaya.

If that had been accomplished, then the enemy would have fallen down immediately on Balaklava and got possession of our magazines there. Their further operations would have depended on the success of a sortie intended to have been made from Sebastopol on our trench and camp here. The plan of attack on the French and Sardinians was most skilfully arranged. The army moved against the allied camp in the form of a crescent or semi-circle, intending to envelope and crush the whole of the French and Sardinians nearly at the same time, an operation for which their numbers qualified them, they being 60,000, and the united amount of the others not more than 35,000. Had the Russians attacked the French first they might have gained the day. It was the unexpected resistance of the Sardinians that was the primary cause of their defeat. It is most gratifying to think that our new allies have so well justified the prepossession we have had in their favour.

"The loss of the Russians seems to have been at least 5,000 in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Three of their guns were captured. Two of their Generals were slain, and other two fell into the hands of the French."

The staff of the Railway at Balaklava, which had been greatly diminished by illness and other causes, has been broken up. Mr. Beattie has been requested by General Simpson to remain to superintend the working of the railway and all engineering matters connected with it.

THE BALTIC.

The following account of the bombardment of Sweaborg, by a correspondent of the *Portsmouth Times*, is very characteristic of a "Jack Tar"—

"The mortar vessels then hauled into bombarding position, the gunboats in detachments of threes and fours, hovered round, snorting with their high-pressure engines like war horses, and impatient to dash in to draw the fire off the stationary mortar-vessels. At five minutes past eight the signal to commence action was made, and the ball was opened by a shell from the *Pickle* mortar-vessel, which was anxiously watched to see how far our range was good. To our great satisfaction it fell on the very top of the citadel, close to a flag-staff where waved the royal standard of Russia. [It is supposed that the Archduke Constantine was at Sweaborg.] And now the row begins in earnest. All along our line bang went the 13-inch mortars, charged with Valenciennes, and other ignitable composition. In dashed the gunboats, firing as they advanced, rushing in at full speed, till within 3,000 yards of the forts; then wheeling sharp round, and making way for those astern of them. "Hurrah, Johnny!" Off go the mortars from the island battery (which I don't think the Russians had seen before,) but don't imagine we had it all our own way. A moment had not elapsed after we had opened fire, when, from every embrasure, from guns *en barbette*, from mortar batteries, from the line-of-battle ships at the entrance of the harbour, and from the guns on the heights of Bak Holmon, off went missiles of all descriptions; and though many fell short, the disagreeable sound in the ear of passing shell or red-hot shot, were much too frequent to be pleasant. As our fellows got nearer they thought nothing of that sort of thing, both soldiers and sailors' whole mind and energy being directed to pitch into the "Boorian" and revenge "Hango" (many of the shell and shot were marked "Hango.") The fire was kept up with spirit on both sides, with hardly any casualties on ours, until nearly twelve o'clock, when one of the most awful and terrific explosions I fancy that ever was witnessed took place close to the citadel. I can only compare it to a violent eruption of Vesuvius. A whole fort was blown up, thousands of shot and shell were thrown into the air, the latter bursting as they rose; and what appeared the most extraordinary was that it seemed as if it were never to cease. Pillars of smoke intermingled with shot, shell, and some affray guns, constantly rolling out of, as it were, the bowels of the earth. The sea for half a mile was immensely agitated and covered with foam. Firing on both sides ceased for the moment, but as soon as the first burst of astonishment had subsided, the air resounded with the cheers of the allies, not only from those engaged, but from the vessels outside, whose rigging and yards were covered with men; but "Don't let them rest," was the order. "Blaze away, my boys," and carcasses and shell, and red-hot shot, were thrown as near the fire, to make confusion more confounded. Not another gun did they fire for more than an hour. The flames caused by the explosion spread rapidly, and building after building, barracks, stores, and small magazines, burst and blew up right

and left. This entire new method of warfare appears to have staggered the enemy; and doubtless, it is a great triumph of naval service.

And now it is night, a pitch dark night, all quiet but an occasional explosion on shore or a shell from a mortar. Perhaps the Russians were even trying to rest. Whether or not, they must have been rather astonished at about twelve o'clock by seeing the sky suddenly illuminated, and forty or fifty rockets rushing simultaneously into their already well-lighted town and store-houses. These dangerous projectiles, thrown from the boats of the fleet at 2,500 yards' distance, soon added fuel to the flame, and one of the most enormous fires conceivable was the result. It was in vain that they fired shrapnell shell, red-hot shot, &c., at the boats, it availed nothing. For a full hour the hissing sound of the rocket was heard, at the end of which time it is no exaggeration to say that that fire extended nearly a mile, the flames and black smoke being perfectly terrific to look at. At two o'clock in the morning a similar dose was administered, and at daylight the mortars opened fire, and the flying squadron again dashed to the front, and fired away in most glorious style. Nothing can exceed the credit these little vessels are entitled to. The enemy appeared much disheartened by the constant fires and destruction of their stores, the flag of the royal family of Russia, so flauntingly displayed at daylight on the first morning, was hauled down at ten o'clock. [I suppose the fighting Constantine thought his town would suffer if anything happened to him.] and sometimes during the day for hours only an occasional shot was fired. I am led to think that the troops were employed putting out the fires. The fire was well kept up on our side all day, and the destruction on shore increased hourly to a frightful extent, occasionally an explosion would take place, caused by some present-use magazines blowing up. It is supposed that the Russian loss of life must be something awful, when you take into consideration that at the grand explosion the guns of the destroyed forts absolutely were seen to be blown up into the air. What must have become of the poor wretches who manned them? On the second evening the rocket-boats attacked the place, going still nearer in than on the previous night. The Russians again fired on them in vain. The fire was more frightful, if possible, this night than the last. At four in the morning the order was given to discontinue the bombardment, the mortars being all very shaky [three having burst.] and Sweaborg being so completely in flames that nothing more could be done. Helsingfors was entirely at our mercy, and what some call a mistaken leniency alone has spared it. The Russian strength and Russian stores are concentrated in Sweaborg, and altogether there are some eight or ten forts at Helsingfors. May be it is good policy, after showing our strength, to be merciful. Here ends the bombardment of Sweaborg, which I am induced to think will strike terror into the very heart of Russia, for it must be obvious that, through the powerful agency of mortars [if you have enough of them.] every port in Russia is at our mercy."

CHINA.

The *Pekin Gazette* reports that the insurgents are losing ground in the north of China. The *Overland Friend of China* says:—

"The amount of bloodshed at Canton during the last month has been sickening. When Shaou-king, the second city of the province, was vacated without fighting, a short time ago, a number of the inhabitants thought mercy would be shown to them if they gave themselves up. With equal reason might forbearance have been expected from the hungry wolf—they were taken to Canton in droves of five hundred, as many as ten thousand, it is said, being confined in the city at one time. Kept without food for several days, when the hour of examination, so called, arrived, eyewitnesses tell of the utmost callousness being exhibited, the condemned getting into the execution basket with every apparent satisfaction. At the rate of seven and eight hundred a day for some time, the whole ten thousand, and thousands more, were soon got rid of. Several were skinned alive, and one higher criminal than the rest was cut in 24 pieces, lingering dying. From the careless way in which the bodies are interred, in heaps at eastward of the city, and the disgusting steps in the vicinity of the execution ground, it will not surprise us to hear of a plague carrying off its victims by thousands. But with all these executions and their probable terrible consequences, there is no abatement of the rebellion."