

DEATH OF CAPTAIN VICARS

BY HARRIETT ANNIE.

His last words were—"This way, Ninety-Seventh!"
—Life of H. Vicars.

There were sounds of armies gathering
Unto the cannon's roll;
There were sounds of martial melody,
Before Sebastopol.
Courage was mantling in the breast,
Fire in many an eye,
As Britain's gallant hosts moved on,
To conquer and to die.

There were noble veterans in that train,
That gazed on many a scar;
There was one that led his noble band,
Young in those scenes of war.
Young, but how loved; ah! many an eye
That saw him arming there,
Was raised to bless him, as his voice
Broke through the misty air—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

"By the flags that o'er us wave—
All that makes the brave heart brave;
By the ties of home's sweet band,
Sheltered on our native land;
By the ashes of our sires,
By the light of Britain's fires—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

"By the burning vows that rest,
Deep within the patriot's breast;
By the bayonets that gleam,
In the young moon's flickering beam.
Though we stand on Dangers' margin,
God will help us; up, and charge—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

"He will arm us for the fight,
On this strange, this fearful night.
Ere we rout the treacherous foe,
Some of us may slumber low;
See that each is ready,—then
Fight and die like Christian men—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

Forward:—Victory is ours,
Though we fall beneath yon towers.
England's glory is our crest—
England's colors wrap our breast;
Let these trenches witness bear,
That the dauntless brave fell there—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

Pierced was the battle—wild the strife—
The ground beneath them rang;
Redan and Malakhoff that night,
Echoed the musket's clang.
Two thousand of the treacherous host,
Advance "neath that dark sky—
Two hundred of victorious men,
Had met them at the cry—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

They fought and conquered; but the voice
That led them bravely on—
The tone that cheered their lion hearts,
For evermore was gone.
Yet as the life-streams flowed apace,
He saw his victory done;
And once more shouted, as he fell—
"Brethren, the foe-man run—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

He died;—as many have gone down,
Who bear the warrior's crest—
With a treasured name upon his lips,
And a lock on his breast.
Oh! would ye learn how brave men fight?
Go where the bravest lie.
And would ye learn how fond hearts love,
And know how Christians die—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

Ye who beside him fought and won,
Yet may ye hear the sound,
That from the camp, the watch, the war,
Hath gone to hallow ground.
The voice that failed on Russia's plain,
Awoke to sweeter song;
And still he whispers by your side,
While beckoning on your throng—
This way, Ninety-Seventh!"

O ye throughout our land who gird
The sword upon your side—
Who stand prepared at danger's call,
To rush in battle's tide—
Scorn not to seek the light he sought,
Scorn not the path he trod;
Through woes to victory on earth,
Then glory with no God.

MACHINERY IN OUR ARSENALS.—On Wednesday night, at the weekly meeting of the Society of Arts, the paper read was "On the application of Machinery in the War Department" by Mr. John Anderson, Inspector of Machinery, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. During the last few years important improvements have been made in the manufacturing of the War Department. There are now 68 steam-engines with a nominal power equal to 1,170 horses, giving motion to 16,310 feet of shafting, 15 steam-hammers, and 2,773 machines of various descriptions. When the several works now in progress are completed the Government will be able to supply munitions of war in such abundant profusion as shall be equal to the sudden requirements of any armament they may deem necessary to equip. A manufactory had been erected capable of producing 1,000 muskets per week. As to the bayonet, it undergoes 75 operations, each of which is definite and simple, and at the conclusion of the several bayonets are as interchangeable as the several pieces of money from the Mint, and present a degree of accuracy which could not be equaled, even at three times the cost, by the tools or apparatus which have hitherto been employed in England. The gun-stock, which from the irregularity of its form presents insurmountable difficulties, has been produced with the greatest perfection, involving about 20 operations. An entirely self-acting apparatus has been erected, capable of producing 500 Minie balls per minute. The improvements in the manufacture of cartridge were then described, particularly the introduction of the method of making seamless bags of paper direct from the pulp. Passing to another class of apparatus,—that for the production of shells and fuses—Mr. Anderson said that in 1854, the demand for ordinary cast-iron shells having been extremely urgent, it was considered advisable to erect a model foundry, which answered its purpose so well that a larger one was ultimately erected, capable of delivering 200 tons of shot and shell daily, it such should ever be required. In one day of 24 hours, during the late war, upwards of 10,400 shells passed through this machinery, a feat which probably could not have been accomplished in any other workshop in the world. The factory for wrought-iron shells, which is capable of producing 100 daily, was erected in two months during the severe winter of 1854-5, and the operations are effected with the utmost economy of labour. After touching upon the manufacture of the wooden sabots and the fuses for shells, Mr. Anderson passed to that of war rockets, for which a plan of machinery was being erected capable of producing 500 daily. A foundry capable of producing five heavy iron guns daily has been erected. A brief description was then given of the flooring factory which was sent out to Balaklava, and Mr. Anderson concluded by mentioning several of the miscellaneous and important works that had been lately carried out by the War Department.

THE RUSSIAN "PREPARATIONS" FOR SIR CHARLES NAPIER'S RECEPTION.—On the 30th March the board of Admiralty transmitted to Sir Charles the preparations which

the Russians were making for his reception. At Sweaborg, Cronstadt, and Revel, they had laid down 70 mines and booms, for the purpose of destroying his ships. All the forts were supplied with red-hot shot. The board also sanctioned the Russian plan of meeting the British squadron, which they felt assured would at once proceed to Cronstadt. The fleets were ordered to remain close in harbour and receive the attack, till our vessels were disabled, as it was calculated they would be. Whilst in this condition the fire of the forts was to be seconded by that of the fleets, which would thus secure an easy prey. The Sappers division was then to be ordered, by electric telegraph to come to the support of the Cronstadt fleet, and thus make sure of the whole of our ships. The plan was not devised, and would, no doubt, have met with more or less success, had the admiral been wise enough to fulfil the Russian expectation that he would attack the forts at Cronstadt. In case Revel should be attacked, the Russians made of meeting the attack was at least the merit of novelty. A number of large ships were to be stationed and directed into storm water, so that it was expected the British squadron would, by following them, have fallen into the snare, and when, dashed at these ships, themselves run aground, whereby they would have become an easy prey. [Sir Charles Napier's *History of the Baltic Campaign of 1854.*]

THE CASE OF GOOD HOPE.—We have received news of papers from the Cape to the 22nd December inclusive. All was quiet on the frontier. A correspondent of the *Frontier Times* writes from Peaufort, under date of the 9th:—I regret to state that our farmers are in a rather gloomy mood, fearing that they will not be allowed to reap their present splendid crops, as all accounts from Kafirland agree as to the most wanton destruction of food by the Kafirs. From the statement of a person who was resident among the Tumbukies and Keri people, it appears that this state of things arises more from the arbitrary will of the chiefs than from the free inclination of the people. Still there is abundance of corn from the last year's crops among the Tumbukies. During this person's stay he came into familiar conversation with a great many of the rebel Hottentots, many of whom expressed a willingness to enter the English service. Letters received by the last mail from the frontier says the same journal state that Sandili's people have now commenced ploughing. It is right, however, that we should mention that a letter from a well-informed quarter says substantially that Keri has succeeded in turning the minds of his people to war, and that the authorities in British Kafiraria have been a little duped by the artifice of the Kafirs, inasmuch as they have given to these people a good deal of seed corn to sow; while, instead of being sown it has been saved for food.

A RUDE OBSERVATION.—A gentleman having a remarkably long visage was one day riding by a school, at the gate of which he overheard young Sheridan say to another lad, "That gentleman's face is longer than his life?" Struck by the strangeness of this rude observation, the man turned his horse's head, and requested an explanation. "Sir," said the boy, "I mean no offence in the world, but I have read in the Bible, at school, that a man's life is but a span, and I am sure your face is double that length." The gentleman could not help laughing, and as he threw this last sixpence for his wit.