

observations. These are—the nature and extent of the wants of an army in the field, and the means usually applied in making towns defensible, and that of a slighter description, having generally for its temporary object, the strengthening of positions occupied by armies in the field; and the mode of attacking each of these two sorts of fortification.

When a man is required to be capable of unremitting exertion for a lengthened period, to endure the march by day, the watch by night, and to be ready at all times to act with energy, it is clear that his physical powers must be well supported. Every man must have his meals wherever he may be. Fifty thousand men would be of little use for much more than a day without fifty thousand rations. Courage, resolution, the greatest mental energy, would avail them little; their arms would fall from their relaxed grasp, and their nerveless limbs refuse to support them. It is true that robust and hardy individuals have often proved themselves capable of continued exertion for considerable periods of time, with but uncertain and scanty supplies of food; but such deficiencies tell fearfully on the general's means, by diminishing not merely the spirit, but the actual numbers of his men. The proportion of sick, always considerable, is sure to increase in the ratio of the hardships endured; and formidable armies have melted away to nothing under their influence, in incredibly short spaces of time.

It is of vital consequence to preserve the health of those who are well, it is scarcely less important that prompt and constant care should be taken of the sick. It is evident that the slightest indisposition must render a soldier unable to perform his duty when that requires him to walk twenty, or perhaps thirty miles, in a day, with twenty pounds' weight on his back, besides his musket and ammunition, which together weigh seventeen pounds more; and to be ready to fight at any moment of the day or night. The most trifling accident on the line of march, such as blistering his foot, or straining his ankle, may throw him out of the ranks, and days may elapse before he is again fit to join. From want of timely medical attention, slight indisposition becomes serious illness, and serious illness soon ends in death. When inadequate provision is made for the sick as they leave their ranks, very few ever rejoin them; and even the ordinary infirmities to which human nature is liable, cause an incessant and copious drain on the effective strength of the forces. When, on the contrary, the sick find ready assistance and relief, every halt made by the army enables numbers to rejoin their corps, and the diminution of force becomes much less considerable. The number of those who perish in battle, or afterwards from wounds, is small, compared to those who die from other causes. During the last three years of the Peninsular war, the total number of deaths in the British army, amounted annually to about 16 per cent. of the whole force. Of these only 4 per cent died in battle, or of wounds which proved fatal soon after. The number of men sick in hospital usually averaged about one-fourth of the whole. In less than three years and a half, out of a force the average strength of which was 61,500 men, nearly 34,000 died, and of these only one-fourth fell by the sword; and this enormous mortality occurred among a body of men, all of whom, a short time previously, must have been in the healthiest vigor of youth or prime of manhood: so that it required the annual sacrifice of 64,000 able-bodied men to keep in the field a working force of less than 50,000.* If such was the amount of suffering and waste of life, when every expedient was adopted that foresight could suggest, to provide proper food and raiment and every other attainable comfort, both in sickness and health, what must it be when these precautions are neglected? Of such neglect, and its terrible and execrable consequences, Napoleon's campaigns of 1812 and 1813 afford memorable examples. From want of proper supplies alone, the French troops perished literally by hundreds of thousands.

In order to provide for troops in the field, it is usual to establish magazines as near the seat of war as may be consistent with perfect security. As the army penetrates into the enemy's country, the articles are gradually sent forward, and stores are accumulated, wherever convenience, combined with safety, may

* In this particular there is a remarkable difference between the land and sea-services. The Channel Fleet, which consisted of twenty-four sail of the line, with frigates, &c., on its return to Torbay, in September, 1800, after a four months' cruise, sent only sixteen men to hospital. The average mortality in the Navy in the years 1810, 11, and 12, was only 3.12 per cent.; since 1830 it has not been more than 1.4 per cent, which is less than the general average among men of the same age on shore.

render it expedient. As the more advanced magazines become exhausted, they are supplied from those in the rear, which in their turn are replenished from the original source. To protect the convoys during their transit, they are escorted by bodies of troops whose strength must of course depend on the danger apprehended; and for the safety of the magazines, garrisons are left in the fortified town, or other places of security where they have been established. There also provision is made for the sick and wounded, who, according as they recover, or become hopelessly disabled, are sent forward to the army, or back to their own country. Thus a chain of communication is kept up between an army and its home; and this is technically called its *line of operations*: while the position of the original accumulation of store is called the *base of operations*. In the field when active operations are in progress, the arrangements of the commissariat must be accommodated to the changes of position. Drove of cattle, and trains of waggons, containing provisions, follow within a short distance the movements of the army. At every halt the commissariat of each division establish their depôt in its rear. From these a depôt for each brigade is supplied, from whence the quarter-master of each regiment claims his proportion.

Whatever supplies can be obtained in the country occupied by the army, are of course collected for its use; but when the force is large, the great additional demand for food must soon render the supply of that article comparatively scanty; and a large army can seldom, except under circumstances to which we shall presently advert, remain for any length of time concentrated in a hostile country, independent of the resources derived from its own base of operations. From this it is clear that the maintenance of the line of operations is usually of the last importance. When it is broken, not only is the military activity of an army paralyzed, but its very existence placed in jeopardy.

This rule, though general, is not, however, of universal application. The possession of a large city may place at the command of an invading army such ample resources as to render it independent of any other! and this can hardly fail to occur when the population of the city outnumbers the invading forces to any great extent. The supplies of food and other necessaries, which have been for ages daily flowing in at every gate from the surrounding country, have but to be increased, and that perhaps in no very great proportion, to afford sufficient for the use of the invaders, who, with the citizens at their mercy, have only to insist on being first served. Clothing can usually be obtained in abundance, and on such occasions large subsidies of money have frequently been extorted. Were the invaded nation to cut off supplies from the invaders, they would starve their own city.

FEMALE INFLUENCE AND OBLIGATIONS.

(Concluded.)

If all this is not enough, then let *gratitude to Jesus Christ* induce you to employ your influence in his service. He has conferred blessings upon you which deserve a grateful return. Some of these blessings are common to both sexes, and call for a common expression of gratitude from all those who live under the light of the Gospel; others are peculiar to your sex, and demand special gratitude from every female heart, and special effort from every female hand. In common with others, you are indebted to Jesus Christ for the only true light that shines upon this dark world. For you, as well as others, he taught and laboured, wept and prayed, groaned and died. His atonement has opened, in this ruined world, the only door of hope. Without Jesus Christ, you must have been a wanderer in life, a victim of despair in the hour of death, and an outcast from heaven in eternity. There could have been no alternative. But the Gospel has bestowed many blessings which are peculiar to your sex. In the present world, it is your best friend; among men, your most successful advocate. Where Jesus Christ and his Gospel are not known, women are ignorant and debased, and almost, if not altogether, slaves. They are depressed by the hand of a rough and unsparring despotism. Look at the females of Turkey, of India, and of our Western wilderness. It is so in every land where the light of revelation has not come; and it always has been so in every age of the world. For the females of Christendom the Son of God has done every thing. He has called you forth from obscurity, and lifted you up from degradation. And now you are