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## DIARY OF THE SIEGE.

(From Correspondents of London Journals.)

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL. August 6.—Little has occurred here since my last letter to vary the often-described routine. A great deal of ammunition continues to go up to the front, and there are many speculations as to the probability of an early attack. The French are working away on the right, with the view of getting at the Russian ships; the usual nightly cannonade continues with more or less vigor. Last night there was a good deal of firing, more than has been heard for some time. The Russian Minies were at work, popping at sentries and everything that had shown itself. I am informed this morning that the Light Division, which was on duty, had 50 men "hors de combat," nearly double the usual number. Statements of this kind, however, are so apt to be exaggerated, that one can scarcely credit anything but the returns. One thing certain is, that the English loss in the trenches, at the present rate, may be estimated at about 1,000 men a-month. This includes every man "hors de combat," for however short a time. As regards disease, I do not learn that there has been any particular variation since I last wrote. The weather has been fine and bright, usually very warm of a morning, cooler of an afternoon, and with pleasant breezes over the heights. The heat here does not, to me, feel so relaxing as on the shore of the Bosphorus—ininitely less so than in that steam-bath, Constantinople.—There is much conjecture to-day as to the meaning of a fire which commenced yesterday evening in rear of the Redan, and burned all night, sinking and dying away towards morning. As yet nobody has suggested a plausible explanation. Yesterday afternoon there was a burial in Sebastopol, evidently of some personage of importance. The funeral procession was numerous, and there was a firing party, which is unusual. We continue to hear tales, probably exaggerated, of the great mortality prevailing in the fortress. The heat of the weather, and the number of dead bodies would account, however, for a good deal of disease. On Saturday afternoon, General Codrington reviewed the Light Division, which went through some manoeuvres in its usual steady and satisfactory style. The appearance of the troops was excellent. Yesterday about 2,000 or 2,500 Chasseurs d'Afrique were reviewed. The place selected was the ground over which our Light Dragoons executed the memorable but fatal charge of Balaklava, and mournful was the contrast which suggested itself to the minds of those who, in October last, beheld the return of the handful of heroic but battered warriors, and who yesterday saw the fresh and well-equipped squadrons of France prancing over the plain. Dearly, indeed, by the loss of so many gallant fellows, was purchased that "one laurel more," now added to the numerous wreaths that twine round the glorious standard of Britain's brave horsemen. Gay and smart looked the African Chasseurs yesterday in their neat light blue vests, and the eternal red trowsers. They are fine service-like cavalry, their evolutions were well performed, they made some capital charges, and their whole appearance was highly praised by the English military spectators. It has been proposed to make the First Division into two divisions, one to consist of the Guards, to which were to be added the 31st Regiment, 3rd Buffs, and 13th Light Infantry, the other of the five Highland regiments now here, and of the 92nd, expected out. The project, however, has been abandoned, at least for the present. I regret to announce the decease of Colonel Cobbe, of the 4th Regiment of Foot. He died this afternoon from the effects of wounds received in the affair of the 18th June. He commanded the 4th from the commencement of the campaign, and was wounded at the Alma. Lieutenant Evans, of the 55th, is also dead. He was shot through the windpipe yesterday in the trenches, and every effort to save his life proved fruitless. It is in contemplation to make a good road from Balaklava to the camp. This is, indeed, a most necessary work if we are to pass the winter here, and it is to be hoped it will be promptly proceeded with, and not postponed until too late to complete it before the bad season sets in. In connection with a good road from Balaklava there should be branches through the camp, connecting the divisions and leading to the front. The health of the 10th Hussars still continues unsatisfactory. A day or two ago that regiment had 161 sick, out of a strength of 676.

HEIGHTS OF BALAKLAVA. August 10.—The report of an approaching attack upon the Malakoff gains ground and credence in the camp. False reports are so numerous here that one would pay little attention to the current rumors did not various indications, more than general expectation, give it an appearance of probability. At an early hour on Tuesday morning, General Simpson went round the

lines, examining the works. Yesterday General Jones did the same. A council of war was held on Wednesday evening at the British head-quarters.—A more positive symptom than these of approaching action is the fact that some of the principal medical officers of Divisions have received orders to clear the hospitals, sending to Balaklava such patients as can safely be moved, and to make the customary preparations for the reception of wounded men. This may not mean that an assault is immediately to be made, as some short time is necessary to make arrangements and procure the stores required. An idea of the quantity of these may be formed from the fact that, on receiving this order, the chief medical officer of one Division, consisting of rather more than 6,000 effective men, at once sent in a requisition for about 6 tons' weight of various articles. Such a mass of drugs, lint, plaister, bedding, wine, and other hospital necessaries and comforts is painfully suggestive of what may probably occur, and of how many stout and brave fellows are expected to go down in the next serious operation against our tenacious foe. But at the point to which things have now come success is not to be hoped for without heavy loss, and if the former be complete the latter may be endured, if not cheerfully, at least without repining. Yesterday the Russians amused themselves by throwing a few round shot into the camp of the Fourth Division. Two of these buried themselves in the ground to a hospital hut of the 17th regiment, shaking the edifice and astonishing the wounded, but doing no other damage; another killed a man of the field-train as he lay in his tent. The fire in the rear of the Redan, which I mentioned in my last letter, is said by the French to have been occasioned by one of their rockets.

### BATTLE OF THE TCHERNAYA.

Since the middle of July certain signs have betrayed the intention of Prince Gortschakoff to depart from the defensive system he had so long maintained, strike some great coup, dispirit the Allies, and delay, if not avert, the assault. Thus the sick and disabled were removed from the north of Sebastopol to the interior, and the hospitals prepared for a sudden accession of wounded. General Panitine's corps, or the principal part of it, was also brought down from the South of Russia, and to mark more distinctly the high issue to be tried, the machinery of superstition was employed to an extent unprecedented in this war. The aged Archbishop Innocent was brought from Kherson to bless the troops, and the white-bearded metropolitan Philarete from Kieff to prophesy their success. The "sacred image of Mitophan," brought from its shrine, was solemnly committed to the army, and the miraculous efficacy of its presence asserted in orders of the day. The time, the place, the manner of the coming stroke, were, however, a secret. The exterior Russian army, when the last detailed accounts were received, held a strong position on the Mackenzie heights, its line extending from Aitodor to Albat, with advanced posts on the range of heights overhanging Urkusta and the valley of Baidar. A portion of this delightful vale and the line of the Tchernaya have been held by the Sardinian Contingent, the Turkish army from the Danube, and a mixed division of French troops, computed in the last week of July to number in all 30,000 men. It was here the fatal blow was to fall. With what was deemed excess of caution, the Piedmontese and Turks entertained themselves with adding new *tabias* to the redoubts first thrown up in the new position, but Wisdom appears to have justified her children. On Thursday, 16th Aug., at daybreak, the Russian field army, which had long defied reconnaissance, disclosed its front. According to its wont, it advanced in masses. This Russian army, which consisted of five divisions of infantry, six thousand cavalry, and twenty batteries of artillery; in all about 60,000 strong, was led by Prince Gortschakoff in person, whose object it was to break through the line of the position occupied by the Allies, and to establish himself upon the Tediouchine Heights.—The effort was at best but a desperate one; its result was disastrous to the last degree. The Allied Generals were, it appears, perfectly prepared for the movement. The Russians advanced and commented the attack with their accustomed bravery and coolness, but as column after column came onward to the charge, they were mowed down in heaps by the well-planted artillery of the French, and by an English battery placed on a mount in the midst of the position occupied by the Sardinians. Nevertheless, they obstinately persisted in their endeavor to cross the river; but after a terrible combat of three hours, their loss became so tremendous that they were forced to retreat, which they did, leaving at least 3,500 dead upon the field, in addition to nearly 2,000 wounded, whom they were compelled to abandon on the ground, and 400 prisoners who fell into

the hands of the French. Their total loss may probably be estimated at 10,000 or 12,000 men. On the part of the Allies, the casualties were comparatively small—the gross amount of their killed and wounded scarcely exceeding 1,000. The Russians are also said to have lost three general officers. In this engagement, the Sardinians faced the enemy for the first time, and are reported by everybody to have fought with admirable bravery. The brilliant victory thus obtained cannot fail to exercise a most important influence upon the ultimate fate of Sebastopol. The relieving army of the besieged having been defeated in the open field, the position of the garrison becomes critical in the highest degree; and if the cannonade, which was recommenced on the 17th August, be continued with the vigor which the mighty preparations made during the last two months would lead us to anticipate, news of the most stirring and gratifying character may be expected to reach us in the course of a very few days. In a strategic point of view, the importance of the Russian defeat on the 16th of August cannot be over-estimated.—*News of the World.*

The following despatch from General Pelissier is published:—

"THE CRIMEA, AUG. 19, 1 P.M.—It was necessary to continue the armistice demanded by the Russians, for yesterday, over to-day, from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., for them to carry off their dead.

Russians interred by the French, . . . 2,129  
Ditto by the Russians, . . . 1,200

Total, . . . 3,329."

The losses of the Russians, greater than at first supposed, have been rarely exceeded by some of the greatest pitched battles, and yet it would not be surprising to see them represent the affair as a simple reconnaissance. But the number of troops engaged, the material brought into the field, the efforts of General Liprandi to seize again upon a position held by him through the winter, proved the importance he attached to being victorious.

### PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF'S REPORT OF THE BATTLE.

"ST. PETERSBURG, SUNDAY.—General Gortschakoff writes from Sebastopol, at five in the evening of the 16th August:—A portion of our troops crossed the Tchernaya to-day, and attacked the enemy on what are known as the heights of Tédouchène. The Allies were in considerable strength on this point, and after an obstinate combat our troops were obliged to withdraw to the right bank of the Tchernaya, where they awaited the enemy for four hours. But as he did not advance, they resumed their original position."

The loss, adds the despatch, was considerable on both sides.

### REPORTED FAMINE IN SEBASTOPOL.

A private despatch from the French camp gives a few additional particulars about the affair of the Tchernaya, and explains, to a certain extent, the disproportion, remarked by every one, between the loss of the Allies and that of the enemy. It appears that the garrison of Sebastopol, as well as the army, are almost without provisions; they have scarcely a morsel of bread to eat, and they are in such a plight, that, according to the despatch, one would say the Russian Commander-in-Chief really desired to get rid of a considerable number of his men from the sheer impossibility of feeding them.—The enemy had to pass through a deep ravine to approach our lines, and while they did so they were actually mowed down by hundreds by our guns and musketry. The Russians were not in a position to return our fire with effect, and did little more than fire in the air. They seem to have been sent forth as desperate men to do the best they could. It was in the advance and retreat that they suffered most, and, but for the signal slaughter of the enemy, the affair could scarcely be called a battle. "If we do not take Sebastopol with our cannon," adds the despatch, "we shall do so before long by famine."

The Marseilles journals bring accounts from Constantinople of the 9th, and from the Crimea of the 6th. Nothing new was known relative to the siege operations, respecting which the greatest secrecy was observed. The Russians had made two sorties on the night of the 2nd, the one against the English trenches, and the other in the direction of the Clocheton. The English, who appear to have been aware of their intention, had massed 7,000 or 8,000 men in the trenches. They, of course, gave the assailants a very warm reception. The attack on the side of the Clocheton was also promptly and rigorously repulsed by the French. During the same night the fire of the besieged increased in intensity, and they threw a shower of projectiles into the English lines, on the Green Mamelon and the Careening Bay Batteries. It was not known when the general attack would take place. The works of approach were nevertheless nearly terminated, and the new

batteries were being armed with considerable activity. The principal batteries were efficiently protected with blinds, the epaulements consolidated, and the engineers neglected no precaution to shelter the artillery. A great number of mortars had been mounted in the different batteries, and it was believed that, at the next attack, the place could with difficulty withstand the effects of the formidable artillery arrayed against it. The sanitary condition of the army was satisfactory. It was remarked that every time the wind blew from Sebastopol, the number of sick in the camp augmented considerably, and that the mortality followed in the same proportion. The inference from this fact was, that the city must be a focus of infection. Advices from the north of Sebastopol, received through Germany, show that to make up the force commanded by Prince Gortschakoff on the 16th, it was necessary to take regiments from the garrison of the fortress. The Russian plan of attack, as sketched in letters dated a week before its execution, involved a simultaneous sortie from the bastions, so as to detain the reserves of the Allies before Sebastopol at the moment they were needed on the Tchernaya. There must have been some reason for rejecting this scheme, which was at any rate more rational than that actually adopted: none seems so probable as a deficiency of troops. The accounts before-mentioned state that the indefatigable Totleben, unable longer to take a personal share in the defence, has advised that a larger number of soldiers than hitherto should be kept on the south side of Sebastopol, instead of relying upon drafts from the north. Accordingly, immense excavations, thirty-five feet in depth, have been formed behind the bastions, in which it is hoped that large bodies of troops may be safely kept, so as to be in readiness to repel an assault. We can hardly suppose that the General would adopt an arrangement in itself full of inconvenience, unless he foresaw that the communications between the two sides of the bay might be endangered from the batteries of the besiegers.

### THE NEW BATTERIES.

The new battery which the French have constructed is described as being one likely to prove a formidable opponent to the enemy. It is perfectly shell proof, and the men working the guns will be so protected that no shot or shell will be capable of having any effect, unless through the embrasures of the works. Our battery in front of the Redan is not yet complete. This may possibly be the reason why the intended attack, of which so many reports have been spread, and days actually fixed for the taking place of the event, has not been made. Even should it be determined to make an assault on this place at the first opening of the siege operations, of which some doubts are expressed, report states that the principal point to be selected in the next general assault for the concentrated attack will be upon the Malakoff, probably a joint attack of the French and English. The opinion entertained here now is that, should the Allies succeed in gaining possession of the Malakoff and Redan, little or nothing more will be done before the winter; that they will content themselves in fortifying their newly acquired position, and remain in a quiescent state until the spring of next year when more active measures will be again renewed.

### A BIRTH IN THE TRENCHES.

We are by this time pretty well accustomed to hear of deaths in the trenches; but, until the other day, we had no example of a birth having taken place in that uncomfortable and dangerous locality—certainly not exactly that which a lady might be expected to prefer as the scene of her *accouchement*. The intrepidity and military ardor which so distinguish our gallant allies are shared, it appears, by the ladies of their nation. A buxom *cantinière* accompanied her battalion to the trenches, there to supply them with the restorative *petit verre*, and to brave, with masculine courage, the storm of shot and shell. There was possibly some miscalculation in the matter, but the fact is, that towards the small hours of the morning, she gave birth to twins. Mother and children are doing well.

### THE STATE OF SEBASTOPOL.

The following translation of a letter from St. Petersburg, published in the *Schlesische Zeitung*, will convey an idea of the actual state of the sick and wounded inside Sebastopol:—"If we carefully peruse the reports of the Privy Councillor Mansuroff, to whom, as is known, the inspection of the treatment of the sick and wounded belonging to the marine force in the Crimea has been confided, it will be seen that, as far back as the middle of July, to which date these reports have reached us, the state of health in Sebastopol must have become materially worse. In one week of June the daily increase of sick is given as 100; in July as 60 and more. If we take into consideration that this has only reference to the naval force, whose strength since the beginning of