

rear. No sooner did they see us retreat than they charged down the hill on us in hundreds, the fellows on the top firing all the time. We were surrounded by Russians on three sides, and on the fourth was a nearly inaccessible cliff. Our only chance was to endeavour to escape by climbing this, and accordingly we all ran for it, with the enemy close after us. We also afforded a splendid mark to the sharpshooters on the other side of the ravine, who kept up an awful fire on us. I can now only speak of what happened to me individually. I climbed as well as I was able, expecting every moment to be my last, to within twelve feet of the brow, and then found a big rock, which I could not ascend. I was so ill and exhausted that I sat down in despair behind a large stone, which sheltered me a good deal from the fire. Two Russian soldiers who had pursued us up the cliff caught sight of me, and made towards me with fixed bayonets. I drew my revolver, and took three deliberate shots at the smallest and "wickedest" looking of them. Each time the pistol missed fire. This was entirely owing to my fault. It had been loaded more than two months and entirely neglected. You can imagine my remorse at not having been more careful. Well, the fellow then fired at me, but by the mercy of Heaven he just missed me, and hit a 23rd man, who was endeavouring to escape just behind me. As he was on the point of transfixing me with his bayonet I took a fourth and successful shot, and he rolled over the cliff, but before I could again use my pistol the second fellow had his bayonet at my throat, and I saw that further resistance was useless. My worthy captor seemed rather struck with the eligibility of the place I had chosen, as it was tolerably sheltered from fire, and he therefore sat down quietly by my side, keeping his rifle pointed towards my head, and making very expressive signs, which I could hardly misinterpret, that if I moved he would put an end to my miserable existence. He, no doubt, intended to take me prisoner when the fire slackened a little. I, of course, lay perfectly quiet, and was, in fact, so exhausted, that I fell into a kind of doze or faint. When I re-opened my eyes the hill in front was still swarming with skirmishers, but you cannot imagine my delight when I saw some of them with their "bearskins" on, proving that they were the Guards, and that they had repulsed the Russians. This sight seemed to restore all my strength, and I thought that now or never I must make my escape. My friend, seeing me apparently helpless, had removed his rifle for a time from the unpleasant proximity to my head, and I, taking advantage of this fortunate circumstance, suddenly sprang to my feet. He did the same, but, in his astonishment, he dropped his gun. I instantly hit him in the face with my fist with all my strength, and this being a mode of attack for which he was totally unprepared, he tumbled down the cliff. I rolled over with him, and we went down together for twenty or thirty yards, untroubled by the stamp of a horse. Luckily, I was then at top. He now began to roar out "Sonde! Sonde!" most lustily. I do not know what it means, but, as I was afraid of his cries bringing some one to his assistance, I hit him on the mouth every time he shouted. This soon produced the desired effect; he crossed his two forefingers and said, "Pardon." I was very glad to hear it, for my strength was fast failing me; so I nodded my head, and pulling out my revolver, I watched him in my turn. I did not shoot him, because he had spared my life previously. Presently a 23rd man, who had escaped, passed near us, and I sent him to pick up the Russian's rifle and to watch him while I went in search of my sword, which had dropped in the scuffle. Having found it, I returned and marched him into camp with his own rifle, which I now have, and shall certainly keep as a memento of my providential escape.

It was remarked a few months ago, in the columns of this paper, as a curious anomaly, that the Emperor of Russia, an independent sovereign of Europe, now at war with England, should still hold his stall in St. George's as a member of the Order of the Garter, in which capacity he once swore fealty and allegiance to the sovereign of this realm. We may therefore be pardoned for drawing the attention of our readers to the equally singular fact that the noble earl who is now serving against Russia in command of our cavalry in the East, is actually at this moment a knight of the Order of St. Anne of Russia, and as such has done homage, we suppose, to the Emperor Nicholas. This honorary distinction was conferred by the present Czar upon the Earl of Lucan when he was serving, in 1828, as Lord Bingham, in the Russian army as a volunteer against the very country which is now our ally. In this capacity he accompanied the Russian army under General Diebitch in his invasion of Turkey, and

was with him on the memorable occasion when he crossed the difficult steppes of the Balkan, a military exploit for which the Emperor Nicholas conferred upon General Diebitch the title of Count Zabalzaniski. It is certainly not a little singular that Lord Lucan should now, after an interval of twenty-five years, be fighting in the cause of the Sultan, against whose father, the late Sultan, he once served as a Russian volunteer; and still more curious is it that he should have been actively and personally engaged at Inkermann against the Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas of Russia, whose father was once his companion in arms. It is, doubtless, the practical experience of Russian lands, and Russian soldiers and tactics, which his lordship then gained, that renders his services so valuable to the allied armies at the present juncture. We may add that the knighthood of St. Anne of Russia was conferred upon the Earl of Lucan in the very same year in which King George IV. bestowed the Blue Riband on the Emperor Nicholas, namely, in 1838.

THE COMPANIONSHIP OF THE ALPINE.—Our men in the rear may be observed passing down the cliffs to the verge of the overflowing, Tchernaya, where they are daringly engaged cutting down the timber growing on its banks. The Russians are on the opposite side, but their shot drops short: they have not the English Minie. The French, who guard the heights from which our men descend, are to be seen smoking, and perhaps sitting down on some rocky stone, their eyes attentively fixed on the opposite shore. A traillor fires a Russian, at whom he fires, without taking the pipe from his mouth; he reloads and fires again, never allowing a Russ to come too close, not without first giving warning to his ally in front. Should real danger appear, he throws his pipe aside, calls for help, and warns the British below in the valley, and thus faithfully does he protect his brave companions in arms. The writer speaks much of the assistance rendered by the French with their ambulances and mules, to carry the sick, and get up provisions.

A French paper tells the following story:—"An officer whom General de Martimprey had sent out to make a reconnaissance in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol, was knocked down, not by a cannon-ball itself, but by the wind of it as it passed close to him. The excitement produced was so intense that the tongue of the officer instantly contracted, so that he could neither put it out of his mouth or articulate a word. Having obtained leave of absence, he returned to Marseilles, where he underwent treatment by means of electricity. After the first few shocks the tongue began to move with more facility, but without his being able to speak. On the twelfth day he was subjected to an unusually violent shock, which produced the desired effect. He is now fully recovered, and expects to return to his post in a few days.

PLUCK VERSUS DODGE.—"Two heavy dragoons were discussing the merits of somebody, an officer, I believe. One of them ventured to assert that the subject of their conversation was 'Plucky.' 'Plucky!' said the other, 'why he hasn't the pluck of a chicken, that's what he hasn't. Why, I actually seed that man dodging to a cannon ball.' Our troopers are less tolerant than the showman, who describing the Duke of Wellington as 'wanking off the cannon balls with the point of his sword,' added 'small blame to him, if any.' The campaign of 1834 knows no such charitable distinctions. A man who 'dodges to a cannon ball' had better give the thing up, go home, and live at ease. Our soldiers would blush to call him a comrade."

Miss S. Stewart has concluded an arrangement with her trustees by which the sum of 10,000*l.* is given to endow an episcopal church at Port Glasgow, securing 300*l.* a year to the rector and 160*l.* for a curate. A magnificent church, having chancel and nave, will be finished by Whit Sunday, 1856, by the same lady, which will cost her 3000*l.* or 3,500*l.* additional.

Among the Russian officers who fell on the bloody field of Inkermann was General Alexander Ouchterlony, of the Imperial Guard. The *Brechin Advertiser* tells us he was the grandson of the late Mr. John Ouchterlony, of Montrose.—"The General, who had distinguished himself in the Emperor's service, visited Montrose some years ago, and was much esteemed for his affability and intelligence. The Ouchterlony family are lineally descended from Prince Rupert; and the General's grandfather was a son of Mr. Ouchterlony, of Kintrockat, and his wife Miss Young, of Aldbar."

The frequent brawls of the French and English sailors here, it is said, frightened away the Turkish women from the Christian portions of Constantinople, and the necessity of an European police at Pera is much dwelt upon, we are sorry to say.

On Friday morning the Vicar-General, by commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury, formally prorogued Convocation until Tuesday, the 6th of February next.—*Guardian* Dec. 20.

Last week, as a man named Fiddock, trawling in the Medway, near Stroud, he took his net unusually heavy, and on dragging it to the surface brought up the body of his own son, who was drowned in the river about a month ago, and could not then be found.—*English Paper* Dec. 20.

Already sixty-four English and Welsh militia regiments are embodied, and sixteen more are ordered out, making eighty out of the hundred of England and Wales. Some 15,000 of the latter-prepared regiments will garrison the Mediterranean colonies, requiring a fourth more to remain at home for the purposes of depots and keeping the force abroad. The remaining 60,000 will be required for home duty.

The death is announced, on yesterday evening of the Right Hon. Lord Rutherford, one of the most distinguished judges on the Scottish bench, who died at Edinburgh in his sixty-third year.

A despatch from Warsaw of the 20th ult., states that a ukase had been issued ordering that for the soldiers forming the garrison of Sebastopol each month's service shall count for a year.

Sir Charles Napier was invited to dine with the Queen yesterday week, but was prevented by illness from obeying her Majesty's commands, not being able to leave Merchiston-hall.—*Jan. 3.*

By the recent augmentation of the cavalry, each cavalry regiment will be stronger than it was at Waterloo. Each corps then did not exceed 400 men; now they will equal 720 men. It is a singular fact that the 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 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Henceforward the Commissary-General will wear a tunic or frock, slightly laced in gold, with two rows of gilt buttons, containing the old Commissary motto. The facings and cuffs will be of blue velvet, not black, as hitherto. The trousers blue, with slight lace; the sword, cloak, and spurs, as heretofore; hat cocked, with small feather. The Commissariat will no longer wear epaulettes.

A very crowded and somewhat singular meeting was held on Monday evening in St. Martin's Hall, Long-acre. It was convened by Mr. Robert Owen, who has undertaken that his long-promised millennium shall commence this year, and that it shall be inaugurated on Monday, May 14, by a great aggregate meeting in the metropolis of delegates from all Governments, countries, religions, sects, parties, and classes. Several speeches were made, of a very mystical and somewhat prosy character, and the meeting was adjourned to the 1st of May.

A Stafford jury had to decide lately whether a bottle of wine had been stolen from a particular bin. In order to assist the intelligent and independent twelve, two bottles were handed up for them to taste, but so difficult was the point that the jury were unable to arrive at a decision until they had finished both bottles. They convicted the prisoners, and the losing counsel was heard to remark, "if they had not done justice to his clients, they had done justice to the wine."

Major-General Lord Rokeby, appointed to command a division of the army at the Crimea, will leave town on Friday next, for Plymouth, to embark there the following day for the Black Sea. Major-General Barnard, who is likewise appointed to command another division, will accompany his lordship.—*Jan. 3.*

The publication of the new volumes of *Macaulay's England*, promised for the ensuing spring, is again delayed by the recent discovery of a mass of papers relating to the Stuart family, the contents of which render it necessary to re-write a considerable portion of the history.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN FRANCE.—The *Washington Globe* states that two spirited letters have been addressed to Louis Napoleon by English Christians, requesting that religious liberty might be granted to his Protestant subjects. Queen Victoria has also addressed him an autograph letter on the same subject. In one of their letters, the Christians quote the memorable words of Napoleon Bonaparte, addressed to Protestants at his coronation. After stating that it was his firm purpose to maintain freedom of religious creed, he adds: "If any of my race, hereafter to succeed me, should disregard the oaths which I have taken, and which, misled by the inspiration of a perverted conscience, he should come to violate, I devote him to public animadversion, and I authorize you to give him the name of Nerd."

PRAYER.—One has somewhat quaintly, but very truly, said, God looks not at the oratory of your prayers, how eloquent they are; nor at their geometry, how long they are; nor at their arithmetic, how many they are; nor at their logic, how methodical they are; but he looks at their sincerity—how spiritual they are.

The sun stoops not more readily to warm the flower that opens to receive his beams, than does the Holy Spirit to strengthen and bless the soul that desires his influence.