

# FIGHTS FOR THE FLAG

## The Siege of San Sebastian

Continued From Last Saturday.

There appeared to be a crowd of some 200 men immediately before me, opposite the front of this work—those in front of this body returning a fire directed at them from the parapet above, and which, was sweeping them down in great numbers, and also from an entrenchment which the enemy had thrown across the main ditch, about a yard or two retired from the opening into it. I observed at the same time a heavy firing at the breach; and as the larger portion of the right wing appeared to be collected, as I have described, opposite the demi-bastion, it was very manifest that those who had gone forward to the breach were not only weak in numbers for the struggle they had to encounter, but it was apparent they were also unsupported. I endeavored with the head of my detachment to aid some of their own officers in urging and pushing forward this halting body. They had commenced firing, and there was no moving them. Falling in this, I proposed to Lieutenant Clarke, who was in command of the light company of the Royals to lead past the right of these people, in the hope that, seeing us passing them, they might possibly cease firing and follow. I had scarcely made this proposition when this fine young man was killed; and several of my own (31st) detachment, as also many of the light company Royals, were here killed and wounded. In passing this body with the few of my own people and most of the light company Royals, some might have come away, but the bulk remained. Their halting there (opposite the demi-bastion) thus formed a sort of stopping-place between the trenches and the breach, as the men came forward from the former on their way to the latter. On arriving at the breach, I observed the whole lower parts thickly strewn with killed and wounded. There were a few individual officers and men spread on the face of the breach, but nothing more. These were cheering, and gallantly opposing themselves to the close and destructive fire at them from the round tower and other defences on each flank of the breach, and to a profusion of hand-grenades which were constantly rolling down. In going up I passed Jones of the Engineers, who was wounded; and on gaining the top of the breach, I went to assist their endeavors, and again went up the breach with them, when I was shot through the inside part of the left thigh.

The breach was fully occupied and alive with fire, and the party with him quite unequal in itself—seeing, also, the many discouraging circumstances under which the attempt would have to be made, of forcing its way through such opposition—he ordered his party to retire, receiving when speaking to me, a shot which broke his arm. I came back with him and his party, and on my way made the shot, whose advance became interrupted by the wounded and others of the Royals returning.

The attack had thus failed; and in the British batteries the supply of ammunition was exhausted; South was coming forward on through the passage of the Pyrenees, and Wellington had no choice but to turn the siege into a blockade till fresh supplies arrived from England. Thirty days had been spent in open trenches, and thirty days of blockade followed; days, as far as Wellington, who was covering the siege, was concerned, of desperate and bloody fighting. But South's gallant host, at the close of these operations, was sweeping a broken mass, in wild tumult back to France, with a loss, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, of not less than 20,000 men. Then Wellington resumed the siege. On August 13, a battering train arrived from England; on the 23rd came a second battering train; but with a touch of administrative stupidity, delightfully characteristic, ammunition for only a single day's consumption was sent out with the guns.

On the morning of the 26th, the batteries opened in thunder on the doomed city. No less than 114 guns were in action at once. By August 30 two wide breaches gaped in the eastern wall, the fire of the place was almost silenced, three mines had been run from the southern attack towards the curtain crossing the isthmus, and everything seemed ready for the final assault. The gallant French commandant, however, had spent the thirty days of the blockade in perfecting his defences; and with a wise prevision of the difficulties before them, Fraser records in his "Diary" on August 22: "This St. Sebastian is destined to be a thorn in our sides, or a feather in our caps." At this stage the "thorn" was more visible than the "feather."

Key, the French commandant, did not hope to maintain an equal duel with the furious British batteries; his plan was to make assault on the breach hopeless. He constructed immediately behind the great breach an interior rampart, 15 feet high, with outstanding bastions. The appearance, therefore, was, in effect, a death-trap. On reaching its crest, the storming party would find before it a huge pit, from 20 to 35 feet deep, its bottom strewn with every sort of impediment; and beyond it a new and unbroken rampart, loopholed for musket-fire, with traverses at either extremity. A mine charged with 12 cwt. of powder was driven beneath the slope along which the stormers must come; two other mines were designed to blow down part of the sea-wall on the British columns as they passed along it to the attack. Never, in fact, was a more desperate task than that of carrying San Sebastian. And it is to be noted that the engineering blunder which made the first attack a failure was repeated. The defences that covered the breach were left undestroyed.

On the night of August 29, a false attack was made on the breach, in order to tempt the besieged to spring their mines, and show the direction and scale of the fire they had prepared for the assaulting columns. The morning broke gloomy and

black. A dense mist drifted down from the high valleys of the Pyrenees, and girdled San Sebastian with a shroud of grey vapor so dense that the besieging batteries could not fire. As the day advanced, however, the fog lifted, and a tempest of shot was poured for more than two hours on the defences of the city. Eleven o'clock struck; the batteries suddenly ceased. Robinson's men leaped from their trench, and a river of scarlet uniforms swept towards the breach. It was known that heavy mines were in the path of the columns; but twelve men led by a sergeant ran forward at speed, and leaped upon the covered way to cut the fuse by which the mine was to be exploded. Startled by their rush, the French hurriedly fired the mine. The sergeant and his brave band were instantly destroyed, and the great sea-wall was thrown, with a terrific crash, upon the flank of the advancing column, crushing some forty men beneath it. Had it been fired some five minutes later it would have slain hundreds. As it was it did not arrest the attack for a moment. Macquire, of the 4th, who led the forlorn hope, "conspicuous," says Napier, "from his long white plume, his fine figure, and his swiftness, bounded far ahead of his men in all the pride of youthful strength and courage. But at the foot of the great breach he fell dead, and the stormers went sweeping, like a dark surge, over his body."

Continued Next Saturday.

**To Restore Good Health**

The first thing to do is to correct the minor ailments caused by defective or irregular action of the organs of digestion and elimination. After these organs have been put in good working order by timely use of BEECHAM'S PILLS

(The Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World) better digestion results, and then the food really nourishes and strengthens the body. The first dose gives relief and sound sleep, quiets nerves, and improved action of all the bodily organs are caused by an occasional use of Beecham's Pills. They give universal satisfaction and in safety, sureness and quickness of action Beecham's Pills

**Have No Known Equal**

Sold everywhere. In boxes, 25 cents. The directions with every box are very valuable.

Past AS WELL AS A FUTURE...  
 "Salads" have been of the quality and value and its good character.  
**"ADA"**  
 BE TO JAPAN.  
 Packets only. Never in any

**Chilly Days?**  
 Against sudden changes that vigor that comes that is easily digested, balanced proportion all warmth and strength yourself against cold

**SHREDDED WHEAT**

in digestible form all making units that are in any climate. Its solution of the servant is ready-cooked and delicious in combination with fruits.

Wheat Company, Limited  
 Niagara Falls, Ont.  
 Toronto Office: 49 Wellington St. East

**New Health and Ailing**

Wincarnis

Wincarnis

Wincarnis

**Wincarnis**

Wincarnis

Wincarnis

**"You're the Razor for Me!"**

"I never dreamed there was a razor made that could give me so quick and smooth a shave. What a fool I've been to go without you for so long!"

Thousands of men go through just this experience, for there's such a wide gap between the best shave you have ever got with an ordinary razor, and the velvet shave the

**Gillette Safety Razor**

is ready to give, right from the first time you pick it up.

The Gillette is so easy to handle—it works so naturally around the awkward spots—and it carries an edge so superlatively keen—that once you adopt it the troubles of shaving yourself vanish into thin air. Instead, you find yourself really enjoying the refreshing five minutes you spend daily with the Gillette.

You don't need to hunt around for a Gillette. Right in your own home town your Druggist, Jeweler or Hardware Dealer will gladly show you a Gillette assortment. Standard Sets cost \$5.00—Pocket Editions \$5.00 to \$6.00—Combination Sets \$6.50 up.

**GILLETTE SAFETY RAZOR CO. OF CANADA, LIMITED.**  
 Office and Factory—The New Gillette Building, Montreal.

**THE STANDARD'S**

**Embroidery Patterns All The Rage**

If one Embroidery pattern is worth ten cents, how much are 160 worth?

If from one embroidery pattern a woman or girl can create a beautiful shirt waist, Dutch collar, dainty piece of lingerie, pillow top, set of towels or napkins, what can be accomplished with 160 beautiful new patterns such as are being distributed practically free by this paper?

**Newest Thing in Patterns**

The Imperial Embroidery Pattern Outfit contains 160 of the very latest designs, and each transfers from 3 to 5 times.

**Solve the Dress Problem**

This is the age of dress. Nothing can ever take the place of the dainty hand-embroidered fabrics. The most expensive shirtings, collars, lingerie, corset covers, jabots, etc., can be made at home for a mere trifle of expense. The Imperial Pattern Outfit is a boon to mothers. Everything necessary for the girls and the baby is included.

**Solves the Home Decoration Problem.**

Designs for table linen, guest towels, all sorts of doilies, dresser scarfs, center pieces, pillow cases, picture frames, hand bags, pin cushions, pillow tops; also numerous odd designs for borders, alphabets, rose sprays, butterflies, bowknots, wreaths, etc., etc.

**Means Finer Clothes and Prettier Homes for Trifling Expense.**

**6 COUPONS AND 70c SECURES IT GET YOURS NOW**

These new and wonderful Patterns can easily—almost magically—be transferred to any kind of material in a twinkling. The Patterns are made by a secret process, which does away with the old-fashioned, perforated smudgy carbons, or hot iron—all you need to do is to moisten the Pattern and the design is instantly transferred, and each Pattern will transfer from three to five times.

**Look for Coupon Printed Every Day**

**ME CALLUM'S Perfection SCOTCH**

Smooth As A Kitten's Wrist

The Whisky For The Home

**ME CALLUM'S Perfection SCOTCH**

There Is No "Smoky" Taste About

The Digestibility of Age Belongs To

**ME CALLUM'S Perfection SCOTCH**

**Have No Known Equal**

Sold everywhere. In boxes, 25 cents. The directions with every box are very valuable.