

Progress of the War.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE MAGAZINES.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Nov. 29.—Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch, and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Lordship by General Sir W. Codrington, K. C. B.:

Sebastopol, Nov. 17.
My Lord.—On the 15th inst., about 3 p. m., a terrific explosion shook the camp of the army, and spread heavy destruction in the immediate neighborhood of its force; even here, at head-quarters, two and a-half miles, perhaps, distant, it burst open and broke windows; all felt the power of it, and the high column of smoke, with shells bursting in the midst and around it, told too well the cause, and showed the danger of all within its reach.

It was not long before we were on the spot; to the sudden burst had succeeded a continued and dark drift of smoke, which told its tale of continued fire and of danger; constant bursting of shells was going on, and the ground was covered with bits of wood, musket balls, and splinters of shells from the first heavy explosion, which had strewed the ground with destruction, and killed and hurt very many people.

100,000 pounds of powder had exploded in the French siege train, set fire to all the stores there, and to our neighboring English park, where all was fiercely burning, while the tendency of the light air at first threatened a second and as serious an accident from powder, not 80 yards off, for the roof of the building had been damaged and the door blown in by the shock.

Some general officers had fallen in and marched part of their divisions down, others went some in fatigue, some with stretchers for the wounded—all exerted themselves for the French with an energy and disregard of danger that was admirable; blankets were taken to the exposed store, placed and wetted on the roof by water being passed up in buckets; the doors were covered with wet blankets and sandbags, and in a short time it was reported and looked safe, though the closeness of the fire and frequent explosions could not allow the feeling of security. Many detached though small fires were burning, and the ground of both the French and English parks, a space of 150 yards across, was a mass of large fires, some of fuel, some of huts, some of gun-carriages, boxes, handspikes and ropes.

The fortunately light air had rather changed its direction, and by breaking up and dragging away things, a sort of lane was at last formed, the fires cut off, and gradually got under control, because confined to smaller though fierce fires, but manageable.

I saw every one working well, and I know that French and English took live shells from the neighbourhood of danger to a more distant spot, and at a later period, parties threw what earth the rocky soil could give, upon the fires, and helped much to subdue them; all was safe about 7 p. m., a strong guard and working party posted for the night.

The army was under arms the following morning before daylight, and, everything being quiet, I ordered the divisions to turn in, and continued the working parties in the roads, which I had counter-ordered for that morning.

The exploded powder store was situated in the ruins of some walls which had advantageously been made use of for the purpose of shelter; it had been the store of supply to the French attack on the Malakhoff front, and it contained the powder which had been brought back from their batteries.

It is at the head of the ravine, which, as it gets towards Sebastopol, forms the steep and rocky valley of Ravin du Carénage.

The Light Division was on the ground which it first took up in October, 1854; the Rifles on the right, then the 7th, the 33d, and 23d; on their left the 34th Regiment, which subsequently joined, was on the right front in advance; and the vacating of a spot of ground by the Sappers' camp, enabled me, when commanding the division, to place the Artillery and Small-arm Brigade on the immediate right of the Rifles.

The French subsequently brought their main siege train and store to the position it has now for some time occupied.

Daylight showed the damage, of which I have given your Lordship an outline of in another paper.

But the more important and sad part is the loss of life, and the wounded who have suffered.

One officer and 20 non-commissioned officers and men killed; 4 officers and 112 non-commissioned officers and men wounded, with 7 missing, show the sudden and fatal power of the shock, which not only destroyed in its immediate neighborhood, but wounded, by shell and splinters, some at a distance of three-quarters of a mile.

The loss of our allies is distressingly heavy.

I have, &c.,
W. J. CODRINGTON,
General Commanding.

The Lord Panmure, &c.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL AND HIS RETURN TO THE CRIMEA.

The ministerial organs inform us, in terms of the highest exultation, that Sir Colin Campbell is to return to the Crimea, after a brief residence in this country; and in doing so, they ingeniously seek to leave the impression, that the idea of not returning never for a moment entered his mind. These Treasury organs, if properly instructed by their masters, know full well, that the very reverse is the fact. They either know, or ought to know—at all events, we know—that when Sir Colin Campbell returned to England, he had not the remotest intention of going back to the Crimea. On the contrary, he had firmly resolved not to return to the East. In order to show that we do not, in saying this, speak from any vague or doubtful authority, it may be right we should distinctly state—challenging the Ministerial journals to deny, if they can, the accuracy of our statement—that, in waiting on Lord Hardinge, the Commander in Chief, immediately on his arrival in England, he not only intimated to his lordship his determination not to return to the Crimea, but that all the solicitations and entreaties of Lord Hardinge to reconsider the resolution to which the gallant officer had come, completely failed of effect. In a day or two afterwards, however, Sir Colin was invited to dine at Windsor Castle, where the most marked and gracious attentions were showered upon him by the Sovereign, and the importance of his return to the discharge of military duty in the Crimea dwelt upon in a manner which could not fail to make the desired impression on a soldier. Nor was this all. In a few days thereafter, the gallant officer received a letter from her Majesty, requesting him to sit to Mayall, the celebrated photographic artist, for his portrait in his Highland regimentals. And, as if all this had not been sufficient to prevail on Sir Colin to return to the Crimea, he is to be placed at the head of a corps d'armee, consisting of 20,000 or 30,000 men, and will consequently, though nominally under Sir William Codrington, have practically confided to him an independent command. What officer, under all these circumstances, could persist in a resolution, however firmly made, not to resume the discharge of his military duties? Sir Colin Campbell is the last man in the world to be inaccessible to such a combination of powerful inducements to return to the Crimea.—Morning Advertiser.

There were two imperial standards taken at the capture of Kinburn. One of these the Queen has caused to be forwarded to the Royal Military Hospital, Chelsea. It is very large, nearly 20 feet wide and 14 feet deep, and has a large double-headed spread eagle painted on it.

A child has just received at the baptismal font, Merthyr, the soul-stirring name of "James Louis Napoleon Malakhoff Broom." His parents are labouring people.

FOREIGN.

According to the best reliable authorities, General Canrobert has succeeded admirably at Stockholm. In Sweden the popular feeling is decidedly in favour of an alliance with the Western Powers, and if we can believe the concurrent testimony of witnesses, Sweden has consented to conclude a military convention with the Western Powers, and to take part in an invasion of the Russian territories on the Baltic in the ensuing spring—that, though England and France have repudiated territorial aggrandisement for themselves, their allies have made no such engagement, and that Russia, having broken through the treaties by which the division of Europe is regulated, has forfeited her right to those Swedish provinces she acquired in virtue of them.

From the Crimea, we learn that although the winter will put a stop to field operations there, it is the intention of the allied generals to subject the northern part of Sebastopol to a bombardment of mortars, which will probably have the effect of dislodging the enemy from Forts Severnia, Constantine, and their vicinity. Although the expediency of this step, which entails an immense amount of labour on the artillery and engineers, may not be immediately apparent to a civilian, military men there assure us that it is extremely desirable to do so, as it will prevent the Russians annoying the southern side with their fire, and enable the fleet to enter the harbour, a place of refuge being highly desirable in a sea so tempestuous as the "perfidious Euxine."

A letter from Odessa in Le Nord, dated Nov. 5, mentions the town of Mariopol, on the north coast of the Sea of Azoff, as having been bombarded by the English on the 31st ultimo; more than 100 balls, shells, and other combustibles were thrown into the town, and the fire was suspended only in consequence of a merchant there hoisting the Austrian flag over his warehouses.

Spain is improving her tariff,—liberalizing her commercial policy. We learn that the prohibition at present existing against many articles of cotton goods is to cease altogether in five years' time, and is at once to be altered by the admission of some classes of the coarser kind, which are now excluded. Cotton twist is to be admitted to importation from and after No. 39 and upwards, and the prohibition to import cotton goods is reduced from 25 threads to the quarter-inch to those below 20 threads to the same measure.

Fears prevail at St. Petersburg. It is believed that, in the spring, the Allies will attack the capital, and this impression contributes to the general uneasiness.

ENGLISH.

The sword about to be presented by the people of Glasgow to Sir Colin Campbell will be a Highland basket-hilted dress one, and will cost £200, of which £140 has been already subscribed in shillings.

The Court Circular says:—His Majesty the King of Sardinia breakfasted this morning at half-past 4 o'clock with her Majesty the Queen, his Royal Highness the Prince and his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. At 5 o'clock the Queen accompanied the King to the grand entrance of the Castle, and there took leave of her Royal and illustrious guest. Her Majesty was attended by the Ladies-in-Waiting, the Great Officers of State, and the Gentlemen of the Household. His Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar was also present to take leave of His Sardinian Majesty.

His Majesty the King of Sardinia, after something less than a week's stay, took his leave of the Queen, and departed on his way homeward on Thursday morning. Whether from the exigencies of the case or from royal love of early rising, 5 o'clock was fixed for the time of his departure, and it was at that hour, his Majesty, attended by his numerous suite, and accompanied by Prince Albert, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, left Windsor by the South-Western Railway, his Royal Hostess having herself then to take leave of him.

OMAR PACHA'S RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY.—We are informed, on the authority of a gentleman just arrived in town from the headquarters of Omar Pacha, that in the advance of his army, every care was taken that the property and household rights of the inhabitants should be strictly respected. All the supplies of the Turkish army were paid for, and when our informant retraced his steps to the coast, there was not the least sign of an army having passed over the country. The impression made by such conduct on the part of the population was consequently of the best possible character.—Globe.

ANECDOTE OF SIR COLIN CAMPBELL.—It is stated in connection with Sir Colin Campbell's recent visit to Windsor Castle, that in the course of the evening, her Majesty made Sir Colin sit on the sofa beside her, and pointed out to him, that the army in the Crimea could not get on without him, and that he must return. The gallant old soldier is said to have been so much affected by his Sovereign's kindly language, as to have burst into tears, and to have assured his royal hostess that he would do anything for her, saying, "I'll even carry a musket for your Majesty."

DR. WISEMAN ON THE SARDINIAN ALLIANCE.—The Catholic Standard, Dr. Wiseman's official organ, thus expresses itself with regard to liberal Sardinia:—"Austria must desire peace. War with Russia would risk Hungary. We can hardly think it possible, that the Emperor Francis Joseph and his Ministers can be willing to hazard either alternative. That Sardinia, so long as France is ready to back her, might gladly enough get into a quarrel (with Tuscany!) which would involve Austria itself, is likely enough. With all loyalty towards our Gracious Sovereign, be it permitted us to say, that if our Sardinian ally could be well and effectually humbled, without extending the horrors of war over Western Europe, and without inflicting misery and bloodshed on his innocent subjects, few things would be more pleasant, as few things would be more richly deserved."

DEATH OF LADY EMMELINE STUART WORTLEY. This somewhat remarkable lady died at Beyrout on the night of the 29 ultimo. Her ladyship was an authoress of repute, and had probably travelled more than any other lady of her distinguished birth. A daughter of the present Duke of Rutland, her ladyship married, in 1839, the Hon. Charles Stuart Wortley (brother of the late Lord Wharncliffe) who died in 1844. In May last, whilst riding in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, Lady Emmeline had the misfortune to have her leg fractured by the kick of a mule. Notwithstanding the weakened state of her ladyship's constitution, she persisted in undertaking the journey from Beyrout to Aleppo, returning by an unfrequented road across the Lebanon. Lady Emmeline reached Beyrout on the 26th of October, but, in spite of the unremitting attention of Dr. Saquet, the French government physician, and two other gentlemen, her frame was so weakened and exhausted by the excessive fatigue of the journey, that she gradually sunk and expired. Her ladyship's daughter, Miss Stuart Wortley, who was also very unwell, and attacked by intermittent fever, is now considered out of danger.

The directors of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank have, we understand, ordered all their employes who adorned their face with a moustache to shave or resign.

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