

continuation of the account of General VEKVKIN'S operations.

We left General VEKVKIN on the 7th June within four or five miles from the Capital. During that day and the 8th June he was occupied in making reconnaissances and maintaining his position, which he had some difficulty in doing owing to constant skirmishes with the Khivan troops who harassed him incessantly and who were well provided with artillery. As he had yet no certain tidings of General KAUFFMAN, whose force it was reported had been compelled to retreat owing to want of provisions and transport, and as moreover the incessant attacks of the Khivans who were greatly superior to him in numbers, tended to wear out the strength of his men, General VEKVKIN saw that any further delay would tender to endanger the safety of the column under his command, he therefore determined without waiting any longer for the advent of Sashkend column at once to attack the city. Accordingly the necessary dispositions were at once undertaken to make a reconnaissance right up to the walls, to mount the necessary batteries and to begin the bombardment at once. The ramparts of the city were found to present the appearance of a regular bastioned fortification with numerous guns mounted on them which sustained a well directed fire upon any of the Russian troops who showed themselves.

On the 9th June a general advance against the northern side of the city was ordered. As the Russian troops went forward the Khivan forces fell back on every side. At 12 o'clock the Russian batteries were got into position and the bombardment began and was continued at intervals until the morning of the next day. The enemy's artillery at first replied briskly, but was silenced in the course of three or four hours. At length it was determined to carry the northern gate by assault. It was accordingly stormed and taken with a loss of some 15 killed and wounded. Meantime General KAUFFMAN had arrived in the close vicinity of the city on the other, i. e. the eastern side, and had received envoys from the Khivan officers to surrender the city. Consequently the Russian troops entered it on the 10th June, having suffered a loss of some 107 men killed and wounded in the assault."

(To be Continued.)

The first consignment of the Martini-Henry rifles about to be issued to the whole of the British Army is being taken on board the War Department steam vessel *Eul de Grey and Ripon* at the Royal Arsenal Wharf Woolwich, for conveyance to Portsmouth and Plymouth for the regiments stationed at those garrisons and neighboring places. These rifles form part of a reserve which has been kept for some time at the tower of London and were brought down to Woolwich in barges. The racks in the Tower are once more being rapidly filled.—*Broad Arrow*, 29th August

### REVIEWS.

Four full-page pictures embellish the October *Aldine*, a number which glows with all the beauty and richness of the season, surpassing each of its predecessors. A tinted page by J. D. Woodward represents a wood and river scene in the fall of the year when the leaves are dropping from the trees, and the air is balmy. The picture is an exquisite gem. "Dredemona," after Cabanel, is a noble figure, wonderfully engraved by J. D. Woodward. The face is full of beauty and pensive sadness, and the hands are clasped as in prayer. Mr. Arthur Parton contributes a grand full-page picture, called "The Rapids of the Au Sable," and representing in a vivid manner the bold scenery of the Adirondacks. The spirit of the picture is full of life and motion. A charming subject, sure to attract wide admiration, is "Spring," by Pierre A. Col, from the original in the possession of A. T. Stewart Esq., of New York. The effect of sunshine is soft and beautiful, and the whole picture is a poem. The other illustrations in this number are much more numerous than usual, and consist of a scene on the Grand Canal, Venice; "Wild Flowers," by L. Boehlein; a series of thirteen pictures, illustrative of the life of Martin Luther and the Castle Wartburg, in Germany. "The Ugly Beauty," by A. T. Elwes, and three views of St. Paul's Cathedral. This is a famous and unrivalled collection of pictures.

The table of literary contents for this number is admirable, consisting of a poem on "Seneca Lake" by Alfred R. Street; many fresh and interesting "Recollections of William Knublauch," from the German; "A Mere Glimpse at Dieppe," by Henry Morford; "Damaris," by Laura D. Nichols; "No Hero After All," a story by F. D. Washburne; "The Man and the Moon," a poem by Sallie A. Brock; "The Wartburg," a descriptive article by Helen S. Conant; "Golden-Haired Alberta, a sweet story by Edward Olin Weeks; "October," a sonnet by Mary B. Dodge; "A Visit from a Siamese Princess," by Mrs. A. H. Leonowens; "A Naughty Darling," a poem by Mrs. Fanny Burrow; and St. Paul's Cathedral by Dr. Fuller-Walker. The editorial articles consist of "On the Grand Canal," "Dredemona," "The Au Sable River," "In the Spring," Music, Art and Literature.

The *Aldine* Company has determined to establish an Art Union, similar to the well known Art Union in England, and distribute its works of art, both sculpture and paintings, which are constantly collecting among its subscribers. Art premiums, valued at \$2,500, will be distributed among a rich series of 5,000 subscribers. Subscription tickets at \$6.00 each, entitle the holder to the *Aldine* for a year, to the new chromo, and to a ticket in the distribution of art premiums. The *Aldine* Company, publishers, No. 58 Maiden Lane, New York City.

*Blackwood's Magazine* for September comes to us from the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41 Barclay Street, New York.

The leading political article is a "Review of the Session," in which the writer takes comfort in the political situation, and assures that "the tone of the public mind is more healthy, and the prospects of sound government assured."

The serials, "Allice Lorraine" and "Valentine and his Brother" are continued, and in both of the storm elements, which have been gradually gathering, are about to burst.

The Tribute in Memoriam to Charles Sumner is by W. W. Story, with whose contributions, both in prose and poetry, the pages of *Blackwood* are occasionally enriched.

No. 6 of "International Vanities" comes to us like a letter from an old friend. It treats of Diplomatic Privileges, and tells us how the telegraph and rapid postal delivery have diminished the importance of the profession of ambassador, and left it, "though still superior to lawyering, doctoring and soldiering," only a faded remnant of its former self. The past history and present condition of ambassadorial prerogative are pleasantly contrasted. The writer is of opinion that "diplomatic privileges now mean in practice little more than the power of smoking untaxed tobacco. Whether the right of inviting the sovereign to dinner should be counted as one more real advantage depends entirely on one's view of the charm of royal society."

In the article on "The Greek Fool," the student will find many ancient fables and absurdities illustrating "a species of the 'fool' genus with which the British public is only half familiar; and in that on "The Ancient Classics" we are introduced to the valuable series of books now publishing, entitled "Ancient Classics for English Readers," a series whose object is to make the reader acquainted with the character, situation, and sentiments of each classic author, with the scope of his argument when the subject is philosophical, with the nature of the story when it is dramatical."

In the "Disappointing Boy," we meet with a youth spoiled by his mother, proving a severe trial to his father.

"Pilchards and Pilchard-Catchers" describes the Cornish coast, the fishing and other occupations of the people.

Surely this is plenty of good reading.

THE POSTAL CONGRESS.—The United States having joined the Postal Union, its delegates in the International Congress are enabled to introduce a uniform rate of postage for the whole territory embraced by the Union. Should England refuse to join the union, German and American vessels will carry the mails to and from the United States. England has joined the postal union.

Color Sergeant Richard Long, Eighty-seventh Royal Irish Fusiliers, committed suicide at the Citadel Barracks in Halifax on Sunday night by shooting.