

each. Another of her qualifications, which probably was not dreamed of at the time she was ordered to be constructed, is, that in consequence of her great speed, extreme sharpness, and the solid substantial manner in which she has been built, she will prove, without carrying an ounce of gunpowder, or a single warlike weapon on board, one of the most formidable engines of destruction ever devised. The most powerful three-decked that ever floated would be out in two and half hours if it could; if the Leviathan, with her tremendous weight of metal, of some twenty-five or thirty thousand tons, her sharp wedge-like bows, and a speed of twenty miles an hour, were to run full tilt after her while living like a helpless log on the water; and so firmly will she be bound and knitted together, that there is every reason to believe she would herself escape uninjured! Without entering further upon these sanguinary speculations, we may hope that the year 1855 will witness the completion of one of the most magnificent specimens of naval architecture the world has ever yet beheld.

GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

THE SIEGE OF SEVASTOPOL.

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The Hecate, 3 paddle-wheel steam-sloop, Captain W. H. Hall, has arrived at Spithead from the Baltic. She reports the near approach of the sailing ships of the fleet, with Rear-Admiral Phipps, with which she parted company on Saturday last about 300 miles from the Downs, and consists of the Neptune, 120 (bearing Rear-Admiral Phipps's flag), Captain F. Hartin, M. George, 150; Captain H. Sykes, C. 50; Prince Regent, 50; Captain H. Smith; and Monarch, 60; Capt. J. E. Eakin. These vessels left Liverpool with the Hecla on the 11th inst., the last-named vessel towing the St. George out tugs, and the Driver, 6, paddle, the Neptune. The other two vessels got away under sail. The Driver accompanied the squadron to Scapa light-house, off the Norwegian coast, and then returned. The Hecate, prior to leaving Scapa, had put a supply of oarsmen on board the sailing ships. When she left them at the above named distance from the Downs, the wind was blowing fresh, but was contrary for them.

The Hecate, numerous and important events having occurred in the part she played at Scapa, and in almost every other fray with the enemy in the Baltic, has several shots in her sides, which are tightly embedded there; whilst she has numerous shot-holes through which the shot have entered the vessel, and it is only, wonderful, that numbers of her men were not killed by them. Some of these shots, after passing through the side of the ship, passed through as many as four or five cabins, knocking down doors, bulkheads, etc., in their course. Her mainmast was struck below by a shot; entering the side of the vessel, passed through a party of men, who were sitting down to dinner. The funnel and steam-pipe have a number of shot-holes in them. In all these cases, the shot-failed to penetrate. It is perfectly honest, however, when a man knows that a thing has either been done, or determined upon, to urge it upon attention; as if he was the first who thought of it, or the only one who had found a way to recommend it. The public will await with confidence the result of the measures which were taken before any outcry was raised, or which would have been taken, if no voice had been uttered upon the subject. In this just war the people have determined to conquer; and they will conquer, let the cost be what it may. 16,000 British soldiers, or double the number, are wanted, there are spirit enough, and energy enough in the country to make it certain that they will be forthcoming.

THE VICTORY BEFORE SEVASTOPOL.

After an interval of ten days—of which the history is as yet a blank—the Russians made an attack on the Allied armies, far more desperate than those which were so gallantly and heroically repelled on the 25th and 26th of October. This great battle was fought before Sevastopol, on the 5th of November. Three separate accounts of it have been given to the world. First: In the order of time, and of fulness, came a telegraphic despatch from General Canrobert to the French Government, received on Sunday last; secondly, a telegraphic despatch, via St. Petersburg, from Prince Menschikoff to the Czar, and published in the German papers; and, last of all, a telegraphic despatch from Lord Raglan to the Duke of Newcastle, received half an hour after midnight on Wednesday last, and containing the following:

From the Illustrated London News.

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The reports of General Canrobert and Lord Raglan are in perfect accordance with each other. Both claim a great and important victory, both state the losses of the Russians to have been enormous, and both admit their own to have been severe. Prince Menschikoff does not admit that he was defeated; but expresses how he escaped him in his despatch, which are quite inconsistent with any admission that he could have been victorious. Annotated, it appears, by the presence of the Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas—who suddenly and unexpectedly made their appearance at the Russian head-quarters—a grand attack upon the Allies, with the same object as the attack of Liprandi on the 23rd and 24th, was resolved upon, and carried into effect. The attack commenced in the dawn of the morning of the 5th. The force of the Russians is not stated in any of the three despatches; nor is that of the British and French. According to General Canrobert, the Russians far outnumbered the Allies; and, according to Lord Raglan, the Russian head-quarters—a grand attack upon the Allies, with the same object as the attack of Liprandi on the 23rd and 24th, was resolved upon, and carried into effect. The attack commenced in the dawn of the morning of the 5th. The force of the Russians is not stated in any of the three despatches; nor is that of the British and French. According to General Canrobert, the Russians far outnumbered the Allies; and, according to Lord Raglan, the force very much exceeded that which was opposed to it at the Alma. The battle raged with extreme obstinacy until past noon, when the Russians were definitely repulsed, and forced to retreat, leaving the field of battle covered with the dead, and several hundreds of prisoners. General Canrobert states, that the struggle lasted the whole day, and estimates the Russian loss at from 8000 to 9000. Lord Raglan gives no estimate on the subject. Prince Menschikoff admits that the Allies were "prepared" to receive him; and does not say a word of abusing the honor of the day. He alleges the damage he did to one of our batteries, and says, he spiked eight English and fifteen French guns, and penetrated into the English camp. He adds, that the Russians retired to their previous positions; and that "the enemy did not pursue"; from which it might not unreasonably be inferred—even if the world had not the despatches of General Canrobert and Lord Raglan to enlighten us in this respect—that the case—that the Russians were beaten.

He was not a parson, unless he be a fugitive; and the "refutation" of the Russians on their previous position, is probably the euphemism by which Prince Menschikoff designates their retreat. A document, originally of Russian origin—if it was not a fabrication—was engaged to be a lie, and not a telegraphic despatch from Prince Menschikoff, and the veterans Prince Potitschew, affirms that the Russians lost 4000 men, and the Allies only as many. In the authentic report to the Czar, the Prince mentions nothing of this; but simply admits a "considerable loss" to his own side, without naming any addition to the loss of the enemy. It is, however, evident that Russian General Chouvalov was killed. On the side of the British, Lord Raglan admits that no less than 8000 men were severely wounded; namely, General Sir George Brown, Major-General Bonetta, and Brigadier-General Somers, Butler, and Torrens. The French General says, the tribute of his admiration to the skill and valour of the allied troops, and the gallantry and solid discipline displayed by the British army; while Lord Raglan, in simpler and straightforward language, the gallant conduct of the French, which contributed essentially to the decided success of the day.

This was the second attempt of the Russians to raise the siege of Sevastopol. It was, however, repulsed with similar disappointment, and the third attempt, which will be made on the 11th instant, but if not successful, will be made on the 12th. The Allies will be supported by a large force of reinforcements, and the British army, while Lord Raglan, in simpler and straightforward language, the gallant conduct of the French, which contributed essentially to the decided success of the day.

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