

Two Order of Victoria.

"FOR VALOR."

The distribution of the decoration of the Victoria Cross, as announced in a supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday last, must undoubtedly be regarded as one of the most pleasing incidents associated with the happy termination of the late war. The newly-founded honor is designed exclusively for the reward of those brave men, of whatever rank, and in whatever branch of the naval and military service, who may have distinguished themselves by the exhibition of conspicuous valor in presence of the enemy. The motto borne upon the Cross, 'For Valor,' tells, in a word, the virtue for which it is conferred. Considering that the decoration is thus strictly limited to those who have achieved a fame by tests of personal prowess, the number who have survived to receive it affords a gratifying proof that the ancient courage and dauntless hardihood for which the natives of these islands were ever famous, still lives in undiminished vigor in every branch of the British service. The recipients of the Cross, as named in the Gazette, amount in number to eighty-three. The deeds by which they have gained it are as bold and valiant, as striking and as various, as ever made up the renown of the champions of those old days whose personal courage was esteemed the highest virtue of man, and when the waging of war was made the principal occupation of kingdoms. Let us quote an instance or two. In the Naval Brigade, Captain William Peel receives the Cross for having, 'on the 18th of October, 1854, at the greatest possible risk, taken up a live shell, the fuse still burning, from among several powder casks outside the magazine, and thrown it over the parapet, (the shell bursting as it left his hands,) thereby saving the magazine and the lives of those immediately around it.' To this brilliant act, Captain Peel added two others. At the battle of Inkermann he joined the officers of the Grenadier Guards, and assisted in defending the colours of the regiment when hard pressed at the Sand-bag Battery; and on the 18th of June, 1855, he volunteered to lead the ladder party at the assault on the Redan, and carried the first ladder until wounded. In the Navy, Commander Cecil William Buckley receives the Cross for having 'repeatedly landed in a four-oared boat at Taganrog, and set fire to the different stores and Government buildings.'—Lord Lyons, speaking of his conduct on this occasion, says:—'This dangerous, not to say desperate, service (carried out in a town containing upwards of 3000 troops, constantly endeavoring to prevent it, and only checked by the fire of the boats guns) was most effectually performed.' Joseph Tre-wavas, seaman, obtains the Cross for having cut the hawsers of the floating bridge in the Straits of Genitchi, under a heavy fire of musketry, on which occasion he was wounded. This service was performed by the crews of the captain's gig and one of the paddle-box boats of the Beagle, under a heavy fire of musketry at a distance of 80 yards; the beach being completely lined with troops, and the adjacent houses filled with riflemen. Of the campaign in the Baltic similar acts of prowess are recounted. George Ingville, Captain of the mast, in a boat action off Viborg, saved the second cutter of the Arrogant, which had been swamped, and had drifted under a battery, by jumping into the sea, though wounded, and catching hold of the painter. Lieutenant Charles D. Lucas, like Captain Peel,

threw over a live shell during the attack on Bomarsund. In the Army, Private Samuel Parkes, of the 4th Light Dragoons, saved the life of Trumpet-Major Crawford at Bala-klava, after both their horses had been killed. Parkes defended himself and friend against six Russians, whom he kept at bay, and retired slowly, fighting and defending the Trumpet Major for some time, until deprived of his sword by a shot. Corporal John Ross, of the Engineers, obtains the cross for, among other achievements, 'intrepid and devoted conduct in creeping to the Redan on the night of the 8th of September, and reporting its evacuation, on which its occupation by the British took place.' Private Anthony Palmer, charged singly on the enemy, as witnessed by Sir C. Russell, and is said to have saved the life of Sir C. Russell. Brevet-Major Lindsey, of the Fusilier Guards, is distinguished for having, 'at a most trying moment, with a few men, charged a party of Russians, driving them back, and running one through the body.' Private John Connors, of the 3rd Regiment, distinguished himself most conspicuously at the assault on the Redan in personal conflict with the Russians; rescued an officer of the 30th Regiment, who was surrounded by Russians, by shooting one and bayoneting another, and was observed inside the Redan in personal combat with the Russians for some time—was selected by his Company for the French War Medal. Captain Andrew Henry, of the Royal Artillery, is distinguished, 'for defending the guns of his battery against overwhelming numbers of the enemy, and continued to do so until he had received twelve bayonet wounds.'

These are but a few, and probably not the most conspicuous of the many brilliant exploits performed by the eighty-three gallant and now celebrated men upon whom the "Cross of Valor" has been conferred; but they will suffice to show that amidst all the refinements and increased luxuries of these latter days, the mettle of Englishmen is still the same as when their forefathers held the sword which never quailed before the enemy.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Europa.

HALIFAX, 27th March, 1857.

The Europa from Liverpool the morning of Saturday, the 14th, arrived here at 11:45 to-day. As she was leaving, she met the Circassian, going back into Liverpool. The City of Baltimore sailed from Liverpool on the 11th, with 272 passengers, and on the same day the Arago from Southampton with 104 passengers and \$104,000 for New York.

On the 15th, the Europa passed the Canadian screw steamer, supposed to be the North American, with loss of foremast, steering eastwards. At 4 p. m., off Bally Cotton, exchanged night signals with a large steamer steering east, supposed to be the Persia.

On the 23rd, burnt night signals to a vessel apparently a steamer, steering east, but the signals were not answered.

On the 26th, passed a large screw steamer steering west.

The Anglo-Saxon arrived at Liverpool on the morning of Friday, the 13th.

BRITAIN.

The country is excited by electioneering movements. The supposition is that Palmerston will carry a majority, but a small

one. He continues to receive addresses of confidence.

On the Commons Notice Book is a motion by Mr. Gordon, to interrogate Government respecting the present state of relations with the United States.

Lord Elgin has a similar notice in the Lords for Tuesday, 17th.

Lord Clarendon moved for copies of correspondence respecting the propriety of the cost of the war with Persia to be charged upon the Indian revenue, or relating to the way in which provision for such expenditure is to be made in India. In making this motion he expressed a wish for information with regard to the treaty with Persia.

Earl of Clarendon said that the treaty was of a most satisfactory nature. Persia undertook to evacuate Herat within three months of its ratification, and upon the fulfillment of that condition England would evacuate Persian territory. Commercial advantages were also gained, and England was to be placed on the same footing as the most favored nation, while all further disputes between Persia and Afghanistan were to be referred to the arbitration of England.

Earl of Ellenborough regarded the treaty as an admission by Persia that she had adopted an improper policy, and that she had abandoned her designs on Herat.

In the Commons Mr. Gordon enquired whether it was true that Government in the treaty with Ferosh Khan, at Paris, had abandoned the right to protect Persian subjects, and expressed his opinion, that if such was the case, other nations ought also to abandon that right.

Lord Palmerston said it was extremely inconvenient to discuss a treaty which was not on the table, but with regard to the point referred to by the Hon. Member, he thought that very great inconvenience would arise, and was likely to arise from the practice in Persia, by which foreign governments were entitled to extend protection to Persian subjects, and he thought it most desirable for the performance of friendly relations that the practice should be discontinued; Her Majesty's government were quite willing to abandon that right for this country, except with regard to Persians, who were actually engaged in the service of the Embassadors. The Consulates at the same time have quite agreed that that right ought to be abandoned by other countries as well as England. The treaty was in all respects a better treaty than Persia had offered to accept at Constantinople.

The late arrivals of Australian gold were delivered on Thursday, and nearly the whole was purchased on account of the Bank of France. There was an undiminished demand for money on Thursday, both in the discount market and at the Bank of England.

FRANCE.

The Post's Paris correspondent states that an exchange of notes has taken place on the China difficulty between England and France, and the best understanding exists with respect to joint operations.

Advices report favorably of appearance of crops in Normandy.

SPAIN.

Country quiet. Preparations for an expedition against Mexico continue. It is thought probable that the operations will be limited to a blockade and bombardment of Vera Cruz. A special Ambassador had arrived at Southampton on his way to Madrid to arrange the difficulty. Meantime the