

say the warm wind which blew the other day brought with it, or developed, the seeds of typhus fever, which broke out in several regiments lately, and soon marked some of the strongest men as its victims.—The trenches, however, are dry; the men get all they want, provisions are abundant; hay has arrived, and fresh vegetables have been sent up to the front to check the scurvy.

Feb. 21.—On the north of the Valley of Inkermann the enemy are still prosecuting their earthworks, and are apparently forming an entrenched and fortified post of great strength. The natural defences of this headland which they occupy are so great as to make it a most formidable position, even if only held by 1,000 men; but the enemy seem not content with leaving their bulwarks to nature, and appear to be bent on turning the hill into a second Gibraltar, to which fortress it bears a distinct resemblance. Two hundred and seventy arabas entered Sebastopol by the north side this morning. From the care with which all were covered with tarpaulins they were presumed to contain ammunition. The fleet off Sebastopol report that a good deal of bustle was apparent among the enemy's works to the north, also that a French steamer got ashore in the gale of last night and went to pieces. She was full of cattle for the use of the French commissariat, which were all lost, with one or two of the crew.

Feb. 22.—Three hundred and ten waggons again entered Sebastopol to-day from the north, and the enemy are evidently exceedingly busy about something on that side of their defences. Officers who have come in from the fleet say that they appear to be constructing new earthworks, and also that the fire of the French seems to effect but little mischief. To-day it most certainly will not, as only one 10-inch mortar has been used, and that has merely expended fifteen rounds to keep up appearances. This morning a Russian spy was taken near our lines at Balaklava, and sent into head-quarters for examination. He was admirably got up, and dressed in the uniform of a Turkish officer. The weather continues most severe. The snow drifts in positive masses, like fine dust, rendering it utterly out of one's power to see a yard from the spot on which he stands.—Whole parties of our men employed in different duties lost their way in the middle of the day, and while simply moving from one regimental company to another. One officer lost his way while only crossing the court-yard of Lord Raglan's house; he came out of it at a different doorway, and wandered into the French camp for some hours.

(From the Correspondent of the London Herald.)

Feb. 23.—I am informed that the French batteries have ruined most of the south part of the town to which they are opposed. They have undoubtedly done a great deal of mischief, and ruined beyond all power of reparation the houses which were outside the walls, but the town itself is very, very far from being in a ruined state, or even, as a town, seriously damaged. As a great town, Sebastopol may still be said to be uninjured; as a fortress, its strength is ten times greater than when we first commenced to break ground. I have seen statements in a morning contemporary that the French, in repulsing sorties, frequently enter the town of Sebastopol, and plunder the houses. The statements, as all out here know well, are simply ridiculous and untrue. I may here also mention a most absurd report which has been going the round of the allied camp, to the effect, that a French general officer of high rank has been detected in a traitorous intrigue with the Russian chief, and conveying to them intimations of the position of all our batteries and intended movements.—I am informed on the very best authority that there is no foundation for the calumny. The weather still continues very cold, but the sickness, I am glad to say, is gradually diminishing. For the last few days no sick have been sent in to Balaklava beyond the usual 20 or 30 by the mule carts. Yesterday and to-day, however, there has been a slight increase, the number for the two days being 287.

Feb. 24.—I was woken up shortly after two o'clock this morning by the commencement of one of the most furious cannonades we have heard since the siege began. The whole line of the Russian batteries from our left opened with inconceivable force and noise, and the Inkermann batteries began playing on our right; but the French were most exposed to the weight of this most terrible fire, which shook the very earth, and lighted up the skies with incessant lightning flashes for an hour and a half. Under cover of it a very strong sortie has been made, and for half an hour the musketry rolled incessantly with volume and vigor enough for a general action. I have just this moment returned in the dark both physically and mentally, and I am unable to discover what was done by all this sound and fray. The roaring of the shot and shell was terrific—a continuous scream like that of a locomotive whistle heard in the depths of a tunnel. The instant the fire opened I got out of my blankets and went towards the front, but I could see nothing but a blaze of fire before the trenches; our batteries were silent. As no person—not an officer even, unless he be actually on duty—is permitted to go down to the works or beyond the inlying sentries and pickets, I can at this hour of the morning tell you no more than that the firing has now ceased. The cannonade lasted from 2.15 a.m. to 3.50 a.m. In much of the time the Russians fired, as I counted fifteen guns in thirty seconds, and sometimes the reports came in regular salvos, and the flashes leaped forth in great flares of solid fire, so that it was impossible to tell what number of guns the enemy were working. The echoes of the reports towards the close among the hills in the distance were tremendous, and increased the tumult.

THE RAILWAY.—The railway from Balaklava to the English camp is advancing with a rapidity that is described as being perfectly marvellous. "It is

now progressing," says an eye witness, "at the rate of a quarter of a mile per day, including all the delay which arises from bridging small streams, levelling and filling up inequalities, &c. Half the men are employed in laying down the rails and sleepers during the day, and the remainder work all night in boxing up with earth and stones the space left between each sleeper. As an instance of the rapidity with which the work proceeds, a pile-driving machine was landed one evening, and carried piecemeal up to where it was necessary to sink piles for a stout wooden bridge, across a small but very muddy stream which runs into the harbor. The machine was erected early the next morning, and before that evening the piles were all driven, the machine removed, the bridge finished, and the rail laid down for the space of a hundred yards beyond.

The aspect of the town is greatly altered for the better. The wretched hovels in which the Turkish soldiery propagated pestilence and died have been cleaned out or levelled to the earth, the cesspools and collection of utter abomination in the streets have been filled up, and quicklime has been laid down in the streets and lanes, and around the houses. The sutlers have been driven forth to a wooden world of their own outside the town, and the number of visitors to the town diminished. Indeed, the railway, which sweeps right through the main street, very effectually clears away the crowd of stragglers who used to infest the place. It is inexpressibly strange to hear the well-known rumbling sound of the carriages and waggons as they pass to and fro with their freights of navvies, sleepers, and rails; it recalls home more strongly than anything we have yet heard in the Crimea. Even the railway cannot bring thoughts of peace. It is now a very effective engine of war. Measures will be taken to protect it from the enemy, but as yet they evince no inclination to annoy the works or workmen, even if they had the power to do so. The Cossacks are riding about the hills in front; our videttes are watching them; vast masses of men in long lines carrying planks of wood or facines intersect the plain, and seem at a distance like armies of ants migrating. The thunder of cannon from the front booms through their, the martial music of the French regiments interrupted by the creaking of cart wheels, the cries of camels, the yells of drivers in nearly every language of the east or west—worse than all, by the terrible instruments of the Turkish bands, speak of war, which no Englishman has ever known at home in this day.

POSITION OF THE ALLIES.

The *Debats* has had an interesting article on the present position of the allied forces before Sebastopol, signed by Colonel St. Ange. The following is a translation of the most salient points:—

"The allied forces encamped in the nearly insular Chersonesus may be estimated at 100,000 men, taking into account the continued reinforcements forwarded from England and France during the last month, and the two French divisions that were left in reserve at Constantinople.

"The Ottoman army at Eupatoria, under the orders of Omer Pasha, must now be forty thousand strong. As the three nations are sending corps or detachments on to the Crimea up to this moment, everything leads to the belief that the total of the allied armies will amount to 150,000 men in the course of this present month of March.

"There can be no doubt that the Russian army will not reach that figure until it has received the last reinforcements despatched to Perekop, either by way of Odessa, Nikolajeff, or Kherson. At present, apparently, it does not number 100,000, including the garrison of Sebastopol and the other positions in the Crimea; and it could muster only 60,000 or 65,000 men for any strategical operation. This explains its complete inaction since the battle of Inkermann, where it deployed only 45,000 men, who were beaten with immense loss.

"It is a known fact that the Russians have suffered at least as much as the allies by sickness, the severity of the season, and the want of food and forage. In a climate nearly similar to that of France, the winter has presented, as with us, frequent alterations of snow, rain, frost, and thaw. Transport across the Crimea has been almost always interrupted by the breaking up of roads on which a stone was never at any time laid. In Russia properly so called, winter is the season for sledge conveyance, as the frost generally lasts for four consecutive months, without any intermitting thaw; but not so in southern Russia, and especially in the Crimea. We may thus comprehend the difficulties that must have encountered the Russian army in the transport of its food and munitions; and even the impossibility of the task, when we recollect that a road of six miles from Balaklava to the camp before Sebastopol became so impracticable that the English army was deprived of its supplies for several days, and that, to maintain the fire of its batteries, balls and shells were obliged to be forwarded on the backs of mules, and even, in the arms of men."

PROSPECTS OF THE "SIEGE."—The special correspondent of the *Herald* writes:—"The conjecture which I lately hazarded, that we should be besieged in our lines through the summer, and not capture Sebastopol before next autumn or winter, grows more and more probable each day. In such case, the terrific nature of the struggles we must look forward to, to retain our ground, can easily be anticipated. The Emperor will stake and risk everything to combat the success of this expedition, and it is in vain to flatter ourselves with the idea that he has not sufficient troops to spare to occupy all here most fully."

IMPROVEMENT OF THE SEA DEFENCES OF SEBASTOPOL.—The Russians are occupied day and night in rendering the sea face of Sebastopol impregnable. The whole face of the cliff under the "Wasp" Battery is being galleried and cut into

casemated batteries, like the fronts of Constantine and Alexander. Several guns have already been mounted in these casemates. Heavy earthwork batteries have also been erected, and line the inside of the harbor on both sides. Those on the south are placed a *fleur d'eau*, that is, perfectly level with the water's edge, while those on the north cover the steep slopes which are crowned by Star Fort and St. Sivernia. On this side the batteries are sometimes in four tiers of guns, which are so placed that nothing but the muzzles can be seen, while the upper tiers could fire almost straight down on a vessel's deck. Under such circumstances any attempt on the fortresses from the sea, is looked on here as little short of madness.

THE INEFFECTIVE COMMISSARIAT.—"Scurvy amongst the men," writes the *Morning Post* correspondent on the 17th ultimo, "is very bad; it has come to that pitch that, unless some effectual means are hastily adopted, we shall have half the army eaten up with it. The men do not receive fresh meat now above once in a fortnight, and, were there no cattle to be bought round the shores of the Black Sea, an excuse might be offered for the Commissary-General: Sinope, according to all the descriptions we hear of it, would be an excellent place for our commissariat to establish a market. If they send proper persons and make themselves known, they would soon have plenty brought from the interior for sale. When will the time come that we shall have a commissariat equal to the wants of our armies? Never, I think, as do many more, as long as it is composed of men principally total strangers to a soldier's wants. It is astonishing the way the people or authorities in England do things, quite as bad as it is reported to be done out here."

The following is an extract from a letter addressed by a non-commissioned officer of the 57th Regiment to his friends in Limerick:—"We have only one priest for all the troops in front of Sebastopol. He lives with the 88th, and calls it his regiment. There was another Rev. Mr. Canty, attached to the 3rd division, and used to attend the 4th also, but he died last week, and the other poor gentleman has actually to come about four miles, and more, to visit his patients in the hospitals of the 2nd, and 4th divisions. I am sure he will receive his reward for it."

THE NAVAL BRIGADE.—A correspondent speaking of the battery named by the naval brigade, says:—"The admirable condition of this brigade is something beyond all praise. Yesterday, out of 1,100 men there were only 28 on the sick list. The tents of the blue jackets are decidedly the neatest in the whole camp, well trenched outside, and neatly pared with small flat stones within. Many of our officers might take a lesson in neatness and good order from the admirable manner in which Jack manages everything about his camp. No washing is allowed in their tents, and all coming off duty with dirty boots leave them outside the tents in little boxes constructed for the purpose. Over one deep little ravine near this camp, which is very dirty, and which they have to cross frequently, they have constructed a suspension bridge, which, for strength, neatness, and ingenuity far surpass any invention I have yet seen at camp. The bridge is formed by three strong cables stretched across the ravine, and firmly secured at each side, and in these are lashed the staves of the beef and pork barrels which the sailors have carefully collected for this purpose at Balaklava. With these simple means, they have made a light, strong, and even handsome bridge, which contributes in a thousand ways to their convenience and comfort. When Jack has thus been able to improve his position, in the face of all obstacles, is it not a reproach to the army that nothing of the same sort has ever been attempted by them? We believe it must be confessed that with all his undaunted bravery in the field, the English soldier is but what his ingenious salt-water comrade would call a 'lubber' in the camp."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

BENEVOLENCE OF HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM.—The poor of Tuam have reason to rejoice at his grace's return. Within the last week he has given orders for a suit of cloths each to upwards of one hundred of the poor boys of the town. In this inclement season of the year, this is a truly timely and munificent act of charity.—*Tuam Herald*.

The Very Rev. M. McDermott, Dean and P.P., Strokestown, has commenced to build a new church in Strokestown, which we understand is intended far to exceed in elegance and extent any other in the diocese, and with a munificent liberality has announced his intention of making no demand for funds on his parishioners until he shall have expended £1,500 from his own private fortune.—*Roscommon Messenger*.

LORD PALMERSTON'S IRISH APPOINTMENTS.—We have upon two former occasions expressed the opinion that in any government of which Lord Palmerston is Prime Minister; the Catholics could not place confidence. Such was the feeling we entertained, even when some of those who represented the policy of Lord Aberdeen consented to hold office under Lord Palmerston. Now, the state of affairs is completely changed. With one or two exceptions—and these being persons not holding seats in the Cabinet—the adherents of Lord Aberdeen have resigned; and the country beholds in power the same men and the same party that constituted the Russell government. Such a Ministry the Catholics, we conceive, can regard with no other feelings than those of distrust; and should be prepared, if circumstances so require them, to assail them with direct hostility.—*Telegraph*.

It is to be observed (says the *Evening Post*), that of the fifteen members of the present government in the Cabinet, and fifteen others not in the Cabinet, not one Irishman has been named for office. The only two that held office in the late Administration—namely, Mr. Monsell and Sir John Young—are replaced by an Englishman and a Scotchman. Ireland seems perfectly ignored in the present distribution of office. DUBLIN, March 8th.—The Attorney-General was re-elected to-day for Athlone, without opposition.

Mr. Horseman, the new Chief Secretary for Ireland, was re-elected for Stroud, without opposition, on the 13th ult. In the course of a long speech, the right honourable member made, amongst others, the following observations:—"In undertaking the duties of the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland, let him say, that that country had been the subject of more Parliamentary discussion than any other he remembered since his entrance into public life. Ireland was England's difficulty, because it had been the victim of England's injustice."

The *Northen Wing* states that Mr. Caulfield, M. P. for the county Armagh, is about to resign his seat, because of his duties as colonel of militia; and that Mr. Ross Moore, member for the city of Armagh, is about to take a similar step, in consequence of ill health.

TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS IN IRELAND.—A bill has been introduced by Mr. Sergeant Shee, and Mr. P. Urquart to provide compensation for improving tenants, and to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the leasing powers in Ireland. The improvements, conferring a right to compensation, will include the erection of farm buildings, the reclaiming of waste land, and the making of boundary fences and farm roads.—a notice of intended improvements must be served on the landlord, who is allowed the option of undertaking them himself. Amounts claimed for compensation over and above £40 may be sued for in any of the superior courts of common law in Dublin, the landlord having the privilege both of defending the action on the ground of subletting and of setting off cross demands. Tenants, if evicted, will be entitled to compensation for improvements heretofore made. Outgoing tenants will be entitled to recover remuneration for crops in the ground, manure, straw, and hay, and for growing underwood. The remaining clauses of the bill relate to leasing matters.

RELEASE OF MR. CARDEN.—The *Freeman's Journal* states that, consequent upon the report of Sir Phillip Crampton to the Lord Lieutenant, and who had been professionally to visit the prisoner, Mr. Carden will be discharged from Clonmel gaol immediately after the assizes. A local journal this week announces that the act of Grace which remits more than half of the sentence of imprisonment imposed upon Mr. John Carden, of Barnane, has affixed to it certain conditions of rather a stringent nature. He must, it seems, before the prison gates are opened, consent to expatriation to a foreign land, to the full end or term of the confinement to which, by his sentence, he was subjected, and further, he must give security, himself in £20,000, and two sureties of £5,000 each, to keep the peace towards Miss Arbuthnot and her Majesty's subjects for a period of ten years.

THE BATESON MURDER.—For the third time, two men, named McArdle and Magennis, were put upon their trial at the Monaghan Assizes, charged with others, with conspiracy to murder the late Mr. Thomas Douglas Bateson, and for the third time, also, the Crown has, to all appearances, failed to procure a conviction. Mr. Brewster, the late Attorney-General, conducted the prosecution in person. The trial commenced on Saturday morning, and at eight in the evening the jury retired to consider their verdict; but just before midnight, it was intimated that there was no prospect of their agreeing, so the judge (Jackson) ordered them to be locked up until Monday morning. The jury were subsequently discharged; some papers say they acted under fear of Ribbon intimidation.

CO. TYRONE ASSIZES—JURY-PACKING.—A private letter, received from Omagh, assures us as a positive fact, that the panel prepared for the ensuing Tyrone Assizes, at which several Catholics are to be tried on serious charges, and the nature of which has already been publicly prejudged in meetings of Orangemen, consists of 143 names; and amongst all these there is but the name of one Catholic!!! When such a decided step as this is taken by a public official—to prepare such a Jury List, for the trial of cases in which there is unfortunately mixed up, not only a great deal of party feeling, but every effort employed to excite religious rancour—and that, too, against the accused—it is absolutely necessary to be plain spoken, and to say to the official who has prepared that Jury List that he must mend his hand. It is not for us to inquire how it has happened that there should be on a List of Jurors 142 of one religion, and only one Catholic in the midst of the array. We presume it was accident—a strange accident to be sure—an accident like that of the loss of the sixty jurors in the case of the Queen v. O'Connell and others—but all an accident that requires to be amended, thoroughly and completely, before it can be said that the Catholics have a chance, or even the semblance of the shadow of a chance of a fair trial at the Omagh Assizes.—*Telegraph*.

IRISH SCULPTURE AND THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—Among the varied products of man's brain and hand is the department of plastic art, destined to grace the French Exhibition, not one, we are certain, will excite more universal admiration than the group which this day leaves Dublin for Paris, contributed by Hogan, our distinguished countryman. Hogan's genius has achieved a marvellous triumph in this noble work of art. It is one which fully proves how eminently he deserves to be named the most distinguished living artist of Great Britain and Ireland. Seated in an antique chair, we behold a beautiful young woman—a form so superb and majestic beauty. Her noble head is diademed with the ancient crown, from beneath which luxuriant tresses fall. One arm is flung over the Irish harp, the hand holding a laurel wreath, emblem of victory, while the other hand slightly elevated allows the hand to rest upon the head of a child who stand by her knee. Upon the girl's which confines the drapery at the waist, is engraved in gold letters the legend ERIN, A.D., MXXIV. The female figure is Hibernia. The child represents the future King and Hero, Brian Boru, at the age when enthusiasm first awakens in natures destined to be great.—The date points prophetically to the era of his future glory, and his heroic death, for which the genius of his country, with her hand laid upon his head, seems to consecrate him. The accessories to the group are all strictly historical. The harp is modelled from the ancient harp of King Brian, existing in Trinity College, and bears the inscription of the original—

"Ego sum Regina Citharam,
Et sum Cithara Brian Boru."

The sword and diadem are likewise copied from the ancient swords and antique golden Irish Crown in the possession of the Royal Irish Academy. Hogan is distinguished above all our native artists by the fervor with which he has devoted his genius to the spiritual Irish subjects. Patriotism seems to arouse the spiritual, impetuous force of his nature to its grandest efforts.