THE WEEKLY MAIL

THE SIEGE OF KARS.

To the Editor of the Evening Mail.

SIR,—Observing by your paper of to-day that your letter-bag from Kars was of the 4th of October, I send a letter giving intelligence up to the 10th.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
X. Y. Z.

Buda, Oct. 4.

"My dear ——, I sent you off a hurried letter on this date, giving you a very imperfect account of the overall of the previous day on the Tchorukh. I say, I sent it off, but I have since learned that it was not forwarded from Erzerum for some days, and that it reached Constantinople only a few days before this letter. I mention this because I wished to convey a good deal, which, perhaps, you may prefer the whole story, but I have not patience, and I hasten to state, that Omar Pasha's report will, no doubt, be the most correct and authentic, and he says it will probably be published in full in one of the papers. I have sent off one of your private messengers of the affair going Rome, so mine would be only superfluous.

"Oct. 5.

"I had written thus far yesterday when I was called away. The enemy shows every symptom of taking a final departure, but I never shall feel sure he is gone until I hear of his being safe in Gurieli. Up to yesterday our people report having buried 6,000 alone, and they have not had yet a chance of burying all their dead, and they have not had time to count the wounded, or to find out the number killed. This I can readily believe, as the affair came during the night, and lasted for full eight hours. The Russians carried every day, laden with wounded; some are carried by men and some on horses, for want of carriages. General Bakhmetof, of the Artillery, was killed, and Mouravieff is said to have wept bitterly at his funeral. The General second in command is also said to be killed, and many other superior officers. The Russians showed wonderful courage in standing up to the batteries and breastworks, which was pretty well proved by the numbers lying in the ditches and around the works. The Turks fought more like demons than men, and, I grieve to say, their conduct in many instances was most fiendish. The Karslees, or inhabitants of Kars—a fine race of men, proverbial for their hereditary bravery—were in the very thickest of the fight, greybearded men and young lads alike mingling in the fray. Many of them had imbibed an intense horror of the Russians from the treatment they had formerly experienced from them—their houses robbed, their families illtreated, and every indignity put upon them; their thirst for vengeance, therefore, was great. One man, who shot down a Russian, seeing the blood spirting out, rushed forward, caught the blood in his two hands, and drank it. He then fastened on the body with his teeth, shook it like a dog, and bit pieces out. The troops were equally ferocious, and I fear bayonetted many a wounded man. I rode about doing my best to prevent it, but their blood was up and they were under no control. You saw men walking about with Russians' heads stuck on the ends of their bayonets, and, in short, I cannot describe the whole scene. However, they soon subsided, and became as tractable as ever again. No troops in the world ever fought better. I do not know at what number General Williams puts the two forces in his despatch, as I have not seen it, but I fancy 30,000 Russians must have been in the field, while we had from 7,000 to 9,000 engaged altogether. We sent reinforcements up just at the end, which may have brought the force up to the latter number; but for the most part of the time, I should say 7,000 was the out side number. It is wonderful how little the works were damaged, considering the heavy and continued firing kept up. We have now put them all in order again, for fear of another attack; but I think it probable. Our loss in killed and wounded amounts to between 1,000 and 1,100; many of the latter have since died. We lost a few officers (Turks,) but none of the English officers suffered, strange to say. We have got four Russian officers here, three badly wounded, and one taken prisoner unhurt; about 150 wounded Russians and 50 prisoners, but I do not exactly know the numbers. Our men neither gave nor asked for quarter. The hospitals are quite crowded; for, I am sorry to say, cholera is still very bad, and men are dying every day in numbers. If the Russians go away I fancy Gen. Williams will proceed to Erzeroum, and I am to be left here. Of course, I do not look forward to it with much pleasure, for nothing can be done in the winter, and the cold is intense. The town is half unroofed to supply us with firewood; the Russians have laid waste the whole of the surrounding country, having set fire to every place. Every village is deserted, and the houses pulled down; and in short I know not what the populace will do next year, for there will be no grain of any kind. A great deal, in my opinion, depends on what the result would have been if we had let it, for you know better than I can tell you. This last crowning act of the campaign carries with it more good than at first appears. If Omar Pasha has not been asleep, he must be already near Tiflis, but even if he has from necessity or other causes, delayed his march on that place, he will now have to encounter an army nearer in numerical strength by at least 10,000 men, but most probably more, and from all accounts, in a most dispirited, if not disorganized state. At this very moment, I believe the garrison of Gurieli to consist of not more than 400 or 500 men, and if we had only our artillery horses and a few regiments of cavalry we might have kept the Russian army in check still longer, and have thus considerably facilitated Omar Pasha's movements. Thousands of our horses lie underground, and our artillery is quite crippled.

"Oct. 7.

"We found it impossible to send out a post, for we are surrounded by the Russians. We fancied we saw symptoms of a move, but they are still here. No one knows what Omar Pasha is about. I fear he has not commenced his operations, or Mouravieff would not dare to remain. It may be that he has not yet removed his wounded. Each day he sends off hundreds of carts laden with sick and wounded. We hear reports of another attack. On the strength of it we have made three new redoubts in places where experience has now taught us they be useful. We made all our field magazines on Pedigo's triangular profile, and had no accident; a shell burst on one of them, but did no mischief. There are many acts of individual daring on the 29th, and among them I must mention that some women who volunteered to take water from below to the men engaged on the redoubt; two young girls of 16 and 18 were shot while doing this charitable action. Cholera in Kars is very, to say, making and havoc among us, and we lose a great many men, and officers every day. Our winter has regularly set in, and snow is on the tops of all the mountains.

"All last week seems a change of our being able to send off a post, so I will finish this letter—a very unfinished affair it is, I am afraid. The enemy still remains in sight, and I see no certain sign of a move. Cholera may go at any hour. My latest letters from Erzerum are dated August 18. We are quite fortune for news, and fear our post has fallen into the enemy's hands."

A letter from Constantinople, of the 29th, in the *Constitutionnel* says:—

"A great stir exists at present here. It is said that Omar Pasha has overrun Georgia, that Gen. Jet has taken Tiflis, and that the Russians are in full retreat. Whatever be the truth of the matter, we have received no news from the Danube for some days. The Grand Vizier has left for Shumla, and it is said that Omar Pasha will not be recalled from Georgia, for the reason that he is the only man who can keep the Russians in check. The Turkish troops are in good spirits, and the Russians are said to be in great distress. The Russian fleet is in the Black Sea, and it is said that it will attack Sinope. The Russian fleet is said to be in great distress. The Russian fleet is said to be in great distress. The Russian fleet is said to be in great distress