

EUROPEAN NEWS

Before Sebastopol, July 31.

The firing during the last few days has been on our side far more lively than it has been for some time; this increased firing has, however, a defensive rather than an offensive character. The Russians being our works daily approaching closer to ours, and trying by their single gun practice to annoy us. The orders have accordingly been given to return the fire vigorously. Once again over it becomes necessary to moderate somewhat the ardour of the Russian gunners. This is the second trial, which I hope will not be less successful in ensuring us a little respite, for somehow or other, the loss we suffer is the Russian gun practice, and the better is the Russian gun practice, and the better is the Russian gun practice, and the better is the Russian gun practice...

voice of the thunder, rebuking the discord, and mocking the puny rivalry of man. The rain continued heavily during the night and morning, and to-day the camp is a bed of mud, in parts almost a morass. It is not easy to imagine anything more disagreeable in its aspect than the camp before Sebastopol in its present weather. The look is worst than the reality, for the tents generally resist the wet, and the men are abundantly provided with cloths, coverings, and rations. Viewed from a short distance, the appearance of the great undulating tract over which the allied army is encamped, is nearly that of an immense ploughed field. On grass and there, the numerous flowers of vivid color, which in spring and early summer cheer and enlivened the view, have long since been burnt up by the sun or trodden down by the feet of men and horses. The landscape wears one general brown tint, often deepened by murky and watery clouds. The habitations of the army are of three classes—wooden huts, huts or hovels (dating from last winter, and partly subterranean), and tents. Happy, at least at this season, is the man who possesses a good wooden hut with a plank flooring. Most of the large huts, however, are used as storerooms, or for other general purposes. The walls are of four feet below ground and about as much above it, and are surmounted by a gabled roof, without which, in some of them, a tall chimney could hardly stand upright. These singular dwellings are, as may be supposed, damp and gloomy. They are entered by three or four stout cut in the earth, and usually covered with stones or planks. Here is one of which the entrance is so low that a man of average height must bend double to get in. It is considered rather a good hut, and its owners speak with gratitude, almost with enthusiasm, of the excellent shelter it afforded them in the trying time of last winter. It is eight or nine feet broad, and about twelve in length. At one end a sort of embrasure admits light through the thick wall, composed of mud and shapeless masses of stone. Below the embrasure is the bed, barely raised from the ground; on one side is a small niche in the wall, used as a fire place; the walls are plastered with mud, and the floor is of the same material, and has come all the way from Constantinople, and are adorned with pictures cut from illustrated periodicals, and with numerous pipes, bien culottes—well blackened, that is to say, by the tobacco oil that has soaked through the porous clay. There is actually a chimney-piece—a thick board which serves as a packing case, the rusty nails which are in its edges which supports a buisnet tub, tobacco, and other small comforts. Here is a rough tub used for the inmates' ablutions, until scarcity of water caused the prohibition of such luxuries. Suspended from the homely trestle are a sword, a pouch-belt, waterproof and leather leggings. A pair of tall boots are in one corner, and, hard by the door—the lightest and most easily taken up, with writing materials and sundries. A shelf has been contrived, and holds a few well thumbed volumes. The heavy rain has flowed into the hut through the doorway up to the edge of the bed, the consequence being that the floor resembles a muddy road, in which you slip about and almost sink. A trifle, this to Crimean campers. The roof does not leak, which is more than can be said of many others. One I have described may be taken as a fair specimen of the class of edifices. Transported to England, and exhibited as the dwelling of an Aquilaux or American Indian, it would doubtless excite surprise and admiration, and would excite wonder that any man should voluntarily inhabit such a place. One of the greatest curses of the camp at the present moment is the thimble of blood. It is really an Egyptian plague. In every tent and hut they swarm in myriads. From mosquitoes and flies were tolerably free; there are no bugs—at least I have neither seen nor heard of any. Probably bedsteads are not sufficiently numerous here to encourage the pest, but the soldier and the tent fly are not infrequently seen. We are thus afflicted by the absence of such irritating vermin; and we try to be resigned, but we certainly cannot be thankful under the fly infliction. The Crimean fly is the most daring and aggressive animal of its size that it has ever been my lot to encounter. It bores everything in its quarters, bites you, and will not be repelled. Its courage is not actively enlivened. It is the Zouave of the fly family, dashes into the camp you rise to your lips, and defies the musket at the end of your fork. War with it is not to be thought of. Kill a thousand, and you shall have a million in their stead. Whatever food is exposed upon the table, sugar, meat, bread, is in an instant black with flies. The camp resembles a thimble of blood on the ground. A cargo of "Katak" was unloaded upon a vessel just now at Balaclava would find a market at an exorbitant price. We could paper our huts and tents with them, and still despair of exterminating our tormentors.

an attack on the Malakoff. One of these batteries is to consist, I am assured, of 28 mortars; there are two smaller ones of six or eight pieces. As soon as all are complete, it appears the opinion of the French that the Malakoff will again be assailed.—These say that their approaches are now brought to within about a hundred metres (110 or 115 yards) of the enemy's position and that the engineers can go no further.—The distance appears to be, and probably is rather greater than that. On the 31st of July the 30th Regiment and 3rd Buffs were reviewed by General Markham. The Duke of Newcastle is in camp, quartered in General Beninck's tent. Aug. 1. There has been a good deal of firing these last two nights. The night before last the Russians made a sortie, but were driven back. They carried away five yards of the chevaux de frise on the Woronzoff road.—Their reserves were very strong. It is thought they desire to distract our attention from the point they really mean to assail, which some suppose to be the Cemetery. Reports of an approaching attack on the Malakoff, for which various dates are conjectured. H. M. S. Vesuvius, Gulf of Azoff, July 15. Sir.—The day closed my last report to you, the Beagle, Lieut. Hewett, was detached to Berdiansk. Lieutenant Hewett rejoined me yesterday, and reports that he has seen the Russian gunners, the same evening, landed under cover of his vessel's guns, and destroyed an extensive collection of fish stores and two large granaries all of corn. On the 17th of July, in consequence of information received of extensive depots of corn and forage existing at a town called Glogra, upon the Asiatic coast, near Gheisk I proceeded there with the squadron, accompanied by the French steamers Milan and Montette. The Vesuvius and Swallow were obliged to anchor some distance off shore; I therefore accompanied Rowley Lambert (her Majesty's ship Carlew,) with the gun-boats, named in the margin, to reconnoitre in force, and, if an opportunity occurred, to destroy any stores of provisions he was to do so. Commander Lambert found Glogra an insignificant neighbourhood, with agriculture, and no appearance of corn or forage; it is therefore very properly confined his operations to destroying upon Glogra, some very extensive corn and fish stores, but spared the town. The skill with which this service was executed in the face of large bodies of cavalry reflects no small credit upon Commander Lambert, and he speaks most highly of the able assistance rendered him by the French officers and men under Captains De Centre and Tallenande. From Glogra I next proceeded to the Crooked Spit, in the Gulf of Azoff, the French squadron parting company to harass the enemy in the neighbourhood of Kamisheva and Obiotehna. The squadron reached the Crooked Spit the same day (July 18) and I immediately ordered Commander Frederick Craufurd, in the Swallow, supported by the gunboats Grinder, Boxer, and Cracker, and the boats of her Majesty's ships Vesuvius, Curlew, and Fancy, under Lieutenant Grylls, Rowley and Sullivan, to proceed and clear the spit of the cavalry and Cossacks of the enemy; the satisfaction of seeing a few hundred establishments situated upon it. Commander Craufurd executed this service with great vigour, and his report I have the honour to enclose. The extraordinary quantity of nets and stores of fish, and the scale of the works destroyed, fully confirm the statements made by the men of the boats, that their occupation consisted in supplying food to the army in the Crimea, everything going to Simpheropol by the great Northern road along the steps. While this service was being executed, I recomitted the mouth of the river Miou, 16 miles west of Taganrog, to her Majesty's ship Jasper, Lieutenant J. S. Hudson. The shallow nature of the coast would not allow us to approach within a mile and three quarters of what in the chart is marked as Fort Temonos. The fortification was an earthwork of some extent, and ditched, but not pierced for guns. It was evidently of an old date, and, as I could see no one within it, I again returned to the same place, accompanied by the boats of her Majesty's ships Vesuvius and Curlew, and her Majesty's gunvessels Cracker, and Jasper. Cavalry, in large bodies, armed for the most part with carbines or rifles, were evidently much harassed by riding upon supposed points of attack; and when we got to Fort Temonos, and the usual Cossack picket had been driven off, I and Commander Lambert proceeded at once with the light boats into the river. When there, and immediately under Fort Temonos, which stands upon a steep escarp of 80 feet, we found ourselves looked down upon by a large body of both horse and foot, lining the ditch and parapet of the work. Landing on the opposite bank, at a good rifle-shot distance, our boat's crew under Lieutenant Rowley was sent to destroy a collection of launches and a fishery, while a careful and steady fire of Minie rifles kept the Russians from advancing upon us. Assuring ourselves of the non-existence of any object worth hazard, so small a force any farther, we returned to vessels, passing within a pistol-shot of the Russian ambuscade. The cool steadiness of the officers and men in the gigs, together with the wonderful precision of the fire from the covering vessels, distant as they were, doubtless kept the enemy in check and prevented serious consequences. To Commander Lambert, Lieuts. Grylls and Rowley, and Mr. Tobutean (mate), who were in the gigs, as well as to Lieuts. Marratt, Townshend, and Hudson, who commanded the gunvessels my best thanks are due. The gig of the Grinder, under Lieut. Hamilton, had a narrow escape the same day from a similar ambuscade, at a place called Kirpe, 10 miles east of Marioupol, the very proper humanity of Lieut. Hamilton in not firing into an open defenceless town, as it appeared to him, having nearly entailed the loss of a boat's crew when he attempted to land and destroy a corn store. A heavy fire of musketry at half pistol shot providentially injured no one, and Lieut. Hamilton appears to have skillfully escaped. The 19th of July I reconnoitred Taganrog in the Jasper gunboat. A new battery was being constructed upon the heights near the hospital, but although two shots were thrown into it, it did not reply. Every part of the town showed signs of the injuries it had received when we visited it under the late Capt. Edmund Lyons, of the Miranda. The long series of govern-

ment stores burnt by the allied flotilla had not been repaired, and the only sign of any communication being now held by water with the Don was one large barge upon the beach. To put a stop, however, to all traffic of this nature, and to harass the enemy in this neighborhood, I have ordered Commander Craufurd to remain in the Gulf of Azoff with two gun vessels under his orders. That the squadron has not been idle I trust this report will show; and, without entering more into details than I have done, I can assure you, Sir, that from Genitchi to Taganrog, and thence round to Kamisheva, we have kept the coast in a state of constant alarm and their troops incessantly moving. The good service done by the gunboats in this way has been very great. The total amount of provisions, corn, fisheries, forage, and boats destroyed has been something enormous. Nothing can exceed the zeal and activity of the officers or good conduct of the men constituting this squadron, and constant work does not, I am happy to say, appear as yet to impair their health. I have, &c., SHEARER OSBORN, Commander and Senior Officer. Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G. C. B. &c.

THE HARVEST.—The improvement in the weather still continues, and more cheering accounts may be expected from the harvest fields. The "Southern Reporter" says, Wheat, barley, and oats present the most luxuriant appearance all through the two most fertile baronies of Imokilly and Barrymore, and as to the well watched potato, it never presented an appearance of such promise. General O'Donnell, of the United States army, has arrived in Limerick this week from America, on a visit to his cousin, Major-General Sir Charles O'Connell, K. H. It is 38 years since the above veteran was a soldier to his near relative, the late Colonel Henry A. O'Donnell, C. B. (in that title) of this ancient and distinguished Celtic family there happens to be now four general officers in the service of America, Great Britain, Spain, and Austria. PORTUGAL. The Revolucao Setembro which supports the Saldanha administration, had written an article in praise of Spain's reported adhesion to the Western Powers in the war against Russia from which it may be inferred that Portugal will not be unwilling to follow the same policy when urged to do so. The cholera, which had appeared in the Algarves, was reported to be disappearing, with little loss of life. ITALY. ROME, Aug. 4. The alarming pitch to which highway robberies and burglaries have arrived, has induced the government to increase the severity of the penal code towards that class of offenders. The use of the bastinado is to be revived for the especial benefit of pickpockets. A brigand belonging to Lazzarini's celebrated band was shot the other day near Lago, by a detachment of the granatiers, who received a gratification of 100 scudi for their exploit. A question arising out of the war in the East was brought before the civil tribunal a few days ago. Signors Settimio Carpi and Giuseppe Kronek had laid a wager of 50 scudi—the former that general war would not break out in 1854, the latter that it would. The Judge de Sanctis gave sentence against Kronek, and ordered him to pay the bet.—There being no jockey club here details of honour are referable to the civil tribunals. SWITZERLAND. The many sorrows of the Holy Father have just been multiplied by unfavourable and Galican conduct of the Swiss canton of the Grisons. The civil authorities have presumed to demand of the clergy the records of the mixed marriages they have celebrated. The clergy refuse compliance, and the secular authorities take measures to vindicate their authority. The apostolic nuncio appeals to the federal government, the federal government transmits the complaint to the cantonal authorities who declare they owe the Pope's nuncio no explanation on the subject, but that the only bishop entitled to represent the clergy of the Grisons to the temporal government is the bishop of the diocese, with whom they are ready to settle the matter. The federal government has transmitted this reply to the nuncio, declaring that it quite agrees with the cantonal government as to the rights of the case. INTERESTING FRENCH LETTER. The Paris newspaper, Le Presse, has the following interesting letter from the Crimea: "We are but slowly advancing towards Malakoff, but as rapidly as it is possible to do when you think of the enemy's vigorous defence, and of the hard rocky nature of the ground. On the 17th the engineers were at 240 metres from the works, and at about 40 metres from the ambulances. Spite of this short distance, we are more than 600 metres from the ambulances. You will see why. They found us, as I said, but the shortness of the distance forced them to discharge them at an angle of 64 to 70 degrees, with a very low loading. The consequence is, that they make little noise, and the shell from a certain height falls perpendicularly, and in a zig-zag line, like those fire-works that are called serpents. Not being prepared, one has no time to cry 'mind the shell' (Garde la bombe!) Under this shower of hand grenades, a hurricane of bullets and canister shot, so soon as one shows the tip of one's nose or one's kpi, and you may understand how unhealthy are our trenches. At night one might sleep under one's tente d'abri were it not for shot and shell; the day one might do so too, were it not for sun and flies, which wear out the men more than can be imagined. The fire is, however, violent on both sides. There is no room for anything save an artillery struggle, unless another attack by main force were attempted. The Russians tried a sortie in the night from the 16th to the 17th, but were energetically thrown back. They tried to deploy two battalions in order to resist, but space was wanting for them to manoeuvre in, and bayonets hemmed them on all sides so they were forced to leave the place. Our losses are considerable just now; we lose on an average, 40 men a night. Amongst the last wounded is one of the best officers in the army, the Engineer-commandant Boissoumes, who fell on the 16th; he was hit by a ball on the knee, and it is feared the wound will necessitate amputation. EFFECTS OF A SHELL. A column of white smoke rushing up into the air expands into concentric rings—the follows then heavy, dull report, like the roar of some giant drum, and then comes the shrill scream of the shell as it describes its fatal curve, and descends with prodigious velocity, increasing rapidly every instant till it explodes with the peculiar noise of a blast, just as it reaches the ground. At least it ought to do so—but to-day I watch-

ed the shells one after another, and only two out of three burst properly, though the Russian fuses are bad, but their artillerists are not to be excused when their artillery is unobscured. It was interesting just as the man of pleasure in interesting liked to see the man rage when he was not on board the ship—to look at the shell dropping, and to see our active little Allies scampering away to their cover, and adjusting themselves to the closest possible compasses had gone by them. Any man with moderate confidence and experience may describe round shot at long ranges, if he only sees the guns from which they come discharged. Well, we won't say despicably, but at all events, "evade." But a shell is a diabolical invention, which no one can regard as it approaches without a certain degree of misgiving that a triangular piece of forged iron will be whizzing through his logical economy in the shortest possible space afterwards. If it is sent from a gun it sizes and roars through the air, and sends its fragments before it, the cone of dispersion, which is the next phrase used by the learned militia to imply the direction of the bits of shell (or its contents, when it is a shell of iron, &c.) being in the direction the shell has taken from the gun, and fragments being propelled in all directions of the velocity of the shell at the moment of explosion. If it is discharged from a mortar it whistles gently and delicately, giving a squeak and a roar now and then as it rises to its greatest elevation, and then rushing on downwards with a shrill whistle toward the points aimed at. It is exploded arriving at that point, its fragments are projected all round radially, and are propelled more by the force of the bursting charge. A man behind a bomb or at the side of it, it is just as likely to be hit as the man before it, when it bursts in that way; whereas the pieces from a shell from a gun, in nearly every instance fly forward, so that a person behind or to the side of the cone of dispersion is safe. Unless the shell or bomb bursts in front of men in the air, a very considerable degree of safety may be attained by the man throwing himself flat on the ground, inasmuch as the pieces of a shell which bursts on the earth fly upward from the point where they encounter the maximum of resistance. Of course, if a bomb bursts over a man on the ground, or if a shell explodes in the air, or if a shell explodes in no great safety gained by throwing himself down beyond the consequent reduction of the amount of vertical exposure. This little digression is all apropos of the conduct of our Allies which I have just mentioned, and is made in order to explain the rationale of their proceedings. It is rather an unpleasant reflection whenever one is discussing the rage of a missile, and is in the act of exclaiming, "There is a shell shot; that it may have carried misery and sorrow into some happy household. The smoke clears away—the men get up—they gather around one who moves not, or who is racked with mortal agony—they bear him away—a mere black speck—and a few shovelfuls of mud mark for a little time the resting place of the poor soldier, whose wife or mother or children or sisters are left destitute of all solace save memory and the sympathy of their country." One such little speck I watched to-day, and saw quickly deposited on the ground inside the trench. Who will let the inmates of that desolate cottage in Picardy, or Gascony, or Anjou know of their bereavement? However, I am not another shell, and it does nothing but good to a crowd.

MAILING OF A SAILOR. There is a story that a sailor has volunteered to start from Carousing Bay on the first favorable opportunity, and, single-handed, to approach the ship successively. He asserts that he is in possession of a secret method by which he can move along beneath the surface of the water and breath as easily as if he were in a diving apparatus supplied with air by a pump, and that he can carry with him an explosive machine of sufficient power to drive a hole through the bottom of the largest ship. All this may not be true, as so many other assertions of possessing secret powers of destruction appear to have ended in a few afternoons since a small skiff, fitted at its sides with what appeared a lifeboat apparatus, was carried down by the French towards Carousing Bay, and perhaps this gave some coloring to the truth of the story. Besides the sailor gave a proof on the night of the 19th instant, that at any rate he was clever enough to approach the ship without being discovered, and that he was not a fool. He was standing by a very careful guard being established to mark his coming. As a proof of still further ability, he announced to Her Majesty's ship London, that he would come in the course of that night and chalk up the name of the ship on her side; just above the water mark, do what they liked to prevent him. The challenge was accepted, double sentries were posted, and some volunteers among the officers kept a look-out, but no one was observed to come near, and all on board were convinced that no one had come near the vessel. Daylight, however, showed the letters conspicuously chalked on the side of the ship as the sailor said they would be. It has been suggested that the means by which his feat was accomplished was an atmospheric boat, capable of being guided when sunk beneath the surface of the water, and supplied with a reserve of air enough to last a given time for the support of its adventurous owner. It is stated that he could not have swam along side without being observed. FROM AUSTRALIA. The advices are to the 6th of July, about half a month later than those received by way of England, the Sydney "Empire" of the latest date says: The harvest generally has been a defective one, owing to the partial drought which was some time ago experienced, and a considerable advance in not only flour, but of other necessary articles of consumption, has been the consequence. Considerable cargoes of wheat and flour, however are known to be on their way to the Australian ports. A stream of emigration seems to have at length set in toward New South Wales; and though the increase to our population in some cases had the effect of reducing wages, and has thus caused a depression among some classes of workmen, there is no reason to doubt for the capabilities and resources of the colony for the reception and maintenance of any number, however large, of industrious persons who may come to its shores. The amount of gold received up to the 19th instant, (the first five days of its establishment) was upward of 11,289 ounces; for the week ending to-day the receipt has been above 1359 ounces. The depositors have been chiefly the banks and the bullion brokers. The smallness of the amount yet received is assigned to the determina-