

are obliged to cross. The most experienced gunners, among them the celebrated Schambost, regards this fire as the most formidable of anything at present known in the art of war. It will thus be seen that an assault upon Sebastopol, both on account of the numerous forces which the allied soldiers will have to encounter within its walls, and the terrible artillery upon the ramparts, will be a consummation worthy of a siege in which all the phases of this great struggle have assumed proportions never known before; but it is also one of those grave undertakings which demand the most serious consideration on the part of the Commander-in-Chief.

"After speaking with approval of the decision in the council of war on the 7th November, to postpone the assault as a wise and politic delay, the writer proceeds—

"We have shown that an assault must be a fearful battle, engaged in a contracted space, where the advantages of position, material, freedom of action, control of the artillery, all unite to give to the assaulted party a momentary superiority, and where the assailants must overcome those disadvantages by dint of impetuosity, perseverance and many sacrifices.—Nor is an assault always successful. Witness the first assault at Badajos by the Duke of Wellington, where the flower of the English army was sacrificed in vain. Sometimes four or five successive assaults are required before a place can be captured. Applying these teachings from history to the siege in question, we cannot but see that the place owes to its peculiar position, its combination of advantages, such as the presence of a large fleet, and its immense supply of munitions of war, and more especially to the perfection which has been reached in the practice of artillery, its unexampled means of resistance, which render the contest beneath its walls at once the most difficult and the most memorable in the annals of war. In pointing out the obstacles which have retarded the triumphs of our troops, we do but add to the merits of our brave army, which has already surmounted so many difficulties, and will yet triumph over those which remain, if our national impatience will but grant them the time.

"There is usually a great inferiority in numbers between the besieged and the besiegers; even the most formidable fortress has but a limited garrison; the same troops must repair the works of defence, repulse, in person the attacks, and be ever face to face with the enemy, decimated each day by death, fatigue and disease, their spirits weakened in proportion to their losses; and when the artillery of the enemy has destroyed the walls that protect them, the assailants, with fresh troops at their disposal, and renewing, at will their columns of attack, may calculate at what cost they may become masters of the place. But these, the invariable conditions in all other sieges, exist not in that of Sebastopol. This place cannot be invested, has free communication with the interior, and consequently no limit to its garrison. The troops that come in the morning to recommence the battle are not the same whose ranks have been decimated with shot and shell the night before. As fast as one corps is demoralized, Prince Menschikoff can substitute for it another. The defenders of Sebastopol have to contend neither against superiority of numbers nor discouragement.

"On the day after the battle of Inkermann the European troops encamped before the city amounted to 65,000 at the highest computation. Inclusive of Turks and Egyptians, there may have been 75,000. The column for the assault, which was to have taken place on the 4th ult., numbered 8,000 men. To sustain them there would have been needed two columns each of the same strength. Thus very nearly one-half of their effective force would have been required to attempt a serious assault. But at the signal for the assault neither Liprandi nor Dannenberg would have remained idle. A powerful diversion would have been attempted along the whole line from Balaklava to Inkermann, four leagues in extent. At different points all the forces would have been engaged. In point of fact, it would have been a battle rather than assault, and giving all the advantages of position to the enemy; which hitherto had been against them: Under the deadly fire of grape and with enormous losses, our best troops might have gained, within the walls of Sebastopol advantages, which the least mishap in the grand battle would render unavailing. It would not be enough to triumph under the walls of Sebastopol; to succeed, the victory must extend along the whole line. No prudent general, then, would have thus staked everything upon a single stroke. Of what avail would it have been to enter, at the cost of irreparable sacrifices, a place, which the next day, it would be necessary to defend against a whole army. The strength of Sebastopol lies not in its walls, its dismantled bastions, or the rubbish which barricades, its streets, and which would not long arrest the victorious columns of the allies, but in the head quarters of General Dannenberg. In our judgment, on the day on which the arrival of the corps under the command of Dannenberg raised to the number of 110,000 men, the disposable troops of Prince Menschikoff, the siege of Sebastopol, as such, was at an end, and the campaign of the Crimea began.

"All that the art of siege can do against a place has been done. All the advantages derivable from a consummate science and skill joined with the most brilliant bravery, have been obtained. The work of destruction may be continued, but it is not possible to carry it beyond its present limit. In the state of forwardness of the siege, Sebastopol, reduced to its own resources, could not have held out three days. If it is no longer a siege, but a campaign, that the allied army must undertake in the Crimea, it is also true that time will fight for them. They have, as compared with the army under Dannenberg, all the advantages which the garrison of Sebastopol have had over them. Each day brings new reinforcements,

and ere this, it has, without doubt, once more the superiority in numbers. An autumn of unusual weather, has enabled the Czar, by forced marches, to transport in two weeks 60,000 men more than one hundred leagues. But this army transported thus post-haste, has arrived without food, artillery, munitions of war, or provisions of any description. It bivouacs without shelter, and already that rainy season has commenced which transforms the steppes of that country into so many morasses, and renders them no longer passable to convoys. Competent judges cannot fail to appreciate the ravages which disease and privations must make in this army whose first welcome in the Crimea was the bloody defeat it experienced at Inkermann. Against these soldiers, demoralized by defeat and privations, the allied army, fully provisioned by an innumerable fleet, reinforced by 40,000 fresh troops, full of courage and spirits, and encouraged by three signal victories, is about to take the offensive. In their dispersed ranks they will achieve the capture of Sebastopol."

The Morning Post furnishes a striking description of the way in which the mistaken estimate of Russian power, and of the amount of armament necessary for the prosecution of the war, has been rectified—

"The chief marvel, the grand event of the war so far, is the amazing promptitude, fertility of resource, and lavish abundance, with which England has addressed herself to the instant rectification of that error. With a loss of time incredibly small, transports have been secured, men shipped off, and every means and appliance brought to bear to raise the armament, in every conceivable particular, to the scale of the highest emergency that can arise in the progress of the mighty conflict. True, our army is to winter on the dreary plains and heights of the Crimea; but they will have comforts and alleviations such as no army ever had since wars and fightings began on earth. The appliances of peaceful life are to be furnished to the troops as far as they are applicable, and measures unheard of in military annals are to be employed to facilitate all the arrangements of the camp. A thousand huts are on their way to supplant the tents now in use, and in a day or two a thousand more will follow; and so on till all the men are lodged weather-proof and water-tight. Then in the way of clothing a contract is already completed for forty-four thousand fur cloaks; forty-four thousand fur caps, helmet-shaped; forty-four thousand fur gauntlets; forty-four thousand water-proof capes; forty-four thousand long boots, of cow-hide; forty-four thousand suits of inner-clothing; forty-four thousand pairs of leggings; and ten thousand suits of fur clothing for officers. Every soldier is to have a water-proof sheet in addition to his blanket. In the way of arms and ammunition, the siege-train is to be augmented by a large number of thirteen inch mortars from Gibraltar and Malta; by a large addition of lancaster guns, carrying shells six hundred yards further than has hitherto been possible; and by howitzers of a new description, carrying 10-inch shot five thousand five hundred yards or above three miles. The number of men has been augmented since the battle of Inkermann by 15,000 fresh troops who sailed last month. Probably 10,000 more will sail this month, besides those who are to be drafted from Mediterranean stations. There is no lack of volunteers from the Militia into the Line, and from the young men of the country into the Militia. Some fine recruits are being rapidly drilled to fill up the fearful gaps in the Guards; so that we may hope soon to see those magnificent battalions raised again to their full strength. In the way of provisions, everything that can nourish health and avert disease is to be copiously provided. Contracts are being daily taken for unheard of quantities of preserved meat and provisions of various kinds. Transports will scour the markets of the Mediterranean for sheep and vegetables; while exciseable articles are to be retailed under Government surveillance and no longer left to the extortionate mercy of heartless adventurers. All this is being done by Government; and the surprising part of it is, not that it is done so amply, but so instantly, and with such thorough confidence in the resources of the country. Then, over and above this, must be reckoned the magnificent voluntary and private undertakings now set going. From the highest to the lowest, every class of society is furnishing its quota with an exhilarating generosity. Prince Albert clothes all the Grenadiers in fur. Several noblemen send their yachts laden with all conceivable good things. The Duke of Marlborough subscribes one hundred head of deer. Ladies sell their jewels, and give the produce. Publicans send hogsheads of beer. One firm gives £250 worth of the choicest cigars. Young ladies knit cuffs, mittens and stockings. Whole parishes unite to send out sheets, pillow cases, bandages and handkerchiefs, to the hospitals; while nothing that ingenuity can devise or love provide is wanting to complete the list. But, perhaps, the most remarkable of all is the establishment of a line of rails from the port to the camp. By this road much labor and fatigue will be saved both to horses and men. Messrs. Peto and Brassey, with a large staff of their best men, undertake this unprecedented work on terms which proves their patriotism beyond a doubt. We must not forget the electric telegraph which is to be laid down through all the camp, and right away to the harbor. The aggregate of this is astounding, and speaks volumes for the prosperity of our country, and for the use we have made of our 40 years' peace. While we cannot but regret the war, we cannot but glory that, being in it, we can prosecute it after such a manner.

ENGLISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE CRIMEA.—Within the last few days the subjoined letter has been received by Mr. George Parker, tailor, of Love-lane, Windsor, from his son, a private in the

11th Hussars:—"Simpheropol, Nov. 5.—Dear Parents,—I have no doubt you will be surprised when you read this, to hear where I am, but let a few words suffice. I and a great many more were taken prisoners by the Russians on the 26th of last month in the skirmish of Balaklava. Dear parents, I must thank the Almighty I was taken prisoner as I was, without being wounded in the slightest. I was only hurt a little in the fall from my horse, when it was shot from under me; but that wore off in a few days, and now I am happy to say, I am in as good health as ever I was in my life. I must say that since we have been in the hands of the Russians they have behaved to us like gentlemen in every respect; and we had been treated equally as well as if we had been with our own countrymen. They have even allowed us this very great indulgence of writing home. There is no telling how long we shall remain prisoners; perhaps until the war is ended, and perhaps not; it is quite uncertain, but sooner or later, I hope I shall keep in as good health as I am at present.—Last Christmas day I was at home at dinner with you, but I doubt very much whether I shall be at home this Christmas-day. Dear mother, you had better not write until you hear from me again, which will be the first opportunity. Remember me to all enquiring friends. I will now conclude with my love to you all, and believe me your ever affectionate son, Henry Parker." The letter was addressed to Mrs. Parker, and was the more welcome, inasmuch as the parents of the writer firmly believed their son was slain at Balaklava, in the furious onslaught of the light cavalry.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Very Rev. Dr. Burke, P.P., Clonmel, has forwarded to the Very Rev. Dr. Yore, the sum of £51 contributed in Clonmel by some of the friends and supporters of John O'Connell towards the fund now in course of being made up for that truly upright and honorable gentleman.

An influential meeting has been held for the purpose of originating a steam-packet company in Dundalk, to be called the Dundalk and Midland Steam-packet Company.

Remittances have been sent as first instalments to the Patriotic Fund of £1000 from the county of Kilkenny, £750 from Limerick, £340 from Mayo, and £118 from the little town of Carrick-on-Suir.

PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.—The following agreeable information is condensed from a carefully written agricultural review for the current year, which appeared in the Belfast Mercury of Friday:—"The year 1854 has been one of the most favorable ever recollected in the annals of Irish farming. Not only has vast and highly satisfactory progress been made in the agricultural affairs of the north, but in the south and west equally rapid advances were effected. Industry has superseded indolence, and Tipperary rivals Down as well in relation to its self-exertion as regards its peacefulness. A gentleman who had occasion to visit some rural districts in the vicinity of Athy some months ago called at a snug farmhouse owned by an Ayrshire colonist. In the course of some conversation our friend asked the Scotchman how it was that he had ventured to locate himself amid the wild ones of the south? 'I'm weel satisfied wi' the place,' replied the ex-denizen of the land of Burns; 'I gie' the laborers plenty o' wark an' guid wages. They are a' willing to labor, an' as kindly a set o' folk as could live. As to security o' life and property, I'm just as safe here as though I were in the vicinity of the Doon.' The demand for labor in those parts of the country has not alone done good to the working ranks; others participate in its benefits: and, as we stated some time ago, the small shopkeeper and more extensive merchant find the advantages of the increased circulation of money in the several localities. Many of the native farmers, who were farming tenants on the lands, have been able to purchase the fee simple of their holdings, and now evince the greatest desire for pushing onward. During the last three years the sale of farm stock in the counties of Tipperary and Galway has arisen from £1,440,000 to about £2,000,000 in the one case, and from £1,380,000 to about £1,900,000 in the other. The new blood infused into the ranks of cultivators has given an impulse to the native farmers, and cattle of the finest descriptions are now to be seen in each of these localities. In three different periods the number of cattle and sheep owned by Ireland's agriculturists stood as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Year, Cattle, Sheep. 1841, 1,863,116, 2,106,189. 1851, 2,967,461, 3,122,128. 1853, 3,383,309, 3,142,656.

Not less satisfactory than even these favorable returns are the decrease of pauperism and the almost total absence of agrarian outrage. Ireland is no longer 'the chief difficulty' of the British Minister. With the advent of more prosperous days, which brought with them moderate supplies of those necessities of life to which the southern peasant was so long a stranger, new habits of energy and higher feelings of independence have taken up their abodes beside that peasant's hearth. Already the most remarkable change may be seen in the very appearance of the people, and we may venture to predict that the 10,500,000 acres of soil which comprise the area of Munster and Connaught will, ere many years go about, produce twice the amount of food raised there previous to the unlocking of the lands by the operations of the Encumbered Estates Court. With the high values which have ruled the grain markets for this season, the prices current for cattle and the ample receipts for dairy produce have fully kept pace.—Not even in the days of the later war—viz., 1813 and 1814—did prime cows or sheep sell for higher prices than those to be obtained at present. Butter of prime quality is readily taken at 9s. to 10s. per cwt., and pork brings full prices.—Demand for poultry has increased largely with the great facilities for conveying quantities to distant markets. At present the rapidity and cheapness of transit have opened up the best markets, and vast lots of fowl purchased in the several rural districts of Down and Antrim one day may be found, in 36 or 40 hours afterwards, on sale in the vicinity of Leadenhall street in Her Majesty's city of London. In reviewing the position of Irish farmer, it is very gratifying to observe the great desire evinced for the scientific culture of the soil.—

If those who 'whistle at the plough' have at length enjoyed a share of that prosperity which was largely known to others of the industrial ranks, they have been no less ready to re-invest surplus profits in further extending the latent powers of the soil. Every appliance likely to insure fertility is pressed into action; and we believe the demand for manure is very far beyond that of any season for a long period. 'Certainly, not less interesting than any of those points to which we have alluded is the fact, that between the men who own and the men who till the soil the best feeling continues to exist. Considerable improvements are yet to be effected in many of the relations between landlord and tenant in this country. We hope, however, that ere long that system of open bargaining, which has worked so well for owners and occupiers across the Channel, will be adopted, whenever practicable, in the home of the Celt.'

THE PROSELYTISERS IN A PANIC.—Documents have been forwarded to us which show that one of the most scandalous schemes that ever yet was devised for the degradation of an unfortunate starving people is on the point of being completely abandoned. The time of famine in Ireland was selected for the base purposes of proselytism. Creatures who were starving were offered food, clothing, homes, and occupation if they would abandon the faith of their fathers. Numbers were tempted, and many fell, and many more were made martyrs. The famine martyrs preferred hunger, cold, and a miserable death rather than be hypocrites, and profess an adhesion to that which they in their conscience believe to be a heresy. And so they died, and are now reaping their reward in Heaven. As to those who fell, we have placed before our readers from time to time, in letters from the good priests of Dingle, Achil, Clare, and other parts of Ireland, the record of the sorrow of the perverts for their fall, and their abhorrence of the scandal which they (poor creatures!) in their woeful destitution had given.—A God blessed the earth with a restoration to its abundant harvests, the noxious weeds of proselytism withered away from the face of the land; and whilst Heaven rejoiced over the repentant sinners, the tempters alone grieved—for they saw that their sham was exposed; that their make-believe of a new Reformation was proved to be a delusion; and that there was only one thing effectual it did—put money in the pockets of those to whom Bible-reading is a trade, and Protestantism a profitable profession. And as this delusion became the more apparent, the subscriptions declined; and an appeal was made to bigotry to keep up a staff of 56 ordained missionaries, 321 readers, 150 schoolmasters, and mistresses, with 443 Irish and English teachers; in all 970 persons, perfectly well disposed to live without labor, and play-act Protestantism as long as a penny could be made by it. An appeal was made in June last for the Soupers. It was not responded to; and now another appeal is made, and a new fund is set on foot, which is called 'The Rescue Fund;' and to that fund we grieve to say it, there are the names of two Irish Judges! one of these judges subscribing £20, the other £10. The £20 judge always professed liberality, and propped up proselytism; and the £10 judge was, in his day, the most ardent of 'Liberal Protestants.' There was a time when to accuse the £10-judge of being unfriendly to the Catholics would have been a personal offence. And now, there he is, paying £10 in the hope of prolonging the existence of a scheme that he may believe, because of the intensity of his prejudices, to be good, but which beyond all others ever concocted and carried out, should justly reflect disgrace upon every man who participated in it; for it was from the first, as it is to the last, a plot to purchase souls, to buy consciences, and bribe the miser into a profession of faith which they detest, because it has always appeared to them in the garb of an oppressor. This wretched plot is now exploded. It is seen through; and all the fortunes of all the judges, archbishops, and bishops of the Law Established Church, could not prolong it for five years more in Ireland. The 970 stipendiaries will, despite 'The Rescue Fund,' have to betake themselves to some honest employment.—Dublin Telegraph.

THOMAS D'ARCY M'GEE.—We find the following announcement in the Dublin Freeman's Journal:—"Mr. Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee, who was obliged to withdraw from this country in consequence of the part he took in the proceedings of the Irish Confederation in 1848, and who has been during the intervening period, most actively employed at the head of one of the leading Catholic newspapers of the great republic, is about to visit this country on a mission wholly unconnected with politics. He is coming at the solicitation of the Rev. Dr. O'Brien—who sat on foot the great movement for the establishment of the 'Young Men's Societies'—to assist in forwarding that movement by delivering courses of public lectures to the different societies now established in many of the cities and towns of the empire. The Rev. Dr. O'Brien received the subjoined letter from Mr. M'Gee, from which it appears that the subject selected by him for these lectures is that of 'Catholic Characters.' Limerick, Cork, Dublin, and the great manufacturing and commercial towns of England will be visited in succession:—

"New York, Nov. 3, 1854.  
"Rev. Dear Friend—With certainty (please God) I shall be able to leave here by the middle or end of January. I will divide six weeks, or two months between your societies, and do my utmost to give another impulse to your extraordinary work. It is a movement the most remarkable for many a generation that Ireland has seen, and I should sacrifice much more than a journey across the ocean: can be to aid it in the least.  
"You shall know by New Year's Day, the precise date of my departure. It will not be later than the last of January, nor earlier than the 20th.  
"The necessity for my remaining here yet a little is the mob spirit. If you see the Celt, you can judge of its fury and cowardice. All that we need is a bold front and prudent tongues and papers. After the autumnal and new year elections, the tempest, I expect, will dissipate, no doubt, to gather again and again. Its sudden rise has surprised every one, and actually compelled me to delay my journey. My American usefulness would have been gone forever if I had left at the crisis, and justly too.  
"I shall go in January, with a clean conscience and a mind concentrated on the duty to which you have called me, and which I propose to fulfil by lecturing on 'Catholic Characters' (especially of illustrious laymen), as St. Louis, Columbus, Thomas More (not Moore), O'Connell, &c.  
"With every good wish, yours,  
"T. D. M'Gee."