

that the proposed expedition against Kertch was abandoned by 'order of the Government,' which, we suppose, means orders from Paris and London. The Emperor throughout the war has taken an active part in the plans of the expedition. The telegraph enables the allied generals to communicate their proceedings and intentions in a few hours to Paris and London, and it is by no means improbable that the proposed expedition did not meet with the approbation of the Emperor, in conjunction with his military advisers at home and the English Government, who work the war by the map and communicate moves from Paris (!). General Pélissier, who has now the supreme command of more than 100,000 French troops, has received instructions and plans of operation from Paris, which have been submitted to the English Commander in Chief, and have obtained the approbation of our own military authorities at home. The removal of General Canrobert leaves the field clear of any difficulties which that brave commander might have thrown in the way of new plans of operation (if ever he did so), and which strategical operations might not include the expedition to Kertch. Admiral Bruat reported some time since that the Russians had sunk vessels in the Straits of Yenikafe, and rendered the navigation of those waters almost impossible. Amongst other blunders (adds the Post), we have comparatively hitherto neglected the Sea of Azoff, and taken no means to keep open its difficult passage, or intercept supplies which have been carried to the Crimea by Russian transports. Wanting in plan, purpose, and supreme command, we have gone on, throughout the war, trusting rather to accidents than reckoning on legitimate probabilities."

Relative to the abortive expedition to Kertch, a letter appears in the *Patrie*, expressing the deep disappointment felt by the officers at being recalled by telegraph at the moment when the success of the expedition was certain. It says:—"The disappointment amongst the troops was very great, as every one felt certain of striking a brilliant blow. The Russians were not prepared to oppose us at the place chosen for the landing, and we should not have met with any serious obstacle in gaining possession of Kertch."

CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

There is very little in the progress and aspect of affairs to exhilarate the spirits of the army with hopes of immediate action. The Sarlinians have sent on their advanced guard, but as yet it does not seem as if it was very well known what is to be done with these excellent and soldierlike looking troops. In addition to the fever, some fatal cases of cholera have appeared in camp, especially among the hard drinkers and the young soldiers recently joined, and diarrhoea and dysentery are beginning to show themselves once more. It cannot be from any want of proper food that these diseases arise. They must rather be the result of certain conditions which will always affect multitudes of men crowded together for months in a narrow space of ground and sleeping in close tents as close as they can lie. The army is not only supplied with necessaries, they have "bread" three times a-week; it is brown, but not sour, and when eaten before it becomes stale, it is palatable enough. There are no less than 17 articles included in their ration returns, and among the "luxuries" which have been issued to the men are macaroni, cheese, hams, vermicelli, sausages, peas, vegetables of various sorts, wine, Daffy's elixir, game pies, Welbeck ale, tobacco, &c. In a few days they will receive rations of light porter—two quarts to every three men—instead of their rum, till all in store is finished. The ration of wine was very small—in one division, for instance, it was only the third of a gill per man. Many of these things came from the Crimean Army Fund's stores, and some of the officers adopted the judicious plan of setting up small retail establishments for the distribution of those stores, where necessaries were sold at a loss, and luxuries were disposed of at such an increased price as met the loss on the necessaries. Colonel Seymour, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, took considerable pains in the management of a depot on this principle, and its success answered his best expectations, and fully rewarded his generous exertions. The 10th Hussars and 48th Regiment have received warm clothing also from the Crimean Fund, as they felt cold on arriving here. The hams, sausages, vermicelli, &c., were, I believe, sent from Venice by Lord Westmoreland. Notwithstanding these supplies, disease, as I have said, still clings to us; but the cholera is not by any means prevalent, and the isolated cases which have exhibited themselves, though of a virulent nature, do not present the intense form of the Asiatic cholera. The Sanitary Commissioners have examined the hospitals in front, but, so far as I can hear, they had nothing important to suggest of a practical nature. The soil is saturated with decaying animal matter. I have slept lately in a sunken hut in which a corpse lies buried, with only a few inches of earth between its head and my own. Within a yard and a half of the door of my present abode are the shallow graves of three soldiers, a little earth heaped up loosely over them, mixed with scanty lime, which does not even destroy the rank vegetation that springs out of them. Nearer still is a large mound, supposed to contain the remains of a camel—rather a large supply of noxious gases; and further away, at the distance of about 180 yards, are the graves of the division, where hundreds of bodies lie lightly covered as close as they can pack. In front of the hut are two mounds, about ten feet distant, containing the buried offal of the butchers, and on the left are the remains of more camels, and of God knows what beside, which emits pestilential odors when the sun shines. This is a nice spot to live in, you will say, and yet I believe it is quite as favorably situated as the tents and huts of many hundreds out here. What is done to prevent

the results which, according to all experience, must follow from such a state of things? Simply this—a very small quantity of lime is shaken over the earth which lies upon these remains, and it is a chance whether it is of the least use or not. The Turks resolutely refuse to allow lime to be placed over the graves of their people at Balaklava, and the consequences are already beginning to develop themselves. Among one of the most useful improvements in Balaklava must be reckoned the filling in of the end of the harbor. It had become a horrid swamp, hideous and nauseous, to every sense—where water and land had contended for the master, and at last effected a compromise in the form of the most abominable mud, blended with floating offal from the ships, the debris of drowned animals from the sea and starved animals from the land, decayed vegetables, and slimy nastiness unutterable. Thanks to Admiral Boxer or Colonel Harding, this devil's quagmire has now been covered over with gravel and with stones, and stakes have been driven into the sea so as to form a quay all along the top of the harbor.

SIEGE WORKS.

Nothing can exceed the solidity of our lines; but the cover in the parallels is not so perfect as could be desired, owing to the difficulty of the ground. I have read remarks with respect to the advantages rendered to the enemy by the ravines, but, if they have been considerable to them, they have been incalculably great to us. They are so many covered ways and approaches to our batteries and works, and have saved us a prodigious amount of labor in the early part of the siege, but they fail us in advance of the mounds on which our batteries rest. In this stage of the siege it would be unwise to indicate the position of our new works. Suffice it to say that they are likely to prove very formidable and destructive, and that the French are preparing some "astonishing effects" for their friends on the left. The Cossacks keep aloof from us; now and then they cut off a runaway bullock, and always show they are on the alert for fresh meat. In fact, our cattle have a perverse tendency to run over to the Cossack pickets, and many exciting chases have taken place across the plain after them, to the great delight of our idle officers. Sometimes a shot is fired at the more daring of the Cossacks who descend into the plain, but they generally keep out of range, and their greatest triumph has been to put to flight a few woodcutters on the hills outside Balaklava. The daily drills of the Turkish troops on the plain are suspiciously watched by our friends, and attract a good deal of their attention, and the display of our cavalry the other day drew a large collection of these wild and not very valiant lancers, to the top of the hills to look at the glittering spectacle. Races are, I am glad to say, rather at a discount. They were becoming *de trop*, even though they tended to stabilize the *entente cordiale* between us and any "sporting characters" among the French officers. Cricket has made some faint attempts to establish itself, but the soil of the Crimea is not kindly, and there is quite hard bowling enough from the Russian batteries to satisfy the most enthusiastic bat in the army. The Zouaves have got up a theatre in their camp, and perform an original *pièce de circonstance*, the proceeds being devoted to the aid of the French prisoners in Sebastopol, who are said to be badly off. The principal fun of the piece is derived from the introduction of an English soldier, who is a great admirer of his French comrades, and who converses with the characters of the play through the medium of two phrases, "Bono Francis" and "Donnez moi du Cognac, John-nee." Our lively neighbors have got fast hold of the belief that "the Lord Mayor of London" is coming out to command the English, as a counterpoise to the Emperor's assumption of the command of the French. Perhaps, the origin of the faith in his lordship's military position may be traced to the witticism of an officer at Balaklava, the other day, who, when the Guards would not present arms to Lord Strafford de Redcliffe, an honor which they reserve for the Royal House and for the Field Marshal in command of the army, informed a French officer anxious to know the reason of such a compliment being omitted, that the Guards only presented arms to the Queen and to the Lord Mayor of London. It is said that the Russians force their prisoners to work in their batteries and trenches. We have never done so with their men whom we have taken, but if any prisoner likes to work at Balaklava, he is engaged upon the roads or in the streets, and is paid 1s. a day for his labor. There are, however, very few prisoners and deserters now on our hands, and it is singular that, in the nightly sorties, we very seldom take any Russians. Labor is now abundant. It is afforded to us by all the ragamuffins of Europe and Asia, and ragamuffin labor is generally dear. What can the Eupatorians think of 3s a day—the sun which is given to a hard-working non-commissioned officer, and which is equal to the revenues of one of their own head men?

LIFE IN A RIFLE PIT.

The following is an extract from a letter from the Crimea:—"Within the last week I have been twice in the trenches, both times in the advanced trench, and the rifle pits in front of it, and for the first time. I tried the new Enfield rifle (a smaller bore than the Minie.) They carry beautifully while clean, for about 20 rounds, but then they begin to lead, and do not carry so well. When I first saw our men firing (last Saturday, the 21st) from the rifle pits, they had no idea of range or distance. Two of them were firing at the same place, one with his sight up for 700 yards, the other for 900 yards. I told them it was too much, and with the sight up for 400 I put two shots in succession through the loophole that the Russians were firing at them from. As I sat, about a quarter of an hour afterwards, half asleep in the pit, they

called to me and said that three men were coming down from the batteries towards the town. I told them to elevate for 900 yards. They made them dodge from house to house. But when they got into the street, they thought they were out of our range, and coolly walked arm-in-arm down the middle of the street. I could not quietly stand that; I took the best rifle, put up the sight for 900, and calculating the distance to be about 1000 yards, I fired high. The man on the right dropped like a stone, and the other two rushed into a house. He lay there for some time. They afterwards managed to get him into a house. This shows what the rifles will do when properly laid on. Afterwards I saw two carts laden with powder-boxes going from the town to the batteries, at what I guessed to be one thousand one hundred yards. I took a rifle, and soon caused the drivers to run for the batteries, and leave the carts to come as they could. Our men said I knocked over five or six, but I only feel certain about one. I was sent out to the rifle pits again on Tuesday, the 24th, but the Russians were very shy that day, and gave very few chances. I had a regular duel with a Russian in the nearest rifle pit to us (250 yards). In about half an hour he gave up firing, and as I had put about four shots out of seven through his loophole, I thought I must have hit him. I left a name-sake of mine in my company to watch him. Very soon the Russian (who, by the by, was a splendid shot) fired again, and put the ball right through Private _____'s cap, because he did not bob his head when he saw the smoke. They began to fire 68-pounders at us in the rifle pits from a great gun in the Redan, 700 yards from the pit I was in, and with two men loading rifles for me, I bullied them so much that they were half an hour loading the gun, for I had a very sharp corporal watching the gunners with my telescope, and directly they appeared I fired into the embrasure. As soon as I saw the gun was loaded, I made the men lie down close under the parapet till they fired. The shot came close over our heads, but did no harm. The same thing went on again, but they only fired four shots at us altogether, and did no harm. We lost no men that day, but on Saturday I had three men killed and one wounded of my party by round shot. Two were only a few yards from me, and were cut right in two by a 24-pound shot. I have told you a few incidents of my experience in the trenches, and now I take no notice of shot or shell, except to take the necessary precautions to get out of the way."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE SYNOD OF KILLALOE.—The first Diocesan Synod of Killaloe which has been held for centuries in the ancient episcopal town from which the diocese takes its name, was opened on Monday morning in the beautiful and commodious parochial church, which was thronged by crowds of the faithful from an early hour. The Right Rev. Dr. Vaughan, the Lord Bishop, presided, and all the parish priests of the diocese, with the exception of ten, who were detained by illness or important business in their respective parishes, attended, but the fifty-two parishes which comprise the diocese, were all represented on the occasion.

His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Cashel has been pleased to sanction the appointment of the Rev. Dr. O'Brien, V. G., as Vicar Capitular of this diocese, pending the election of a successor to the late greatly lamented and generally revered Right Rev. Dr. Foran, bishop of Waterford and Lismore.—*Tipperary Free Press.*

The Very Rev. Philip McGauran, P.P., of Templeport, and dean of the diocese of Kilmore, died on Thursday, the 10th instant, at his residence, Springhill, near Bawnboy. The deceased reverend gentleman was in the 94th year of his age, and had been at the time of his death fully fifty-seven years a labourer in the Lord's vineyard.—*Anglo Celt.*

The Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, Bishop of Cloyne, while lately sojourning at Rome, obtained the sanction of the Holy See to the establishment of a chapter in his lordship's diocese, and the Sovereign Pontiff has graciously appointed the Very Rev. Dr. Russell, of Cloyne, to be dean thereof. The selection of Dr. Russell for this dignity will be hailed with delight by his numerous friends and the public as a tribute justly due to his extensive acquirements as a theologian, and to his efficient and conciliatory manner in which he had discharged the duties of vicar-general and administrator of the diocese during the temporary absence of his much revered bishop.—*Cork Examiner.*

MISSION OF THE VERY REV. FATHERS RINOLFI AND VILAS.—The mission was opened on Sunday in the parishes of Kilmally and Kilmannon. His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam was present, and preached a moving and effective sermon in the Irish language to a very numerous congregation. On each day since there were two sermons delivered by the Very Rev. missionaries, as also an Irish sermon delivered by some of the Catholic priests of the neighbourhood. The *Triduum* in honor of the Immaculate Conception, commenced on Tuesday, and closed on Thursday evening. There was an exposition and a solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament each day during the *Triduum*. The crowds in attendance were immense, and some idea may be formed of the number who approach the sacraments, from the fact that almost every day, from an early hour in the morning till late in the evening, both the Rev. Fathers, who conducted the mission, and nearly twenty clergymen from the neighbouring parishes, were employed in the confessional.

MAYNOOTH GRANT.—We have no hesitation in declaring our complete conviction that, so far from entailing the smallest injury on the interests of the Catholic Church, in this country, the separation of Maynooth from all State endowment would be an incalculable advantage to religion; and the source of immense gain to the people of Ireland; and that instead of listening, session after session, and year after year, to a series of the vilest abuse and the most brutal and malignant calumnies on the holiest rights and mysteries of the religion of Christ, on account of this miserable grant; bishops, priests, and people, should, with one mind and one voice, fling back the paltry alms, with utter scorn, defy the brawling bigots, and up for the annihilation of the monster Church Establishment in

Ireland. The reasons that have irresistibly drawn us to this conviction are:—First, that the College of Maynooth would not suffer by the loss of the government grant; Secondly, that the downfall of the bloated Protestant Establishment, with many other blessings, should soon follow the removal of the grant. The question then arises—Where will Maynooth find a substitute for the State grant? We answer—In the generosity of Catholic Ireland. We have no fears on that score. Let the bishops but direct their priests to make an annual appeal to their flocks, and our life on it they will meet with a cheerful and overflowing response. The Catholics of Ireland contribute over a quarter of a million pounds every year to support their clergy, and will they stop at a few for the education of their priesthood? We have not the smallest hesitation in saying, that if the people of Ireland were asked whether they would rather undertake the support of Maynooth than continue to accept such a miserable dole from government, with all the filth and aspersions that accompany it, they would declare at once that they would not have the name of such a beggarly sum, in lieu of the millions forced out of their pockets for the support of the Protestant Church; but that they would rather reject the former, that they might go with clean hands to the task of uprooting the latter.—*Tipperary Leader.*

ESKER AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, ATHEMRY, COUNTY GALWAY.—The Lords of the Treasury, at the recommendation of His Excellency the Right Hon. the Earl of Carisle, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, have given to the Very Rev. Doctor Smyth, a liberal grant towards the support of his agricultural establishment.

Daniel Corbett, Esq., of Cork, the originator of the Cork Exhibition, died suddenly in that city on Sunday 20th ult.

LORD CARLISLE IN CORK.—The Cork Athenæum was formally inaugurated by the Lord Lieutenant on Thursday, 24th ult.

ENCAMPMENT AT THE CURRAGH.—Nothing is yet known relative to the military arrangements at the Curragh beyond the fact of its being intended ultimately to encamp 10,000 men there. No decision has yet been arrived at as to what regiments are to go there. It is supposed that, with a view to instruct other officers in staff duties, there will be a Major-General and a regular staff, (Assistant-Adjutant and Assistant-Quartermaster Generals, with Majors of Brigade under them,) appointed expressly for the camp. There will be huts ready for 5000 men the first week in June, and the others in a few weeks afterwards.

Notices have been issued from the office of the Commanding Royal Engineer in Ireland, requiring proposals for the construction and erection of wooden buildings to accommodate troops at Armagh, Belfast, and Londonderry, in the north; and at Buttevant, Cork, Kinsale, Charles Fort, and Tralee, in the south.

Seven regiments of English militia are told off for service in Ireland, but which they are is unknown.

One man in Limerick, Mr. Hartigan, has within the first five or six months, purchased over 300 horses for the 17th Lancers serving in the Crimea.

The *Nation* has the following on the subject of Mr. Lucas's mission to Rome:—"Mr. Lucas is expected to return to Ireland about the middle of June. We have heard that preparations are already in progress to give our honourable friend a triumphal welcome in his constituency. The statement of the Archbishop of Dublin having left Rome is incorrect. His Grace remains at the Irish College; but it is rumoured that he leaves the Holy City upon Monday. We are not able to acquaint our many correspondents on the subject with the exact results of the mission. They will learn them in good time. Meanwhile, they will observe that it is not likely the Bishop of Meath would have so strongly pronounced his sanction upon the series of meetings about to take place in his diocese, if there existed the least probability that the Holy See intended to interfere with the liberty of priests in political matters."

SMITH O'BRIEN.—The following letter appeared in the *Freeman* of the 16th ult.:

My Dear Gray—Your readers will be eager to know the result of the memorial for the unconditional restoration of Mr. O'Brien to his home and country. There is no positive result as yet; but, I trust, a satisfactory one is now neither doubtful nor distant. On Monday, 14th inst., it was presented to Lord Palmerston by a deputation consisting of Sir Denham Norreys, Col. Dunne, Mr. Butt, Col. Greville, Mr. Fitzstephen French, Mr. Sergeant O'Brien, Mr. Swift, Mr. De Vere, Mr. Meagher, Mr. Maguire, and myself. Mr. Butt read the memorial and he and Sir Denham Norreys were the spokesmen of the Deputation; but all took part in the anxious and prolonged conversation which ensued. It was represented to Lord Palmerston that the memorial was signed by a number of members of Parliament totally unprecedented; that they belonged to all parties; that they included many men of the greatest mark in the House; many men who had held office in former governments; and the representatives of the most important constituencies in the three kingdoms. He was reminded that a memorial to the same effect has been signed by upwards of a thousand Deputy Lieutenants, Magistrates, Grant Jurors, Clergymen, Aldermen, Town Councillors, and Poor Law Guardians in Ireland. That in the Parliament of Canada, a country which Mr. O'Brien has never visited, nearly half the entire House voted for an address to the Queen praying a full and free pardon; that in Van Dieman's Land, previous to his departure, the most respectable Colonists, without distinction of creed or nation, and headed by the Speaker of the Legislative Council, presented him an address of congratulation; that in Melbourne a large number of the Colonists, headed by some of the most influential members of the Council, entertained him at a public banquet on the same occasion; that in France, and Belgium he had excited similar respect and enthusiasm; and that a frank assent to the prayer of the memorial would undoubtedly be a most popular act not only in Ireland but in the most distant countries. His Lordship was also reminded that though Mr. John Martin and Mr. Kevin O'Doherty were not named in the memorial, the deputation took for granted that as they had been allowed to come to Europe on the same conditions as Mr. O'Brien, they would share the further grace which the memorialists now sought to have extended on him. To avoid any mistake, I will not attempt to report on the despatches Lord Palmerston's reply. Enough that he needed to consult his colleagues before a definite or final answer could be given; and that the conviction of the entire deputation is, that when it comes, it will be a favourable one. In a week I trust we shall have it. C. GAVAN DUFFY.