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DIARY OF THE SIEGE.

(From Correspondents of London Journals.)

The last telegraphic intelligence from the Crimea realizes the sanguine expectations which we had entertained of the victorious progress of the allied forces both in the Sea of Azoff and in the lines before Sebastopol. On the 3rd, 5th, and 6th of June the squadron commanded by Captain Lyons, of the steam corvette *Miranda*, and by Captain De Seidaiges, of the French navy, directed its formidable operations with complete success against the important towns of Taganrog, Marioupol, and Gheisk, in the Sea of Azoff. The two former places are well known as the chief outposts of that part of Russia; the latter is a smaller port on the opposite shore of the Gulf of Taganrog, lying to the south-west of the old Turkish fort of Azoff. At all these places immense supplies of stores and provisions belonging to the enemy appear to have been found and destroyed, and we are satisfied that no military operation could have produced greater effect on the Russians as a people than this sudden and irresistible visitation of the naval forces of the allies. The fate of an army and the maintenance of a struggle like that which is going on before Sebastopol are but imperfectly known or comprehended by the bulk of the Russian nation, but the destruction of the Imperial magazines at such places as Taganrog, Berdiansk, and Marioupol will be known to every trader who frequents the fairs of Nishni Novogorod; it will spread the terror of the British navy beyond the confines of Europe, and it will show the population of Russia that, even in the inland waters of the Sea of Azoff, the Imperial Government has not the means of saving its own property from destruction. It is evident from the scanty array of troops met with on these coasts, and the total want of adequate defence, that the available resources of the empire have been thrown upon the northern and western frontiers, for while the shores of the Baltic are bristling with troops and fortifications, the towns on the Sea of Azoff were deliberately left to their fate. The attack on Taganrog must have been made by the gunboats and boats of the squadron, for the roads are so shallow that ships even of moderate draught cannot approach within several miles of the shore. The town stands on a lofty promontory, overlooking the coast of the Sea of Azoff to the mouth of the Don, and crowned by a citadel on the heights. As it is said to have been occupied by 3,500 men, we can hardly suppose that our forces landed or captured the place; but, as the greater part of these Russian towns and their storehouses are built of wood, they are liable to be destroyed with great rapidity from the sea. No doubt, we shall be told by those who in this contest reserve their sympathies for the sufferings of our adversaries that the destruction of these places is a painful act of rigor, but our object is to terminate the war, by rendering it intolerable to the people of Russia, and by depriving the Russian Government of the means of carrying it on; and we cannot profess to feel regret that the calamities of war which Russia has so often and so wantonly inflicted upon other nations, and which she has rekindled and prolonged upon the present occasion, should fall heavily upon her own subjects and her own resources. If but six weeks ago Prince Gortschakoff had assented to the limitation of the naval power of Russia, in pursuance of her own engagement, Taganrog, Berdiansk, and Kertch would still have been flourishing cities, and the allied squadrons would not have discovered that the vulnerable heel of the Russian empire is to be reached by the Straits of Yenikale.

Yet even these highly important achievements of the fleet subside into secondary importance when compared with the results of the last operations against Sebastopol itself. A former telegraphic message had already apprised us that the bombardment of the place recommenced for the third time on the 6th June, and it appears to have been sustained with great spirit for 36 hours. On the two previous occasions—the 17th of October and the 10th of April—it had been remarked that great effect was produced at the commencement of the operation, but that long before its termination the Russians found means to repair their works, and even to re-arm them with fresh guns. To surmount this impediment, and to take advantage of the results of the bombardment at the earliest possible moment, the French columns which occupied the advanced work in front of the Mamelon were ordered, at half-past 6 o'clock on the evening of the 7th, to attack that position. Such a movement, made at that hour, and by day-light, against a work which had been powerfully fortified and armed by the Russians, proves that the guns in position had been silenced, and that the defence of the hill rested with the troops whom General Ostensacken had been able to collect on that point. The attack of the French was extremely brilliant, and the operation appears to have been short as well as

decisive. Within an hour the Mamelon was in the possession of our gallant allies, who pursued the Russians to the works of the White Tower, some 600 yards in the rear. The language of the despatch does not clearly explain whether the expression "White Works," used by Lord Raglan, applies to the Malakoff Tower or to the earthworks beyond it; but there is reason to believe that the tower itself had been destroyed in great part by the previous bombardment, and that the most important part of the position has been taken and is held by the French. Having carried the Mamelon, however, General Pelissier expressly states that the French pushed forward until they reached and occupied two redoubts resting upon the Careening Harbor. This was one of the most important results of the day, for it completes the investment of the south side of Sebastopol, and brings the works of the besiegers to the sea within the harbor, thereby enabling them to complete the destruction of the Russian ships, and to command the passage of the great harbor. For the first time since the commencement of the siege, a large body of Russian prisoners, 400 in number, and the whole Russian artillery on the Mamelon, were captured—a fact which, perhaps, proves more forcibly than all that is yet known to us the glorious and decisive character of the engagement. Meanwhile, the British troops on the left were not less vigorously and successfully employed. They forced their way with the utmost gallantry and effected a lodgment in the position termed the Quarries, between Chapman's Battery and the Ovens, on the slope of the ravine towards the Inner Harbor, and this was one of the Russian outworks which had impeded, by a galling fire, the advance of our own approaches.—*Times, June 11th.*

In order to form a correct notion of the operations which were conducted with so much vigor and success by the allied forces on the 7th June, against the Russian works at Sebastopol, it is desirable to refer to the description of the works as contained in the most authentic publications which have appeared in this country. Every one is aware, from the numerous maps and plans now in circulation, that the ground before Sebastopol is intersected by ravines descending to the sea, these ravines being divided from each other by ridges, upon which both the Russian works and the principal batteries of the besieging armies are erected. The ravine furthest to the north-east, and on the extreme right of our position, in front of what is now called the Inkermann Attack, is that descending to the Careening Harbor. It was at one time intended by the allies to take possession of the whole of the north ridge down to the Careening Harbor, but the Russians crossed the ravine with great determination at that same juncture and established two works on the lower slope of it—one at 800 and the other at 400 yards from the second parallel.—These redoubts must now have fallen into our possession, for General Pelissier states in his despatch of the 9th of June, that the enemy had completely abandoned the right shore of the Careening Bay.—The importance of this position, both for the purpose of commanding the ships in the port and of intercepting the entrance to the town, has already been pointed out.

The next ridge is that on which the Malakoff Tower stands, and opposite to it, at a distance of about a mile and a half, the Victoria Redoubt has been erected by the allies. The Victoria Attack, carried on by the French, is directed from this point against the Tower and the works about it. Major Biddulph states, in speaking of this attack, that "though the last commenced, it is destined to become the most important." Major Chapman had anticipated its importance last December, but we are only now in possession of some of the results of this work. Descending nearer to the Tower, and about 500 yards in front of it, is the Mamelon, which is described as commanding the Tower itself, by which all the other works of this part of Sebastopol are commanded. The conquest of this hill is the great and decisive result of the brilliant but sanguinary contest of the 7th June; its occupation by the French destroys the Russian line of outworks, and gives a degree of certainty never obtained before to the operations directed against this essential portion of the place. The Malakoff Tower itself, being one of the few works in masonry on the land side of Sebastopol, was ruined by the bombardment long ago; but it is now surrounded by a very high semicircular parapet of earth, pierced with 12 embrasures and surrounded by a ditch. From the Tower to the Careening Bay there runs a long line of parapet, broken at half-way by a battery of 16 guns on two faces, and then flanking the curtain between this point and the Tower. Another battery of 12 embrasures on the hill above Careening Bay is connected with this work by a further parapet, which extends to the sea. We apprehend that the works

taken on the 7th of June are outside this line, but that this line must be seriously menaced by the position from which we are now enabled to attack it.

The Redan is separated from the Malakoff Tower by what is termed the Middle Ravine, and stands upon the ridge between the Woronzoff Ravine and this Middle Ravine. On this ridge also stands our Crown Battery, fronting the apex of the Redan, which was further defended by *abattis* in front, and by a strong post of Rifles occupying an abandoned stone quarry in front of the work. This is the post which was carried by the British forces on the 7th of June, and it will be seen from this description that the several attacks of the besieging armies are advancing *pari passu* on parallel lines. The French have carried the outworks of the Tower, and the English the quarry in front of the Redan. But, although these operations are distinct, they all help one another, and are essential to the success of the common enterprise. The British works on the left of the Right Attack cannot advance so rapidly as those on either extremity of the lines, partly because the ground in front of Chapman's Batteries falls abruptly away, and more especially because the Russian works against which our engineers are operating are commanded by other works on the flank and in the rear. To take the Redan would be unprofitable until we know that we shall not be driven out of it by the guns of the batteries about the Malakoff Tower.

Sebastopol is not so much a fortress, for that term can even now scarcely be applied to it, as a town defended by a chain of forts and field fortifications, most of which have been erected by the marvellous industry and energy of the Russians since the commencement of the siege, upon principles admirably adapted to the peculiar configuration of the soil.—Thus Major Biddulph observes, in his valuable remarks, that "they have, in fact, produced the most perfect specimen of field fortification possible, particularly since the outwork on the Mamelon has been constructed of enormous strength, and not the less so for its being simply formed of earth." It is highly satisfactory to know that the very outwork here mentioned is actually in the possession of the French, and that its guns are probably already turned against the enemy. The importance of the works already taken is proved by the fact, that they mounted no less than 63 guns. To this Russian chain of forts and field fortifications the allied armies oppose another chain of batteries and lines of approach, now extending in one unbroken line from the Quarantine Harbor, outside the Bay of Sebastopol, to the Careening Harbor within it. This chain will daily enclose the garrison within a narrow verge, and, in spite of that skill and courage which have undoubtedly been shown in the defence of the place, General Ostensacken cannot anticipate that its fate will be permanently averted. The Allied Armies have acquired a hold upon the shores of the Crimea from which Russia cannot dislodge them. The operations in the Sea of Azoff and the stoppage of the supplies of the army cannot be unknown to those who command in Sebastopol. No attempt whatever has been made for many weeks to relieve the place, or even to harass the besieging army; but, on the contrary, the line of the Tchernaya has been abandoned. If these are not signs of weakness and discouragement, we know not what meaning to affix to them, and, although we have no doubt that the Russian officers will do all that can be done for the defence of Sebastopol, they have at present given no other signs of vigor which seem likely to enable them to change the course of the present campaign.—*Times, June 13th.*

DREADFUL STATE OF SEBASTOPOL.—We are not disposed to build on the unauthenticated rumors which have been flying about Sebastopol, of despatches captured at Kertch which contain most lamentable accounts of the ravages of disease among the garrison of Sebastopol. But there are two passages in the communication of our special correspondent that are pregnant with meaning. On the 26th ult., he writes—"The Russians have been burying an unusual number of dead on the north side the last few days. These burial places on that side of the harbor are exposed to our view, and with a good glass not only the recent graves can be distinguished, but also the parties at work excavating or performing the last rites of sepulture." On the 28th he again remarks—"The Russians are still observed to be very busy about the graveyards on the north side of the harbor. At the highest of the graveyards—for the term 'graveyards' is hardly appropriate, as they are not enclosed—as many as seven carts were observed to be standing at one time to-day. Several parties also have been noticed making fresh graves." These interments are not of the soldiers who have fallen in battle, for they are uniformly buried where they fall. Our correspondent, therefore, naturally concludes that the numerous dead carried out to the

"graveyards" on the north of Sebastopol have been, to a great extent, the victims of disease. It is beyond dispute, then, that the garrison are being assailed by sickness and famine from within, at the same time that they are pressed by their human enemies from without; and this pressure from without must now be sensibly felt.—*Daily News.*

INFERNAL MACHINE AT SEBASTOPOL.—A French correspondent writes on the 2nd ult., from before Sebastopol: "Five days ago some soldiers who were retiring from a barricade which they had been attacking dropped upon their knees to take advantage of the inequalities of the ground. One of them in so doing broke a small glass tube. He looked at it and made a sign to his corporal; they searched further and found a series of those tubes filled with some substance of a very pale yellow color. The specimens were carried to the camp, when our engineers examining them found that the substance was a mixture of fulminating powder, phosphorus, and saltpetre. Other soldiers were next sent, and they, following the course of the tubes, found that they led to wooden boxes buried about six inches in the ground. One of these boxes was removed and found to contain flasks of explosive materials. In all forty-four of these boxes were found, all connected by means of tubes."

THE RUSSIAN SHIPPING AT SEBASTOPOL.—General Pelissier's despatch of the 9th ult., illustrates what has been said of the manner in which the capture of the Careening Redoubts affects the Russian shipping. The position in which these vessels have now sought shelter, Artillery Bay, opening from the Great Harbor, and indenting the town of Sebastopol proper, is the last refuge of what remains of the Czar's Black Sea fleet. The nearest French batteries from which it is to be presumed that General Pelissier means to attack it are those of the left attack, near the Cemetery, and opposite the Quarantine Bastion.

APPEARANCE OF CHOLERA IN THE CAMP.

BALAKLAVA, June 2.—Cholera has made its appearance, coming on, not stealthily like a thief in the night, but appearing suddenly and fearfully among us like an irresistible foe as he is. I cannot give you an exact account of the number of deaths that have taken place from it during the last few days, but in and around Balaklava there have been over fifty; in the front they have been comparatively exempt from it. The Grenadier Guards have suffered more than other regiments. On Wednesday, the 30th of May, the disease first showed itself among them, and five men were carried off by it. On Thursday, ten men more; and yesterday, by the afternoon, seven had already died, and it was expected that seven or eight more would not survive the night. Thus, in three days, 30 men in this corps have fallen victims. The duration of the illness was, in many cases, little over an hour. The cholera has shewn itself as inconsistent and unaccountable now as ever. The Coldstreams and Fusiliers, who are within 50 yards of the Grenadiers, have escaped altogether. There does not appear the least reason why this corps should have suffered at all, as they are placed on the very top of the hill; and, certainly, as far as human discernment could foresee, had as good, if not better, chance of escape, than any other regiment. Strangely enough, the Marines and regiments on the heights overlooking the sea have also suffered. The Land Transport Corps, down in the valley, have lost about 12 men. The nephew of Admiral Boxer died yesterday afternoon. The disease has come among us so suddenly and fearfully, that it is at present the grand topic of conversation. It is to be earnestly hoped that the renewal of dry weather will check its ravages, as it did in the attack about a fortnight ago.

The evacuation of Anapa by the Russians completes the series of brilliant successes which have rapidly followed the occupation of the Straits of Yenikale by the allied fleets. To surrender Anapa to the Circassians was to abandon the last result of twenty-five years' incessant warfare, and to relinquish the most important of the Russian stations on the eastern coast of the Euxine. It is the loss not only of a fortress and of a district, but of one of the chief lines of communication with the Trans-Caucasian provinces. We await, however, further particulars on this interesting and auspicious episode, and we again revert to the state of the siege which is the principal event of this heroic drama.

A sad tragedy occurred on the 21st, at the entrance to the Karabelnaia ravine. A body of French troops were marching down to furnish the usual relief to the picket in the ravine. The relief was composed of part of the 2nd battalion of the 25th regiment of the line. On the way Lieut. Driant, of the grenadier company, had occasion to check a soldier, who, being partly intoxicated, was marching very irregularly, and giving expression to angry sentiments in a loud voice. Scarcely had the reprimand been given