

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Storming of Sebastopol.

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, SEP. 10, 1855.

The bombardment, which had been kept up with less vigour than usual during the night of the 7th, broke out at daybreak into a complete fire from end to end of our lines. It burst over every part of the Russian works with the fury of a tornado, sending up clouds of dust and smoke, which were driven into our camp with a cold north wind, blinding the men whose duty called them to the trenches, and filling the air so densely, as to render objects indistinct at a certain distance. As the bombardment commenced, preparations for the assault were made in the camps of the Allies, and numerous regiments were drawn up under arms at dawn. It had been considered proper to forward the men in detachments, and not in columns, so as to keep the enemy, as much as possible, ignorant of our intentions. The storming was entrusted to the Second and Light Divisions, portions of which were to form immediate supports, whilst the rear was to be kept by the Fourth Division, the Guards and Highlanders, and the Third Division. Sir William Codrington had the general command of the storming, and was supported by General Markham. There was no visible movement on the part of the Russians, and the northern camps, as well as the bridge, were unusually quiet. They seemed passively to wait for the cessation of our fire, answering but at intervals only, from their guns, and either unable or unwilling to reply. At half-past nine, all the regiments of the Second and Light Divisions, as well as the generals and staff, had made their way into the trenches; Gen. Codrington taking up his position in the fifth parallel, whilst General Markham had his in a pit called Egerton's Pit, in the third parallel. The stormers consisted of portions of the 30th, 41st, 55th, and 62d, from the Second Division; of the 90th, 97th, 23d, and 88th, from the Light Division. The latter parties were told off from the 3d Buffs and 97th Regiment. The supports of these regiments, as well as other regiments of the same division, were in reserve in the fourth and third parallels ready for action. At the foot of the Malakhoff had also been massed stormers from the French First Division, consisting of 400 men of the 1st Zouaves and 450 men of the 1st Chasseurs de Vincennes, under the command of Gen. McMahon. The fifth Division furnished stormers for the Little Redan and the works on the proper left of the Malakhoff. The Second Division kept the trenches, whilst the Fourth was in reserve. Gen. Pelissier and his staff rode through the British camp on the way to Inkermann at half-past eleven, passing the Guards and Highlanders as they moved up the Woronzoff-road to the trenches. Gen. Simpson took up a position near the Picket-house on the Woronzoff-road. There were few spectators on the hills, on account of precautions taken by Gen. Simpson to stop all egress from Bala Clava. But the few who were fortunate enough in gaining admittance to Cathcart-hill were blinded by the dust and saw nothing, and the only eye-witnesses of the storm were those who took part in it, or those who formed the supports of the stormers. At a few minutes before noon, the bombardment was urged to a terrific blaze of fire, which poured upon the Russians from embrasures purposely kept closed until that moment. At ten minutes past twelve the signal for the storming of the Malakhoff was given by the explosion of two mines close to the counterscarp, and in the confusion caused by the smoke and uproar, the Zouaves and Chasseurs rushed on. They made their way over ground ploughed by the explosion of shells, and full of holes and elevations of jagged and irregular formation. Their speed was scarcely impeded by this obstacle, and they jumped down the ditch, and up the sides of the works without using the scaling-ladders. The Russians, who were completely taken by surprise, were driven out of the redoubt, or killed, or left the French perfect masters of it, the short distance of twenty-five yards, which separated the ditch of the Malakhoff from the parallel, contributing not a little to

the fortunate issue of the storm. In the meanwhile, two other attacks had been almost simultaneously made upon the Russians with far less fortunate results. Gen. Codrington, hearing the signal of the assault on the Malakhoff, after a short pause gave the order to storm the Redan. The latter parties of the 3d and 97th dashed out, and favoured by tolerably even ground raised the abatis, with no sensible obstacle to their progress, and planted their ladders on the salient angle of their work. The stormers less active than they had been, were delayed by their inability to issue from the parallel except by one aperture, and when they succeeded in reaching the scarp of the Redan, the ladder party had already mounted to the assault. The stormers followed, mounting on each side of the salient angle, and fought their way into the Redan, killing the Russians within the first traverse; but, in their eagerness to outstrip each other, the parties on the right pressed across the work to join those on the left, and doing so fell into the concentrated fire of the enemy, whose supports, upwards of 2,000 in number, were rapidly coming up. A hand-to-hand conflict followed, desperate in its nature—the Russians fighting for the hold with the tenacity of bears, and using every sort of missile in addition to their arms. Stones, loose grape, stocks of broken muskets, were hurled in volleys from the summit of the traverses, on our men, whose ammunition began to fail. They in their turn grasped at stones, and hurled them against the Russians; who now, encouraged by the arrival of reinforcements, and the diminution of our men, poured down upon our devoted stormers, and fought with them hand to hand. Many were the despairing efforts that then took place—men clung to men, and the death agony of both was undergone on the same spot. This was too terrible to last. Either our Generals must bring on supports, or the stormers retreat. The former was delayed, and the remnant of our men gave way in disorder from the parapets and embrasures which they had so gallantly stormed. At this time there were several regiments in the 3d, 4th, and 5th parallels, which did not move sufficiently quick, and were not in time to save the relics of the stormers. The Redan was thus won and lost.

The French attack on the little Redan and works upon the Careening Bay were failures for other reasons. The troops moved resolutely on, rapidly crossing a broad space, which lay between them and the Russian redoubts. They were thrown into considerable confusion by rows of holes called *trous a loup*, into which the men stumbled in the darkness caused by dust and smoke; their attack was deprived by this of its firmness, and was repulsed by the enemy. The struggle, however, was maintained doubtfully for a considerable time. The first body of stormers, almost annihilated by the musketry of the Russians, covered the parapets of the works with their bodies; when fresh supports came up, and struggled to gain the summit of the scarp; but at every fresh attempt they fell back discomfited into the ditch, covering the ground with dead and dying. The Russians not only had the advantage of position, but they had been materially assisted in this portion of the attack by the steamers, which fired broadsides upon the Malakhoff and the counterscarps of the Little Redan. The Vladimir—always so ably handled that, when anything daring was done by the Russians, the French said, *c'est du Vladimir*—steamed rapidly up under the very mouths of the French batteries on Mount Sapouné, delivered her broadside, and then majestically steaming round, delivered a second, without eliciting in the confusion any reply from the French. These broadsides committed dreadful havoc, and threw the ranks of the assaulting columns into inextricable confusion. Notwithstanding every adverse circumstance, however, the French maintained their ground at the foot of the scarp and in the ditch of the Little Redan, and Black Batteries, firing resolutely at every Russian who showed himself over the parapet, whilst the Russians on their part were equally quick in returning shot for shot when a Frenchman raised his person more than usual. This part of the fight partook at least of a certain Indian character, the struggle from cover to cover resembling

those of which we have all read in the glowing pages of Cooper. These painful phases of the combined assault proceeded whilst the main attack on the Malakhoff rapidly lost its early characteristics. It is difficult to give such a picture of the work as may furnish an approximate idea of its proportions and aspect. But the description of it will, perhaps, be sufficient to afford some conception of its nature, and characterize the aspect of this as well as the Redan and other forts held by the Russians. The ditch was about fifteen feet deep, and the scarp twenty feet high. The embrasures and platforms were elevated above the level of the work, which was divided into parts by traverses of irregular shape, in which small openings were left for the passage of men. These traverses were mostly quarried works, the galleries of which were supported by double rows of gigantic beams of Norway pine, and the height of earth forming the roof made every vault bomb-proof. The traverses generally measured twelve to fifteen feet in height, and being most irregular in their form, must have rendered complete possession extremely difficult. The Redan was similarly arranged internally; and this peculiarity of construction accounts for the inactivity of the Russians during the last bombardment, the soldiers concealing themselves in their casemates till such time as the heavy fire should cease. It does not appear either that the guards of these works were changed oftener than monthly, for every portion of this quarter bore proofs of permanent occupation; that of the Commander being filled with arm-chairs, pictures, and luxuries; whilst workshops for carpenters and masons were fitted up.

The very security of the soldiers in these strongholds must have increased a chance of surprise, and the instant occupation of the work and destruction of its defenders in a short period are a proof of it. The Russians, however, did not passively allow their enemy to enjoy his new possession. They had no sooner been driven out than they attacked the French with the energy of despair, and the Zouaves and Chasseurs found themselves defenders, instead of assaulters, of the Malakhoff. They fought with all the energy of pride and success, and for a considerable time kept up an unequal struggle against superior numbers. The Russians trusted more to stones and missiles of that nature than to their muskets; and from the summits of the traverses they hurled all kinds of miscellaneous articles, such as stones, beams, buckets, old grape-shot, and muskets. The French, short of ammunition, replied with the same weapons, varying their resistance by rushes at the point of the bayonet. They were giving way, however, before the advancing Russians, discouraged by the intelligence of impending failure at the Redan and Black Works; but, precisely at that critical moment, the supports of the division marched up, and entered the work on all sides. The Imperial Guard, consisting of Grenadiers and Zouaves, swarmed into the Malakhoff and commenced a desperate conflict. Hand to hand amongst the labyrinthine windings of the redoubt, amongst shell holes, broken gabions, and irregular elevations, each side fought and bled. They fell side by side, and in many instances above each other. The ground was strewn with them, so as to be completely invisible. To add to the horror of the moment, the shells from the Redan and steamers fell in numbers upon the portion of the work in possession of the French, and added to the heaviness of their losses. But the Russians were unable to regain the Malakhoff. As the French poured in fresh supports every moment, and brought in field artillery over a hasty bridge into the redoubt, the Russians slowly yielded, and commenced a retreat which ended in a rout. The scene of it was the way leading from the dock-yard to the Malakhoff, a road traced, inside of the second line of defence, to which the Russians trusted as a means of retrieving their losses. A long series of batteries had been erected from the foot of the Malakhoff to the Naval Hospital, part of them bearing upon the Redan and part upon the Malakhoff. A large six-gun battery at the base of the southern front of the hospital had been armed with 68 pounders, and the windows in the ground-floor of the hospital

on the eastern face had been inned, into embrasures from which ships' cannonades played upon the Malakhoff, and the ascent to it. The rapidity of the French movement when the Russians first commenced their retreat, prevented the latter from planting their second line of defence efficiently. The hand-to-hand conflict down the descent did not enable them to kill a foe without destroying a friend; and thus the French passed down from the Malakhoff towards the town until they came to the base of the hill, and on a level with the Dockyard. From that spot they receded, moving to their right, and driving the Russians through the streets of the Karabelnaia suburb; whilst the field artillery and some of the lighter guns left in the Malakhoff were turned against the second line of defence, which it successfully enfiladed. Darkness now intervened, and the Russians, under its cover, withdrew from the works of the Karabelnaia, the Little Redan, and Black Battery.

THE FRENCH LET LOOSE AT THE MALAKHOFF.

The Tartars, Turks, and Eupatoriens were singularly perturbed for such placid people, and thronged every knoll which commanded the smallest view of the place. At 10.45, General Pelissier and his staff went up to the French Observatory on the right. The French trenches were covered with men as close as they could pack, and we could see our men through the breaks in the clouds of dust, which were most irritating, all ready in their trenches. The cannonade languished purposely towards noon; but the Russians, catching sight of the cavalry and troops in front, began to shell Cathcart's hill and the heights, and disturbed the equanimity of some of the spectators by their shells bursting with loud "thuds" right over their heads. A few minutes before 12, the French like a swarm of bees, issued forth from their trenches close to the doomed Malakhoff, swarmed up its face, and were through the embrasure in the twinkling of an eye. They crossed the seven metres of ground which separated them from the enemy at a few bounds—they drifted as lightly and quickly as autumn leaves before the wind, battalion after battalion, into the embrasures, and in a minute or two after the head of the column issued from the ditch, the tricolour was floating over the Korilloff Bastion. The musketry was very feeble at first—indeed, our allies took the Russians quite by surprise, and very few of the latter were in the Malakhoff; but they soon recovered themselves, and from twelve o'clock till past 7 in the evening, the French had to meet and defeat the repeated attempts of the enemy to regain the work and the Little Redan, when, weary of the fearful slaughter of his men, who lay in thousands over the exterior of the works, the Muscovite General, despairing of success, withdrew his exhausted legions, and prepared, with admirable skill, to evacuate the place.

THE BRITISH ATTACK ON THE REDAN.

The attacking columns were not strong enough, and were also too far behind, and the trenches did not afford room for a sufficient number of men. Where we attacked the Redan with two divisions only, a portion of each being virtually in reserve, and not engaged in the affair at all, the French made their assault on the Malakhoff with four divisions of the second corps d'armes, the first and fourth divisions forming the storming columns, and the third and fifth being the support with reserves of 10,000 men. The French had probably not less than 30,000 men in the right attack.

CROSSING OF THE FIRST FOOT IN THE REDAN.

Brigadier Shirley was on board-ship but, as soon as he heard of the assault he resolved to join his brigade, and he accordingly came up to camp that very morning. Col. Unett of the 10th, was the senior officer in Brigadier Shirley's absence; and on him would have devolved the duty of leading the storming column of the Light Division, had the latter not returned. Col. Unett, ignorant of the Brigadier's intention to leave shipboard, had to decide with Col. Windham, who should take precedence in the attack. They tossed, and Col. Unett won. He had it in his power to say, whether he would go first or follow Col. Windham. He looked at the shilling, turned it over, and said, "My choice is made; I'll be the first man into the Redan." But fate willed it otherwise, and he was struck down badly wounded, ere yet he reached the abatis, although he was not leading the column. Scarcely had the men left the fifth parallel, when the guns on the flank of the Redan opened on them as they moved up rapidly to the salient, in which there were of course no cannon, as the nature of such a work does not permit of

their being placed there. In a few seconds was temporarily blinded, earth knocked into his face was obliged to retreat, taken by Lieut-Col. who was next day struck down at Brigadier Van Straub's division on the face, leave the field. Col. tally wounded in the next spoke again. dead. Major Wells spot. Capt. Grove. Many officers and and of the commanding Brigadier. Fyers, Capt. Lev got untouched into scatheless from the rifle balls which works towards the

THE RUSH TO THE LADDERS.

It was a few minutes left the fifth parallel commenced at once, during a pass over about 300 yards, had lost a large part and were deprived of, with the effect. The riflemen advanced their position the reduce the fire of below the re-entrance and coolness of more brilliantly called for. As the my's fire became the abatis without pieces and destroyed men stepped over the wind, the light division salient and projected and came to the 15 feet deep. The purpose placed found to be too there been enough have mattered left behind in the ed men, and of that if one can c by those who were more than six oent. The men into the ditch at side, whence it most without op who were in fr their traverses they saw our n fire upon them

PAIN AND LAMEN-

Lamentable a ble almost to a soldier generally, men, when they by some strange instead of follow on to fall fast, tried to stimulate the contrary, a closing with a sometimes to g find any decent and take to p they are conten cover of any l bred infantry t ridge quite i the 90th march towards the t behind the tra giments had i keeping up a b loads were ju Simultaneous party of the L got inside the salient on the in spite of a more than th 97th, and of t Light Divisio were swept b and by seven Redan, loade them considi lent or apex assault. The Division issu up immediat