

bomb with a prodigious crash, and knocking up a crowd of tiles, timber, stones, and dirt, rushes through the roof and bursts inside—they are down on their faces in a moment, and the bits fly over them, and strike the earth far inland, or dash the water of the harbor into foam. Then the "Roosies" get up and return placidly to their work inside till the next bomb comes dangerously near. If he does not fall inside the building, or is not likely to slip down on them through the roof, the fellows never stir out. When the French discovered the column near the telegraph this morning, they opened from Gringalet on them with round shot, and I saw the earth torn up close to them, but the Russians never turned round from their camp fires. They are assuredly a stolid infantry.

A second communication, by the special correspondent of the *Daily News*, brings the details up to the 22nd ult.:

#### PREPARATION TO EVACUATE THE NORTH SIDE.

Sept. 21.—The belief gains ground that the Russians are preparing to evacuate the north side of the harbor of Sebastopol. The extensive earthworks which have been lately constructed, and others still in course of construction, are regarded as simply intended to cover the retreat, and to protect the rear guard of the army. They are so arranged as to form the means of defence against any sudden assault of the position, whether from the sea or the roadstead, but do not seem to have any character of permanence, nor to be calculated for the bombardment or annoyance of the south side. It is also argued that the enemy could not now gain any military object by holding the heights on the opposite side, commensurate with the labors and difficulties which would be entailed upon the troops by the approaching winter, and the uncertainty respecting the transport of the necessary supplies of provisions, and stores of all kinds. In support of the conviction that the Russians are making preparations to retire, it has been observed that numerous waggons which have come into the north side from the direction of the Mackenzie heights, apparently empty, have returned laden. Carts bringing in gabions have also gone out carrying either grain or provisions. The army encamped beyond Inkermann appears to draw its supplies of food and forage from the stores accumulated in the depots of the Sievernia. Several lines of filled waggons have been noticed leaving Fort Constantine. The canvas town, or Kadikoi, of the north side, is nearly deserted; there are not more than forty or fifty, if so many, wooden sheds left entire. Before the abandonment of the south side, this village presented all the appearance of a bustling, thriving, well ordered little town. It has now the cheerless aspect of a deserted camp. If it be true, as used to be said that this place was occupied by the shopkeepers and civilians who had been compelled to quit Sebastopol, persons depending for their livelihood upon trading with the soldiery, their departure is very significant. The French have been very active in throwing bombs from their new mortar batteries against the working parties, and in harassing the convoys moving along the roads, on the north side. On Wednesday, the 19th ult., a shell thrown from a large 13-inch mortar was seen to explode close to a line of waggons descending along the road below the Star fort. The horses drawing the carts started in all directions, and confusion and alarm were manifestly created along the whole line.

#### SHELLING THE NORTH FORTS.

The principal mortar battery opened by the French is on the west side of the south harbor, in a very advanced position. It is armed with some of the huge mortars of novel construction which arrived in the Crimea about two months ago for our allies. Rockets have also been discharged against the enemy on the opposite side. The Russians have either very few mortars, or have some reason for not using them against us. It is not at all improbable that while they had brought nearly every available mortar to the south side, they were unable to convey any away previous to the capture of the Malakoff, and abandonment of the other fortifications. The cumbersome form and great weight of this species of ordnance, would very probably induce them to convey across the bridge the more portable kinds of artillery in the first instance, and there is very little doubt that the assault took place before they had time to carry many guns even to the other side. The few missiles thrown against the allies since they have occupied the town and arsenal, from the north side, have been chiefly round shot probably discharged from sunk guns.

#### COMBINED ALLIED MOVEMENT.

It is still understood that a combined movement is to take place against the enemy's position on the Mackenzie heights. A direct attack against Baktechi-Serai is spoken of, the approach from the south being made by a route which is kept secret, and which will have the advantage of avoiding the enemy's fortified entrenchments. Troops have been embarking, both yesterday and to-day, at Kamiesch, and it is understood that they are to proceed to Eupatoria. Five French divisions are to leave, it is said, Eupatoria, and to march southward, with the intention of meeting and combining with a corresponding force marching from the south. The only English divisions which have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to move as yet are the first and second, but other divisions expect to receive orders of the same nature. Should the enemy avoid battle, there will be an opportunity in all probability of destroying the principal stores of grain and provisions which have been collected to provide during the ensuing winter for the necessities of the force deemed advisable to be retained in the Crimea. These are said to be stored at Baktechi-Serai. Omer Pacha is also spoken of as likely to assist in this movement. Its execution may have been delayed by the change of weather which has occurred during the last few days.

#### EXPLANATIONS OF GENERAL NIEL.

The French General of Engineers has considerably done for us what our own Commanders-in-Chief was unable or unwilling to do. He has explained the circumstance of the English assault on the memorable 8th of September. What our gallant soldiers had to contend with forms no part of Gen. Simpson's narrative to Lord Palmerston; but we learn it from the despatch of Gen. Niel to the French Minister of War. In this very able statement we find the difference pointed out between the Malakoff and the Redan, which, on the first intelligence of the assault, we described substantially to the same effect. From the height of the Malakoff, consisting of entrenchments thrown up round a strong tower, it could not be swept by shot from within, or from the other defences; whereas the Redan, being lower, and presenting a large square space within its parapet, was completely exposed. Observe what is said by Gen. Niel:—"The English had 200 metres of ground to go over under a terrible fire of grape." This space was presently covered with dead, but these losses could not stop the march of the attacking column, which advanced to the capital of the works. It descended into the ditch, which was about five metres in depth, and, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Russians, it escalated the scarp and took from them the salient of the Redan; but after the first struggle, which cost the Russians dear, "the English soldiers found nothing before them but a vast open space, crossed in all directions by the balls of the enemy, who themselves were sheltered behind distant traverses. Those who came up were scarcely sufficient to replace those who were placed *hors de combat*. It was not until they had sustained, during nearly two hours, this unequal combat that the English resolved to evacuate the Redan." A gallant soldier's tribute to the courage of our troops, and an experienced officer's opinion as to the capacity of our commanders, may equally be gathered from these few sentences. For the present we quote them to show in what the Redan differed principally from the Malakoff. After describing with equal power and succinctness the noble assault of the Malakoff, General Niel adds:—"In front of the Malakoff, the Russians made great efforts to reconquer the works. Repeated attacks were made, but in vain. The dead bodies of the enemy were piled up in front of the gorge, but the first column of attack, which was supported by the Imperial Guard, remained not to be shaken behind the exterior parapet of the outer defence." Nor did the superiority of the French assault consist only in this. As General Niel points out we had upwards of 200 yards to traverse between our last parallel and the salient, whereas the French were within 10 yards of their points of attack. The French had established *places d'armes* in their trenches, from which whole divisions could be launched on the foe; whereas our trenches were literally crowded by the fifteen hundred men told off for the first assault. We had neither strength in the attacking column, nor support sufficient in reserve, nor means to bring up such support as there was. Every blunder that had been committed on the 18th of June appears to have been more fatally repeated on this terrible day, with the addition that the troops were so selected for the service, from regiments which had formerly been repulsed, as to carry with them up to the walls of the Redan the strongest possible sense of the dangers which there awaited them. It remains to be seen what official explanations or excuses are yet to be given on the details of this ill-fated assault. But already we know enough to give stern significance to the question which Sir George Brown raised lately. Whether or not our military men understand their profession is a doubt that will be raised and discussed in many an English household to which the details of the 8th of September have carried terror and mourning. There is less reason in the present case than generally exists for turning aside from a discussion of this kind. Such doubts therefore have been almost always cast into the shade by the splendor of some great success achieved in spite of them. In the exhilaration of glory we have been unwilling that our pride should be lowered, or our sympathies checked, by anger at the blunders of the incompetent; and we have done our best to discredit them. But here the blunders have overclouded the glory, have rendered worthless acts of the noblest daring and of invincible courage, and, after uselessly flinging away thousands of valuable lives, have deprived the country of its full share in the crowning achievement of the siege, for which it had made such incredible sacrifices. How large a part of the blame, when all the causes of our inferiority in arrangement and forethought to the French shall be fully investigated, may be found inseparable from the fact that our forces in the field have been less than a third of theirs remains to be ascertained. That all the shortcomings are thus to be accounted for, is not conceivable; but it is of course quite possible that many may be thus explained. We remarked some weeks ago on the extraordinary oversight committed at the opening of the siege in disregarding the Malakoff as the weak point of the Russian line, and the credit of having discovered it has since been claimed for more than one general and engineer. But the report which first exposed the mistakes committed up to the beginning of the present year was that of General Niel, and we will remember the declaration of this able officer that everything done in the siege operations up to that time both by French and English had been little less than useless. In real truth, however, it was the Russians themselves who betrayed that the Malakoff was the key of the position. This they did by seizing on the Mamelon, and we believe it to be only just to Lord Raglan to state that this had scarcely been done when he urged upon General Canrobert the necessity of retaking it at all risks. The then French Commander could not make up his mind to the sacrifice of the large numbers of men re-

quired for that purpose, and Lord Raglan's apology might have been, as General Simpson's will probably now be, that he had not the men to sacrifice. The Mamelon and Malakoff must have cost Marshal Pélissier from thirty to forty thousand of his troops. Undoubtedly we are bound to remember facts of this kind. To be so crippled in the field, is upon all important and conclusive occasions to have no other alternative than to hand over to allies more powerful the main part of the influence accruing from victory.

#### IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

##### LETTER OF MR. SMITH O'BRIEN.

Bruxelles, Sept. 11, 1855.

MY DEAR DUFFY,—As you appear to have fully made up your mind to go to Australia, I cannot allow you to leave Europe without offering to you the expression not only of my warmest wishes for your happiness, but also of my unaffected esteem for your public and private character.

Twelve years have elapsed since we first became acquainted with each other, and though we have not agreed upon all questions, I have never had occasion to doubt for a moment that your opinions were founded upon a sincere desire to promote the welfare of Ireland, and to carry into effect that object by such means only as are dictated by a high sense of honor.

To the purity of your motives even your enemies must bear witness. Gifted with talents of a high order, you might have won brilliant success in any career of life to which you had applied yourself, in case you had made personal advancement the aim of your exertions. In obeying the higher impulse of patriotism, you have incurred continual danger, privation, and disappointment.

In 1843, when first I had the pleasure of making acquaintance with you, you were assailed by a government prosecution, for having endeavored to restore to your country its ancient legislature. In 1848, when the circumstance of Ireland seemed to us to justify even a resort to arms, provided we could thereby save our countrymen from famine and from ruin, you narrowly escaped the extreme penalties of the law. The manly vigor with which you sustained a succession of trials unexampled in the annals of judicature, has rendered that defence a remarkable event, not only in your own personal biography, but also in the history of Ireland.

Saved from that death or exile which some call ignominious, but which in your case would have been honorable, and raised to a high political position by the gratitude of your fellow-countrymen, you devoted yourself to the formation in parliament of a party which might secure for Ireland, by peaceful and constitutional means, the protection of its national interests. If the success of this effort has not been commensurate with the ardour which you bestowed upon it, the failure cannot be imputed to want of zeal upon your part. You have exhausted upon it the energies of a constitution which is ill suited for the unhealthy turmoil of parliamentary life. Knowing something of the sessional labors of the House of Commons, I have no hesitation in saying that they would have brought you to an untimely grave if you had not relinquished your seat in parliament.

I am not equally convinced that you are acting wisely in abandoning your connection with the Irish press. A trip to Australia will indeed tend to renovate your health; but if you feel as sharply as I feel them, the pains of exile from your native land, you will never cease to long for return to a country whose inhabitants, notwithstanding all their faults, possess many qualities which are dear to those who appreciate the genial sentiments of susceptible hearts.

You will not, however, be left without consolation. You will find in Australia many of our fellow-countrymen whose noble and generous natures have not yielded to any corrupting influences, but who have sought to maintain in their own persons that independence of spirit which we endeavored in vain to infuse into the institutions of Ireland.

What may be the ultimate aim of Providence in dispersing throughout the world so large a portion of the Irish race (not less than two millions) who might have lived happily in their own land under the protection of a good domestic government, is a question which to me at least is inscrutable. But it is impossible to witness the events which are passing before our eyes, without feeling that the policy which has made so many of our countrymen, voluntarily or involuntarily, exiles from Ireland, has not only brought much disgrace and humiliation upon England, but has inflicted a severe wound upon the vital interests of the British empire.

I have no longer, perhaps, any right to speak in the name of any portion of the Irish people. Otherwise I should confidently tell you, that your name will be remembered with honor among them, and that even those animosities which arise in the conflicts of adverse opinion, will not prevent your opponents from doing justice to your motives. It is enough for me to fulfil an obligation imposed by my own convictions and feelings, by assuring you that you will carry with you to another hemisphere the unaltered respect and attachment of

Your sincere friend,

WILLIAM S. O'BRIEN.

Charles Gavan Duffy, Esq.

THE IRISH FISHERIES.—We are glad to observe that a company is being formed for the purpose of fishing on the southern and western coasts of Ireland. The result of the several commissions of inquiry on this subject has been to show that these coasts abound in a supply of fish of all descriptions. Complaints have been invariably made that these splendid banks have never been turned to proper account in consequence of the want of strong and large vessels capable of riding out the heavy seas of the coast—of safety harbors—of curing establishments—and a rapid mode of transit for fresh fish to the Dublin and English markets. If the present company deem it advisable to carry out its professed object, it will confer a permanent and lasting benefit upon the community at large, as well as upon the hardy population of our coasts. It is a stigma upon the British government to have left this great source of national wealth so long undeveloped and unutilised. Every year hundreds of our poor countrymen have been lost, when overtaken by storms, for the want of harbors of refuge along the coast. But when English capitalists turn their attention to the subject, and embark their money in the speculation, they will take means to stimulate the British Treasury to expend money in the necessary safety harbors, so that even indirectly in this way the formation of the

company in question will be a benefit to this country. The British minister who turns a deaf ear to the remonstrances of the mere Irish, where mere Irish life and capital are in jeopardy, will pay prompt attention to the demands of his own countrymen. This is a sad state of facts; but they are no less facts. We await with no small anxiety the result of the deliberations and inquiries of this newly-formed company. Its operations will be of service in many ways to the community.—*Tuan Herald*.

PROSPECTS OF THE FARMERS.—The *Northern Whig* reports the receipt of information, confirmatory of former estimates of the return of this year's crops, and adds that there is now no doubt that the produce of the harvest will turn out, as a whole, much more satisfactorily than that of either England or Scotland. A word of advice is then tendered to the farmer:—"We only fear that their comfortable position may render them so independent as to induce them to become speculators, by holding back their grain from market too long. We would remind them—firstly, that 16s to 17s per cwt, is almost a famine price for raw new wheat, paying a splendid profit to the cultivator; that the present very high rates will draw supplies from the most distant quarters; and that the repeated reverses and exhausted state of Russia may bring about a peace when least expected." One of the *Galway papers* states, that a noble lord, standing high in the west of Ireland, has during the last few weeks, caused to be served on his tenantry no less than 600 notices to quit, not with a view of dispossessing them, but of raising their rents. The authority for this statement is the *Western Star* (conservative), which also gives the following report respecting the oat crop in Connaught:—"Notwithstanding reports to the contrary, it has now been ascertained that there is a great deficiency in the oat crop of this season in the west of Ireland. The complaint is now very general, and some farmers have estimated the loss at one third of the crop. This is the result of the heavy and continued rains which occurred in the beginning of the harvest. We had a proof the other day of the grain not having ripened. A farmer sold a sack of oats in our market which usually weighed thirty-stone; and, though well filled, it only weighed on this occasion twenty-seven stone. The deficiency in grain is more serious than is generally believed."

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR 1855.—The registrar-general has just completed his usual annual return of the number of acres of land in this country under cereal and green crops. It is a most important document at the present juncture. If Ireland produced sufficient corn and green crops for her own consumption last year, she has no cause to apprehend scarcity for the next twelve months, for the registrar-general announces a vast increase in the quantity. There have been reports current to the effect that the acreable quantity of wheat was not even equal to that of last season. The country has now unquestionable evidence that there is an increase of no less than 34,225 acres, while in oats the increase amounts to 72,657 acres. Against these there is a falling-off in barley, bere, and rye of 19,589. In green crops there is an increase of 25,513 acres, but in flax there is a falling-off of 54,297. This last fact has been some time published, nor is it difficult to suggest a reason for it. The farmers in the north were tempted to sow oats and wheat by the high prices of the past twelve months, and the cereals being more to be relied upon than flax, they planted them largely in land which, with lower rates, would have been sown with that article.

THE NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.—The British public condescended to humble itself on two different days in consequence of the war with Russia, and the obstinate ignorance of its Ministers. There was some little hesitation about fasting, but the Government, considering that the fasting was more likely to be a theory than a fact, consented to that additional humiliation, and that the more readily because the billbrokers and bankers in the city would have been grievously inconvenienced if the fasting also was not proclaimed. So, for two whole days trade was suspended, and the business of the nation at a standstill. They who are but slightly acquainted with our devotional turn of mind may conceive that we prayed fervently for the fall of Sebastopol, and wore haircloth on our delicate skins while our troops were starving in the trenches. Very far from it; and the proof of our heroic hypocrisy is to be found in our present conduct. Sebastopol fell into the hands of the allies on the Nativity of Our Lady, and under other conditions of the country that would have been no insignificant fact. We, however, are in no hurry to be grateful, and though we prayed for the help of God, we have waited nearly three weeks before condescending to acknowledge the work of his hands. The Emperor of the French did otherwise. He hastened with all the officers of state and the imperial household to offer up in public, before the face of the world, his thanksgivings for the victory granted to his troops. He acknowledged in the midst of imperial pomp that victory is not necessarily to the strong, and that a higher power than a strong battalion determines the issues of war. But we who have no less a stake in the present contest than France have exhibited no symptoms of a grateful spirit. Perhaps we considered that we had not yet had our money's worth: two days of theoretical fasting and a real suspension of business was a great penance, impetratory of greater fruits than the capture of Sebastopol. This may be the explanation of the fact; not our stupidity.—*Tablet*.

The lord lieutenant of Ireland, having executed a mock triumphal progress through the north and south, is about to proceed to the west, to see how the Connaught men live at home.

Mr. Bates, the late town clerk of Belfast, has died, of a broken heart, in consequence of the law proceedings carried on against the bankrupt corporation of that town.

The Marquis of Hertford has subscribed £50 towards the monument to be erected to the memory of the late Marquis of Londonderry in the county of Down.

Colonel Wyndham, the heroic leader of the Redan storming parties, is brother to the Countess of Listowel and uncle of Lord Ennismore.

Major-general the Earl of Cardigan has arrived in Dublin on a tour of military inspection, commencing with the cavalry in that garrison, consisting of the 2d dragoon guards and the 16th lancers.

The Kerry Militia are under orders for Limerick garrison. The Kerry Militia are a numerous corps, above 560 men.

Nearly two hundred of the Dublin Militia Artillery have volunteered in Dublin to the Royal Artillery.