

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1854.

THE WAR in the Crimea forms the all absorbing question of the day. We have appropriated the chief part of our columns this week to details of the interesting events that are occurring in that country. It will be seen that we were right in our conjectures last week that the Telegram received by the way of New York gave a false coloring of the intelligence received by the arrival of the *Baltic*. Full particulars received by that arrival will be found in to day's impression. General Canrobert in his official despatch to the French Government characterises the affair of the 5th November, as a brilliant day, which has not been purchased without loss on the part of the allies, but which has done the greatest honour to their arms.

The arrival of the *Africa* at New York on the 29th ult, furnishes later intelligence, but we have again to caution our readers not too put too much confidence in it, as it comes through the same channel. It is as follows:—

New York, November 29.

The *Africa* arrived at 5 P. M., to-day, with English dates to the 12th Nov.

A pause has ensued in field fighting before Sebastopol. Despatches say that extensive preparations are being made for assault, both parties are in want of reinforcements—the besiegers worse than the besieged.

The allies are reduced by battle and disease to 50,000 men, which has caused much alarm in England and France. The utmost efforts are being made to send reinforcements instantly. All the Mail Steamers are chartered for this purpose.

Winter is setting in severely. Two Turkish frigates were wrecked in the Black Sea. The great Hospital in Sebastopol, with 2,000 sick, was burned by fire of allies.

Russians were preparing for street fighting.—Sickness is on the increase in the allied camps.

Wheat declined 2d to 3d in the week. Flour 1s. Corn unchanged.

The following via St. John furnishes a more intelligible detail.

LONDON, November 18.

Despatches received by the Duke of Newcastle state that in the battle of the 5th November, Generals Cathcart, Strangway and Gouldie were killed.

Dates from the Crimea to the 3d and 4th Nov. state that the Duke of Cambridge had a horse killed under him. English 2,000 killed and wounded. French loss is not accurately known. Russian loss 7,000 to 8,000. Prince Napoleon at Constantinople sick. Russians had left the heights of Balaklava and were expecting reinforcements.—Allies constantly reinforced.

Steamers at Batavia to convey 4,000 troops to Crimea.

Letters from Constantinople of 6th November, say that 5,000 French troops had left for Crimea with a favourable wind. Sultan has degraded Suliman Pasha, commander of Turkish troops in the Crimea.

Turkish war ship *Abadishe* foundered with Turkish Admiral and 700 men. An Egyptian frigate lost in the Black Sea.

Much anxiety is felt for further intelligence from the seat of war. According to previous arrangements a steamer was due at Halifax on Wednesday, but as the *Niagara* which was to have brought the next Mail to that place is chartered for the Crimea, the probability is that we shall have nothing further this week. A small Screw Steamer it is said was to take the place of the *Niagara*. One of the Collin's steamers will be due at New York to-morrow.

We are indebted to Maclear & Co., Publishers, Toronto Canada West, for a copy of the RIGHT OF THE BIBLE IN OUR COMMON SCHOOLS. This is an admirable work and ought to be extensively circulated.

We are also indebted to the same Publishers for a copy of *Maclear & Co's Canadian Almanac for 1855*. This is really a valuable work, abounding as it does in much useful statistical information. It has a well executed Map of Canada attached, which is worth all that is charged for the Almanac.

We have to tender our thanks to Fetridge & Co., Boston, for the December number of Putnam's Monthly Magazine. It is a well selected No. and concludes the fourth volume. Persons wishing to procure a good Magazine had better subscribe for Putnam's Monthly. Price \$3 per annum.

Next week we intend giving the Official Despatches of Lord Raglan, relative to the Russian attack on the Allied Forces on the 25th October.—Also a thrilling description of the Russian Cavalry charge, by a correspondent of the London Times.

We find the following in the *Quebec Morning Chronicle* of the 30th ult:—

The Chronicle, on the authority of the Secretary of War, (the Duke of Newcastle,) shows that the British troops landed in the Crimea previous to the 1st of October, exceeded 30,000; and that the total casualties from disease and in killed and wounded up to the 25th, was less than 5,000—and that 4,000 men had been sent from England to replace casualties—so that the actual British force before Sebastopol, exclusive of the sailors and marines landed from the fleet, is between 25 and 30,000. The French force is certainly 60,000 and upwards; and including sailors and marines from the combined fleets, the allied force is fully equal to 100,000 effective men, and in no immediate want of reinforcements. The two governments will however, shortly have 50,000 additional troops on their way to the Crimea—France having consented that England shall aid in transporting the reinforcements.

The following is telegraphed from New York, under date of Tuesday night:

Washington despatches intimate the probability of the dismissal of Mr. Mason from France, and Mr. Soule from Spain.

A private letter from Dublin says the British Government are making preparations to ballot for soldiers in that city.

It is said that very unfavorable news has been received from Sebastopol by the English Government which was not allowed to be published.

The London correspondent of the Daily Times says, that if the Allies were beaten in the Crimea, the Western powers will immediately address a joint note to Austria and Prussia, requiring them to declare themselves without delay. This matter, and the subject of Poland he adds, is the object of Lord Palmerston's visit to Paris.

It has been reported that Doctor William Wiley, formerly of Woodstock, had lost some members of his family since his removal to Illinois; we are assured from a reliable source that such is not the case, and that the family up to the 10th of November were in excellent health.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—“An Old Friend,” and “A Liberal” came too late for insertion this week. They will receive due attention.

From the London Times, Nov. 13.

We now know the details of the attack on Balaklava on the 25th, and with them much that is glorious and much that is reassuring. The worst is comprehended in a melancholy loss of men, chiefly in that arm of the service which could least bear it, and in the temporary cessation of a lower range of heights, by no means necessary to our communication with Balaklava or to the security of our position. As the Turks in three of the redoubts, seeing the fate of their comrades in the fourth, did not even stay to spike their guns, they have not lost so many as might have been expected from their advanced position. The small portion of the French troops engaged have suffered but little. We have, then, in the despatches before us nearly the whole of the loss, which it would be in vain to conceal is most lamentable, and all the more so because it seems to have arisen from some misunderstanding. The cavalry and artillery lost 175 killed, including 13 officers, and 251 wounded, including 27 officers; total, 426, besides the missing. The infantry was but slightly engaged. It must be borne in mind that the return includes 12 killed and about 70 wounded in the brilliant affair of Sir De Lacy Evans's division on the following day. When these are deducted, it appears that the infantry lost, in killed and wounded together, on the 25th, no more than 30 men. The disaster, then, of which the mere shadow has darkened so many a household among us for the last ten days is not more, but it is not much less, than the annihilation of the Light Cavalry Brigade. It entered into action about 700 strong, and mustered only 191 on its return, though, of course, some afterwards rejoined their comrades. Of the missing, it is to be feared that the majority are killed, as the Russians, who would make the most of their prisoners, do not account for half as many. Had there been the smallest use in the movement that has cost us so much,—had it been the necessity of a retreat or part of any plan whatever, we should endeavor to bear this sad loss, as we do the heaps of human life lavished in an assault. Even accident would have made it more

tolerable. But it was a mere mistake—evidently a mistake, and perceived to be such when it was too late to correct it. The affair then assumed the terrible form of a splendid self-sacrifice. Two great armies, composed of four nations, saw from the slopes of a vast amphitheatre seven hundred British Cavalry proceed at a rapid pace, and in perfect order, to certain destruction. Such a spectacle was never seen before, and we trust will never be repeated. There are two consolations—the first, that owing to the very incomplete state of our regiments, there were not more to exhibit in this fearful death-parade; and, secondly, that even in that awful progress, when officer and soldier felt themselves hurried to their doom by some inextricable error, they still kept their ranks, went fiercely on, rode up hills, stormed batteries, and sold their lives as dearly as the manifest odds against them would allow.

The error was one of unusual simplicity, and requires no science to understand it. There was no surprise, not even to a short notice. There was no misconception of the enemy's strength.—There was no inevitable train of consequences, in which disaster was the slow result of successive operations. This grand military holocaust was a wholly distinct affair. The Russian, masters of the four redoubts taken from the Turks, and of a few cannon found in them, had been effectually checked by the firmness of the 93d Highlanders and a splendid charge of the Heavy Cavalry Brigade.—They had paid for their temerity by a considerable loss, and had been compelled to surrender a good part of the ground they had won. It was about noon, when they had rested for some time, and were apparently preparing to retire with the guns they had captured, that the fatal movement took place. The Cavalry then received an order to advance rapidly to the front, to follow the enemy and attempt to prevent them carrying off the guns; and, as the circumstances under which the order was received were not a little formidable, they were told that the French Cavalry were on their left. How far the order was itself the result of a misconception, or was intended to be executed at discretion, does not appear, and will probably afford the subject of painful but vain recrimination. It was interpreted as leaving no discretion at all, and the whole brigade advanced at a trot for more than a mile, down a valley, with a murderous flank fire of Minie muskets and shells from hills on both sides. It charged batteries, took guns, sabered the gunners, and charged the Russian Cavalry beyond; but, not being supported,—and, under the circumstances, perhaps it is fortunate it was not,—and being attacked by Cavalry in front and rear, it had to cut its way through them, and return through the same Cavalry and the same fire. The brigade was simply pounded by the shot, and shell, and Minie bullets from the hills. Not more than a dozen were killed by the Russian Cavalry, who, if they had been good for anything, would have taken care that not a single British soldier should return to tell the tale.—Causeless as the sacrifice was, it was most glorious. A French General who saw the advance, and apprehended at once its fatal issue, exclaimed, “*C'est très magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre*.” The enthusiasm at the moment, and the fellow-feeling of the two armies, almost led the Chasseurs d'Afrique to follow the British brigade to its doom, but they were wisely restrained, and did much better service by charging a Russian battery on the flank, and for a time checking its fire.

It is difficult not to regard such a disaster in a light of its own, and to separate it from the general sequence of affairs. Causeless and fruitless, it stands by itself, as a grand heroic deed, surpassing even that spectacle of a shipwrecked regiment settling down into the waves, each man still in his rank.

DOMESTIC.

When the present Government of this province was formed the office of Surveyor General was filled by the Hon. W. H. Stevens, merely until the Hon. James Brown should have an opportunity of ascertaining whether his constituents would desire him to take a part in the administration.—This step was rendered necessary in consequence of Mr. Brown having, when resigning his seat in the Legislative Council, for the purpose, as he thought, of being able to do better service to the people in the House of Assembly, stated to his constituents that he had not done so for the sake of getting office, and that he did not intend to take office under the then Government. It has been foolishly said by some of the opposition papers that Mr. Brown supported the late Government.—They seem to forget that he was not a member of the Assembly during the last Session, and the Government after its reconstruction, by the admission

of Messrs. Street, Hayward, Wilmet and Gray; and the retirement of Messrs. Wilmet, Fisher, Hannington, and Hill, was so essentially different from the coalition Government which preceded it, that those who supported the former, ourselves among the number, were compelled on principle to oppose the latter. Mr. Brown has been, through the whole course of his political life, an honest consistent advocate of liberal measures, and, with the utmost propriety, is entitled to form one of the first purely liberal governments which this Province has had. The people of Charlotte did honor to themselves by sending such a man to represent them through a long course of years; and now that their representative has been considered by his colleagues as worthy to fill one of the highest offices in the Province, we have no doubt but that his constituents will respond, as the others have done who have been appealed to, and return him by a show of hands.

Some low petty slander has been got up about a statement said to have been made by Mr. Brown, that in the event of a contested election, he would be supported by Messrs. Fisher and Ritchie. Do the opposition wish it to be forgotten that when Mr. Wilmet returned to his constituents in St. John he was supported by the whole strength of the Government, and that he publicly admitted that his election cost him his whole year's salary, besides what had been expended by his friends? If the Government therefore do give their influence to Mr. Brown, in the event of a contested election, and his friends advance money to pay the necessary expenses, why should the opposition complain.—*St. John Courier*.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia meets this day, and by private advices we learn that there is no doubt of the Reciprocity Treaty being affirmed, but not without the usual amount of jarring, angry debate, and personal recrimination which always takes place in that colony during the discussion of every public question.

Congress meets on Monday, and we are led to believe that the President, in his message, will allude to the arrangements made by Mr. Perley, of this City, for the admission of Colonial fish, and the produce of Canada and New Brunswick, recommending provision to be made for the return of duties paid since those arrangements went into effect.—*Id.*

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

The London *Morning Herald* published the following journal of the siege of Sebastopol, received from its own correspondent:—

OCT. 18.—Passing through our camp as quickly as I could, I went over the heights in advance of our lines, and where our batteries are situated.—From the whole space to the left of our lines, where the French batteries had stood, not a shot was being fired. Until I had seen it I could scarcely credit that nearly 100 guns had been so effectually silenced as not to leave the earth-works even of one fit for firing from. Yet so it was; and the French trenches had been perfectly levelled, either by the fire of the enemy, or the explosion of their own magazines. The destruction of the French lines enables the Russians to concentrate their fire upon ours in a most uncomfortable manner. I was allowed to go forward into the Crown Battery. Such a storm of shot and shell has been poured upon it that our actual works are very much cut up. But the men here, as elsewhere, stood to the guns with a perfect confidence in victory, which nothing can shake.

The enemy appear to have an illimitable supply of sand bags, so that when our shot or shell struck their earthworks, two or three were thrown in instantly to fill up whatever gap might be made. Before I left the battery, a shell, fired from our lines, penetrated the magazine of the circular battery at the foot of the Round Tower; a fearful explosion followed, which almost annihilated the tower, and certainly must have sent all the defenders of the earthwork piecemeal into the air. The shock and report were so terrific that for two or three minutes the enemy ceased firing along the whole extent of their lines. We could then see that a number of fresh troops rushed into the battery with one or two tumbrils of ammunition and after a short delay, in defiance of us, and to show that their ordnance was not injured by the explosion, they fired the whole of the guns in the work (about twenty) in one tremendous volley, and, showing themselves at the embrasures in their shirt-sleeves, gave three loud cheers.

I am very sorry to say that during this day's operations we lost a most gallant and popular officer, Colonel Hood, of the Guards. He was standing in the Crown Battery, near a part where the earthworks had been much damaged, when a 32