

tion. How deep was the bliss of that moment, making amends by its delight for the long years of doubt and absence. It was not long before Charles again renewed the boyish vows he had pledged to Helen, and the blushing girl listened smiling and weeping by turns.

Need it be added that in a short time Helen and Charles were united at the altar, and even the aristocratic mother smiled upon the union of her daughter with the *ci devant* CHARLES ELLISTON.

REVOLUTIONARY ANECDOTE.—The following incident connected with the Revolutionary war has just found its way into print:—

In 17—, while our country [U. S.] was at war with England, the Tories, as they were called, unwilling to espouse their country's cause,

Left their country for their country's good, As Tories and traitors always should!

Among the number who thus left the British dominions in Nova Scotia, was my Aunt F., with her Tory husband.

During the war, an American privateer was seen approaching L—, where my aunt and other Americans were located. At the approach of the ugly looking stranger, all the Americans fled except my Aunt, who kept a small store near the place of entry. Having secured her shop, she hastened to her house to secure her valuables there also; but the officers of the privateer were too close upon her to allow her to secrete much. They came upon her just as she was entering a chamber which had been previously left in some confusion. Seeing the officers so near to her, she turned in an instant, and with her usual quickness of invention—for she was always ready for a turn—said to the leader—"I hope you will pardon the appearance of my room, as we have just had the small pox in it, and had not time to put things to rights since the patients were carried off." It was a word and a blow, as we say. In his haste to escape, he turned upon his heel, and turning, fell over the staircase and rolled down the stairs, dropping from his scabbard an elegantly mounted sword, which he left behind as a prize to my aunt. Picking himself up as best he could, he was joined by his comrades, and very soon the privateer had her sails spread, and was out of sight and out of danger, leaving my aunt to laugh over her stratagem, and to hunt for her money-box, which was found some months afterwards among the currant bushes in the garden, just where she placed it herself when she took it from the shop.

An old farmer, who feared neither God nor man, had hired a devout negro; and to get some Sunday work out of him, he would always plan a case of 'necessity' on Saturday, and on Sunday would put that point to the man's conscience. One morning old Sambo proved refractory: 'he would work no more on Sundays.' The master then argued with him that it was 'a case of necessity,' that the Scriptures allowed a man to get out of a pit, on the Sabbath day, a beast that had fallen in—'Yes massa,' rejoined the black, 'but not if he spent the Saturday in digging the pit for the purpose!'

A lawyer was applied to by an indigent farmer on a question of law. The lawyer charged the poor fellow three guineas. 'There is the money!' said his client; 'it is all I have in the world, and my family has been a very long time without Pork.' 'Thank God!' replied the lawyer, 'my wife never knew the want of Pork since we were married.' 'Nor, never will,' rejoined the countryman, 'so long as she has such a great hog as you.'

'Now, girls,' said Mrs. Partington the other day to her nieces, 'you must get husbands as soon as possible, or they'll be murdered.' 'Why so aunt?' 'Why, I see by the paper that we've got almost fifteen thousand Post-offices and nearly all on 'em despatches a mail every day. The Lord have mercy on us poor widows.' And the old lady stepped quickly to the looking-glass to put on her new cap.

REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING.—Why have you volunteered? said a rather careworn looking, newly enrolled volunteer, to a fine looking country soldier. 'Why, I volunteered because I have no wife, and go in for war,' was the unequivocal reply; 'and now why have you volunteered?' 'Ah!' said the careworn little man—for he was little—with a significant sigh, 'I have volunteered because I have a wife, and go in for peace!'

We fancy we hate flattery, when all we hate is the awkwardness of the flatterer.

Suspicion is the mark of a mean spirit and a base soul.

FUN IN CALIFORNIA.

There is a magazine published in San Francisco, called *The Pioneer*, which is very ably conducted, and has a corps of talented and witty correspondents. From the Editors' 'Gossip' of the June number we take the following:—

'A friend informed us of an occurrence a day or two ago which, as it is as characteristic of California as anything we have heard for a long time, we hold it meet that it should be set down here. It seems that some two years since Mr. Moon—Mr. John Moon, 'Professor,' as he is styled on the bills, 'Professor of Dexterity and Optical Deceptions,' Fellow of the 'Mystic Lodge of Arts, London,' now one of the 'Ethiopian Fakir Troupe,' performing at the San Francisco Theatre—was exhibiting his art at one of the mining towns of the interior, to the great amusement or otherwise of the miners thereat and therearound collected. One of Professor Moon's most astonishing 'experiments' consisted in holding a watch suspended from a short chain at arm's length, and allowing any one in the pit to pull pistol and 'blaze away' at the word 'Fire,' whereupon the watch would most unconsciously disappear. An individual from 'Pike County,' who had attended several evenings and witnessed the 'experiment,' suspected, in the classic language of the times, that there was something of 'shenanigan' in it. He thought the probability was that the individual in the pit who fired the pistol was invariably an accomplice dressed for the nonce in miner's clothes. And as a true, independent, self-reliant Californian, he thought he would assume the responsibility of testing and adjusting matters for his own satisfaction as well as for the good of the community generally. So, on the next evening Mr. Pike was duly present, determined to be in advance for the shooting part of the performance of any other unknown miner. The 'Professor' explained the experiment; the accomplice was of course in the pit ready with his pistol loaded with a blank cartridge; the 'Fellow of the Mystic Lodge of Arts, London,' held the watch out, stepped into his position, and gave the word 'Fire!' Pike was on the *qui vive*, pistol in hand and eyes upon his learned friend, the 'Professor.' As quick as thought he jerked up the pistol, and at the word 'Fire!' blazed away, to the utter astonishment, doubtless, of his more tardy neighbor of the blank cartridge. The report had not more than sounded when the distinguished Professor, 'Fellow,' etc., commenced a most extraordinary series of capers and shakings of the arm, accompanied by oaths and cries of pain. The audience, considering it as part of the performance, were sufficiently amused; but Mr. Pike, having discovered that he had shot away two of the learned Professor's fingers and half of his thumb, quietly left for the repose and seclusion of his Cabin, voluntarily losing the rest of the performance. Now, could that have happened anywhere else except in California?'

English and Foreign.

VALUE OF THE MALAKOFF.

The following letter from Kamiesch gives a remarkable view of the present position of affairs.—It is dated the 20th ult.:—

'Malakoff commands all the lower part of Sebastopol, and dominates the passage of the Bay of Iukerman, by which the town obtains its supplies from the north side. When the tower falls into our hands we shall be able to sweep the bay, burn the Russian fleet, bombard the lower town and almost immediately after instal ourselves in the latter, for it can then no longer be held by the Russians. From the Malakoff Tower, besides, we can silence Fort Constantine, destroy the stockade, and open the port to our vessels. The Russians know that well, as well as we do, and hence the terrible energy which is displayed on both sides, in forming approaches, and also in the partial combats which are renewed almost every night. Our newly-constructed batteries are really most formidable, especially those of Quarantine Bay and of what we call Bay des Calats which are armed with guns of the largest calibre and which are destined to force the Russian fleet to seek refuge behind Fort Catherine, the sole place where they will be unable to injure us. The Russians multiply their sorties—sometimes it is the English, but more frequently ourselves, who have the honour of receiving them, and accompanying them on their return. One fact worthy of remark, which proves how much the siege of Sebastopol has already cost Russia in men, is that the prisoners whom we make almost always wear new uniforms. This circumstance causes us to believe that all the army of the Crimea must have been employed in the defence of the place.'

FORAGING BY DAY AND FIGHTING BY NIGHT.

The *Courrier de Marseilles* publishes the following letters from the East:—

'CAMP OF ARKOSTA, July 22.—The cavalry is still actively employed in bringing forage from the neighbouring valleys. The excursions are for us real parties of pleasure. The country is splendid and the sites on which we encamp are extremely picturesque. On the 18th July, at break of day the battalion of Zouaves, encamped on our right in an excellent position, was sent to dislodge the Cossacks posted near the telegraph, which I described to you in my last. The mountain is very steep, but our Africans scaled it in an instant. The Cossacks took to flight the moment they perceived them. The telegraph, which was used by Gen Liprandi to communicate with an extensive line of advanced posts, was at once demolished. Our Zouaves remained there a few hours, and effected their retreat, after carefully reconnoitring the locality, in which no Russian was met with.—The enemy is becoming more and more mysterious. The fires, which we suppose to indicate the presence in our vicinity of a strong force of the enemy, were kindled by pickets of Cossacks, for the purpose of keeping us on the alert, and impeding us as much as possible in our principal operations.'

MILITARY COURTESIES.

The allied Commanders have returned the compliment paid by Prince Gortschakoff on the occasion of the funeral of Lord Raglan. During all the time the ceremony lasted, not a Russian gun nor a Russian rifle was fired. In return, so soon as the church bells began tolling, announcing the interment of admiral Nachimoff, all the batteries were silenced in compliment to the deceased, who except the indelible stain put on his memory by Sinope, was a gallant soldier and a clever officer, whose death is a serious loss to the Muscovites.

APPEARANCE OF SEBASTOPOL.

Disease must be raging violently within the walls of the city, as the burial ground on the north side is assuming a wonderful magnitude. We can plainly see the Russian fatigue party arriving every morning on the ground, and having piled their arms and hung their accoutrements on them proceed to dig a series of pits for the reception of their dead. The burying ground is rapidly filling all the plain lying on the north side between the cliffs and the sea, where none existed (visible) before the month of April last. As far as we can see there are at present very few troops on the plateau of the north side; they seem to have all been drawn towards Sebastopol, and there is consequently a large display of canvass in its vicinity. Many are of opinion that the greater part of the camp is required as an hospital.

FIRING OF "BOUQUETS."

The fire from the batteries on both sides was very incessant during the whole night. The Russians not only threw a vast amount of shells into various part of the works, but kept up a constant discharge of grape and "bouquets" against the advanced trenches. These bouquets consist of a number of small shells or grenades; they are thrown from a mortar, about ten or twelve at one discharge; they burst closely together, and their fragments are scattered in all directions. A constant fire of this kind is going on against the French works on the Malakoff hill, and in addition the sharpshooters maintain an unceasing fusillade.—The loss of our allies from casualties of all kinds, is said now to be equal in numbers to a regiment per month, or nearly one hundred men per diem. The proportion of our own casualties has greatly increased of late, though the majority have not been providentially of a very grave character.—From the great weight of our shells, and the superior powder and comparative proximity of our guns, the loss in the ranks of the enemy must also be very great.

ANTICIPATED ASSAULTS.

Several days have been named for the commencement of the new bombardment and attack. It is not probable that the event will be postponed to a much later day. The number of casualties in the trenches and new works is a subject of serious consideration, and though hardly so great as might be expected, from the relative position of the besieged and besiegers, must act as strong incentive to the respective commanders to perfect as speedily as possible the preparations for the renewed attack. Some of the new batteries of our allies, destined to act against the Russian marine are not yet finished, and a change is also being made in the armament of certain portions of our works which is not likely to be completed for several days from the present date. The approaches towards the Malakoff close as they are, will have to be extended still further before the assault can be made with full security. It is asserted that

the disposition of the new batteries is so made, and their power is so terrible, and the arrangements of the commanders so matured, that on the next occasion the assault will be undertaken without leaving room for the slightest apprehension respecting the ultimate result. The extensive preparations which are in progress, and the care which is being bestowed upon the works on all sides affording reasonable ground for believing that the consciousness of approaching success does not proceed from undue confidence.

No single event has occurred with the armies in the plain. It is reported to-day that the French and Ottoman troops have made a reconnoissance as far as sixteen miles beyond the village of Baidar, and that they met with no traces of any hostile force in that direction.

PERSEVERANCE OF THE FRENCH BEFORE THE MALAKOFF.

The French works have been steadily advancing against the Malakoff position, in spite of continued and very severe opposition both by day and night. Frequent discharges of grape have been directed against the head of the sap, and grenades and cohorn shells have been thrown abundantly. At intervals the Russians fire a volley of musketry not only from the bastion in front, but also from the flanks and various concealed places. It would seem as if these volleys were discharged at random in the direction of the French trenches on the mere chance of hitting some of the men engaged among the working parties. It requires no little courage, as well as use to the work to be able to carry it on vigorously in the face of such impediments, more especially when at night a sortie may be made by the enemy at any moment. Although the French have necessarily suffered from the fire directed against them, their daily number of casualties is by no means so great as might be anticipated.

OUR NEW BATTERIES.

Our new batteries are completed and aimed.—The principal battery, occupying a very advanced position on the right, and in front of Frenchman's hill, is fitted with a most powerful armament, a considerable portion of which consists of land and sea-service 13 inch mortars. This is more especially to act, it is said, and its position renders the statement probable, against the line-of-battle ships which still retain their threatening attitude, broadside towards the Karabelmia suburb. It is remarkable that neither the three-deckers, nor the two-deckers, have been observed to discharge a shot or shell against our works; this duty hitherto has been confined to the men-of-war steamers. The largest of the ships, which is seen lying out to our left of Fort Paul, appears to be partly careened over, and it would appear as if she might easily acquire elevation enough to try her range over the low ground about the south harbour and Dockyard Creek. The distance at which she is anchored appears to be about three thousand yards from the sloping line of the Malakoff hills as its side dips towards the Barrack buildings, but it is difficult to estimate this with accuracy, while she is lying out in the roadstead. The report has been so industriously circulated in the camp, of the enemy have been necessitated to take the guns out of these vessels for use in the land batteries that their constant silence may be a ruse to invite credence to this very improbable story, until, having gained possession and effected our lodgement on the Malakoff and other commanding positions we should receive a more authentic account of the power and armament. Not only deserters, but Russian prisoners, state that these ships were disarmed, and nearly all the guns found in the Russian redoubts on the east side of Careening Bay were ship's guns; it is also asserted that when the ships were hastily sunk at the mouth of the harbour after the battle of Alma, their guns were sunk with them. These statements may be partly true. The lower-deck guns, and many others which could only be removed with much labor, are most probably still in the sunken ships. So in the ships still afloat, the guns only on one side could be called into requisition against our approaches; the guns on the opposite side might be removed for use on land without any detriment to the service, on which the ships, while pent up in the harbour, could be employed.

But it is scarcely creditable that the enemy would totally disarm these floating batteries, which may yet if other circumstances do not arise to prevent this from occurring, be turned to an important account against us when we have gained possession of the south side of the roadstead.

It is in contemplation to establish camps of instruction on Barham Downs, within a few miles of Canterbury, and on Penenden Heath, near Maidstone. Engineer officers have been ordered to survey the sites, with a view to ascertain the facilities of obtaining a constant and sufficient supply of water for the troops and horses.