

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

From the London Gazette.

CAPTURE OF BALAKLAVA.

War Department, October 10.—His Grace the Duke of Newcastle has this day received two despatches, of which the following are copies, addressed to his grace by General Lord Raglan, C. C. B. :—

[The first of these despatches contains a list of the officers whose names have been brought under his lordship's notice by the Generals of Divisions, and the heads of departments.]

The second despatch is as follows :—

Balaklava, Sept. 23.—My Lord Duke,—I have the greatest satisfaction in acquainting your Grace that the army under my command obtained possession of this important place on the 26th inst., and thus established a new and secure base for our future operations.

The allied armies quitted their position above the Alma on the morning of the 23rd, and moved across the Katcha, where they halted for the night, and on the following day passed the Balbek.

It then appeared that the enemy had established a work which commanded the entrance of the river, and debarred its use for the disembarkation of troops, provisions, and materials, and it became expedient to consider whether the line of attack upon the north side should not be abandoned, and another course of operation adopted.

It having, after due deliberation, been determined by Marshal St. Arnaud and myself that we should relinquish our communication with the Katcha, and the hope of establishing it by the Belbek, and endeavour, by a flank march to the left, to go around Sebastopol and seize Balaklava, the movement was commenced on the 25th, and completed on the following day by the capture of this place by Her Majesty's troops, which led the advance. The march was attended with great difficulties. On leaving the high road from the Belbek to Sebastopol the army had to traverse a dense wood, in which there was but one road that led in the direction it was necessary to take. That road was left in the first instance, to the cavalry and artillery; and the divisions were ordered to march by compass, and make a way for themselves as well as they could; and, indeed, the artillery of the Light Division pursued the same course as long as it was found to be possible, but, as the wood became more impracticable, the batteries could not proceed otherwise than by getting into the road above-mentioned.

The head-quarters of the army, followed by several batteries of artillery, were the first to clear the forest, near what is called, in Major Jarvis' map, Mackenzie's Farm, and at once found themselves on the flank and rear of a Russian division, on the march to Baske-Serai.

This was attacked as soon as the cavalry which had diverged a little into a bye and intricate path, could be brought up. A vast quantity of ammunition and much valuable baggage fell into our hands, and the pursuit was discontinued after about a mile and a half, it being a great object to reach the Tschernays that evening.

The Russians lost a few men, and some prisoners were taken, amongst whom was a captain of artillery.

The march was then resumed by the descent of a steep and difficult defile into the plains, through which runs the Tschernaya river, and this the cavalry succeeded in reaching shortly before dark, followed in the course of the night by the light, first, second and third divisions; the fourth division having been left on the heights above the Belbek till the following day, to maintain our communication with the Katsch.

This march, which took the enemy quite by surprise, was a very long and toilsome one, and, except at Mackenzie's Farm, where two wells, yielding a scanty supply, were found, the troops were without water, but they supported their fatigues and privations with the utmost cheerfulness, and resumed their march to this place on the morning of the 26th.

As they approached Balaklava nothing indicated that it was held in force, but as resistance was offered to the advance of the Rifle Brigade, and guns were opened from an old castle as the head of the column showed itself on the road leading into the town, I deemed it prudent to occupy the town flanking heights by the light division and a portion of Captain Brandling's troop of Horse Artillery on the left; movements terminated by the surrender of the place, which had been occupied by very inconsiderable numbers of the enemy.

Shortly after we had taken possession we were greeted by Captain Mendis of the Agamemnon, and soon after by Sir E. Lyons himself.

His co-operation was secured to us by the activity and enterprise of Lieut. Maxse, of H. M. ship Agamemnon, who reached my camp

on the Tschernays on the night of the 25th with despatches, and who volunteered immediately to retrace his steps through the forest, and to communicate to Sir Edmund the importance I attached to his presence at the mouth of the harbour of Balaklava the next morning, which difficult service (from the intricacy of the country invested by Cossacks) he accomplished so effectually that the Admiral was enabled to appear off this harbour at the very moment that our troops showed themselves upon the heights.

Nothing could be more opportune than his arrival, and yesterday the magnificent ship that bears his flag entered this beautiful harbour; and the Admiral as has been his invariable practice, co-operated with the army in every way possible.

We were busily engaged in disembarking our siege train and provisions, and we were most desirous of undertaking the attack on Sebastopol without the loss of a day. I moved up two divisions, yesterday, to its immediate neighbourhood, when I was enabled to have a good view of the place; and Lieutenant-General Sir John Burgoyne and General Bisot, the French Chief de Genie, are occupied in reconnoitering it closely to-day.

The march of the French army on the 25th was still more fatiguing and prolonged than ours. Being behind our columns they could not reach Tchernaya till the next day, and I fear must have suffered sadly from want of water.

I regret to have to acquaint your grace that Marshal St. Arnaud has been compelled by severe illness, to relinquish the command of the army. I saw him on the 25th, when he was suffering very much, and he felt it his duty to resign the next morning. I view his retirement with deep concern, having always found in him every disposition to act in concert with me. He has since become much worse, and is, I fear, in a very precarious state.

Fortunately he is succeeded by an officer of high reputation, General Canrobert, with whom I am satisfied I shall have great pleasure in acting, and who is equally desirous of maintaining the most friendly relations with me.

I have, &c. RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

A party from the British fleet have established themselves in the lighthouse of Cape Chersonese, which forms the extreme eastern corner of the promontory to the south of Sebastopol, and have relit the light which the Russians had extinguished.

LAST DESPATCHES OF MARSHAL ST. ARNAUD.

The Moniteur publishes some letters of Marshal St. Arnaud, and his last order of the day:

On Board the Ville de Paris, Sept. 12, 1854.—Monsieur le Marechal.—My situation with respect to health has become grave. Up to this day I have opposed to the illness that afflicts me all the energy I have been capable of; and I did hope for a long time that I was so sufficiently accustomed to suffer that I was fit to exercise command without revealing to all the violence of the attacks I was doomed to endure.

But this struggle has exhausted my strength. I have been grieved to perceive of late, and especially during the recent passage, during which I was on the point of sinking, that the moment was approaching when my courage would not suffice to support the heavy burthen of a command requiring a vigour I have lost and which I hardly hope to recover.

My conscience imposes on me as a duty to explain to you my condition. I am willing to hope that Providence will permit my fulfilling to the end the task I have undertaken and that I shall be able to conduct to Sebastopol the army with which I shall land tomorrow on the coast of the Crimea. But that I feel will be indeed a last effort, and I beg you to ask the Emperor that he will have the goodness to appoint my successor.—Deign to accept, Monsieur le Marechal, the expression of my most powerful sentiments.

The Marshal Commander-in-chief.
A. DE ST. ARNAUD.

Head Quarters, at the Bivouac of the Tchernaya, Sept. 26, 1854.—Monsieur le Marechal.—My health is deplorable. A choleraic attack has just increased the sufferings I have so long experienced, and I have reached such a state of weakness, that to command I feel has become impossible. In this situation, despite the griefs it occasions me, I make it a point of honor and conscience to surrender my authority into the hands of General Canrobert, whom his Majesty's special orders design for my successor.

The subjoined order of the day will acquaint you with what feelings I separate from my soldiers, and renounce the pursuit of the great enterprise—an enterprise for which fortunate beginnings seem to presage a glorious issue.—Deign to accept, &c.

A. DE SAINT ARNAUD.

Head Quarters, at the Bivouac of Menkendi, Sept. 26, 1854.—Soldiers.—Providence

refuses to your chief the satisfaction of continuing in the glorious way now opening to you. Conquered by a grave malady, against which he has so vainly struggled, he beholds with profound grief (but will know how to fulfil) the imperious duty imposed on him by circumstances—the duty of resigning a command which his health, irrecoverably destroyed, no longer permits him to support the weight of.

Soldiers you will grieve for me, for the misfortune that befalls me is immense, irreparable, and perhaps unexampled.

I resign the command to Lieutenant-General Canrobert, whom, in provident anxiety for this army and for the great interests it represents, the Emperor has invested with the necessary powers by a sealed letter I have now before me. It is a relief to my anguish, that I have to place in such worthy hands the flag that France confided to me.

You will surround with your respect, with your confidence, this general officer, on whom a brilliant military career and the splendour of services performed have conferred the most honourable fame throughout the country and army. He will follow up the victory of the Alma, and will win that happiness I had dreamed of for myself, and which I envy him—the happiness of conducting you to Sebastopol.

MARSHAL DE SAINT ARNAUD.

The Berthelot arrived at Marseilles on the 10th with the remains of Marshal St. Arnaud, which were received with all possible honour. All the ships in the harbour hoisted their flags half mast high.

SINKING OF THE RUSSIAN SHIPS AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE HARBOUR OF SEBASTOPOL.—Britania, off the Katscha, Sept. 16, 1854.—Sir, In my letter of yesterday (No. 487) I reported the change that had taken place in the position hitherto maintained by the enemy's fleet in the harbour of Sebastopol, and I now beg you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the same afternoon, on the appearance of the allied fleets in sight of Sebastopol, the whole of the vessels moored across the harbour were sunk by the Russians, leaving their masts more or less above water, and I went last evening to the mouth of the harbour to assure myself of this singular event.

Captain Drummond has examined the harbour this morning, and reports that the lower mast heads of the ships are generally above water; that the passage is closed except, perhaps, a small space near the shoal off the North Battery, and the double booms inside are thus rendered more secure.

Eight sail of the line are moored east and west, inside of the booms, and three of the ships are heeled over to give their guns more elevation to sweep over the land to the northward.

An intelligent seaman, a deserter, who escaped from Sebastopol on the 22nd, had partly prepared me for some extraordinary movement. He informed me that the crews of the ships moored across the harbour (to one of which he had been attached) had been landed with the exception of very few in each ship; that the vessels were plugged ready for sinking; that the guns and stores were all on board; and that the other ships are moored under the south side to defend the harbour from attack from the northward. He reported that the battle of Alma had greatly dispirited the Russians; that the troops had retreated on Sebastopol without a halt; that he believes the whole Russian force not to exceed 40,000. The man's statements are clear, and on points that came under his own observation were mostly corroborated and I consider reliance may be placed on his information generally considering the means his station in life afforded of enabling him to obtain it, at the request of Lord Raglan I sent him on shore to act as a guide to the army on their approach to the environs of Sebastopol.

The allied armies moved this afternoon to take up a position to the south of the port of Sebastopol and the fleet will move to meet their arrival there.

DEADFUL INUNDATION IN SPAIN.—A letter in the Tribuna of Madrid gives an account of a terrible and extraordinary catastrophe that has occurred at Daroca, a small town in Arragon, situate in a rich and fertile valley, abounding in corn and wine, from its situation, in a deep hollow, completely surrounded by mountains, this place is peculiarly liable to inundation; and as a remedy, a tunnel was cut in 1560 by a Frenchman named Pierre Bedel. This tunnel is a magnificent work—2340 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 24 feet high. The enterprise was patronized by the Pope, and assisted by alms from all Christendom. Previously to its achievement, the waters that flowed at wet seasons from two leagues of mountain rushed through the streets of the town on their way to the river. It appears that on the 11th inst., at 3 in the afternoon, an immense waterpout, rising from the lake of Gallocanta, remained for a considerable time hovering over the shore at about a league from Daroca. When it burst. The whole district was converted in-

to a lake. The waters poured down in the direction of the tunnel in a stream much larger, it is said, than the Ebro at Tortosa, and, seen from an elevation, appeared like moving mountains of liquid. The dimensions of the tunnel, which has a very decided slope, were insufficient to allow passage to the vast mass, which then moved past it, forming a spacious sea. This extended itself towards the town, at 200 yards from which it was arrested by the causeway, has frequently saved Daroca when menaced by perils of a similar nature, but less magnitude. Above this causeway the water rose, heaping themselves upon it, says the account, to the height of three yards, and then plunging down upon the unfortunate town. The gateway, as though an unusually large one, was not large enough to allow their entrance, and another great lake was formed against the walls, which presently began to crumble under its pressure.

"What then occurred," says the letter, "is an inexplicable thing. The waters fought with and overthrew those houses the position of which opposed their current. They carried away the fountain of San Pedro, and opening trenches, and bursting open the door of the pasado and several shops, they spread through squares and streets, inundating wine cellars, warehouses and the first floors of the houses; in some reaching up to the roof.—Throwing down walls and abandoning everything, the inhabitants fled to the mountains, whence they looked on at the horrible catastrophe.

"The loss has been incalculable; in the vaults water has replaced wine, the contents of the shops are spoiled and many houses are crumbling away. In the plain around the town the inundation has destroyed everything. A young woman of 20 was carried away by the torrent, and many children and adults are missing. In the first moment the anxiety was horrible. None thought of any thing but of counting their families and seeing if any were absent. The animals that have perished are innumerable; among them many of the farm horses of the unfortunate peasants. It is horrible. 'God have mercy upon us!'"

The writer of the letter adds that the people of Daroca and its environs know not how sufficiently to express their gratitude to a company of the Zamora Regiment there in garrison, which saved the lives and property of many, and at the time he wrote, was mounting guard over the town to prevent plunder. He praises in the highest terms this small body of troops. The town he adds, is reduced to misery, and is in previous need of a subscription to supply the people with the most pressing necessities.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

CALIFORNIA.

The steamers Star of the West and Geo. Law arrived at New York last Friday with two weeks later news from California.

The Alta California says during the past fortnight business has been very animated, and large amounts of goods have gone into consumption. A more buoyant feeling exists in business circles than has been noticed for a long period.

The mines continued to yield a fair return in almost all parts of the State, although in some of the Southern regions the water was beginning to fail, and the miners in some instances were shifting their quarters.

A number of persons had left for the Gadsden purchase, and many more were expected to follow.

A number of prisoners had escaped from the prison at Costa Madera, killing a guard named Powel.

A report had been brought to the crossing of the Colorado, that a company of emigrants numbering fifty, all from Texas, were murdered Aug. 21st by the Indians.

Several women and Children who were in the train, were doomed, it is feared, to a more horrid fate. Six hundred head of cattle were also carried off.

The Apaches were becoming more troublesome every day. Twenty-five Americans had perished for want of water.

The news was brought by a small train, which had been in the rear and fortunately escaped.

Other parties of Americans encountered the Indians near Tuesen and one American was killed.

From The North.—Sehr. Eudoras from the Sea of Okotsk, brings interesting intelligence from the whaling fleet. Though one ship had been lost, and some others damaged, the fleet had been generally successful. For a number of years there has not been so much oil obtained so early in the season; and there will probably be more taken than in any previous year. No information of the Monongahela of New Bedford, which was carried into the Arctic by the ice, in the fall of 1853.

NOVA SCOTIA.

DEATH BY VIOLENCE.—A soldier of the 76th Regt., named M. Carty, was killed on Thurs-