

## News of the Week.

### EUROPE.

NEWS FROM THE CRIMEA.—Our pages to-day record a series of military exploits by the English and French forces in the Crimea which will stand the test of comparison with the noblest and most brilliant feats of which history makes mention. Although more than a generation has passed away since the British soldier was engaged in a European struggle, the long interval has not unnerved his arm or depressed his prowess. He still possesses the same power of endurance, the same depth of stamina, the same bull-dog courage for which his fathers were celebrated. His French ally, too, is fully entitled to the credit of having demonstrated on the crimson banks of the Alma, that the traditional glories of his nation have not deteriorated, and one of the most beautiful traits amidst the thrilling incidents which this Russian conflict has evoked, may be mentioned with pride, and satisfaction, the testimony which these two gallant nations, so long foes, and now warm friends and allies, bears to each other's valour and renown. Lord Raglan's despatches, which we have given in their entirety, make the most honourable mention of the bravery and success of the French troops on the battle-field, and the despatches of the heroic Marshal St. Arnaud unhappily no more, speak with a fervour approaching to enthusiasm, of the gallant bearing of the English forces when exposed to the hottest of the enemy's fire, and when the carnage was greatest.

The battle was fought on the south or left bank of the Alma, where the Russian commander, Prince Menshikoff, had established himself in a position which he believed to be impregnable. In fact, so firm was his belief in the impossibility of the allied troops forcing the range of steep, precipitous hills on which he had established himself, bristling with more than 100 pieces of cannon and fortified by strongly constructed redoubts which jutted out from the elevations above the stream, and which swept every approach from the opposite bank of the river, that when his travelling carriage was seized after the battle, it was found to contain his correspondence with the Emperor, in which he assured his royal master that he could hold this ground against a force of 200,000 men, and that under no circumstances could it be taken in less than three months. It was this false security which induced Menshikoff to allow the enemy to land on the Crimea without firing a shot at them, for he felt convinced that their destruction would be more certain, and his own glory the greater if he waited for them on the crest of these hills.

But just in proportion as the cliffs favoured the Russians, and enabled them to cover the right bank of the Alma with artillery and musketry, was the demand upon the invading force the greater to dislodge him, was done at a terrible sacrifice of life, certainly, but with an amount of heroism which has never been surpassed in ancient or modern warfare. The storming of these heights will make the battle of the Alma memorable in all future time. Rising rapidly from the river, the heights rose above four hundred feet at the top of which was a piece of table land something more than a couple of miles long and about a fourth part of that space in width, along which the Russian infantry was posted. The allies, on the morning of the 20th, were separated from the Russians by a plain about four miles in breadth, and towards the sea the declivity on the south was very rapid. This part of his position the Russian commander regarded as so naturally strong that he had not thought it necessary to fortify it—a fatal omission, of which the keen eyes of Marshal St. Arnaud and Lord Raglan were not slow to take advantage.—Having reconnoitred the ground, the allied generals determined that the French, supported by the Turks, should penetrate this point, nearest to the sea, the left of the Russian position; whilst the English should execute a corresponding manœuvre against the Russian right,—covered, as it was, by his most powerful works.

The steamers from the shore supported the movements of the French by throwing shells amongst the Russians on the cliffs, and succeeded in dislodging 2000 of them, posted as a reserve in a ravine behind a plateau. By this means the French were enabled to climb the steep rocks on the sea coast, and thus succeeded in turning the enemy's left. Pending his operation, Lord Raglan led the light and second divisions against the Russian right and in crossing the stream opposite the Russian batteries, the storm of shell and grapeshot with which they were received was perfectly appalling. But while scores fell dead and dying every instant they forded the stream which separated them from their assailants, struggled bravely up the deep ascent, amidst the roar of artillery and the fire of musketry, broke into the Russian batteries bayonet in hand, paralysed the enemy by prodigies of valour—put

them to the rout, and became masters of the field. This will account for the English loss exceeding in number those of their undaunted supporters, the French, and will enable the reflecting reader to appreciate the truth of the remarks contained in the extract which we have already given, the production, as we have said, of an eye-witness on the spot.—The distribution of the honours and of the respective posts of danger seems to have been based upon a perfectly correct estimate of the peculiarities of each nation, for without saying which of them most efficiently decided the fortunes of the day, it cannot be denied that each played their parts admirably and, judging by the results, in a manner worthy of their ancestral fame. The Turks, forming as they did the reserve of the left wing, were not engaged in the fray.

We mentioned last week that the allied troops, after the victory of the 20th, were snugly ensconced at Balaklava, a beautiful and convenient harbour on the south side of Sebastopol, and about seven miles from that place. The despatch of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, which announced their possession of Balaklava, gave no account of how they got there,—whether they had re-embarked and sailed from the north of Sebastopol to this point, or whether they had marched round the Bay of Sebastopol to reach it. It now appears from the despatches of Lord Raglan that both armies stole a march on the Russians by proceeding unmolested up the country—groping their way as it were through almost trackless forests, with in the absence of roads, the compass only for their guide. The details of this excursion are highly interesting, and will amply repay perusal. This manœuvre is only second in importance to the battle of the Alma, and it is said that Menshikoff, when he heard of it, attempted to commit suicide. It was found that the north side of Sebastopol was so strong that no hopes could be entertained of taking it except by a regular siege, for the enemy, believing that the attack would be made on the north side, had fortified himself in every imaginable way; but on the south the town and fortress are completely defenceless while here the allies have just what they require—a most convenient harbour, in almost impregnable position, surrounded by high rocks, with the sea in their rear, and every material at hand for ensuring the speedy destruction of the renowned fortress. At the time we write, a despatch from Vienna states that the bombardment of Sebastopol commenced on the 5th,—that two breaches were made at the quarantine fort on the 6th and the place must speedily fall. This is more than probable, but, after the great hoax of last week, people will receive with extreme caution accounts of the fall of Sebastopol on anonymous authority. Nevertheless, those whose opinions are worth attention believe that the place cannot hold out more than a few days; and indeed the movements of the Russians themselves, in sinking several of their ships of war in front of the harbour, and having the others charged so as to destroy them at any instant, exhibit their own conviction that the hour of retribution is fast approaching.

The brave Marshal St. Arnaud, as we have said is no more. A lingering disease, which has pursued him for years has cut him off at the moment when he had added so largely to his laurels. The supreme command now devolves on Lord Raglan, who has proved himself fully equal to any emergency which may arise. It is quite touching to read the dying address of the distinguished Frenchman, in which he resigns to General Canrobert the direction of the French forces; it is a document which breathes a pure Spartan spirit and will bring a tear to many an eye in both countries. These great events in the Crimea are already narrowing the struggle within limits which bodes service to mankind. Austria, now that she sees her way clear, is disposed to assist more determinately in humbling the pride of the Czar, and the poor imbecile King of Prussia has been pressed so hard by his Austrian brother that something like a ministerial crisis has already taken place at Berlin. According to accounts from Vienna to the 11th, the Prussian Ambassador proposed the resumption of the Vienna Conference which afforded the representatives of the Western Powers the opportunity of declaring that the four guarantees proposed as a settlement of the dispute would not now be deemed sufficient, and that a modification of the territorial state of the East was contemplated. This announcement took of course, Prussia by surprise, but Austria did not appear to be in the least alarmed by it.

To curb effectually in all future time the power of Russia must now be the policy of the Western Cabinets, and the moment is opportune for doing this so as to command the sanction, or, if necessary, to defy the hostility of Austria. Between Francis Joseph and Nicholas Romanoff the feud is complete, for we learn from Warsaw that the Russians troops in Poland are marching in three routes to the Austrian frontiers.

Captain Cresswell of the 11th Hussars, according to a letter from the Crimea, died of cholera on the evening of the 19th ult.

FROM AN OFFICER IN THE GUARDS.

THE BATTLE OF ALMA.—Bivouac, River Alma, Sept. 21.—I hasten to write a few lines to tell you that I am safe and well, knowing how anxious you will be, after hearing that we have had an action with the Russians. Accounts of the battle you will see in the papers, much better describing it than any I could give, as I could see nothing beyond what was going on in my own brigade.—That you will see was in the thickest of it, as the returns of our casualties will prove, our loss being very severe. The march from Kamieschi to Baljanik, where we bivouacked on the night of the 19th, and again from Baljanik to Alma, was the grandest spectacle I ever saw. The whole army, French, English, and Turkish, advanced in battle array for that distance over a plain as smooth almost as a lawn, and with just sufficient undulation to show one at times the whole force at a coup d'œil. My division was on the left, and we were about three miles from the sea; the fleet coasting along abreast of us completed the picture. About 12 o'clock on the 20th on crowning a ridge we came all at once in sight of the Russian army in an entrenched camp beyond the Alma, distant about three miles. Immediately we appeared they set fire to a village between us and them, so as to mask their force by the smoke. We continued advancing steadily, halting occasionally to rest the men, till half-past one, when the first shot was fired, and soon after the rattle of musketry told us that our rifle skirmishers were engaged. Our division then deployed into line, and we stood so for about twenty minutes, an occasional round shot rolling up to us, but so spent that one was able to step aside from it. Wounded men from the front soon began to be carried through our lines to the rear, and wounded horses began to gallop about. At last we were ordered to advance, which we did for about 300 yards nearer the batteries, and halted, and the men lay down. We were now well within range, and the round shot fell tolerably thick, an occasional shell bursting over our heads. After standing steady for about twenty minutes, the light division (who were in line in front of us) advanced again, and we followed. The Russians had put posts to mark the ranges, which they had got with great accuracy. We now advanced to within 200 yards of the river and 700 from the batteries, and halted under a low wall for five minutes, till we saw the light division over the river, when we continued our advance in support of them. On crossing the wall we came into vineyards, and here the cannonade was most terrific, the flash of each gun being instantly followed by the splash of grape among the tilled ground like a handful of gravel thrown into a pool. On reaching the river the fire from a large body of riflemen was added, but the men dashed through, up to their middle in water, and halted on the opposite side to form their rank, under shelter of a high bank. At this moment the light division had gained the entrenchment, and the British colour was planted in the fort; but ammunition failing them they were forced back.—The Scots Fusiliers were hurried on to support them before they had time to reform themselves, and the 23rd retiring in some confusion upon them, threw them for a few minutes into utter disorder. The Russians, on perceiving this, dashed out of the fort upon them, and a frightful struggle took place, which ended in their total discomfiture. For a minute or two the Scots Fusiliers stood alone in the front, while General Bentinck rallied the men to them, their officers leading them on gallantly. At this moment I rode off to the Coldstreams, through whose ranks the light division had retired, leaving them the front line. They advanced up the hill splendidly, with the Highlanders on their left, and not a shot did they fire till within 150 or 200 yards from the entrenchments. A battery of 18 and 24-pounders was in position in our front, and a swarm of riflemen behind them. Fortunately the enemy's fire was much too high, passing close over our heads, the men who were here killed being all hit on the crown of the head, and the Coldstreams actually lost none. When we got about fifty yards from the entrenchment the enemy turned tail, leaving us masters of the battery and the day. As they retired they took all their guns with the exception of two and a great many of their wounded. In spite of this the ground was covered with dead and dying, lying in heaps in every direction on what might be called the glacis, and inside the intrenchments they were so thick that one could hardly avoid riding over them, but the excitement of the victory stifled for the time all feeling of horror for such a scene, and it was not till this morning, when I visited the battle-field, that I could at all realise the horrors which must be the price of such a day. Most fervently did I thank God, who preserved me amid such dangers. How I escaped seems to me the more marvellous the more I think of it. Though on horseback (on my old charger), my cocked hat, and clothes were sprinkled all over with blood.—The loss of the brigade of Guards is very

severe, but the proportion of deaths to wounded is extraordinarily small.

On calling the roll after the action, 312 rank and file and 14 officers were discovered to be killed and wounded. Beside these was my poor friend Horace Crust, who was struck by a round shot in crossing the river. He was aide-de-camp to General Bentinck, and we were watering our horses at the time when the shot struck his horse in the shoulder and smashed poor Crust's thigh. He died soon after the leg was amputated. Charles Baring, who has lost his arm, (taken out of the socket) is the only other Coldstream officer hit. They went into action with only 16 officers, less than half their complement. We have been occupied the whole day in burying the dead. About 1,000 were laid in the ditch of the fort, and the earthen parapet was then thrown back upon them. We find that the whole garrison of Sebastopol were before us, under Menshikoff in person. His carriage has fallen into our hands, and in it a letter stating that Sebastopol could hold out a long time against us, but that there was a position at Alma which could hold out three weeks. We took it in three hours. So convinced were they of the impossibility of our taking it that ladies were actually there as spectators little expecting the review they were destined spectators of. We expect now to find no resistance whatever at the Katcha river, the whole Russian force having retired into Sebastopol. We always turn out at 4 o'clock in the morning an hour before daybreak.

LATEST FROM THE THE SEAT OF WAR BY TELEGRAPH.

BOMBARDMENT OF SEBASTOPOL.—Vienna, Oct. 11.—Intelligence has been received from Varna of the 5th. On the 2nd Sebastopol was completely invested on the south, and the aqueduct was in the hands of the allies. It was understood that the bombardment of the forts was to commence immediately, and to be continued till the 8th, on which day it was probable that an assault would be made. The Russians have formed land batteries, and armed them with ships' guns, but the range of the allies' artillery is greater than that of the enemy. The Prince of Prussia is expected here. Some very sharp English and French notes are said to have reached Berlin a few days since. According to the *Presse* and *Oesterreichische Correspondenz*, Lord Raglan has taken the supreme command of the allied armies. All the reserves have left Varna for the Crimea, and two French regiments and one English are to leave the Piræus for the same destination. Fresh English troops were to be sent from Malta to Athens. Schamyl is said to have been defeated by Prince Andronikoff, who again threatens Kars.

Berlin, Oct. 11.—Intelligence received via Vienna, states that the bombardment of Sebastopol commenced on the 4th.

A telegraph despatch from Vienna states that on the 3rd inst. the allied army was doing well in the Crimea, and sanguine of success. The trenches were within 1,500 yards of Sebastopol.

Constantinople, Oct. 5.—Fifty heavy guns, 650 sailors, and 2000 marines, have been landed from the fleet at Balaklava. The English army is close to Sebastopol, which is invested on the south; and the batteries of heavy guns have been constructed. The enemy is working at his fortifications night and day. The bombardment was to commence on the 4th. It was thought that the allies would be in possession of the place by the 8th. Lord Raglan had been made President of the Council of War. The reserve has left Varna for the Crimea. Two Russian Generals had been buried at Constantinople that day.

Paris, Oct. 12.—The *Moniteur* states that according to despatches from Constantinople of the 5th, the aqueduct, on which Sebastopol almost entirely depends for its supply of water, was in the hands of the allies. It was ascertained that the Russians were preparing to sink the remaining vessels of their fleet, and it was generally expected that Sebastopol must fall in a few days.

Vienna, Oct. 12.—A private despatch from the Black Sea, dated the 8th inst., says that the bombardment of Sebastopol commenced on the 5th inst. Two breaches were made at the quarantine fort on the 6th.

Advices from Odessa, of the 7th inst., state that Prince Menshikoff's right wing was at Bakhisarai, his left wing at Henshta, and his centre at Simpheropol, where reinforcements from Perekop will concentrate. Report says that the Russians have sunk 12 ships in Senikale Straits.

We learn from Trieste that 25,000 men are to be sent to the Crimea.

In Paris it is expected that on Monday next intelligence will be received of the fall of Sebastopol. The *Debats* estimates the number of the Russian forces in the Crimea, including the seamen of the fleet, at 25,000 men, and the number of the allies at 90,000.

A telegraphic despatch of the 12th instant, from St. Petersburg, via Berlin, states that up to the 6th instant Sebastopol had not been bombarded, and that Prince Menshikoff was on the north side with his army.