

Mr Filder would have kept the troops on ample rations. Yesterday evening Omar Pacha arrived at Kamiesch, and accompanied by Admirals Lyons, Bruat, and Stewart, immediately proceeded to Lord Raglan's head quarters. Shortly afterwards Generals, Canrobert, Bosquet and Sir George Brown arrived and a long council of war was held. It is generally believed that the Turkish Commander-in-Chief came to ask for reinforcements, and also to represent it, is stated, that the impossibility of defending Eupatoria against a regular siege. The council lasted nearly four hours, and Omar Pacha returned to Eupatoria this morning. Neither English or French troops can be spared at present for the defence of that place. During the whole of to-day the church bells of Sebastopol have been tolling heavily, it is presumed for some religious service for the departed Emperor. For the first time our tramway was used to-day for the conveyance of shot and shell to the general depot, in course of formation about a mile and a half from head quarters. For some time past the line has been used for the conveyance of rations of all kinds; but hitherto no heavy traffic has been attempted. About 6,000 shot and shell were to-day sent up to the heights over Karani, and thence forwarded in our own and the French waggons to the trenches. None of the stationary engines are yet at work.

March 13.

To-day the enemy at Balaklava attempted to cut off the wood party of French who are employed in making gabions on the heights beyond the marine and rifle camps. About 1,000 French march down to this place each night, cut the wood, make their gabions, and return about the middle of the following day. Their usual route to camp is across the plain of Balaklava, and to-day, while the whole party were quietly trudging along, each man carrying his gabion, they were surprised by the sudden appearance of about 500 Cossacks along the ridges of the Woronzow-road. A musket was fired, and at the signal, the Cossacks instantly closed up, and charged down upon the French at a tremendous pace. Straggling in disorder over the plain, and encumbered with their gabions, our allies still showed a bold front, and tried to collect in time to oppose their assailants, who came on with loud shouts; but, as it happened, the Cossacks had got to near, so that in spite of themselves, the French were compelled to throw down their gabions and run towards the shelter of our lines. The thousand gabions thus suddenly cast in the path of the enemy impeded their movements considerably; but still the consequences might have been serious to the French, but that the batteries of the Marines and Highlanders instantly opened upon the Cossack line. The first shell fired fell right amongst them, killing two men and wounding a third. The other guns were two much elevated. But still poured such a storm of shot over the heads of the Russians as made them instantly wheel three about, and retire with all speed. At the first alarm a regiment of Zouaves on the heights were under arms, and advanced to the relief of their comrades. Supported by this force, the French gathered up all their gabions, without molestation from the enemy, who remained upon the hills. Only one Cossack advanced upon the French within 300 yards, and he was killed by a random shot which a Zouave took at him.

All to-day the Russian gun over the northern heights of Inkermann have been firing heavily at the few stragglers who have ventured beyond our lines in search of wood. No casualties have occurred, as the enemy rarely fire at a nearer range than 3,000 yards. The Russian riflemen, in part of their works, annoy the French much, and have lately cause them some loss. Beyond this, and the usual preparations which we are making to open fire in the way of getting up guns, shot, and shell, there is nothing to report about the progress of the siege. The last of our 13-inch mortars was brought up to head-quarters to-day, and the electric telegraph between head-quarters Kamiesch, and Balaklava completed. The appointment of Generals Simpson and M'Neil to exercise a supervision over the commissariat and general staff has given deep offence to the latter. Yesterday Lord Raglan, accompanied by General Canrobert visited Balaklava for a short time.

March 14.

Twice during last night the whole camp was disturbed by a tremendous fire from the enemy's works. All the picquets and outposts were kept continually on the alert, and twice the Light and 2nd Divisions were turned out under arms. The firing was caused by our allies making attempts to dislodge the riflemen, who, hidden in front of the enemy's lines, have lately inflicted considerable mischief. The first attempt was made by a party about 100 Chasseurs, who, after skirmishing with the Russian marksmen for some time, were, in the end, overpowered and driven back by vastly superior numbers. The second attempt was made by a strong body of Chasseurs, supported by 200 of the covering party from the trenches. But, during this time, the enemy had received large reinforcements, and the second attack was repulsed with a loss to the French of 50 killed and wounded. The firing completely alarmed the whole camp, and within five minutes after the second attack had failed, two French regiments, one of Zouaves

and one of the line advanced upon the contested point. Before this force the Russians, though still superior, or at least equal in numbers, instantly gave ground, and commenced a rapid retreat upon their batteries. During this retreat they suffered heavily from the musketry of our allies. As if they apprehended an immediate storm, the whole of the Russian lines opened fire. Their batteries discharged in regular volleys, which rent the air and shook the earth, as if some terrible convulsion of Nature was taking place. The shower of shot and shell literally fell like hail, and from the state of the ground on the following morning, it is calculated that 160 tons of ammunition were fired during the half-hour the alarm lasted. Mere chance shots fired in the dark, almost completely destroyed one of the English advanced works, and the whole of the remainder of the night was occupied in repairing it. During the heat of this iron shower the French lay close in the holes from which they had driven the enemy. These they occupied till morning, when from the position of the Russian batteries, they were compelled to retire. In these encounters the French lost in killed and wounded nearly 200 men. The loss of the enemy, who fought under cover, was probably much less. During to-day our right attack has fired some 10 or 12 rounds, to which the enemy have not attempted to reply. This unusual quietness has excited much speculation, as the Russians generally give us 20 guns for one.

Ali Bey, the celebrated Turkish gunner, has arrived here from Sinope, to superintend the management of some of the heavy artillery in the trenches. A new long 32-pounder has been added to the battery at the head of the harbour at Balaklava and still stronger additional batteries, it is said, are contemplated to secure our depots at that place.

March 15.

A heavy fire was kept up by the enemy's batteries during the whole of last night, so as to completely shelter their riflemen from any fresh attack from the French. Beyond this nothing worthy of note occurred, except that, for the first time since the siege has commenced, the batteries at Inkermann fired during the night against our lines. All their shot fell short. The weather continues fine and hot, and fever becomes more and more prevalent each day. During the middle of the day, when the sun is warm, the stench in camp is positively sickening. Some efforts are now beginning to be made to cleanse the ground, but, like all other reforms, they come to late.

The Russians seem very busy in Sebastopol, especially in their advanced work in front of Malakoff Tower, which it is supposed they are mounting with guns.

Lord Raglan and General Canrobert made a minute inspection of the works near Balaklava to-day. Official rumours speak of the probability of a serious attack on that part of our defences.

March 16.

Five heavy guns were brought up to the batteries by the French to-day. Two were long 32's, and three long 56-pounders. Four 13-inch mortars were also got into position in one of our batteries, which I need not further specify.

Lord Raglan visited our right attack (Gordon's Battery), and remained in it during the whole of the early part of the morning. While his lordship was present the battery fired repeatedly upon the enemy, and succeeded in shelling out the Russian riflemen who lay perdu in front of the lines. Three of them were killed by a shell as they ran in towards their own trenches. His lordship expressed himself highly pleased at the high state of efficiency in which both men and guns appear. Strange to say the Russians scarcely returned one gun for 10 of ours. A week ago and a single shot fired from any of the English works would have been replied to with such a volley as would have levelled our works; and to-day, the surprise of every one, their riflemen were driven in almost without their batteries offering any resistance. About an hour after our lines had ceased firing the enemy fired a few shots, but all fell some 500 or 800 yards behind our batteries.

The Russian works appear in splendid condition, and quite crowded with troops, who show themselves without hesitation, even in the midst of the French fire.

General Canrobert visited Balaklava to-day and inspected the whole of our line of tramway. He also visited the depot and sanatorium on the hills and afterwards rode to the out-picket post, from whence a good view of the Russian position on the Tchernaya can be obtained.

The Corriere Italiano of Vienna says—"According to Russian accounts, the number of their troops, now in the Crimea, amounts to 170,000 men. The ammunition waggons which carry stores from Perekop to Baktchi-Serai, have twice broken up the road which crosses the large marshes of Perekop." Speaking of the condition of the Russian armies in the Crimea, the Militarische Zeitung says, that Baktchi-Serai now resembles an enormous lazaretto.—Thousands and thousands of sick and wounded soldiers are quartered in the town. The grand highway from Perekop to Baktchi-Serai is covered with ammunition waggons on their way to Sebastopol. A Russian officer writes to a friend, that the Russian commanders are kept fully and accurately informed of all the plans, positions, and movements of the French

and English, receiving considerable assistance in this matter from the Tartars, who have sought to ingratiate themselves with the Russians, since they have seen the ill treatment to which the Turks are subjected by the allies, and have become acquainted with the embarrassed position of the French and English armies. The writer contrasts this perfect knowledge of the Russians, with the ignorance of the allied generals, as to the position of their enemy, and mentions an official despatch (whether French or English he does not say), which placed the main strength of the Russians at Simpheropol, when it was really before the fortress.

Advices via Marseilles and Odessa to the 17th are to hand. Despatches by the latter route mention renewed attacks on the position taken up by the Russians, on the right bank of the Careening Bay, but assert that those attacks have been repulsed, and that the Russian advanced batteries constructed there pour their fire upon the besiegers. Besides the sortie reported by the Moniteur, there are rumours of an artillery attack on the heights of Balaklava; and a contemporary is informed that on the 17th the Russians attacked the whole line of the allies, and were driven back with great loss.

The general fire of the besiegers appears not to have been opened at the latest dates.

The situation of the allies in the Crimea is represented in the official Journal de St. Petersburg in the following terms:—"The position of the allies is now completely shut in by an enclosure of formidable entrenchments, extending from the great infantry camp near the citadel by the heights of Inkermann, along the Tchernaya, as far as the approaches of Balaklava. New divisions have joined the army. Grave events are expected."

A letter from Varna, in the Ost Deutsche Post, says:

The news from the Crimea comes down to the 12th. The allies were then observing with great attention the proceedings of the Russians in the valley of Badair and were expecting an attack on Balaklava, particularly as they had learned that General Wagner had received reinforcements from the corps of General Liprandi. The Russian forces are said to be distributed as follows: At Perekop is encamped the corps of dragoons, a division of light cavalry, and various other detachments, amounting in all to 20,000 men, under the command of General Pawloff I. At Simpheropol there are about 45,000 men, commanded by General Read. Near the Belbec, General Osten-Sacken's head-quarters have been placed with 50,000 men, including the garrison of Sebastopol. On the Tchernaya is encamped General Leprandi, with 18,000 men; and in the valley of Badair is General Wagner with 9,000 men. It appears that the first operation with General Osten-Sacken had executed, on his appointment to the chief command, was to have all the heights along the coast occupied and fortified from Karabelnaya to the mouth of Tchernaya. The heights of the left bank of the Alma have also been fortified, and this defensive system seems to show that not only is Baktchi-Serai the centre of the General's operations, but that a greater importance is attached to the communications of Baktchi-Serai with Sebastopol and with Arabat, than to those of that town with Perekop. The Russians in fact, seem determined to defend to the last extremity the basin of Salzir, as well as the ground extending from Simpheropol to Kaffa, their intention being, to all appearance, to procure their provisions and stores from the side of Anapa and their reinforcements from Perekop. Should the allies think fit to enter into operations not immediately in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol, it is not improbable that they will act against Baktchi-Serai the centre of the Russian positions. Omar Pacha has just arrived in Kamiesch Bay, to be present at a council of war.

Off Sebastopol, Feb. 28.

During the night of 25th the Russians sank three more of their line-of-battle ships and a frigate inside the boom at the mouth of the harbour of Sebastopol, and, by what we can see through glasses, they appear to be making with them another barrier across the harbour, and, as it appears as yet, only half way across. We suppose, when ready, they will sink some more to complete it, which will leave but two or three of their boasted Black Sea Fleet. We are erecting new batteries which would have commanded their ships; so, sooner than see them destroyed by us, they are sinking them in the most advantageous position—that is the only conclusion we can come to.

THE BLUE JACKETS AT BALAKLAVA.

A correspondent writing from the Crimea, on the 10th inst., says:—"As to Jack, he is as happy as he will allow himself to be, and as healthy, berring a little touch of scurvy now and then, as he can wish; but it must be remembered that he has had no advanced trenches, no harassing incessant labour to enfeeble him, and that he has been most successful in his adaptation of of stray horseflesh to camp purposes, in addition to which he has had a peculiar commissariat, and has had the supplies of the fleet to rely upon. It is a little out of place, perhaps, to tell a story here about the extraordinary notions Jack has imbibed concerning the ownership of chattles and the distinction between meum and tuum, but I may not have a better chance hereafter. A

mild young officer went up the other day to the sailors' camp, which he heard was a very good place to purchase a horse, and on his arrival picked out a likely man, who was gravely chewing the end of mediation and tobacco beside the suspension bridge, formed of the staves of casks, which led across the ravine to their quarters.—"Can you tell me where I can get a good horse to buy, my man?" "Well, sir, you see as how our chaps an't come in yet and we don't know what we may have this evening, if your honour could wait." "Then you haven't got anything to sell now?" "Ah! how I does wish your honour had a comed up yesterday. We had five regular good 'uns—barabs some on 'em was, but they was all bought up by a specklator from Ballyklava." "So they're all gone?" "All, your honour. But (with his face brightening up suddenly), if you should happen to want a sporting out-and-out dromeydairy I've got one as I can let you have cheap;" and, as he spoke, Jack pointed in great triumph to the melancholy looking quadruped, which he had moored "stem and stern," as he expressed it, to the ground, and was much disappointed when he found there was no chance of a sale in that line.

Legislative News.

BYE ROAD GRANTS.

COUNTY NORTHUMBERLAND.

SPECIAL GRANTS.

£100 towards improving the Road north side Renous River; £20 to be expended from Renous Bridge to P. Whalen's; £40 from Whalen's to Red Pine Grove, and £49 from Red Pine Grove to Donaldson's.

200 towards building a Bridge across Barnaby's River, at the Pulpit Rock, on the line of Road recommended by David Crocker and Wm. Parker.

21 17 towards improving and extending the Road from Cain's River to the Gasperaux.

73 for the Road from the Forks downwards, south side, to Stewarts.

28 3 to enable A. Goodfellow to pay balance for erection of Bridge over Big Hole Brook.

125 Towards completing the Landing on the line of the Great Road north side Tabusintac River.

75 towards completing the Road through Welford Settlement to High Landing Barnaby's River.

175 towards improving the Road from M'Kays to Escuminac.

BYE ROADS.

£30 for road from Long's towards Campbellton, north side South West.

5 from Pond's downwards on front road to Jd in Great road at Nelson's.

10 to improve the road to Porter's brook.

15 for the road from Swin's upwards, north side South West.

25 towards paying any balance that may be reported by special commissioners to be due James Fairley for erecting a bridge over Taxes river.

15 from Victory's to Moore's brook, south side South West.

15 from Forks upwards to Moore's brook.

30 from Donald's across to Cain's river.

40 from entrance of Donald's road on Cain's river upwards, and to complete bridge and approaches at Muzrall's brook, north side Cain's river.

10 from Sabbea's river mill upwards, east side Cain's river.

5 to Thomas W. Underhill, in discharge of balance of £10 11 Sheldam as over-expenditure in 1848.

10 from James Donaldson's upwards; £5 of which to be expended in opening a road to the river opposite to John Sparrow's.

10 to open the road from Renous river to the Dunganon near William Johnston's.

10 to open a road from the Highway north side Renous river, opposite the road from Gowan's old farm, to M'Laggan's mills.

10 from Renous river at Gowan's mill to Bartholomew's mill.

15 to open and improve the road south side Dunganon from the mouth upwards.

22 10 for the road south side Renous river; £6 1 9 of which to be paid D Crocker balance for erecting bridge in rear of Dalton's.

10 for road from Connor's to Broadalbans settlement.

15 to continue the road up the north side of Bartholomew's river towards Foster's.

10 from the great road near M'Kenzie's to the Forks and upwards to the great road at M'Darmott's.

15 from the Great road south side Bartholomew's river upwards to Walsh's.

10 for the road from the Grey Rapids on the upper line of the Christy farm.

5 for a bridge near Keenan's on the old road from the Forks downwards.

44 6 to improve the road from Stewart's to Barnaby River, South side South West; £20 of which to repay advance to Isaac Cushman for repairs on Barnaby river bridge.

15 from Parker's South West, to the North West through Williamstown.

60 to open the road from Harrigan's farm towards the North West bridge, on the line laid off by Deputy Parker last year, and to continue the line of road upwards to Chaplin's.

15 Fletts cove to Barnaby river at Dennis Kirk's.

5 for the Road between Esson and Bett's.

19 7 6 to John Harley, balance due him for SLP near the Chapel in Nelson.

25 from Foleys to Barnaby river; £16 to be expended north of Ivory's and £5 5s. of balance to repay John Aylward repairs on bridge over Barnaby river.

16 from bridge at Dalton's to the Semiwagon road, south side Barnaby's river; £11 of which to be paid James Murphy for work done by him.

25 Dennis Kirk's to John M'Donald's, north side Barnaby's river; £13 13s. of which to enable Alexander Saunders to pay amount advanced James Murphy for a bridge on said line.

10 road from J. and P. Powers, upwards, between first and second tier of lots.

22 10 from John M'Donald's, to John Dunn's north side Barnaby's River; £11 5s. 9d. of which to be paid Alexander Saunders to enable him to pay Matthew Carroll for work done last year.

20 Sutton's barn to Thomas Oats'; half to be expended between Sutton's and Noonan's.