

Incidents of the War.

THE RENEWED BOMBARDMENT.

Fourth Division Camp, April 21.—Our firing has now been reduced till further orders to 30 rounds per gun, and the bombardment is nearly suspended, partly from want of fuses, and partly from considerations of a military character which have weight in the councils of our generals. The French still continue to cannonade with energy, and to push on their saps on the extreme right and left of our position with vigor and considerable success; and it has been satisfactorily ascertained that the Russians have an insignificant force at Tchorgoun, though their position is extremely strong, and is immediately connected with that held by the army on the heights between the Belbec and the Tchernaya. We have still two batteries which have not opened fire. There is no such thing to be talked of as taking the field against the army covering Sebastopol. Any operations against that army must be commenced by forcing a series of batteries, of entrenchments, of fortified camps placed on the ridges of ravines and elevated mounds, and in mountain passes. The town itself is as open to us externally as ever it was any time after the 17th of October, but inside the lines of rubbish and ruins created by our guns, amid high houses and in spacious though tortuous streets, the Russians have erected earthworks pierced for guns, which are no doubt ready to be put into position at a moment's notice. As to the question of assault, it puzzles better strategists than most of our officers profess to be to say whether it is advisable or not. Some say we could "go in" to-morrow if the order was given; others that it would be madness, and that, though we might get in, we could not be able to hold our ground, owing to the fire of the ships and of the northern forts.—Certain it is that the men would prefer the storm to one night's work in the trenches. In addition to the advance made by the French, we have pushed forward a sap in face of our right attack, and our parallel is now connected with that of the French, and we have also formed the rifle pit we took into a portion of our advanced work, and have connected it with the parallel. More guns, 8 inch and 32's, have been sent up from the ships at Balaklava for the new batteries, and there is a talk of sending for more, as well as for shot and shell, to Malta.—The weather is fine. There have been, I regret to say, several cases not only of fever but of cholera. The disease appeared on board the Diamond, and hospital gangrene has also broken out in the same vessel. There is a terrible stench at the head of the harbour, at the Turkish burial ground and at parts of the cavalry camp in spite of all our precautions. In my last letter I forwarded you a statement of the armament of the left attack. I now send the armament of the right attack, generally called the 21-gun battery, or "Gordon's attack": No. 1 battery, one 24-pounder, one 68-pounder; No. 2 battery, thirteen 10 inch mortars; No. 3 battery, one 68-pounder, two 24-pounders, two 32-pounders; No. 4 battery, six 32-pounders; No. 5 battery, six 32-pounders, one 68-pounder; No. 6 battery, one 13-inch mortar, two 10 inch mortars; No. 7 battery, two 10 inch mortars; No. 8 battery, three 10 inch mortars; No. 9 battery, eight 8-inch guns; No. 10 battery, three 13-inch mortars; No. 11 battery, three 13-inch mortars; No. 12 battery, four mortars; No. 13 battery, four large guns. Some of the guns in the new batteries (12 and 13) have been taken from the more retired ones, and should be struck off the strength of the armament detailed above.

Tuesday.—The fire in the town last night is supposed to have been caused by the ships' broadsides of shells. The French did their best to keep it alive by constant discharges of shell from their Picket house Battery. The firing was very heavy, almost as vigorous, indeed, as that on the second evening of the bombardment, when the 23 shells were counted twinkling up among the stars as they swept down from the French batteries upon the Russian works. Captain King, R. E., and six or eight men were wounded by the enemy, and two men were killed. The French have made still greater progress, for, notwithstanding all the efforts of the enemy, they established themselves in the crater formed by the explosion of their mines the other night, and are now in possession of a locus standi within ten yards of the inner trench of the Flagstaff Fort. They accomplished that object with the loss of several men. The Russians exploded a mine which ran close to the gallery of a French mine, but the result is not known. The French, however, cleared a mass of rubbish and gabions by firing a mine under the outer parapet and ditch of the Flagstaff Battery. During the fire upon our batteries we have had 25 guns more or less damaged. We have masked our 65 cwt. gun for prudential reasons. One 10-inch gun has been smashed to pieces, and the platform of another has been destroyed, but we have silenced a far greater number of the enemy's guns, and our damages will be made good in a very short time. A guard of honour of the Guards was marched down this morning from the camp at the end of the harbour to Balaklava, with their colours

fifes, and drums, to receive his excellency Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, who was expected in the caradoc, but his lordship did not arrive.

Wednesday.—Our fire is very much diminished to-day. The Russian fire is also slackened just in proportion as they find our guns do not play on them. The French batteries have also relaxed their energies. Even were there no considerations connected with the state of the siege and of our supplies of ammunition devolved in this diminution of the weight of our bombardment and cannonade, it must be remembered that, unless with constant reliefs, four hour spells at working heavy guns in the heat, dust, and blood of the trenches will wear out the strongest men. At present the men are employed in repairing damages, replacing injured guns and platforms, &c. General Jones visits the trenches every morning and afternoon, and goes through the whole of the batteries, examining the condition of the works, the progress of repairs, and the general efficiency of both attacks and of the detached batteries. There was exceedingly heavy firing last night and this morning.

Thursday.—A reconnaissance was made by a strong division of Turkish troops under the command of his Excellency Omar Pacha, assisted by French and English cavalry and artillery, this morning.

Friday.—Last night a very gallant and brilliant little feat of arms, attended, I regret to say, by severe loss, was performed by the 77th Regiment in front of our right attack. In front of the Redan, opposite our right attack, the Russians established some capacious pits, from which they annoyed us considerably, particularly from the two nearest to us on the left hand side.—Our advanced battery would have been greatly harassed by this fire when it opened, and it was resolved to take the two pits, to hold that which was most tenable, and to destroy the other. That service was effected last night.—About eight o'clock the party of the 77th, under Lieut. Colonel Egerton, supported by a wing of the 33rd, under Lieut. Col. Mundy, moved down the traverse towards the rifle pits. The night was dark and windy, but the Russian sentries perceived the approach of our men, and a brisk fire was at once opened on them by the enemy, to which the troops scarcely replied, for firing a terrible volley, they rushed upon the enemy with the bayonet, and after a short but desperate struggle, drove them out of the two pits and up to the slope behind them. Once in the pits, the engineers, officers, and the sappers and miners, set to work to strengthen the defences, and threw up a gabionade in front, and with great coolness and courage proceeded to connect the trench of the nearest of the rifle pits with our advanced sap. The enemy opened an exceedingly heavy fire of round, grape, and shell upon them, and the Russian sharpshooters from the parapets of the batteries and from the broken ground behind the abatis kept up a very severe fusillade; but the working party continued at their work in defiance of the storm of shot which tore over them. In such a contest as this it could not but be expected that our loss would be considerable. Captain Owen R. E., so well known in England as an officer of high scientific attainments, and who has devoted himself to the more arduous duties of his profession with great zeal and ability since he came out here, was severely wounded. Lieutenant Baynes, a very active and brave young officer, was also struck down by a bullet, and is now in some danger, though his attendants think his life is safe. Captain Lempriere, of the 77th, a very young officer, who has served throughout the campaign with his regiment, and who has never left it from the time they landed in Bulgaria, was killed. A boy in years and in stature, he behaved like a veteran soldier. Lieutenant Knight, of the same regiment, also distinguished himself in the attack, and escaped unhurt.—He was the first to leap into the rifle pits, and his example embouraged his men at the time they were staggering under the tremendous fire that was directed against them. Our men remained in possession of the larger of the pits under the trying circumstances I have mentioned, without any decided attempt being made to turn them out. The general of the day of the right attack telegraphed to head-quarters that our troops had gained the pits, and he received directions in reply, from Major-General Jones, to keep them at all hazards. At two o'clock in the morning a strong column of Russians, certainly double the strength of our men, advanced against the pits, and the combat was renewed. The English troops fought with "the immovable solidity" for which, in the opinion of our allies, they are so celebrated. The enemy charged them with the bayonet, but they were met by courage more cool and arms more nervous than their own, and by the bayonet they were true back again, and at its point they were driven up to their batteries once more. It was while setting an example of conspicuous bravery to his men that Colonel Egerton fell mortally wounded. The rifle pit is now in our hands, and a smart fire is kept up from it. Its fire is most serviceable, not only against the embrasures of the Redan, but in reducing and disturbing the fire of the Russian rifle pits on its flank. Lieutenant-colonel Mundy, 33rd Regiment, is at present in command of the party in the pit. The Redan is scarcely able—or, at least, seems disinclined (meaning by the Redan the men inside it) to fire a shot. The second rifle pit we

could not hold, but no doubt it will be attacked—and, if we attack it, it will be taken to-night. Up to Friday night the sailors brigade had lost 135 killed and wounded; the Royal Artillery and Royal Sappers and Miners had five killed and 23 wounded the infantry had had about 60 casualties. The French are said to lose nearly 100 men every night. The Russians inside the Flagstaff works throw hand grenades into the French sap, and show some ingenuity in converting bottles and vessels of various kinds into extemporary shells. The French say they can take the bastion at any time they please, but the Russians have repaired their works, and there is a formidable line of batteries inside the broken parapets and shattered gabionades of the Flagstaff.

Saturday 10 a. m.—The advanced rifle pit was taken this morning, by the English troops in the right attack, after a feeble resistance from the Russian infantry; but we were exposed to loss from the guns in the Redan and the 41st regiment had fifteen killed and wounded in the fire which the Russians opened upon us yesterday evening. The pit was levelled, filled in with earth, and the men then retired. Our batteries are silent, but the sailors are all in readiness to open fire at a moment's notice; and the artillerymen have the mortars in admirable order, and are prepared to bombard at any time. The French, in extending their lodgement last night had to overcome a very vigorous opposition, and suffered considerably from the fire of the enemy's batteries inside the town; but they persisted, and have now fairly established themselves on flanks of the Flagstaff. Their sap has two heads, and runs to the right and left of the Bastion du Mat, and it will soon be impossible for the enemy to remain in the latter, unless they succeed in destroying the French sap, or counter-sap against it. There was a skirmish between the Cossacks and Turks in the plains this morning.

Tuesday, April 24.—I have just a moment to send a postscript to my last letter, in order to relieve any anxiety that might exist respecting the fate of reconnaissance. The troops were under arms at daybreak, and marched into the plain. General Veney's brigade of General Bosquet's division, had their breakfast at half-past three o'clock, a. m., but were not called upon to march. The English cavalry and the artillery, and six battalions of Turkish infantry and two battalions of French infantry, advanced about a mile across the low ground outside the lines towards Kamara and Tchorgoun, halted, and then a troop of artillery, one battalion of Turks, and some scattered regiments far away to the right on the heights near Balaklava, still outside the lines, but the last French battalion has just returned to camp. No one can tell the reason of this change of operations. Gen. Canrobert was with Lord Raglan till late last night, and it was supposed the generals were maturing the plan of the reconnaissance.

Camp before Sebastopol, April 27.

Our batteries are nearly silent; a few guns and mortars reply to an occasional shot from the Redan and Round Tower at long intervals, and there seems to be a ship behind the Round Tower, which harasses our right attack by an odd shell now and then. What a contrast to the French on our left, and even on our right!—They have never ceased to fire, and the Russians return shot for shot from the mass of ruins and rubbish in which their batteries are enveloped. The day before yesterday the enemy opened a new battery, which is up among the houses of the town, on a ridge near the governor's house, and directed a very heavy fire on the French, with a diversion now and then on the left of our left attack. In the right attack yesterday we had two gunners killed, and the platforms of two guns broken; but, although these batteries have all been severely handled, they have reduced the fire of the Mamelon and of the Round Tower with great success. Still we must give the French every praise for the perseverance of their attack, deprived as they have been of their fair share of support from our fire for some days back. They have certainly atoned for their failure on the 17th of October, which was caused by the melancholy accidents to their magazines. There are mysterious whispers that we shall "open fire again in a few days" with an allowance of 100 rounds a-gun per diem. A supply of some useful 56 and a few 68-pounder guns has been brought up from Balaklava to the batteries, and considerable additions have been made to our armament since I last wrote. A moderate supply of 13-inch bomb fuses has been raked together, and, if promises are to be trusted, we really shall effect great things on this third "commencement" of the siege.

Up to the date of this present letter there is no material change in the position of the allied armies before Sebastopol or in the attitude of the enemy within and outside the city. On Tuesday evening, soon after dusk, a heavy fusillade began on our left between the French and the Russians, which never ceased till dawn. It seemed as if a pitched battle were going on, and the volume of sound, the incessant heavy rolls of musket and Minie, recalled the contests of Inkerman and the Alma. It is scarcely known in camp what all the firing was about, but the rumour is that an enormous force of Russians threw themselves suddenly on the advanced portion of the works on the left, were instantly repulsed by our gallant allies, who rushed after

them into the very outworks of the Flagstaff Bastion, and seized on the Russian rifle pits, where they maintained a desperate conflict for several hours, but were finally forced to retire as the whole force of the Russians opposite our left was brought to bear upon them. The loss on both sides must have been very heavy. I could see very distinctly yesterday a new gabion work on the French left, towards the Quarantine Fort, with French soldiers inside it, so that it is very probable our allies have established a new sap in that direction, and that a portion of the fight took place around it. Nothing is more difficult to ascertain than the particulars of these nocturnal encounters, the right hand man does not know what his left hand man is doing, and the great labour of ascertaining the truth with respect to the proceedings of our own expeditionary force on such occasions is aggravated and becomes utterly thrown away in the case of our allies.

DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

Before Sebastopol, April 24.

My Lord,—Nothing material has occurred since my report of the 21st inst. The Russian rifle pits immediately in front of that which was taken on the night of the 19th, were destroyed by a party of volunteers on the morning of the 21st. These were headed by Lieut. and Adjutant Walker, of the 80th, who is stated to be a most excellent officer, and who conducted himself on the occasion in a most spirited manner. The pits were found to be empty, and, being useless, was immediately levelled and filled in. The enemy did not interrupt the work.

I enclose the list of casualties, which I regret to say is heavy. The nearer we approach the place the more loss is to be apprehended. Hitherto it has been less than might have been expected.

(Signed) RAGLAN.

Return of casualties from the 20th to the 22nd April inclusive.—Killed: One sergeant six rank and file. Wounded: Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Shearman, 92nd foot, slightly; two sergeants and 39 rank and file.

Return of casualties in the Naval Brigade on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd April.—Wounded: Lieutenant R. A. Douglas, Royal Marine Artillery, and five men slightly.

Lord Pammure has received the following despatch from Lord Raglan, dated "Sebastopol, May 6, nine a. m."—"The enemy assaulted the advanced trenches of our right attack, but were promptly repulsed. Our loss was three killed and 20 wounded."

CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

General Canrobert, in a letter addressed the Emperor, dated April 28, thus expresses himself:—"It is with pleasure that I announce to your Majesty that the English army, always so firm, has become as fine and healthy as it was in the first days of its arrival in the East. It is receiving reinforcements in infantry, in cavalry and in means of transport. I continue to live on the most cordial terms with Lord Raglan, and the two armies continue to be closely united, and rely one upon the other."

PRESENT STRENGTH OF RUSSIA IN THE CRIMEA.

The military correspondent of the Augsburg Gazette writes from the Polish frontier, that the reinforcements received by the Russian commanders in the west of the Crimea since the battle of Inkermann, bear no proportion to those which have joined the allies. He says:—"Numerically, Omar Pacha's corps alone is almost equal to the entire reinforcements of the Russians. The new Russian troops which have entered the Crimea since the battle just mentioned are the following: The 2nd Brigade of the 13th reserve infantry division, forming together twelve battalions, or at most 9000 men; further the 9th infantry division, at present near Perekop, and numbering possibly 10,000 men.—These and a Greek volunteer battalion make up the reinforcements of the Russian infantry since the battle of Inkermann, for the troops of the second infantry corps, represented by some journals as having marched to the Crimea, and the division of General Wagner, said by the Austrian Military Gazette to be in the valley of Baidar, are not there; the second corps in fact, is still in Poland. Before the battle of Inkermann the Russians had no more than 70,000 infantry in the Crimea; at the present moment they should have about 90,000. The cavalry force which has joined the Russian army since the battle of Inkermann consists of six regular regiments. If we reckon the crews of the ships at 8,000, and the Tchernomorskischen battalions at 6,000; the rifles, sappers, engineers, and artillery at 15,000; and the cavalry, regular, and irregular, at 20,000—the Russian army at Perekop, Eupatoria, and near Sebastopol will number about 140,000 men.

THE CAMP RAILWAY.

The line commences from both sides of the harbour and proceeds direct up the valley to Kadikoi, where it turns sharp to the west round the foot of the hill on which is placed the Sailors' or 4-gun Battery, and through the French camp, thence along the side of the hill to the Flagstaff at the top of the plateau, and about half a mile from head-quarters. The line then diverges to the north, and proceeds direct