

nificantly built. That he had seen there several sorts of trees, the most part olives and palms, all of stone, and of a blue, or rather lead colour. That he also saw figures of men, in postures of exercising their different employments; some holding in their hands staffs, others bread; every one doing something; even women suckling their children; all of stone. Then he went into the castle by three different gates, though there were many more; that there were guards at these gates, with spikes and javelins in their hands. In short, that he saw, in this wonderful city, many sorts of animals, as camels, horses, asses, and sheep, and various birds, all of stone, and of the colour above mentioned. For a further account of Ishmonia, the petrified city, in Upper Egypt, see 'Perry's View of the Levant.'

NEGRO WIT.

There is a tradition that one of the old esquires in Malden, Massachusetts, had a slave who had been in the family, until he was about 70 years of age. Perceiving there was not much more work left in the old man, the esquire took him one day, and made him a somewhat pompous address, to the following effect:—

'You have been a faithful servant to me and my father before me. I have long been thinking what I should do to reward you for your service. I give to you your freedom! You are your own man.' Upon this the old negro shook his grizzly head, and with a sly glance, showing that he saw through his master's intentions, quietly replied, 'No, no, massa; you eat de meat, and now you must pick de bone!'

WHAT IS THE PRICE OF DUCKS.

A gentleman was asked 'What was the price of ducks?' when he confessed that he could not tell. He had been out that very day with his wife, and she had purchased no fewer than three ducks. Firstly, there was 'a duck' of a dress; secondly, 'a duck' of a parasol; and, thirdly, 'a duck' of a bonnet. The first was made of Genoa velvet, the second was trimmed with Valenciennes lace, and the third had a magnificent bunch of ostrich feathers. The united cost of these precious ducks was £55, so that each duck had stood him in no less than £18 and a few shillings a piece. He supposed there were ducks to be had in the market cheaper, but for himself, whenever he heard his wife mention the word 'duck,' he trembled from head to foot, for he knew at once that it meant something inordinately expensive.

THE EMPEROR OF FRANCE.

Faith in his star is his all-dominating conviction. Louis XI. had not firmer reliance on his leaden angels than Louis Napoleon on a certain penny he got from a Norwood gipsy representing herself as the granddaughter of that zingato who foretold that Josephine would be an empress. Describing his acquisition of that enchanted coin, one day, shortly after his escape from Ham, when a very disconsolate-looking man about town here, and being asked what he thought would become of him?—he replied, he had not the smallest doubt the prediction of the fortune-teller would be fulfilled, that he should become Emperor of the French, the arbiter of Europe, and die by the hand of a woman! How ridiculous, you exclaim. Well, is it any more so than his whole career for the last seven years would have sounded if spoken of as a thing of possibility seven years ago?

PORT NATAL.

The temperature is never excessive, nor of such a description as to prevent field labour at any period. The summer is mild, and during that time the greater proportion of the annual rains fall. Frost and snow may be said to be unknown, although, at times, the latter may be seen in the distance, capping the higher peaks of the Darkenburg. Bronchial complaints, ague, consumption, or such like diseases, are unknown; and with truth, Natal may be said to be unsurpassed in point of salubrity of its climate by any region of the earth. The soil is extremely fertile and capable, with the aid of climate, of producing all descriptions of cereal produce, as well as tropical plants and fruits, besides many articles peculiar to temperate climates. Tobacco, the vine, cotton, indigo, the sugar-cane, coffee, the mulberry, Palma Christi, auberges, all succeed admirably. The soil in all cases will yield two crops in the year, and manure on a virgin soil is not required; the character of the cultivation is also of the plainest description. The natural herbage and plants are most luxuriant in quality; the grass is frequently found to reach to the shoulders of your horse as you ride through it, and to be much too rich for pasturing sheep upon. The land generally ascends from the coast, along which exists some valuable timber, until it attains the elevated ranges of Darkenburg. It is a matter of surprise that the capabilities of Natal have so long remained undeveloped, and that so little exertion has been made to settle the country with some portion of that superabundant population existing in Great Britain and Ireland.

The most discontented man, is, after all, the most easily contented, because nothing satisfies him.

Incidents of the War.

DESCRIPTION OF KINBURN.

The water of the Bug and Dnieper fall into the sea by a single channel. After forming a lake, in which they mingle, the two rivers run together between Ochakoff to the north and Kinburn to the south, in a narrow channel of varying depth, the minimum being 15 feet, much nearer to Kinburn than to Ochakoff. The latter place, on the right bank, is built on the summit of a cliff of moderate height, advancing in a sharp angle straight to the south, and projecting at a low point, on which there is an ancient fort of Genoese construction, in bad condition. A battery of nine guns, of large calibre, recently constructed, beyond the channel and enfilading it, but at a long range, completes the defence on this side, without presenting any serious obstacle. It is on the left bank, upon the tongue of sand formed by the alluvial deposits of both rivers, that the citadel of Kinburn is built. It commands the passage in both directions, up and down, forming in a word, the only defence of the mouth of the Dnieper. The fortress of Kinburn is a horned work of masonry, with parapets of earth, surrounded by a ditch where it is not washed by the sea, containing barracks and other buildings, of which the roofs and chimneys can be seen above the ramparts. It is armed on every face, presenting one tier of guns in covered casemates, with a battery above them; it mounts in all about sixty cannon, of which half fire seawards from the S. E. to the N. N. W. Kinburn contains a garrison of about 2000 men, without reckoning the military colonists established outside the walls in a regularly-built village, to the south, and about a cannon shot from the place. Two new batteries have been recently built to the north east of the fortress.

OTCHAKOFF, KHERSON, AND NICOLAIEFF.

Otchakoff, which forms the key to Nicolaieff is thus described by the *Assemblée Nationale*.—'Otchakoff, but for its strategical position would be considered at this day as an unimportant village. Kinburn, the Kilburn of the Tartars, is not even a village. These two points, previous to the present war, was scarcely fortified, and the most recent accounts only mention one battery at Otchakoff; but since the bombardment of Odessa, the Russians comprehended the necessity of defending that passage, and the siege of Sebastopol has taught us the promptitude with which the enemy can raise fortifications, and make up in that respect for lost time. The forts of Kinburn fell into the hands of the allies on the 17th. If Otchakoff, as it appears probable, be attacked in its turn, the defence it can offer will not be of any length. The capture of the two fortresses will open the passage of the mouth of the Dnieper of the Anglo-French squadrons, and, in consequence, the road to Nicolaieff and Kherson.—The occupation of Otchakoff would, moreover, permit the despatch of a land expedition against the first-named town. Nicolaieff forms the point of a triangle, having the mouth of the Dnieper for a basis, and of which the citadel of Otchakoff and the town of Kherson occupy the other extremities. The roads, which conduct to them do not appear to offer any serious obstacles.'

THE CAMP IN THE CRIMEA.

Our letters from the Camp before Sebastopol, on the Tchernaya, and from Eupatoria, came down to the 24th, from the latter place to the 20th ult. These communications are extremely various, touching on all matters except 'news,'—indeed, one of the letters now opens. There is really nothing to write about, and no events have occurred worthy of lengthened notice since my last letter. There is a camp story that Kerch has been taken, by which I presume it meant either Pavlovskia, the Quarantine station, or Yenikale, inasmuch as Kerch is not in our military possession, and it is quite impossible to conjecture what the Russians would do with it if they had it. There is also a rumour which has led a vagabond and precarious existence ever since the 9th September, 'that the enemy are leaving the north side,' but no ocular demonstration can be afforded of the assertion, although there has been considerable movements and changes of position among the Russian troops at Mackenzie's Farm and Belbek for the last few days.

DESERTERS AND THEIR STORIES.

The accounts which arrive by deserters are of ambiguous character. Lately great numbers of the latter have come in, partly to the Piedmontese, and partly to the French, and from every arm of the service. This frequent desertion speaks either of a great carelessness in the Russian outposts, or else what is more probable, of an indifferent state of discipline. All those who have lately come in are unanimous in their assertion that the Emperor Alexander has been in the Crimea in the middle of this month. They all agree in stating that he reviewed and inspected all the troops on the Mackenzie-ridge on the 12th, those in the Sievernia on the 13th, and those on the plateau of Korals towards the Upper Belbek on the 14th. The unanimity with which all deserters speak of the presence of the Emperor

and of the reviews which he held, seem to put doubt out of the question. About the movements of the Russian army the deserters seem to know nothing. The expression which they say the Emperor used in his speech namely, that they are going to march, puzzles them as much as it does us; whether they are marching forward or backward is to them as much as a mystery as to us.

THE RUSSIAN ARTILLERY.

On the Mackenzie ridge there are still the twenty-one pieces of heavy artillery remaining. The Russian field artillery has received orders to draw back from the front, and twenty men of each battery will be sent into the interior to drill recruits during the winter. This looks as if the Russians were preparing for a quiet winter. That they are not afraid of our disturbing them is evident for the weak outposts that are in the valley. The service of the whole line from Inkerman to Tchoulou and the Upper Belbek is done by three *soudas* of Cossacks, who are relieved every third week by others coming from the Belbek during the day. During the night the Russians form a chain of moving videttes all along their line, at a short distance from each other, who have to be in constant communication.

A SOLDIER'S ADVENTURE.

In the great explosion of the 15th, a soldier was killed named Goodram, of whom I wish to relate an anecdote. The night before the attack at the Redan. The Coldstreams were on duty in the trenches, and were relieved some hours before the assault took place. It was found that a private, named Samuel Goodram, was missing; and it was feared that he had gone away to some canteen to indulge in unfathomable potations, or had been hit as he came from the trenches. But great wrong had been done to this gallant soldier, who had remained behind from a pure love of fighting and from a desire 'to have a go in at the Russians.' Goodram, it seems, secreted himself as the regiment marched off, and employed his leisure time in filling the breast of his coat and every available place with cartridges, fearing that his private supply of fifty rounds would fail him before he got his fill of fighting. When the storming party was advancing Goodram joined it as a volunteer, and his own regiment claim him as being the first private soldier in the Redan on that memorable day. He was twice driven out of the Redan, and was engaged individually with the Russians, and received two wounds—one in the side and one in the arm—but still kept up a fire when driven back and forced over the parapet into the ditch. Instead, however, of retiring and getting under cover in the parallels, Goodram made an impetuous rifle pit on the broken glacis outside, and there he maintained his fire on the enemy till his ammunition became exhausted, and his wounds so painful that he could no longer use his rifle. Then he shouldered his arms and marched stiffly up through the trenches and across the open ground till he reported himself to his regiment. He was, I believe, tried for being absent without leave and for stealing his comrades' cartridges, but Minos himself could not have condemned a soldier like this to any severe punishment for a crime which Minos's jurymen would have called heroic.

THE RUSSIANS IN THEIR ENCAMPMENT.

My hut commands a view of a considerable portion of the plateau at the other side of the Tchernaya, and overlooks the spurs at Mackenzie's Farm, and the Russian encampments at Inkerman, and between it and the Lower Belbek and from the windows the movements of the enemy are plainly visible in moderately clear weather. Yesterday we observed the whole of the enemy were in motion along the plateau, and from an early hour in the morning till two o'clock in the afternoon their battalions were marching to and fro, but it was evident they were only changing their troops, and that the regiments which left Mackenzie were replaced by regiments from the camp in the rear. The new comers at the spur-buts seemed to be dressed better, to be taller men, and to wear darker coats than those who were relieved by them. Their various camps are rapidly losing the look of snowy neatness of canvas, and are being converted into dingy rows of huts. We can see their telegraphs at work with the greatest facility, and to-day I can make out the flags with my glass. It is a pity one cannot get the Imperial Code Book of Signals and a dictionary. They have a considerable quantity of cattle feeding among the brushwood at Inkerman, and their works on the north side are rapidly attaining prodigious and gigantic dimensions indicate every intention of holding their position.

THE SARDINIANS AND THEIR HUTS.

The Sardinian have now housed not only their troops at Kamara, but even their most advanced outposts on the other side of the Tchernaya. As they are nearest to the Russians, they are strictest in their military regulations; no one is allowed to approach without being challenged and asked for the parole. On all the other points where a sort of neutral ground intervenes between our and the Russian positions you can go about as if there were no Russians in front, and only when you approach the Sardinians are you reminded that you are before the enemy.

THE SOLDIERS NEW WINTER DRESS.

The winter-kit served out to each man is such as would render him tolerably independent of the severest season that can visit the earth anywhere between the poles, and will certainly enable him to laugh at Boreas, be the temper of the stormy god what it may, for the next four months in the Crimea. The articles comprise a most excellent tweed coat, lined throughout with rabbit or catskin; a larger and warmer sheepskin coat, two pairs of thick worsted drawers, two Jerseys, one pair of worsted gloves, one worsted cholera belt, one pair of long waterproof boots, one pair of worsted stockings, one pair of socks of the same quality and one sealskin cap to turn down and completely cover the ears and neck. No one, I am disposed to think will charge Lord Panmure with having neglected a single article that the health or comfort of even the rawest recruit now in camp can require. The men themselves are loud in the expression of their satisfaction. But while the soldiers have been thus liberally provided for the complaint with regard to the officers remain as forcible as ever. Nothing whatever is to be given to them. A small supply of warm greatcoats has indeed been sent out, but for each the high charge of 65s. is to be made. Surely in providing so lavishly for the comfort of the men as he has done, Lord Panmure might have ventured on the additional liberality for the officers as well, at very reduced prices, if not as a free gift. The hardest pressed taxpayer between the Scilly and the Orkneys would scarcely have grudged his share of the outlay involved in so well-earned a piece of official generosity.

THE NEW HUTS.

The new Lowestoft huts are at length in course of erection, and most excellent in construction do they seem—doublewalled, windowed, floored, and well ventilated, they can hardly fail to afford great comfort through the winter to the troops who are receiving them, and will certainly be a great advance in this respect upon the old single-sheeted structures hitherto in use. I have not been able to learn how many of these new buildings have reached Balaklava, but from the numbers which are to be seen already brought up, or in daily course of transit to the camp, they appear to be considerable.

THE ENTENTE CORDIALE.

In respect of winter-clothing, hutting, and feeding, our men are immediately better off than our allies, and it is not unusual to see the latter eating in the English camp of the excess of our soldiers' cooking-kettle. Little friendships have sprung up in this way. 'Francesse' comes over with his spoon, a smile, an onion, and a bit of salt, or savoury condiment, to some sapper or grenadier, day after day, about dinner time, indulges in pantomimic conversation, interlarded with many 'benos,' and regales on good soup and broth, to the great delight of his entertainer. Thus both are satisfied—a true *entente cordiale* is established through the medium of the stomach, and no one is a loser.

DECLINE OF DRUNKENNESS.

There is commendable activity at all events, and there are already traces of a vigorous hand at head-quarters. The Provost Marshals and their assistants are looking very sharply after all strangers and all malpractices. Drunkenness is much on the decline, and it would be very unfair to infer that it was ever excessive; but the fact is, that a few confirmed drunkards, who become intoxicated daily, give a bad reputation to a whole regiment, and this spreads to the whole army. The petty thefts have been traced in nearly every instance to natives or camp followers, and on the whole there never was a better conducted army in the field placed under similar circumstances. We are to have horse races on a grand scale, early in December; of which the rules and regulations are already published.

M. SOYER AND HIS SERVICES.

The hospital kitchens are certainly worth seeing, and M. Soyer has, by the introduction of his stoves, and of an improved system of *menage*, contributed to render them efficient. His stove would be still more valuable if it roasted or baked, as well as boiled, but at present the last is the only preparation for which it is suited, and the old camp kettle always did that as well, always, however, with a much greater consumption and waste of fuel. In economising the latter scarce and expensive article by the introduction of his stove, M. Soyer has rendered a considerable service. No article presses more heavily on the resources of the commissariat department, is more bulky and difficult of transit, more scarce, and more expensive than wood or fuel.

CAMP STOVES.—KITCHEN REQUISITES.

The use of the camp stoves is very limited, and, indeed such improvements have been suggested by experience, and forced by necessity upon officers and men, that in many instances the most accomplished *cordon bleu* could suggest nothing to be added or removed from the regimental kitchens, made or in course of construction. The spoils of Sebastopol have materially contributed to our comforts and efficiency in this respect. Kitchen ranges, boilers, iron bars, Stourbridge bricks—I have seen in a chimney built into the side of my hut, and marked 'Harpers Stourbridge.'—ovens, brass,