

sia Camp, and were brought in this morning.—The French mortar batteries are within 1,300 metres of the inner batteries of the Russians. A sortie of insignificant strength was made by the garrison last night, and was repulsed as usual. The French lost five men only. The Cossacks on the hill to the N. E. of Balaklava have nearly disappeared, and there are no indications that they intend to re-occupy the hill on which it was supposed the enemy were about to reconstruct redoubts.

The utmost secrecy is observed respecting our future operations, and much of the information one glean is imparted "in confidence," is of dubious authority, and is generally of a nature to demand concealment. Any time from "this day week" to "the beginning of April" may be taken as the period for the reopening of our batteries. Strict orders have been issued that artillery and engineer officers are not to give information respecting our works to any one but officers entitled to demand it, and infantry officers are not allowed to get any details concerning the works and armaments. These orders are so stringent that no officer, unless he be known to the sentries, is allowed to go through our lines above Balaklava; and the restriction applies even to naval officers, and to all officers of regiments not actually stationed on the spot.

February 14.

The great topic of conversation and gossip to-day is the recall of the Earl of Lucan from the command of the Cavalry Division.

In a divisional order last night Lord Lucan takes his farewell of the division, and assures them of his good wishes, and of the interest he takes in their future career. He paid a farewell visit to General Canrobert yesterday, but he did not pay his respects to Lord Raglan before he departed. The noble lord has taken a passage in the Jason, which sails to-morrow for Constantinople, and he is accompanied by his son, an aide-de-camp, Lord Bingham. The temporary command of the cavalry devolves upon Major-General Scarlett, brigadier of the heavy Cavalry Brigade. People in England will no doubt speedily hear the facts of this case, and will be enabled to form their opinion of its merits, as it is not probable Lord Lucan will be many days in England before he brings the matter before the House of Peers; and it is confidently affirmed that his lordship will in all certainty demand a court-martial, should his reputation at some be of a character to imply that he had been recalled for misconduct.

February 15.

Last night the wind increased in force blowing in strong gusts and squalls, which tore down tents and the materials for hutting on the heights over Balaklava, and sent them clattering down the hill. The wind, hot and dry as one of the warm breezes of the tropics, sucked up the moisture of the roads as it passed, and the tracts of deep mud and the waste of earth and water on which our camp stands are rapidly becoming solid—so rapidly, indeed, that the effect is little short of magical. It much resembles the Mediterranean sirocco. The thermometer exposed outside my quarters marks no less than 71. The sky is overcast and lurid, but there are no clouds visible—the whole atmosphere is of a slaty grey hue overhead and on the horizon, but objects at a distance give well defined outlines, and are not at all obscure. The wind is very uncertain in force; at times the gusts are terrific; they generally come at intervals of five or six minutes, and vary in strength at each outburst. The general direction of the wind, as far as I can judge, is from the south-south-east to south-west. Under its influence, under the strange change of temperature, the bulbous roots, which seem to abound in the soil of the Chersonese, are putting forth shoots with vigour, and crocuses and hyacinths, some in flower, have pushed their bright green leaves above the black surface of the soil, and, by their freshness and vividness of colour, afford a strong contrast to the sterile aspect of the hoof-trodden ground.

Towards night the violence of the gale abated. The Field-Marshal came down to Balaklava yesterday, and visited the various public establishments in the town, and inspected the progress of the railway. There was another sortie last night, which the French repulsed with a loss of 35 killed and wounded and missing. The Russians lost at least as many in their hasty retreat. The works on our right are in splendor. The roads have dried so rapidly as to admit of the passage of artillery. The railroad is now completed for about 900 yards from the town towards Kadikoi.

The division of General Bosquet on our right and in rear of our right flank was reinforced to-day by upwards of 8,000 men, so that it is quite probable the rumours we hear of a reconnaissance in force being likely to take place in a few days under his command are true, and that the mysterious disappearance of the Russians from our rear will be explained and their present position ascertained. These troops, all of whom are light infantry, marched along the ridge of the plateau in heavy marching order at half-past 10 o'clock, and took up their ground on the ridge overlooking the Inkermann valley and the Tchernaya; they were encamped before half-past 12 o'clock, but many of the tents were blown down by the wind. The Russians opened a new battery upon them from the opposite heights, but they did no damage. I be-

lieve this battery may be said to have been "unmasked," for I am not aware that its existence had been previously observed. The Russians have thus established their batteries from Inkermann Light east on the heights over the Tchernaya towards the south-east, with the object of annoying our flank, but the distance is too great, and all their efforts to injure us have hitherto been abortive.—Correspondent of the Times.

Heights of Balaklava, Feb. 16.

Typhus fever, I am informed, has shown itself among the remnant of the Guards. The gallant but most unfortunate brigade now only musters 363 effective men. The still more unfortunate 63d have been sent to the heights near Balaklava, where they muster to the number of some 20 men, principally officers' soldier servants. Typhus, also, I am sorry to say prevailed to some extent among the 93d Highlanders, but is now diminishing.

129 men were invalided yesterday.

Three Russian soldiers were captured by the French yesterday evening while reconnoitring our position between Balaklava and Kadikoi.—Two others who were with them made their escape.

In the gale of last night a large number of the tents and one or two of the huts of the marines and rifles on the heights round Balaklava were blown down.

It is currently reported here that General Jones (of the Engineers) does not entirely approve of the manner in which the siege has been conducted hitherto. According to this rumour he has given it as his opinion that the town should either have been assaulted at once, and before the enemy had time to throw up earthworks, or else that subsequent measures should have been taken to invest both north and south on the arrival of reinforcements. From all the reports which reach us daily, I have every reason to believe that nothing of consequence will be attempted until this investment is completed. When that will be it is quite impossible to say as we shall, at least, require 100,000 men in addition to the forces already here. Nothing has occurred to induce me to change the opinion which I expressed some time since, that a considerable period must elapse before we are in possession of the place. We shall have one or two severe contests to dispossess and capture the Russian batteries at Inkermann before it will be in our power to move to the north side. While these remain in the enemy's hands any advance is quite out of the question.

The French have thrown up another redoubt in the rear of our right attack, and to the right of the picket-house. This is named the Victoria Battery, and will be mounted with 8 heavy guns and 2 mortars. It commands the Quaintine Creek, and the east end of Sebastopol. Most of our officers, however, suspect it is in turn commanded by a heavy battery on the north of the harbour. The enemy is completing a second line of stockades, with a deep fosse around all its works. One such line of defence has existed for some time. Both the advanced works of the French and the enemy's batteries fired heavily all last night.

Accounts from the fleet mention that Admiral Lyons has turned over to the Royal Albert, and Admiral Stewart has hoisted his flag in the Hannibal. The Russians are occupied day and night in rendering the sea face of Sebastopol impregnable. The whole face of the cliff under the "Wasp" Battery is being galled and cut into casemated batteries, like the fronts of Constantine and Alexander. Several guns have already been mounted in these casemates. Heavy earthwork batteries have also been erected, and line the inside of the harbour on both sides. These on the south are placed *fleur de eau*, that is, perfectly level with the water's edge, while those on the north cover the steep slopes which are crowned by Star Fort and St. Siverina. On this side the batteries are sometimes in four tiers of guns, which are so placed that nothing but the muzzles can be seen, while the upper tiers could fire almost straight down on a vessel's deck. Under such circumstances any attempt on the fortresses from the sea is looked on here as madness.

Seven thousand French soldiers of the line arrived in our camp yesterday from Kamiesh.—They occupied the ground in rear of the Guards. It is intended to add another battery of six guns to that already constructed at the head of the harbour of Balaklava, and still stronger defences are spoken off as being in contemplation. It is not now likely that the reconnaissance of the enemy's position will take place for two or three days, though, owing to the late fine weather, the ground is in every respect good, and fit either for cavalry or artillery. The atmosphere is still dry and dull, with hot southerly winds. All the plants are budding forth, and everything seems to indicate an early return of spring.

The Balaklava railway is now nearly a mile in length.

Upwards of 100 men were invalided to-day. The sickness from scurvy is, I am glad to say, abating much. Fevers are now the prevalent complaints. Nearly 20 vessels have arrived at Balaklava since last week, so that the harbour will now scarcely hold another ship. Kherson Bay is also very full.—Correspondent of the Morning Herald.

Heights of Sebastopol, Feb. 10.

A miserable change for the worse has taken

place in the weather. All last night was stormy and cold, and accompanied by heavy falls of rain and snow. Owing to the extreme keenness of the wind, the latter eventually predominated over the rain, and early this morning the ground was covered to the depth of several inches with half-thawed slush, which, if it continues, will give us a repetition of all our past miseries. During the early part of to-day the temperature again changed, and the air became close, warm, and heavy. Such sudden and repeated alternations of hot and cold weather produce the very worst effects upon our debilitated soldiers, who are now in such a sickly condition that the least atmospheric change nearly doubles the daily average of hospital patients. It is not too much to say that our men just now are scarcely fit to bear anything in the way of fatigue or variation of temperature, and apparently the most trivial causes serve to swell our heavy sick list still higher and higher.

This morning Lord Raglan, accompanied by the principal members of his staff, rode into Balaklava to inspect the progress which the new tramway is making from that place. Whatever his lordship's expectations might have been, I am sure he could not have felt otherwise than highly gratified at the skill and rapidity with which the works connected with it have been carried on. All the materiel has been disembarked, the railway yard formed, workshops for the engineers erected, and the stationary engines landed and tried. The ground over which the line is intended to pass has been surveyed, and a considerable number of the sleepers and rails already laid down. Of course, as fast as one part is completed, even if only a quarter of a mile in length, it will be used for traffic as far as it goes. The present very unfavourable weather may doubtless tend to delay the progress of the works; but, rendering the ground extremely heavy; out still, taking all delays into account, I have little doubt but that the greater part of the line will be completed by the middle of next month, and the whole extended to the camp before the end of March.

Besides the improvement in the neighbourhood of Balaklava, I am glad to say that several of the suggestions which I have lately had occasion to make in my correspondence have been admitted as useful by the home authorities, and are now in course of being carried into execution. For the future it is ordered that all ships in harbour are to extinguish lights and fire at 10 p. m., and boats from the men-of-war will row guard each night to see this regulation strictly complied with. Drunkenness on board any of the vessels will be punished, and powder-ships are in future to be moored apart from others. I am glad to say also that we have conveyance for sick and wounded. This was a step which should have been adopted from the very commencement of the campaign. It would have saved unheard-of suffering to our unfortunate troops, and prevented the occurrence of the disgraceful scenes which have thrown such a stigma both on our humanity and military reputation.

It is likewise rumoured that a sanitary officer is at last to be appointed to each division, though on this point I am not certain of anything beyond the fact that such a functionary is much wanted and anxiously desired by all.

It is said that a Highland division is to be formed and placed under the command of Sir Collin Campbell. If so, the 93rd, 42nd, and 79th, now here, will all require large reinforcements before the spring. Though these regiments—stationed at Balaklava—have suffered none of the terrible privations which fell to the lot of those here in camp, they are still much reduced in effective strength and united barely muster 1,200 effective soldiers.

February 11.

The Russians in the town have been extremely quiet of late, and no longer show in the same numbers, promenading in an round their works, as formerly. The Cossack Battery which they have erected so the north of the valley of Inkermann still maintains its fire on all who are sufficiently imprudent to quit the line of our defences on that side. The new ships-gun battery, erected above the Tchernays, on the rear of our lines, also opens an occasional cannonade on the wretched stragglers who descend the valley in search of wood for fuel. It has caused no casualty yet, nor is it likely to do so, as it rarely has an opportunity of firing at any shorter range than 4,000 yards. The Zouaves are by no means deterred by its presence.—These indefatigable troops avail themselves with the most persevering ingenuity of all the resources which this inhospitable country presents. Some of them have constructed snares for wild ducks, which they place in the Tchernays each night, and descend to them before the break of day to secure their spoil. Others have made good nets of twine, and with them they are eminently successful—never failing to secure an immense haul of fine fish, a large proportion of which sell to the officers about the English camp.

An 88th man who had been captured in a sortie, made his escape from Sebastopol two nights since. I have not been informed of the full particulars of his escape, but I am told they display as much cool courage as daring and readiness of resources. His hands and arms were dreadfully cut from his having to crawl some distance along a wall covered with spikes and broken bottles. He reports that the mor-

ality among the enemy is fearful, and that the dead lie unburied about the streets of the town. However this story has been told too often to meet with ready credence now, especially as the man could give no reason for such a tremendous loss on the part of the enemy. According to the man's own showing, it could not have been caused by want of provision, and certainly not by the fire of the allies, as we now do very little in that way. If the Russians can find them to saunter about their batteries, and beautifully and perfect them into so many regular models of fortifications, surely they would find leisure, for their own sakes, to inter the very few which can now fall by the accident of war. As far as can be judged by the aspect of the town, or conduct of the enemy, they certainly do not appear to be reduced to very great straits just yet, and all we hear of their sayings and doings represent them as quite confident of ultimately repulsing the attack of the allies.—A few nights ago, while the 44th were on duty in the trenches, two or three of the Russian advanced sentries made a sudden attack on two or three of the English. One of our soldiers, as his opponent advanced caught him on the point of the bayonet and drove the weapon completely through his chest. Though mortally wounded, the Russian nevertheless fought and actually succeeded in getting our sentry down, and was on the point of wresting his firelock from him, when another of our sentries happily came up and decided the contest by shooting the Russian through the head. In any nightly struggles in the trenches, such instances of desperate valour are common both among the allies and the enemy.

The condition of our camp ground, after the heavy rains we have had during the last 48 hours, is very bad. This wet must add heavily to our sick list. There are only a few huts up; and these as I have before said, are entirely filled with sick, and devoted to hospital purposes. If the wet should continue much longer the roads will again be in such a state as to render the chance of getting up rations or provisions of any kind almost as difficult as ever; and it is now impossible to deny what the consequence must be if our troops are exposed to further privations. Scurvy and scorbutic dysentery are more or less rife in every regiment, yet the men still continue to get salt rations; and salt is hardly a term by which to convey the saltiness of the beef and pork. Are there no such things as vegetables to be had? Have live cattle suddenly ceased to exist, that our men cannot be placed entirely on fresh provisions? Any amount of potatoes can be procured at Constantinople, and perhaps the very finest and cheapest lemons in the world are to be had at Smyrna and Varna; yet our troops are dying for the want of them. Two cargoes of potatoes and another of lemons or onions, would do more to save our men than all the jams and plum-puddings of 10 Crimean funds. Surely it cannot be said that the appearance of scurvy—when our men were night and day exposed to damp, and living entirely on salt meats—took the authorities by surprise, as they cannot assert that, when once it did make its dreaded appearance, they were unaware that fresh vegetables were wanted to stop its ravages. I think I am right in saying that the commissariat have only supplied one cargo of vegetables, and that was soon after the troops landed at Balaklava.—These vegetables were allowed to remain so long on board ship (the Harbinber) that they at last, I am told, fermented, and became bad, and the majority were eventually thrown into the sea. Within the last few days I am informed that a quantity of potatoes (some 10 or 12 tons) were purchased by the commissariat from a vessel in the harbour, which brought them up as a private speculation; but we may well question the judiciousness of those arrangements which leave the most urgent wants of the English soldier to be supplied by such fluctuations of profit as may tempt traders to visit Balaklava. Much of the blame of this management must be due to the commissariat officer at Constantinople.—It has certainly been in his power to forward fresh vegetables.

The remains of the brigade of Guards are expecting each day to move back to Balaklava. I am not now aware of their precise strength, though certain that it is even lower than when I last wrote. If any regiments could have been saved by the unremitting care and tenderness of their officers this brigade would certainly have lost little. The conduct of the Guards' officers towards their men has set a splendid example to the whole force, and has been the theme of many and most warm praises. I myself have constantly seen several of the officers starting down to Balaklava, in all weathers, day after day, to search for any little comforts or articles of luxury which might minister to the cure of their sick men. It is this treatment and the care and sympathy with which they have entered into any plan which promised relief that lead the guardsmen to look up to their officers with a devotion and attachment which no peril shakes or privation lessens.

Lord Raglan on his visit to Balaklava, entered and minutely examined the little shed established by the Commander and officers of the Caradoc for the purpose of giving tea and arrowroot to the sick before embarkation. His Lordship expressed his approval of the plan and the manner in which the steward had carried it out in the warmest terms.