

officer, with a flag of truce, shot from the side of the admiral's ship, and soon touched the pier at St. Roch's.

Springing on shore, the young officer, with a courteous salutation to the commander of the detachment waiting to receive him, requested to be conducted to the Comte de Frontenac, to whom he was the bearer of despatches from Sir William Phillips. The consent of the governor being signified, he was blindfolded, and led up the steep rocky streets of the lower town past frowning batteries, and through formidable rows of chevaux de frise, to the lofty platform on which stood the castle of St. Louis.

Admitted within its gates, he was conducted to the council chamber, where M. de Frontenac surrounded by high dignitaries of the church, and officers both civil and military, sat in state. An imposing audience thought the young man when his eyes were unbandaged, and he stood, the bearer of a haughty message, before that dignified assembly.

The stern proud countenance of the imperious governor, one would have thought, was in itself enough to daunt the courage of any ordinary man under such circumstances; but the English herald, with a bearing as haughty as that of the aristocratic noble he confronted, advanced towards him, and with a stately obeisance awaited his permission to unfold his errand. Slightly returning the stranger's greeting, the governor said, in a brief and peremptory manner:

'Read on, sir, and you shall have our answer.'

(To be continued.)

DELICATE ATTENTIONS IN THE GOOD OLD TIME.

WILLIAM the Norman was a mirror of knight-hood, and is known to have knocked down the gentle Matilda of Flanders even in the days of their courtship. The blow did not put a stop to their wooing, nor did it delay as merry wedding, which one would think could hardly have been merry under such auspices. Then there was that paragon of chivalry, the elder Aymon, sire of the *Quatre fils Aymon* of the romantic legend. That gallant gentleman was not only accustomed to maltreat his lady wife by thumping her into insensibility, but when his eldest son, Reinold, once ventured to comment upon one of those pleasant little domestic scenes, to the effect that they interrupted conviviality, and that his respected sire should either chastise the speaker's mother more gently or elsewhere, the knightly father was so enraged at this approach to interference on the part of a son, in behalf of a mother who was lying senseless at his feet, that, taking him with one hand by the hair, he beat his face with the other and mailed hand into that pulpy consistency which, Professor Whewell says, distinguishes the interesting inhabitants of the wide and desolate plane of the planet Jupiter.

From this contest however, the old knight came out as little recognizable as his son, so chivalrously had they mauled each other. So much for precedent. The example has been followed in Germany since the days of George Louis. Louis XVIII. informs us in his memoirs, that when the daughter of Louis XVI. found a refuge at Vienna, after her liberation from the Temple, she was urged by the Empress to consent with a marriage with one of the Imperial Archdukes, and that the Empress at last became so enraged by the firm and repeated refusal of "madame royal" to acquiesce in the proposal, that on one occasion her Imperial Majesty seized the royal orphan by the arm and descended to *voies de fait*, in other words, visited the young and destitute Princess with a shower of hard blows.

NATURE OF LEAVES.

What shall I do with my leaves? Are they good for anything? Why treasure them to be sure, as if they were coin of the realm; they are good for everything which a gardener has to do. They are the best of all shelter, the best of all materials for bottom heat, the best of all soil, the best of all drainage, the best of all manure. It is true they contain little or no nitrogen, but they rot quickly, are full of saline matters, on which every thing that bears the name of plant will feed gluttonously, and from their peculiar structure, allow air to pass in, and water to pass out with perfect freedom.

If we wish to know what leaves are good for we have only to burn them, and see what a quantity of ash they leave behind. All that ash is as much food for other plants as beef and mutton are for us. It is the material which nature is perpetually restoring to the soil in order to compensate for the waste which is produced by the formation of timber. In wild and trees are annually thus manured; were it otherwise, a wood would be a roof of life oversnowing a floor of death. If we can remove the leaves from our plantations, it is because of the artificial richness of the soil in which they grow. This sufficiently indicates the value of leaves, which are in truth hardly less important in their death than they were in their life, though in a different way.

A TEETOTALLER'S TREAT.—"Will you take something?" said a teetotalter to his friend, while standing near a tavern, "I don't care if I do," was the reply. "Well," said Frank, "let's take a walk."

Incidents of the War.

THE CAMP IN THE CRIMEA.

Letters from the army at Sebastopol, and on the Tchernaya, come down to the 6th instant. They contain no positive information as to any movement; but give details of the anniversary of the battle of Inkermann, the road-making and the changes of some of the French regiments. One of the letters enters, at some length, into the reasons why Odessa was not bombarded; and states that the Emperor of the French is quite adverse to such a proceeding. One remark made is to the following effect; the impression in the Crimea seem to be that Odessa should have been destroyed, whereas we believe that an attack on Odessa would have been considered throughout all Europe as a barbarous outrage, which the aggressors would have been heartily ashamed of after the heat of conflict had passed. If Odessa was really a military station, the stern laws of war would, no doubt, justify its destruction; but an attack upon a great commercial city, on the pretext that its stores supplied provisions to the Russian army, could only be classed in history with the burning of Washington.

The following are extracts:—

Camp, Sebastopol, Nov. 5.

The rumour of an attack from the Russian army has become again a subject of talk and speculation in our different camps. A deserter from the enemy, a Hungarian officer, is said to have given information that the present intention of the Russians is to make an assault against our position between the 6th and 8th of the month; and that in case of the result being favourable to their arms, it is not improbable that the main body of the army will evacuate the Crimea, leaving only troops sufficient to defend the entrenched positions. There is said to be a dearth of stores for the winter, increased by the destruction lately by fire of one of the principal commissariat depots, whilst the difficulties of transporting adequate supplies are insuperable. The large fire which was observed about ten days ago in an easterly direction along the north heights, and which was generally supposed at the time to proceed from the burning of brushwood, appears to have been produced by the destruction of the winter stores alluded to by the deserter. It was generally attributed to by the Russian camp to the agency of incendiary emissaries in the pay of the Allies. Whether the enemy holds any such intention as report has attributed to him, events will shortly prove; but it seems by far more probable that the rumour has been intentionally scattered abroad for the purpose of preventing any large portion of the Allied forces from quitting their present position.

A Council of War was held at head quarters on the 3rd instant, when, it is understood, after some discussion all intention of further operations against the enemy was abandoned for the present winter. The contemplated expedition against Kaffa is postponed. The lateness of the season, and the uncertainty of weather favourable for naval operations and landing troops continuing, sufficiently explain these resolutions. It is said, however, that the admirals were anxious for the undertaking to be attempted.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL'S DEPARTURE.

On the same day, Lieut.-General Sir Colin Campbell, commanding the Highland Division, took his departure for England in the Calcutta steamer. His leaving was either very suddenly determined upon, or the intention of doing so had been kept remarkably secret, for early on the morning of Saturday, when he left, none of the commanding or other officers of the regiments in the division were aware of the probability even of his quitting the division. Some short time ago Sir Colin was offered the command at Malta, which he considered to be tantamount to expressing a desire that his divisional command might become vacant, with a view to ulterior changes. He is said to have declined the offer bluntly in the following words:—"If I am in the way, say so, and I'll go at once; but if you ask me whether I choose to give up the command of my division, while it remains in front of the enemy, I answer, no. General Simpson had at that time tendered his resignation, but it was not known what the reply of the Government might be. That resignation has now been accepted, and the immediate cause of Sir Colin Campbell's departure is supposed to have been the announcement of this fact together with an intimation that it had been deemed expedient to appoint for his successor a general officer junior to Sir Colin Campbell in the service. Sir Colin applied at once for leave of absence, which was granted, and in a few hours he was on his way to England. He leaves with the regret not only of every officer in his own division, but of the army at large.—He was almost the only remaining officer who held at the commencement of the campaign a command superior to that of a battalion.—Col. Cameron, C.B., commanding the First Brigade of the Highland Division, succeeds Sir Colin Campbell.

CHANGE IN THE FRENCH REGIMENTS.

Some of the French regiments are about to leave immediately. The 11th 31st, and 64th Regiments of the Line, lately arrived, are now

in the plain, encamped immediately in rear of the regiments which they are to relieve. The whole of the Imperial Guard in the Crimea is to take its departure. This force is composed of two Regiments of Grenadiers, two regiments of Voltigeurs, one regiment of the Zouaves of the Guard, and one battalion of the Chasseurs of the Guard. The regiment of Gendarmes of the Imperial Guard has already left. The other regiments named for departure to France are selected according to their seniority of foreign service, and are the 11th Leger, 16th Leger, 20th Leger, 20th of the Line, 22nd Leger, 25th Leger, 50th of the Line, and 1st Regiment of Chasseurs a Pied. These will be replaced by fresh regiments, nearly all of which are now arrived.

The weather has continued remarkably warm and fine. Many of the winter huts have arrived and there has been great activity in bringing them up to the divisions in front. The continuance of the dry weather has been most favourable for the road-making and other winter preparations. The health of the troops has continued excellent.

ANNIVERSARY OF INKERMANN.

Nov. 6.

Festive meetings were held throughout the various French and English camps last evening, to celebrate the anniversary of the victory at Inkermann. As numerous bands were playing and bonfires were lighted at various points, the demonstrations must have attracted the notice of the enemy on the north heights.

At another spot a number of tar barrels, which had been brought back by the soldiers from Sebastopol, where a great quantity of tar has been found, were broken open and set on fire. In these were dipped pieces of rags fastened to sticks, and thus torches were improvised, which were swung about and thrown into the air, giving to the scene from afar the appearance of some pyrotechnic exhibition; but when you came nearer it looked like a war dance of cannibals, or the valse infernale in Robert le Diable, with yells substituted for the music. When seen quite close formed a picture a la Rembrandt, but the subject reminded one more of the fantastic paintings conceived by the excited imagination of some Spanish painters of the monastic school of terror than the placid scenes of the Dutch master, except that no painter could have given on his canvass the life which animated the scene. The main group in the middle stirring up tar-barrels, the frantic attitudes and leaps of those around, swinging about their torches and throwing them into the air, and in the background the guard turned out to prevent disorder, and forming a picturesque contrast in their dark grey coats with the glaring figures of the chief actors completed a most extraordinary scene. The Light Division began the joke, which was soon taken up by the other English divisions, until the whole English camp was one blazing light, and the air rang with shouts and hurrahs. But it was not only outside in the open air that the anniversary of the victory of Inkermann was celebrated. It was kept up likewise in the huts and tents, and many were the applications for an hour or two's leave to keep the lights burning. A sort of confused noise, contrasting with the usual silence of the night, left no doubt that the solemnity was kept up to a late hour. If the Russians did not remember their defeat as well as we did our victory, they must have been surely puzzled at these signs of excitement prevailing over the Allied camp, especially if they really had the intention of venturing on an attack some of these days. Their telegraphs, as far as we could see from the glare of the bonfires, were as busy.

Another correspondent, dated likewise on the 6th, says:—"Though a month has elapsed since I last wrote from the camp, before starting for Kinburn, I find on my return that the interval has hardly produced incident enough to supply material for a column of letter-press. The peaceful occupation of road-making has, in fact, almost monopolised the strategic talents of the officers and the executive energy of the men, both with ourselves and the French, during the entire absence of the expedition, and is likely to continue doing so till the rains set in to put a stop to out-of-tent operations of all kinds for the winter.

LANDING OF HUTS.

The only other employment that I can hear of as having given work for idle hands during the interval has been the disembarking of some huts at Balaklava; but unfortunately the fewness of these last has been such as to employ but a very small moiety of the available thousands, and those only for a brief period of the time. The operation of transhipping, however, had been so carelessly managed that, besides countless breakages, the various pieces of the respective huts had been so jumbled together—part being stowed away in one vessel and part in another—that on the arrival of the whole in Balaklava it was found impossible to fit together more than two-thirds of them, the remainder being either smashed or so hopelessly mixed up in marine store like confusion as to defy any approach to a reduction to integral order. The consequence is that several—how many I cannot say—must be re-made, with great waste of labor and new material, and all in consequence of the absurd transhipment in the Bosphorus. Without invidiously saddling blame on any one of

the officers employed in the conduct of this service, I may, in fact, make the general assertion that in no other department of the war administration, civil or military, with which I am acquainted is there anything like the same amount of lavish extravagance perpetrated.

RUSSIAN AND FRENCH WORKS.

Whilst these and other *morceaux* for the present keep alive the fire of camp gossip, nearly every other fire in the meantime is hushed. During a month our allies have only added to their previous mortar batteries in the town a small one behind fort Quarantine, from which and the larger work in the rear of Fort Nicholas they have, I learn, kept up a spasmodic shelling on the enemy's redoubts across the harbour. The large Sivermaia, or North Fort, on the summit of the slope now held by the Russians, has been the heaviest sufferer from these 'pot shots,' its wide spreading size furnishing a target which hardly a trio in gunnery could fail to hit. I cling to my formerly expressed opinion, however, that in the absence of our having a large field force beyond Inkermann, this fitful experimentalising is not worth the ammunition expended; for whatever trifling injury may be inflicted by it on the enemy's redoubts, the latter can efficiently repair it without much outlay either of life or material. Battering Fort Constantine might be more worth while, but, with the exception of an odd sixty-eight pound shot or heavy shell sent against it, hardly anything has yet been done in that direction.

INKERMAN REMEMBERED.

Yesterday, being the anniversary of Inkermann, was celebrated with boisterous enthusiasm throughout the camp. Early in the afternoon bonfire makers were busy in piling up heaps of every conceivable combustible which could be laid hands on, and soon after the sun had gone down behind the watery horizon of the Euxine, the whole front flared up like Blackheath on a Guy Fawkes' night. Pyrotechnics of original composition and effect hissed and blazed round the burning piles, round which also the jubilant and anti-teetotal commemorators of their own and their dead comrades' heroic struggle danced, shouted, and sang till far on in the night. As seen at some distance in the darkness, the strong Rembrandt light of the bonfires, and the Crimean squibs and Roman candles, gave the uproarious groups very much the appearance which might be supposed to be that of a party of intoxicated Ojibeways celebrating and feasting off roasted men. The whole passed off harmlessly, however, without fighting, or broils of any kind, that I have heard of.

THE RUMOURED ATTACK UNTRUE.

This morning, ten, had come and gone by without bringing with it the rumoured attack which was to have been made on us by the enemy from the Inkermann heights, and notice of which is said to have been received some days ago at head quarters from the same source which apprised our chiefs at the assault on the Tchernia. On the strength of the information Dr Hall issued instructions, some three days ago, to all the regimental hospitals to prepare to receive wounded; though, strangely enough no other precaution was taken to receive the enemy by any move of the divisions towards the ravine over which the assaulting columns must have come. Similarly a month ago, the same informant brought news of an intended attack on the 5th of October, to be in readiness for which the Highland Division was kept from going to Eupatoria, though neither was it brought a yard nearer the scene of what was reported to be the theatre of the intended assault. Had this attempt of the enemy been made either then or now, the luckless Light Division, with the Guards and the adjacent regiments of French, must have again borne the whole brunt of it for hours before the far off Highlanders, or Second, Third, and Fourth Divisions could have been brought up to the rescue.

ANOTHER EXPEDITION TALKED OF.

To these remarks I have only to add that another expedition is spoken of as on the eve of departure for Kaffa. The fleet has returned to Kazatch, and is at present lying there with General Spencer's brigade of the Fourth Division still on board. After the arrival of the ships the officers of the brigade received two days' leave to come on shore to the camp; but this expired yesterday, and they have again gone on board—a fact which is in itself significant of further operations somewhere, though from the numerical strength of that one brigade the work to be undertaken on land cannot be great. However, I shall have learned all particulars before the outgoing of the next mail and will then apprise you of the whole, as well as do my best to accompany the force, and keep you informed of what takes place.

Another letter gives some account of the force left at Kinburn, also refers to the operations in the Sea of Azoff:—

KINBURN.

The soldiers and sailors who are doomed to stay at and off Kinburn for the winter will have a dreary time of it. The sea on both sides of the spit is frozen to some distance from the shore, but Major-General Kokonovitch, the Russian governor, who was there for four years, said he had never known the sea to be frozen