or not God only knows, but if I return to France I shall have the appearance of an invalid. I received two wounds both on the same day, the 5th, at the battle of Inkermann, which was a glorious battle for France. I now write to you with my left hand. At five o'clock in the morning of the 5th the enemy, 40,000 strong, attacked our allies, the English, and at 7 a great number of them were destroyed by the Russians. At half-past seven my division arrived on the field of battle; at first only three battalions arrived at double quick time. Scarcely had we recovered breath when we formed in line under the murderous fire of forty-two pieces of artillery. The rapidity of our movement alarmed the enemy. Seeing us arrive, the English raised some of their heartiest hurrahs. They rallied to us, and, together, we pounded in on the enemy the most murderous volleys. We were near a wall about two feet high, and the Russians were on the other side, about forty paces off. We raised a cry of '*En avant, en avant tous les officers!*' A young sub-lieutenant, a friend of mine, who was by my side, shook me by the hand, and we cried out together, '*En avant! en avant! sus, sus zuzzkiers! a la bayonette!*' Our men imitated our example, and sprang forward. We fired a volley at ten paces, and then attacked the Russians with the bayonet and sabre. Suddenly I fell to the ground, and my blood trickled from me; I had just received my first wound from a splinter of a shell, which struck me in the head, but fortunately it only destroyed my ear, and my face was covered with blood. My captain fell by my side wounded in the leg, and my friend the young sub-lieutenant fell mortally wounded. In a short time after I rose from the ground, and, joining my men, again rushed forward. About an hour after I received a musket-ball through my right arm. It entered the fleshy part and came out at the elbow; but do not alarm yourself, for the bone is only slightly touched. In the report made by my captain he speaks favourably of me, and I may tell you that I am down for a cross. I was the first of my regiment wounded, but, as you may see, I did not stop. I again advanced, and I am conscious of having done my duty. My good sister you cannot picture to yourself such a massacre; shot, shell, and grape fell on us like rain in storm. But our soldiers were fine—mon Dieu! how they behaved. It makes one proud to be an officer when one commands such men. What a day for us! I glory in my two wounds."

THE MYSTERIOUS RUSSIAN OFFICER.—A letter from Sebastopol states that the Russian officer who is described as having spoken English fluently, and who, while out with a flag of truce, expressed himself deploringly that two great nations like England and Russia should go to war for such miserable wretches as the Turks, was the son of the late Admiral Greig, of the Russian navy, and an aide-de-camp of Prince Menschikoff. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Inkerman. His father fought with the Russian fleet at the battle of Navarino. The admiral was of Scottish origin, and is said to be a native of Forfar. It is somewhat remarkable that when Peter the Great projected a navy for Russia, and exclaimed, "The sea at any cost!" he sought the nucleus of sailors for that navy among the fishermen of Holland and of England and Scotland. In times gone by, before Russia became possessed of Finland, many fishermen and seamen of the east of Scotland, the Shetland Isles, and the Hebrides, were in the habit of entering her naval service, and some of Scotch—names of high rank in the fleet—were those of men who first joined as common seamen. The late Admiral Makenzie, of the imperial navy, is reported to have been a Hebridean, and like the celebrated northern traveller of the same name, the son of a fisherman. Russia now, however, can make ample levies of sailors from the hardy population of Finland.

CAPTAIN TOOSEY WILLIAMS, SCOT'S GREYS.—The last accounts from the Crimea mention that Captain S. Toosey Williams, of the Scott's Greys (eldest son of B. B. Williams, Esq., of Buscot Park,) who so gallantly led the second squadron of that splendid regiment in the memorable charge at Balaklava on the 25th of October, was suffering so acutely from fever and dysentery as to be obliged to leave for the hospital at Scutari; indeed, his bones were positively coming through the skin before he would consent to leave the camp. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, on going on board the Caradoc, at Balaklava, scarcely knew Captain Williams, so greatly altered was he from his severe illness. His Royal Highness, with that kind feeling he never manifests to the Officers and soldiers, desired Capt. Williams to be conveyed to the hotel at Pera, where every possible care would be taken of him, and it was hoped that in a short time he would be sufficiently recovered to rejoin his brave comrades of the Greys.

THE STAFF AT THE HORSE GUARDS.—We understand that Capt Pack, son to the celebrated Sir Dennis Pack, is to be Deputy Adjudant-General, in the room of Major-General Wetherall, appointed Adjutant-General, vice Major-General Cathcart, killed in action.

THE LATE BREVET-MAJOR TOWNSEND R. A.

THE following extracts from letters from officers in the Royal Artillery, respecting the death of this lamented officer—son of the Rev. W. Townsend, of Aghada, county Cork, will doubtless be interesting to our readers:—

"Poor Townsend was killed in a very severe action on the 6th, caused by a determined attempt of the Russians to turn the right of our position. It appears that our troops had already given away—Townsend's battery retreating as slowly as possible before overwhelming numbers, who had closed in upon them; it had three of its guns spiked, one by the Russians and two others by themselves. They however succeeded immediately in pressing forward the infantry, and recovered their ground and their guns, much of which was due, I am told, to poor Townsend's determined bravery, his battery was again in action. He went to the rear a few yards to communicate with Wood, in returning to the front, a round shot struck him in the head, I hear, amid expressions of regret for his loss from all sides, but one opinion of his character—a brave soldier, an able officer, a good man, imbued with strict Christian principles, he acted upon them in every relation of life. His body was brought off the field immediately and was interred in a spot where shortly after the bodies of Sir George Cathcart and General Strangways were also buried."

Extract from an officer's letter to his wife. Speaking of many friends he had lost, he adds:—

"Last not least, our dear friend Townsend. He said to me once that his mind had never been so quiet and easy as since he left England. The Sunday before—I went to his tent, and he read and prayed so devoutly and appropriately I can truly say his mind stayed upon his God. After the battle I went to Townsend's tent to inquire about the battery, and found that he had just been brought out of action. I did not go in, preferring to retain the two impressions—the man of God I saw the evening before in full vigour; and the saint in glory."

SELLING OUT.

Three or four officers have sold out their commissions in regiments now serving in the Crimea; and we perceive with some disgust in a certain quarter a disposition to sneer and taunt, as if the only explanation of such a proceeding must needs be disgraceful. Nothing can be more disraceful. Nothing cannot be more invidious than such a conclusion. There may be 100 circumstances that would compel a gentleman to quit the service, even in the midst of a campaign, without leaving room for the slightest imputation of a mean or unworthy motive. Bodily ailment, mental inability, positive calamity through constitutional weakness to perform the duties of the service, the unmistakable, though perhaps only transient symptoms of a moral disease, any of these causes would be quite sufficient excuse, in the judgement of honourable men, for the retirement of an officer from a post which he could no longer fill efficiently, as it ought to be filled.

Until it can be alleged that no such reason, nor many equally strong, exist, to justify the withdrawal of the gentlemen alluded to by the army, it is both hasty and unjust to condemn them. The simple fact, indeed, of their having been permitted to sell out, is to us a presumptive evidence, that the authorities at the Horse Guards sometimes to the contrary notwithstanding, that their honour and reputation, was scrupulously guarded.

We will, however, be asked, if we mean to say that true gentlemen of the army, like Dr. Lang, Crown, who quitted the field because, forsooth, he was not allowed to command his brigade, or the heroic Prince of Royal blood who left the service because he was not allowed to command a division, should be thus treated? We answer, by no means. We do not mean to say that such men should be treated with disrespect, but we do mean to say that the mere circumstance of their retirement from the service, cannot be construed into a reflection on the honour of those who remain. We