# THE WAR.

*Opinions of the English Press on the late Victories.*

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FATE OF SEBASTOPOL.

The fall of Sebastopol is the event of the week and of the year. We have struggled hard for its accomplishment, concentrated every energy, and endured every privation to secure the prize, and it is at length within our grasp,—a noble reward for all our patriotism and our sufferings. This celebrated fortress which thirty years of labour and as many millions of money were believed to have rendered impregnable, now lies at the mercy of the Allies; and before we have abandoned the Crimea not a stone will be left of a place which was purposely planned and erected for aggression, and the existence of which was a standing menace to the nationalities of Europe. Its reduction is the severest blow which Russia has ever received, and if the proud and arrogant ruler who provoked this war had lived but a few months longer, he would have seen the utter discomfiture of his nefarious policy, in the carrying out of which, during a long reign, he threatened, wheedled, and lied; and which, dying, he left to his successor. But the fatal legacy, based on material strength, has proved to be rotten to the core in that higher element of a refined civilisation—moral power, a fact which now stands revealed to the world at large.

The *Times* adds this forcible remark, which imparts great strength to its reasoning:—"By a peculiarity which distinguishes the result of this siege from all others in history, the allies took the place at last without entering it for the Russians were gone the water 24 hours before the allies had passed beyond the walls. Even after the French had gained possession of the Malakoff Tower, the victorious allies do not appear to have advanced beyond that position, partly because they would have to storm the second line of the enemy's defences, and partly because it was supposed the Russians had extensively mined the ground from which they had been driven with so great bloodshed. At that moment, too, it is still on the 8th of September, it cannot be said that Prince Gortschakoff was compelled to fly with precipitation from the scene of his terrible defeat; but, as he adopted that course without delay, we must look for the motives of his retreat to the facts which have come to our knowledge."

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"Hurrah to this heroic army, which after having fraternized in the fatigues and dangers, now does so in glory. Honour to those illustrious generals, to those valiant officers, and to those brave soldiers who, in the midst of the perils and fatigues of a long siege, have so nobly done their duty! Hurrah to the allied flags, which, personify on the soil of the Crimea, not only the bravery and the patriotism, but also the independence of Europe and the civilization of the world! Honour to the Governments who have known how to place such an army at the service of such a cause!

The *Pays* merely makes the following short remarks:—

"The flag of France floats over the smoking ruins of Sebastopol. The Russian fleet no longer exists. The vessels of war which had escaped our bombs have been sunk by the enemy themselves; the town is but one vast mass of conflagration. Thus this great enterprise has arrived at its final denouement. The valour of our army has in a few hours achieved a success which it took a year of heroic effort to prepare. Reflections on such an event are useless; let the glory of France speak for itself loudly enough."

The *Siecle* expresses itself as follows:—

"The fact of the three simultaneous attacks on the Malakoff, the Redan at Carenage Bay, and the Redan opposite the British army, is explained by the circumstance that these three fortifications mutually support each other, especially the Redan and the Malakoff, and that the success of one of the three would, within a short time, compensate for the check which might possibly be met with in the two others. This calculation has proved correct, and fortune has favourably on that day to the Russian arms. Warning results, has caused our flags to float on the defences of Sebastopol, now turned against the enemy. This affords a just cause for national pride and joy, to every French heart, whatever its political convictions. To those who are not quite uninitiated in military science, the words of the first despatch, 'our strong position of the Malakoff,' were a sure pledge of an impending solution, with respect to the southern part of Sebastopol, and the remnant of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea. Indeed we had scarcely taken up the pen to state our hope of definite success, when a second despatch arrived to confirm it. It is now no longer a hope, but a certainty of victory that we possess. The tenacious courage of the Russians, seconded by the most powerful artillery ever collected in any fortified place, has been forced to yield to the scientific audacity of the allied armies. What had cost sixty years of preparation has been overthrown in ten or eleven months. The Russians have destroyed what they could not hold. That is the consolation of the vanquished. We may observe that this spirit of destruction, which will the aid of a winter of unusual severity, saved Russia in 1812, in the present instance only deprived us of a few trophies. Backed by the sea, where the only enemy they have to fear is the tempest, France and England are in no want of what their adversary burns. Sails and steam, which have brought us all that was requisite for conquest, will also bring us what is requisite to enable us to profit by the victory.

"To-day we have no room for aught but the exultation of triumph; to-morrow we shall have to register and bewail the losses which that triumph must have cost, for God has laid a heavy price upon the glory of arms. Until grateful France can salute their names, let us bless those who have died fighting for civilization, and whose ashes, as Ajax prayed, has been fittingly illuminated by the light of day."

THE RECEPTION OF THE NEWS IN LONDON.—*Public Sentiment in the Metropolis.*—At 10 o'clock on Monday night a large crowd assembled in front of the Times office and Royal Exchange in the Strand, and Fleet Street, and Ludgate Hill, but as no intelligence had yet been received, the crowd soon dispersed. At 11 o'clock the Stock Exchange was crowded on the 8th the anniversary of our Revolutionary war. The same general procession of the Stock Exchange, where they finally established themselves. The consequences will be immense, said General Pelissier, in the despatch in which he announced the triumph. Immense, certainly, for scarcely had the news of the taking of the Malakoff Tower become known in Paris, than a Stock Exchange, encouraged by the Government of the Empire, made known the satisfactory news of the fall of the place and the death. There are one generation, indeed, the Russian could no longer exists except as a convenient. The Czar refused to treat—it is to your good sense and to the good sense of Europe, I appeal—the Czar refused to treat—the Czar refused to treat—the Czar refused to treat