Progress of the War.

SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

(From the Illustrated London News, Nov. 18.)

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Oct. 24, 1854.

THE siege of Sebastopol is slowly progressing. The Allies are doing all in their power to bring it to a speedy determination: but the Russians, in the meanwhile, are receiving large reinforcements, and we have now to combat not only the enemy within the walls, but a powerful army encamped outside. Since the 23d the French have been busily engaged in erecting breaching batteries. They have proceeded according to the old approved plan, and pushed their parallels regularly. Their loss has, therefore, been much greater than ours—their men being much less securely covered than ours, and being much nearer the enemy. The attack which was made upon them on the 21st, was productive of extreme annoyance. The Governor of Sebastopol offered a free pardon to all the convicts in the place who would consent to enter the French lines, and spike the guns. Two hundred men presented themselves, and were led on by four officers, who also volunteered for this haszardous service. The party moved out in the dead of night. They encountered an advance French picket, which failed to stand its ground; and, pursuing their advantage, they entered the French battery, where they proceeded to spike a number of mortars. They had succeeded in performing this operation upon two pieces, when they were resolutely attacked by a relief, which drove them out, killing several, and taking prisoners two of the officers. Since that time the French have been gradually advancing, but their breaching batteries are not yet complete. Their works, however, do a great deal of damage to Sebastopol, and the town in front of them has begun to assume a ruinous aspect. A fire was kindled by French shells in a provision magazine on the 23d, and the storehouses burned the whole day. The buildings of Sebastopol continue, however, to remain fireproof; and they stand even when gutted by fire. The French have placed a ship under the land close in to Sebastopol, from which they fire every half hour a gigantic mortar. The Russians have made every attempt to reach this ship without success. It is so safely esconed as to defy all their efforts. This so annoys the enemy that they fire a general volley when the mortar goes off; and this amusement never ceases day or night. In our lines, there seems, on the contrary, to be a tacit arrangement that the fire shall cease at dusk, to be resumed at daybreak. Our batteries are, therefore, replenished at night with amunition, and the embrazures repaired without any considerable risk. At times our working parties are disturbed by skirmishers from Sebastopol; but those invariably retire before the fire of our covering parties. The English have not, however, been slow in making advances towards the place. They have not proceeded by parallels, like the French; but they have availed themselves of the sinuosities of the ground to erect batteries nearer the town. On the 23d a new battery—consisting of three 32 ponnders and one mortar—was opened on the extreme left of our lines, and poured a destructive fire into the Garden battery, which has not been served with its former vigor since. The enemy, on the other hand, did not permit the Lancaster battery on our right to play on the shipping for which it was specially intended; for they moved away their vessel out of its range. The Lancaster gun, however, makes very good practice at the circular tower and the bateries at its base. The former, indeed, can no longer be said to be circular, as its shape is so strangely altered. It has a vast breach yawning in one side of it, and threatens to fall completely to the ground. As for the shipping, the past history of the siege will have served to show that it is the greatest difficulty we have had to contend with. Whenever guns were brought to bear upon them they were moved out of range; and it was always possible to anchor them in a place, from whence they could open a new and destructive fire, without being subject to any return.

The Russian fleet has been in truth of the greatest use to the defenders of Sebastopol, and possibly it may yet be put to excellent service after we have stormed the town on this side, and are forced to commence operations for forcing the works on the other side. It is impossible to say when the assault will be given, although we are certainly making active preparations for it. Wide and convenient trenches have been erected 400 yards in front of Gordon's battery, to cover the storming parties as they advance. The grand and decisive blow cannot now, however, be long delayed. Every day which passes adds to the force of the enemy, whose troops are pouring in from Bessarabia and from Asia. The advance guards of Dannenberg and Luders's corps arrived two days ago, as well as a large portion of the garrison of Anapa. All these troops have permanently established themselves in our rear, near Balaclava, and are assuming a most threatening appearance.

THE ATTACK ON BALACLAVA.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, OCT. 25, 1854.

The Russians made their long-expected attack on our rear this day, at ten o'clock, with a large force, consisting of 3000 cavalry, under General Velitchka, eight regiments of infantry, and forty guns, under General Prince Gortschakoff. I regret to say that the result of the day was disastrous to us, though our troops more than sustained their well-earned reputation for undaunted courage and unflinching firmness.

I informed you in a previous letter of the manner in which Balaclava was defended by a line of earthen redoubts covering the crests of the hills in its front; the right resting on high cliffs, covered by our Marines, and the left on the elevated plain, held and fortified by two French divisions. The redoubts before Balaclava were armed with heavy guns—32-pound howitzers and 18-pounders, belonging to the English artillery train. The guns were manned by our artillerymen, supported by companies of Turks. At ten o'clock in the morning, the Russians having mustered in force in the vale eading up towards the extreme right of our position, advanled at considerable speed to the redoubt on their extreme left, cnd charged the Turks with the bayonet. Our artillery had aarely time to fire one round when the Turks were seized with b sudden panic, and, throwing away their pieces and packs, ran down the declivity to Balaclava.

As the Russians advanced, the panic increased; and, when it came to close quarters, there was a general run. The wretched Turks swarmed down the hill like bees; and our artillerymen, seeing the rout, spiked the guns and retired. The Turks in the other redoubts, finding that their comrades on the right had fled, took the alarm, and the whole of them were, in a few minutes, running out of the redoubts, abandoning our guns and artillerymen to their fate. This disgraceful flight took place when no enemy was threatening, except cavalry, which witnessing the route of our allies, instantly followed in pursuit, and were observed, in a few moments, crowning the height and occupying the whole line of our forts. Happily, the guns in all the works had been spiked, and the enemy were not able to fire into us with our own artillery. The Russians lined the crests in time to see the 93rd Highlanders deployed in line on our right, and the Heavy and Light Brigades drawing up in order to the left, on the very ground where they had struck their tents. Their astonishment must have been considerable to see the 93rd pour in a volley at the flying Turks, to prevent them from running. Elated by their success, and seeing our cavalry and the 93rd below, immovable, two regiments of Hussars, the Weimarski and Leuchtenbergski, charged down the slope, at the Highlanders, with a tremendous cheer. On they came, at the top of their speed, as if to annihilate everything. The Highlanders, however, headed by their gallant Colonel (Ainslie), disdained to form into square to receive them, but poured in a shard fire at fifty yards, which made them sheer off to their right. As they turned they found themselves in front of our Heavy Cavalry Brigade, which, after a pause, they charged with considerable vigour. They were met by a squadron of Scots Greys, headed by Colonel Griffith, and by a squadron of the Enniskillings, headed by Colonel White. A tremendous hand-to-hand conflict was the instant result. The thick woollen cloaks of the Russians, being admirably calculated to ward off steel, deadened at first the effect of our blows. But our men attacked the head instead of the limbs, and several of the enemy were laid in the dust. Col. White, in the first shock, received a tremendous blow, which cut through his helmet, but did him no injury. The number of the enemy being greater than ours, they had by this time considerably outflanked us. The Hussars, who had been followed by numerous Cossacks, were beginning to attack us on both flanks, as well as in front, when Major Shute gave the word to his squadron of Enniskillingers; the Royals moved at the same moment, and the enemy, being overlapped in his turn, began to flag, and commenced a retreat. This they did under the cover of some field-pieces moved by the Russian to the crest, but not without damage from our artillery, which now advanced to the front, and from our guns in position before Katichioi. The last charge of British cavalry in the battles of Europe was called the charge of the National Brigade, because it was furnished by the Royals, Enniskillings and Scots Greys. The first charge of our cavalry in the Crimea was made by the National Brigade, and resulted in considerable loss to the enemy. Upwards of thirty men and horses remained killed or wounded on the field; but the numbers who retired wounded cannot be counted, the Russians having the habit of strapping themselves to their saddles, that their horses may carry them out of action when they are wounded. All the men who fell with their horses were found to have been thus buckled. As the cavalry moved on in pursuit of the enemy, the ground had the strangest aspect imaginable. The tents had been struck at the signal of alarm, but no time was given to pack them. They lay on the ground with the kits of the men and baggage of the officers, and in the midst of these lay dead men and wounded, whilst a skulking Turk or Greek might be seen here and there turning up the effects with a view to plunder. Many valuables were unfortunately lost in this way. Would that this had been the only disaster to record during the day.

As our cavalry moved on, supported by our artillery, the enemy retired from the redoubts on our left, and held their ground in two of those on our extreme right. The 93rd remained in line before Katichioi, and the infantry from the divisions in front of Sebastopol, were observed coming down. Several companies from the 1st battalion of the Rifle Brigade moved up, and having taken possession of the centre redoubt, abandoned by the enemy, advanced beyond in skirmishing order. The Third Division, under Sir G. Cathcart, followed; and whilst a wing of the 20th occupied the ditch of the redoubt, the other wing lay down behind, with the 63rd, 57th and 68th behind them, and the rest of the division in the rear. The Guards, under the Duke of Cambridge, were placed so as to cover the road to Balaclava. Whilst these movements were going on, two regiments of the French Chasseurs d'Afrique moved down from the heights and took up a position on our left, amidst tremendous cheers. The position of the Russians and Allies at this time formed almost a parallelogram. Our infantry and guns occupied one side; and at right angles with them were the French Chasseurs and our Heavy Brigade of Cavalry. The Russians occupied with artillery and infantry a line of heights parallel to that which we occupied, whilst their masses of infantry and cavalry fronted the French Chasseurs. The Russians, however, had the additional advantage of holding two of our entrenched redoubts. They were thus enable to pour in a destructive fire upon us from right, left, front.

At the moment when the contending parties occupied these positions, Captain Nolan was observed galloping up to Lord Lucan, who headed the Light Brigade of Cavalry. He was the bearer of an order from Lord Raglan to charge the enemy. I am not aware whether any discretion was left to Lord Lucan to obey or disobey, nor is it even certainly known what was the exact wording of the order; but, at the signal of command, the Light Brigade, which was posted on the left of the redoubt occupied by General Cathcart's division, was observed to move. The 17th Lancers led with 150 sabres, the 11th followed with 150, the 4th with 140, the 13th with 100, and the 8th with 110 sabres. Right at the enemy's guns the devoted column started, with Lord Cardigan at its head. Trot, canter, gallop—on they rushed in the midst of a most dreadful fire. A field-battery, on the heights of the Russian right, decimated them; whilst another fire, equally terrific, spread destruction through them, from the guns on the Russian left; and a third mowed them down in front. It was a fearful sight to behold our brave fellows falling in fifties to the ground, most of them to rise no more; others, dismounted, rushing to the horses of their dead comrades, and followed up; whilst others, again, endeavoured to limp back through the fire of the enemy. On, however, the Light Brigade proceeded, like lightning, Lord Cardigan was the first man at the enemy's guns. Down went the gunners at their sides as our men rushed at them; not one save those who fled at the onset, remained alive. Fourteen guns were, for a moment, in our possession. But the Russian cavalry was on them; they cut in between the guns and the Light Brigade, and it became time to retreat. The 11th and 4th covered the 17th, the 8th, and the 13th. Lord Cardigan charged charged back through the Russian Lancers with his two regiments, and the enemy opened to let them pass; but a file fire from numerous Russian squares kept up a quick and deadly discharge of Minie balls; whilst the tripple fire of the enemy's cannon continued to overwhelm them with showers of shell and shrapnell. Fortunately for the shattered remmant of this brigade, the French Chasseurs d'Afrique had charged up the heights on the Russian right, and caused the artillery there to retire. One squadron advanced right up, and into a Russian square, which had not entirely formed: the Adjutant-Major was killed in the centre of the square; and another officer, with fifteen men, were laid low. The Light Brigade rallied behind the Scots Greys, Enniskillings, Royals, and the rest of the Heavy Brigade. It was fearfully diminished in numbers. Of the 11th, there were hardly 40 men safe; of the 17th, barely the same number; of the 13th, 34; of the 4th, 39; and of the 8th, but a handful. Captain Nolan, who brought the fearful order, was the first man who fell; he had not gone 200 yards before he was shot through the heart. A ball ripped off the top of Lord W. Paulett's cap, and took the head off Charteris, Lord Lucan's Aide-de-Camp. Of the 13th, Captains Goade and Oldham, and Lt. Montgomery, were killed Of the 17th, Captain Winter was killed, Morris and Webb severally wounded, Chadwick and and Thompson missing, Captain White shot through the leg. Cornet Wombwell, who had been taken prisoner after being dismounted, was rescued, as well as Morris, by the home charge of the 11th. Of this, Lord Cardigan's own regiment, Houghton and Trevelyan were wounded, the latter through the leg; Lockwood missing; and Colonel Douglas was only saved from a rifle shot by the revolver at his side. The lead alighted on one of the nipples, which exploded the barrel of the pistol, which did no harm. Captain Maxse, Lord Cardigan's Aide-de-Camp, was wounded slightly in the foot by the bursting of a shell in the beginning of the charge. There was a grim pause as the shattered Light Brigade reappeared. The firing ceased, and was not resumed during the rest of the day. Both sides remained observing each other till evening, when Lord Raglan ordered the whole of the redoubts still in our pssession to be evacuated. The Russians maintained themselves in the position they had taken, having gained possession of seven guns. Such is the faithful description of the attack on Balaclava and its losses. The Russians may have suffered to the extent of 200 men; on our side, no less than 500 men, killed, wounded, or taken prisoners, filled the list of casaulties. There was a rumour in the evening that Balaclava would be evacuated; and it appeared that, during the day, several ships had moved out of harbour, the *Diamond* remaining with her broadsides across to prevent the enemy from advancing.

I know not whether the causes of the disaster of the day will ever be explained. Captain Nolan, the bearer of the order, gallantly fell in the performance of his duty. Whatever may be the reason assigned, or excuses given, it will still remain on record that 650 British charged 20 guns in front of a Russian position held by upwards of 20,000 men, and under a cross fire from three directions. That a single man of this brigade lived to tell the tale is a miracle; and it is not too much to say that no other cavalry in the world would have reached the enemy under similar circumstances. The Russians have to answer for much wanton cruelty during the day. After the charge of our Light Brigade, the Cossacks were observed to overrun the field and drive their lances into the bodies of the wounded. Such barbarity is no more in accord with the usages of civilized warfare than the atrocities asserted by the Russians to have been committed on themselves by the Turkish Bashi-bozouks. The contrast between the atrocities of the Cossacks and the charity of our men is indeed striking; for the Russians were supplied with water and covered with their cloaks until they could be attended to; and when they were removed they were treated with the same kindness as our own soldiers.

I had forgotton to say that Lord Fitzgibbon, of the 8th Hussars and only son of the Earl of Clare, was missing. It is hoped that he is safe, though a prisoner.

ATTACK ON THE HEIGHTS OF SEBASTOPOL.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, October 27th, 1854.

Yesterday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, the Russians advanced to the attack of our positions in front of Sepastopol, and were repulsed with loss. The boldness of the enemy in advancing to force our right—which they did with 8000 men and 32 guns—is explained by the following circumstance:—On the 25th (after the affair at Balaclava) special messengers were sent into Sebastopol with the exaggerated tidings of a great victory gained over the English. Our troops in the trenches heard the tremendous cheer which was sent forth by the garrison of Sebastopol when it received the intelligence. Yesterday the troops were all drawn out to hear a general order read, detailing the losses of the enemy, the capture of its positions and guns, and the annihilation of its cavalry. A prayer of thanksgiving and "Te Deum" were then solmnly chanted in the great church; and, after a distribution of extra grog to the troops, they became so enthusiastic, that General Gortschakoff took advantage of the moment to make an attack upon the right of our positions. The Russians moved up on our right along the road which leads towards the Inkerman ruins; and, turning off to their right, they ascended the heights near which was encamped the Second Division, under Sir de Lacy Evans. The hill which they ascended is called Shell-hill by our men, who have always met with a warm reception there whenever they showed themselves above a small ruin on its summit, which serves as protection to our pickets. To our left of the ruin, a strong force is usually in observation. To our right an equally strong party lines a stone intrenchment, erected across the road, which winds down towards Sebastopol; and further on a fourth picket covers a spur overhanging the road on the other side. The Russians advanced in three colmns of 1500 men each, and drove in the small picket in the ruins. They, deployed to the right and left; and. whilst their right moved down into the dip on our side of Shell-hill, their left stretched down, crossed the Sebastopol road, and endeavoured to turn our position by getting round the spur which covers the camp of Sir de Lacy Evan's division. Their advance was made with great confidence, and in good order, but our picket behaved admirably; they retired in complete order, firing through their intervals with such regularity and precision that the Russians were loth to advance any but skirmishers; and two hours were spent before the grand attack came on. There is no record, I believe, of pickets, amounting in all to five companies, keeping an enemy of such force at bay for so long a time; and it is therefore with a feeling of pride that I record the admirable conduct of Captain Conolly of the 49th, the clever resistance of Captain Atcherley of the 30th, at the ruins, and that of Major Champion of the 95th, on our right. Captain Conolly had fought manfully for a considerable time, when a few of the enemy closed in upon him, and he defended himself with his sword in one hand and his telescope in the other, until he was rescued; unfortunately at that moment he was shot through the side by a conical ball, and fell badly wounded. In the meanwhile the division had been speedily moved out and covered its pickets. The 30th marched out to the right with the 95th, whilst Captains Turner and York's batteries moved to a position above the enemy on our right, and the 55th supported them. General Adam's brigade moved forward on the left, towards the ruins; the 41st, 47th, 49th, taking commanding positions. The Russians advanced with considerable vigour, and in good order, to the attack, under the cover of their guns. They seemed, however, to have had considerable difficulty in moving their artillery, for they could only get five of their guns into play, and these were so mauled in a few minutes, by our batteries, that they ceased firing, and were withdrawn. This was the moment when the Russians began to waver; they quailed before the fire of our men, and as we advanced upon them, they gave way, retiring in disorder over the scrubby ground which they had taken up. Their masses at the moment offered a deadly aim to our Artillery, which poured in volleys of grape and shells into them, and committed tremendous havoc. Their disorder increased, and then a general pursuit commenced. General Pennefather's brigade followed them over the hills, in their headlong flight, almost down to the trenches of Sebastopol, from whence it made its way back under the old familiar fire of Inkerman Lighthouse, and a stream with which every man in Sir de Lacy Evans' division is well acquainted. The Lancaster gun on the right of Gordon's attack, could not miss so fine an opportunity, but sent shell right into the retreating Russians with immense execution. The loss of the Russians in this affair was 500 killed and wounded; and I may say, without exaggeration, that we had all our own way during the time the affair lasted. Our loss only amounted to seventy men killed and wounded. We took sixty-nine prisoners, amongst whom were four officers, and one of them was the identical man who had a few days previously captured Lord Dunkellin. It may afford Lord Clanricarde pleasure to know that his son is well, and cared for, in Prince Gortschakoff's own house. The Prince himself, however, is said to have been seriously wounded during this affair, and there is even a rumour of his death. I regret to say that in this encounter Captains Atcherley and Bailey, of the 30th, were badly wounded; Captain Cahill of the 49th also badly hit, as well as Captain Harriott of the 40th. Captain Conolly has spent a good night, and is doing well. Captain Harriott has a ball lodged under his shoulder-blade, and will, in all probability, recover; and the rest of the wounded are in a fair way of recovery. Though none but the Second Division was engaged in this affair, it was supported by detachments from the Light, the First, and Third Divisions, and by three regiments, sent up by General Bosquet. So that, had the enemy been three times as numerous as they were, they would have been overmatched. Besides prisoners, several trophies were taken—such as drums, colours, trumpets, and quantities of muskets and ammunition.

As regards the siege, it has been proceeding much as usual; but the guns of the Russians are daily decreasing in number. To-day not more than 38 were open against us, which is an essential diminution from the original number of 158.

Although the Russian force near Balaklava has been considerably increased, and the enemy have moved large guns to the heights nearest to the position on the cliffs occupied by our Marines, it is at present decided that the harbour will not be abandoned. Cavalry have taken up a position nearer to Sebastopol than before.

October 28th, Ten a. m.

Between ten o'clock and midnight last night, an alarm appears to have aroused the Russian camp, which rose all at once to arms, and threw forth a tremendous hurrah. The noise roused all the camps of our division on Sebastopol Heights as well as in Balaklava. No enemy appearing, however, the regiments turned in again to rest, and the pickets ceased firing at imaginary enemies. Two hours elapsed, when the alarm was again given, and heavy firing was heard from the whole French line, which lasted several minutes. It appears that the Zouaves heard the noise of approaching squadrons of cavalry coming on towards them at full speed. They fired in the direction of what they considered to be the enemy, and the guns on the heights poured in at the same moment a discharge of shells. The sudden illumination allowed the Zouaves to see that what they considered cavalry was a troop of dismounted horses, who had been alarmed by the Russian hurrah two hours before, and were running to and fro without riders. A push was made on all sides for the prize, and about sixty horses were captured during the course of the night.

LONDON, November 10.

On Sunday at the morning service in all the Roman Catholic Chapels in the "diocese of Westminster," a pastoral letter of Cardinal Wiseman was read, and a subscription made in aid of the fund for the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed in the war. At the Moorfields Chapel the Cardinal himself officiated, and the church was filled to excess, the centre aisle being chiefly occupied by soldiers—both officers and men. The pastoral letter, after calling upon all the faithful to return thanks to God for the present harvest, alluded to the abatement of pestilence, the cholera, which had lately made such ravages in this country, and added that while they had to thank God for two great blessings—the plentiful harvest and the abatement of pestilence—still it should be borne in mind that this country had just entered upon a great war, and in this respect and they cause to be thankful, for so far the arms of our gracious Queen had been victorious. But while the casualties of war gave cause for sorrowing to many, the battle of the Alma was not gained without a great sacrifice of life. Many of the brave fellows who fell in defence of their country had left widows and orphans to bewail the loss; in aid of them it was hoped that the Catholic population would not be backward in contributing. Immediately after the reading of this pastoral letter a collection was made in each of the chapels.

THE HEAVY CAVALRY BRIGADE CHARGE.

After the repulse of the Russian cavalry by the 93d Highlanders, the next notable incident in the affair at Balaclava, on the 25th ult., was the charge made by the Heavy Cavalry Brigade, of which our Artist, who watched the proceedings from a neighbouring hill, has given a spirited Sketch. The Russian cavalry, about 4000 in number, cantered down the hill with the evident intention to attack our cavalry. No sooner was this perceived, than the bugle sounded the advance for our men, who instanttly moved forward at a canter. As they approached the enemy and began to ascend the hill, the canter merged into a charge, and the space was terrific. The Scots Greys and 6th Enniskillings went right at the Russian centre. For a moment it was a glorious sight. The glittering helmets and weapons and varied uniforms of our fellows as they pressed forward to the charge, with sabres raised and lances levelled, made the mere spectacle beautiful; but, accompanied with all its terrors it was one of the most awful grandeur. The solid earth shook and reverberated with a sound like thunder, as a thousand horses spurred to their utmost speed, went tearing up the hill, scattering the turf and grass like a cloud of sand behind them. The enemy were nothing loth to accept the challenge, and, indeed, they had little reason, for their numbers were as nearly three to one. In a line of two-thirds, of a mile they swept down from the hill upon our men, meeting them about half-way up. The dull heavy noise with which they closed could be heard at a mile, and made the listener's blood run cold.

With the first shock about a hundred men and horses instantly fell; and both sides seemed to recoil and clutch their weapons closer for a deadly hand-to hand combat. In another moment there was nothing to be seen but a confused crowd of Hussars, Cossacks, Scots Greys; and Lancers, who were shooting, cutting, and stabbing at one another in all directions. It was impossible to say which did best, for the dust, smoke, and confusion were too great to permit anything like accuracy of observation; but it was quite evident both fought well, for neither gave way, though the bodies of men and horses cumbered the ground. After a minute's contest part of the Greys drew off for a few yards, and turning at a gallop made a desperate attempt to break the Russian line; they were almost successful at the first onset, and the 17th, imitating the example, levelled their lances, and charging for a few yards, made on awful gap in the enemy's ranks. To crush these attempts before they had time to be successful, the Russian line, which, from their immense superiority of number, completely outflanked ours on both sides, tried, by wheeling round, to enclose our gallant Greys; but before the manœuvre could be effected, the supporting regiments of the Heavy Brigade, the First Dragoon guards and Sixth Enniskillings, came down like a thunderbolt upon the Russian flanks. The charge was well timed and well executed, and attended with complete success. The light wheeling Cossacks disappeared like snow before the charge of our Dragoons; the Hussars broke up in disorder, and in another instant the Dragoon Guards, Greys, and Enniskillings were among them, sabring and pistoling right and left. Unlike our regiments, the Russians, while disordered, made no attempt to rally. The instant their line was broken they scattered and fled like hares to the top of the hill and across the high road, closely harassed in the rear by our men. Unfortunately, they were unable to continue the pursuit, from the proximity of the Russian batteries; and the instant our cavalry halted, the Russians halted also, and commenced re-forming their line (still twice as numerous as ours), in order to renew the contest; our men in the meantime were compelled to withdraw under cover of the hill, as, while exposed on the heights and high road, the cannonade of the enemy told severely among them. After an interval of ten minutes, during which the Russians poured a perfect shower of shot and shell into our lines, and during which also the long-wished-for reinforcements from our intrenched camp were discerned coming up to our assistance, the enemy's cavalry again advanced to the attack. This time they came in with a battery of Horse Artillery; and, after a severe cannonade of a few minutes upon our men, again descended the valley, and advanced to the charge. The whole of our Heavy Cavalry in one strong line met them on this occasion. There was the same desperate charge, the same shock, but not the same fighting. After a minute's resistance, the enemy's whole line gave way, and retired in confusion towards the heights. On this, the Russian cavalry General—who, to do him but bare justice, conducted himself with undoubted skill and bravery throughout the day—halted the flying squadrons, and persuaded them to stand again and face our men, who were within ten yards in hot pursuit. The contest was, therefore, for a moment, renewed on the heights. But the struggle lasted only for a few minutes: the remnants of the Light Cavalry came up in proper time; and the ferocity with which they dashed into the enemy's flanks carried all before them. The Russians again broke and fled; but, this time, our men were among them strewing the plain with carcases. To save themselves from the slaughterous attack, the Russians sought shelter under the batteries in that fatal valley where our Light Cavalry have suffered so severely. Two or three troops of our horse imprudently followed in pursuit close up, and were terribly mauled by the batteries as they retired.

LONDON, November 18.

STRENGTH OF THE CONTENDING ARMIES—NECESSITY OF ALLIED REINFORCEMENTS.—The siege continues. Omitting the doubtful report of another great battle on the 11th, we have now telegraphic bulletins of the siege up to the 8th and 9th, and it is evident that at those dates the increasing numbers and boldness of the enemy made no difference in the operations before the walls. It is only said that the allies are fortifying their position on the left bank of the Tehernaya, as might be expected, seeing that the right bank is occupied by the Russians. The belligerents may therefore easily deep their several positions for the present. What we have to deplore is the steady drain by continual sickness, and now and then a victory. The prospect is sufficiently serious, but there is no immediate cause for anxiety. All the letters from the army show the feeling of perfect confidence and composure as to the present state of affairs, but some little solicitude as to the future. Reinforcements are wanted even for present effect. Every man in the army is overworked. Officers of the highest rank are dying, not only by the usual casualties of war, and by exposure to cold, but by sheer hard work. None of the proper proportions are maintained. The beseiging army is not in the proper proportion to the beseiged, the number of artillerymen is not in proper proportion to the guns; the men in camp are not in proper proportion to those in the trenches; the hours of rest are not in proper proportion to the hours of work. Everything is stretched. The army is extending itself, as it were, to dimensions not its own.—*Times.*

It is not believed that any assault will be made until the allies are strongly reinforced. The weather had become extremely cold. The Russians were carrying stores to the north side of the harbor, and were making arrangements for the transport of troops to that quarter. This induces the belief that they did not expect to be able to retain the south side. Scarcely a house in Sebastopol has escaped shot and shell. The reports of the burning of the hospital and of a flour magazine, and of the great mortality in Sebastopol, appear to be correct. There was plenty of water on the north side. Russian prisoners state that the authorities had inflamed the hatred of the soldiers and people towards the allies to the greatest intensity, by stating that the Russian prisoners and wounded were treated with barbarous cruelty. The men were, therefore, determined to resist to the last. Spirits were freely distributed to the troops engaged in the earth-works.

The French, in carrying a mine towards the fortifications of the town discovered a strong Russian mine, intended to blow up a French breaching battery. The French then countermined, and removed 18 cwt. of powder from the Russian mine.