NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Storming of Sebastopol.

EXPULSION FROM THR REDAN.

Sir Edward Codrington asked Col. Windham if he thought he really could do anything with such supports as he could afford, and said he might take the Royals, who were then in the parallel. "Let the officers come out in front—let us advance in order, and if the men keep their formation, the Redan is ours," was the Colonel's reply; but he spoke too late—for at that very moment *our men were seen leaping down into the ditch, or running down the parapet of the salient, and through the embrasures out of the work into the ditch, while the Russians followed them with the bayonet and with heavy musketry, and even threw stones and grapeshot at them as they lay in the ditch!!!* The fact was, that the Russians having accumulated several thousands of men behind the breastwork, and seeing our men all scattered and confused behind the inner parapet of the traverse, crossed the breastwork, through which several field-pieces were now playing with grape on the inner face of the Redan, and charged our broken groups with the bayonet, at the same time that the rear ranks, getting on the breastwork, poured a heavy hail of bullets on them over the heads of the advancing column. The struggle that took place was short, desperate and bloody. Our soldiers, taken at every disadvantage, met the enemy with the bayonet too, and isolated combats took place in which *the brave fellows who stood their ground* (all honor to *them*!) had to defend themselves against three or four adversaries at once. In this *melee*, the officers, armed only with their swords, had little chance; nor had those who carried pistols much opportunity of using them in such a rapid contest. They fell like *heroes*, and many a gallant soldier with them. The bodies of English and Russians inside the Redan, locked in an embrace which death could not relax, but had rather cemented all the closer, lay next day inside the Redan, as evidences of the terrible animosity of the struggle. But the solid weight of the advancing mass, urged on, and fed each moment from the rear, by company after company and battalion after battalion, prevailed at last against the isolated and disjointed band, who had *abandoned the protection of unanimity of courage, and had lost the advantages of discipline and obedience.* As though some giant rock had advanced into the sea, and forced back the waters that buffeted it, so did the Russian columns press down against the spray of soldiery which fretted their edge with fire and steel, and contended in vain against their weight. The struggling band was forced back by the enemy, who moved on, crushing friend and foe beneath their solid tramp, and, bleeding, panting, and exhausted, our men lay in heaps in the ditch beneath the parapet, sheltered themselves behind stones and in bomb-craters in the slope of the work, or tried to pass back to our advanced parallel and sap, and had to run the gauntlet of a tremendous fire. Many of them lost their lives, or were seriously wounded in this attempt.

APPALLING SCENE IN THE DITCH.

The scene in the ditch was appalling, although some of the officers have assured me that they and the men were laughing at the precipitation with which many brave and gallant fellows did not hesitate from plunging headlong upon the mass of bayonets, muskets, and sprawling soldiers—the ladders were all knocked down or broken, so that it was difficult for the men to get up at the other side, and the dead, the dying, the wounded, and the sound were all lying in heaps together. The Russians came out of the embrasures, plied them with stones, grape shot, and the bayonet, but were soon forced to retire by the fire of our batteries and riflemen, and under cover of this fire many of our men escaped to the approaches. In some instances, the enemy persisted in remaining outside in order to plunder the bodies of those who were lying on the slope of the parapet, and paid the penalty of their rashness in being stretched beside their foes; but others came forth on a holier errand and actually brought water to our wounded. If this last act be true, it is but right to discredit the story that the Russians placed our wounded over the magazine in the rear of the Redan, near the Barrack Battery, ere they fired it—the only foundation for which, as far as I can discover, is that many of the bodies of our men found in the Redan were dreadfully scorched and burnt; but there were many Russians lying in a similar state.

THE FRENCH MESSAGE TO THE BEATEN ENGLISH.

General Pelissier observed the failure of our attack from the rear of the Malakhoff, and sent over to General Simpson to ask, if he intended to attack again. The English Commander-in-Chief is reported to have replied that he did not then feel in a condition to do so. *All this time the Guards and Highlanders, the Third and Fourth Divisions, and most of the reserves were untouched.* They could, indeed, have furnished materials for another assault, but the subsequent movements of the Russians render it doubtful whether the glory of carrying the Redan, and of redeeming the credit of our arms would not have been dearly purchased by the effusion of more valuable blood. As soon as we abandoned the assault, the firing almost ceased along our front, but in the rear of the Malakhoff there was a fierce contest going on between masses of Russians, now released from the Redan, or drawn from the town, and the French, inside the work; and the fight for the Little Redan, on the proper left of the Malakhoff was raging furiously. Clouds of smoke and dust covered the scene, but the rattle of musketry was incessant, and betokened the severe nature of the struggle below. Through the breaks in the smoke there could be seen now and then a tricolour, surmounted by an eagle, fluttering bravely over the inner parapet of the Malakhoff. The storm of battle rolled fiercely round it, and beat against it; but it was sustained by *strong arms* and *stout hearts*, and all the assaults of the enemy were directed in vain against it. We could see, too our noble allies swarming over into the Malakhoff from their splendid approaches to it from the Mamelon, or rushing with swift steps towards the right, where the Russians continually reinforced, sought in vain to beat back their foes and to regain the key of their position. The struggle was full of interest to us all, but its issue was never doubted. The issue of *our* assault was the source of deep grief and mortification to us, which all the glorious success of our allies could not alleviate. The French, indeed, have been generous enough to say, that our troops behaved with great bravery, and that they wondered how we kept the Redan so long under such a tremendous fire, but British soldiers are rather accustomed to the *nil admirari* under such circumstances, and praise like that gives pain as well as pleasure. Many soldiers, of the opinion to which I have alluded, think that we should at once have renewed the attempt once made, and it is but small consolation to them to know that General Simpson intended to attack the Redan the following morning.

THE SORT OF SOLDIERS THAT WERE SENT TO ATTACK THE REDAN.

The rapidly-increasing numbers of wounded men, some of whom had left their arms behind them, gave rise to suspicions of the truth; but their answers to many eager questions were not very decisive or intelligible, and some of them did not even know what they were attacking. One poor fellow who was marching stiffly up with a broken arm and a ball through his shoulder, carried off his firelock with him, but he made the naive confession that he had "never fired it off, for he could not." The piece turned out to be in excellent order. It struck one, that such men as these, however brave, were scarcely a fit match for the well drilled soldiers of Russia; and yet we were trusting the honor, reputation, and glory of Great Britain to undisciplined lads from the plough, or the lanes of our towns and villages! As one example of the sort of recruits we have received here recently, I may mention that there was a considerable number of men in draughts which came out last week to regiments in the Fourth Division who had only been enlisted a few days, and who had never fired a rifle in their lives! It must not be imagined, that such rawnesss can be corrected and turned into military efficiency out here, for the fact is, that this siege has been about the worst possible school for developing the courage and manly self-reliance of a soldier; neither does it teach him the value of discipline and of united action. When he goes into the trenches, he learns to dodge behind gabions and to take pet shots from behind stones and parapets, and at the same time he has no opportunity of testing the value of his comrades, or of proving himself against the enemy on the open field. The natural result follows. Nor was it ominous of good that there have been two courts of inquiry recently on the conduct of two most distinguished regiments—one, indeed, belonging to the highest rank of our infantry, and the other a well-tried and gallant regiment, which was engaged in this very attack, in consequence of the misconduct of their young soldiers during night affairs in the trenches. The old soldiers behaved admirably, and stood by their officers to the last.

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According to *Messager de Bayonne*, the marshal's baton is not the only recompense that the general-in chief of the French army in the Crimea will receive. It is said that the Emperor intends naming Marshal Pelissier, Duke of Sebastopol.

We learn on good authority, that the French lost only one man in their attack on the Malakoff before they took possession of that work.

Lord Panmure continues to receive very favourable accounts of the progress towards recovery of the wounded in the attack on the Redan.

Orders have been received at Portsmouth to discontinue any further shipment of shells for the Crimea.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE RUSSIANS.

SUNDAY, Sept. 9.—At eight o'clock last night, the Russians began quietly to withdraw from the town, in the principal houses of which they had previously stored up combustibles in order to render Sebastopol a second Moscow. With great art the general kept up a fire of musketry from his advanced posts, as though he intended to renew the attempts to regain the Malakhoff. Ere two o'clock this morning, the fleet had been scuttled and sunk, with the exception of the steamers. About 12.30 the men of the second division on duty in the trenches observed a preternatural silence in the Redan, and some volunteers crept up into it. Nothing could they hear, but the heavy breathing and groans of the wounded and dying, who, with the dead, were the sole occupants of the place. As the Redan was known to be mined, the men were withdrawn, and soon afterwards, the Russian tactics began to develope themselves. About two o'clock flames were observed to break out in different parts of the town. They spread gradually all over the principle buildings. At four o'clock, a stupendous explosion behind the Redan shook the whole camp; it was followed by four other explosions equally startling. The city was enveloped in fire and smoke, and torn asunder with the tremendous shocks of these volcanoes. At 4.45 the Flagstaff and Garden Batteries blew up. At 5.30 two of the southern forts went up into the air, and the effect of these explosions was immensely increased by the rush of a great number of live shell into the air, which exploded in all directions. All this time, a steady current of infantry was passing in unbroken masses to the north side over the bridge, and at 6.45 the last battalions passed over, and the hill sides opposite were alive with their masses. Several small explosions took place inside of the town at 7.10. Columns of black smoke began to rise from the neighbourhood of Fort Paul at 7.12. At 7-15 the connection of the floating bridge with the south side was severed. At 7.16 flames began to ascend from Fort Nicholas. At 8.7 the bridge was floated off in portions to the north side. At 9, several violent explosions took place in the works on our left, opposite the French. The town was by this time in a mass of flames, and the pillar of black, gray, and velvety fat smoke from it seemed to support the very heavens. The French kept up firing guns on the left, probably to keep out stragglers, but ere the Russians left the place, the Zouaves and sailors were in it, and engaged busily in plundering. Not a shot was fired to the front and centre. The Vladimir and Gromonosetz were very busy towing boats and stores across. Cavalry and sentries were sent up to prevent any one going into the town, but without much success. I visited a good portion of the place. Explosions occurred all through the day. The plunder was enormous. The following after-order of the day has been issued:—

GENERAL AFTER ORDER.

Head-quarters, Sept. 9.

The Commander of the forces congratulates the army on the result of the attack of yesterday. The brilliant assault and occupation of the Malakhoff by our gallant allies obliged the enemy to abandon the works they have so long held with such bravery and determination. The commander of the forces returns his thanks to the general officers and men of the second and light divisions, who advanced and attacked with such gallantry the works of the Redan. He regrets, from the formidable nature of the flanking defences, that their devotion did not meet with that immediate success which it so well merited. He condoles and deeply sympathises with the many brave officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who are now suffering from the wounds they received in the course of their noble exertions of yesterday. He deeply deplores the death of so many gallant officers and men, who have fallen in the final struggle of this long and memorable siege. Their loss will be severely felt, and their names long remembered in this army and by the British nation. General Simpson avails himself of this opportunity to congratulate and convey his warmest thanks to the general officers, officers, and soldiers of the several divisions, to the Royal Engineers and Artillery, for their cheerful endurance of almost unparalleled hardships and sufferings, and for the unflinching courage and determination which on so many trying occasions they have evinced. It is with equal satisfaction, that the commander of the forces thanks the officers and men of the naval brigade for the long and uniform course of valuable service rendered by them from the commencement of the siege.—By order,

H. W. BARNARD, Chief of the Staff.

It is difficult, as I have had occasion to observe on former occasions, to give, with any pretensions to accuracy, the details of a battle, but it becomes almost impossible to attain correctness in describing such an affair as the assault on the Redan under the peculiar circumstances which attended it. In addition to the smoke of battle, there were flying clouds of dust mingled with sand, which blew right into the faces of the men and swept the hills in their rear, which were crowded with spectators or those who tried to be so, and the irregularity of the ground offered other impediments to their view; but greater than all these obstacles was this, that no one could from any conceivable position in front see what was going on inside the Redan, which seemed to engulf our soldiers within its huge dun-coloured and ragged parapets only to vomit them forth again in diminished numbers. It was all along but too plain to understand, what was taking place within from the external aspect of that ill-fated work, the slopes of which have astonished the world with the sight of British troops in flight twice in two successive attacks on its formidable defences This Redan has cost us more lives than the capture of Badajoz, not to speak of those who have fallen in the trenches and approaches to it; and, although the enemy evacuated it, we can scarcely claim the credit of having caused them such loss, that they retired owing to their dread of a renewed assault. On the contrary, we must, in fairness admit that the Russians maintained their grip of the place till the French were fairly established in the Malakhoff, and the key of the position was torn from their grasp. They might, indeed, have remained in the place longer than they did, as the French were scarcely in a condition to molest them from the Malakhoff with artillery, and could not be permitted to interfere with our attack, had they been able to send reinforcements to us; but the Russian general is a man of too much genius and experience as a soldier to lose men in defending an untenable position, and his retreat was effected with masterly skill and with perfect ease in the face of a victorious enemy. Covering his rear by the flames of the burning city, and by tremendous explosions, which spoke in tones of portentous warning to those who might have wished to cut off his retreat, he led battalions in narrow files across a deep arm of the sea, commanded by our guns and in the face of a most powerful fleet, paraded them in our sight as they crossed, and carried off all his most useful stores and munitions of war.. He left us few trophies and many bitter memories. He sunk his ships and blew up his forts without molestation, save some paltry efforts to break down the bridge by cannon shot, or to shell the troops as they marched over. His steamers towed his boats across at their leisure; and when every man was across, and not till then, the Russians began to dislocate and float off the the portions of their bridge and to pull it over to the north side.

Sept. 10.—The town is still burning and in ruins. It is in possession of the French. The following order has been issued on the subject: —"Five officers and several men injured by explosions to-day."

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PEACE AGITATION AT ST. PETERSBURG.—A private letter from Berlin states, that the news of the taking of Sebastopol has produced at St. Petersburg the utmost consternation. The young Empress, who appears to desire to be at the head of the peace party, does not spare her reproaches against the war party. She says that if the note of Vienna had been accepted, Russia would have been spared the humiliation of the four points of guarantee demanded by the Allies; and that, if at a later period, those guarantees had been accepted, Russia would have been spared the shame of the defeat of the Tchernaya, and the terrible disaster of the fall of Sebastopol. The journey of the Emperor to the south had been resolved upon before the fall of Sebastopol was known. Its object was to raise the spirit of the Russian army, which, according to the reports of Prince Gortschakoff, was greatly broken and depressed. The Russians are much more embarrassed to find men than provisions and munitions of war, especially as one-third at least of the effective troops remain behind on the way, and never come up to their destination.

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An imperial decree opens to the Minister of the Interior an extraordinary credit of f. 2,867,954 from the estimates of 1855, for the purpose of reimbursing the treasury and the city of Lyons for the advances made by them in 1848 for the national workshops. Another decree opens to the Minister of State, an extraordinary credit of f. 110,000 for the expences of the religious ceremony of the 13th instant, at Notre Dame.

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After the arrival of the intelligence of the fall of Sebastopol, the Prussian government inquired of the cabinets of Paris and London, whether it was considered, that a favourable moment for reopening negociations for peace had arrived. An answer was received in the negative, which was immediately communicated by telegraph to Vienna.

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On Saturday morning a company of five Russian deserters was escorted into Woolwich dockyard from Sherness, in charge of a serjeant of the Royal Marines, to be received on board the Fisgard receiving ship, for a passage to Constantinople, to join the Foreign Legion. They are enthusiastic in expressing their satisfaction at the treatment they receive in their newly adopted country, and confess that they had no reluctance in quitting Russia where their monthly pay was only 1s 5d.