THE BRITISH CAMP AND ARMY.

(*From the Correspondent of the Times.*)

FOURTH DIVISION CAMP, Oct.—Is the British army in the Crimea to become, or rather to continue, a model of drunkenness for all nations? Yesterday was Sunday; I rode into Balaklava at one p.m., through Kadikoi Major, and returned, towards dusk, through Kadikoi Minor. The sights I saw, both going and returning, were enough to make an Englishman despair of his countrymen. All along the road were men, not only privates, but non-commissioned officers—in every stage of drunkenness. Sobriety was really the exception, intoxication the rule. Noisy groups, flushed and unsteady with drink, were interspersed with staggering sots who could not keep on their legs. Two Highlanders, one of them on the ground, the other making violent and fruitless efforts to get his comrade to stand up, were affording, at two in the afternoon, great amusement to a number of French road-makers. Sunday is not a day of rest for the French working parties. Three hours later, I passed a group of three non-commissioned officers of some line regiment. The centre man was kept from falling only by the support of the two others, themselves far from sober, and the trio made the most of the road after the most approved fashion. Numbers of officers must have met this group, and the natural and proper course would have been to take their names and send them at once to their quarters under arrest, but drunkenness here has reached such a pitch, that it would be an endless task to do this. The tavern booths of the Old Kadikoi were crowded with drinkers, and rang with oaths, obscenity and brawls. Notwithstanding the closing of many of the establishments there, the place is still a scene of life and bustle, while Little Kadikoi, hard by the Guards' camp, has not, upon weekdays, the appearance of doing much business. But in the evening, when the working parties come off duty, and on Sundays, when they have none to do, it is as much thronged as the booths on a racecourse, or at a fair, or as the back slums of a seaport town when half-a-dozen men-of war have just been paid off. Drink, of course, is nearly the sole object of its frequenters; and drink, not in moderation, but to the most beastly excess. Yesterday, towards nightfall, it was more than several officers, non-commissioned officers, and patrols, could do to maintain something like order, and master the insubordinate and refractory drunkards. There are plenty of witnesses here to testify to the correctness of the statement. The drunkenness and insubordination of this army is here matter of common conversation and lament. The oldest officers declare that in all their experience, they never saw anything to equal it. It will be asked why, then, do not the officers, having a keen sense of the evil, take measures to put a stop to it? Simply because it is not in their power. I believe they do what they can, in the ordinary routine; there are plenty of flogging parades, plenty of men sent to pick up and carry stones, and you cannot ride through the camp without seeing plenty of men drilling in heavy marching order for punishment. Officers commanding regiments witness this state of things with grief, and would gladly adopt any practical means that might be ordered, or suggested, to alter it. Such measures should proceed from head-quarters, or from the War Office. One rather odd idea was hit upon the other day by the colonel of a regiment in the Third Division, who sent his adjutant to the Commissary-General to request, he would have plum puddings made *to sell* to the men, in order that they might thereby expend their money otherwise than in drink, for the abundance of money is the root of the evil. The men are a great deal too well paid. A private soldier gets a shilling a-day, less 4½d. stopped for rations. He gets the 6d. field allowance, and, if working on the roads, as one-third of the army now is, he gets 6d. a-day for that, making altogether 1s. 9d. a-day. If he be an artificer, carpenter, mason, &c., he gets 1s. 6d. a-day working pay. If it be desirable to pay the men thus highly, it would surely be wise and prudent to teach and urge them to dispose of their money in some other way than in the purchase of intoxicating drinks. Every encouragement, too, should be given to the soldier, to send small sums to England. Sick and charitable funds should also be promoted, and the advantage of them, clearly, and forcibly put before the men. Instead of this, what says the general order of the 23d of February, 1855, regulating the pay of working parties? "The working pay will be drawn weekly, and issued in full to the men; it is not necessary that it should appear in the ledger; and it is considered objectionable that the whole working pay of a regiment or company should be assigned to charitable or other funds." Considering that, besides his working pay, the soldier gets 12½d. a-day to spend, it is hard to see what objection there can be to invest the other 8d. for his future welfare, instead of leaving it to be squandered in the pothouse. Unless you took him by the arm and led him up to the tap, you could hardly do more to induce him to drink than by giving him 1s. 9d. to spend here, where drink is literally the only thing he can spend it in. The good qualities of the British soldier have been often proved and extolled, and are admitted by all, but sobriety is certainly not one of his virtues: he will drink, if you give him money, and drink, as he does here, until he brings himself to a level with the beast. Mr. Doyne, the indefatigable superintendent of the army works corps, proceeds vigorously with his labours. Roads are opening in all directions. There are about twenty miles in progress. The number of men employed is very considerable. To-morrow 8,600 soldiers go on work, besides 1,000 Croats and the army works corps, notwithstanding its losses from sickness, is still 1000 or 1100 strong, and expects to be reinforced from England to the extent of some hundred more. The want of proper system and organization which has been so often and deplorably exposed during this war and in the army, is here again visible. With different arrangements, half the men, perhaps a quarter of them, could do the work of the whole ten thousand, and probably do it better, because they would be less crowded. The men employed to work should be camped near their work, till it is completed, instead of having to march long distances to it. Thus, for instance, a regiment of the third division, at the furthest extremity of the camp, marches down daily to work at Balakla, returning at night, thus daily performing a distance of nearly fifteen miles. I hear that Mr. Doyne is desirous to have the roads divided into miles, and every mile to have a station hut and a lamp, with a corporal and two men to act as police. This is a very excellent plan, which may be carried out with very little trouble and expense, and will facilitate the portioning out of repairs and works upon the roads. Besides working at the roads, parties are busy at various small jobs; clearing wells, &c. Water is again getting scarce, and, in the provision of a possible continuance of the present dry weather, no large quantities are allowed to be taken from the tanks, except by order from the Quartermaster-General's department. As regards military operations, there is literally nothing worth recording. The Russians remain very quiet, and so do we. There is not much firing from the north side, now and then some artillery officer, as if suddenly exasperated, jumps up in fury, and fires half a dozen mortars at once; but as far as I can see, the French continue not caring, and scarcely take the trouble to reply. In the cavalry plain on Sunday afternoon, our allies treated the Russians to a fine view of the Imperial Guard. Gen. M'Mahon, having assumed the command of the *corps d'armee*, of reserve, passed it in review; I rode down there after sending off my despatches, and the sight was certainly very fine, and highly creditable, in every way, to the French army. Grenadiers, Chasseurs, Zouaves, Engineers, and Artillery of the Guard, were drawn up across the plain in a long line, up and down which the general rode, followed by a numerous staff, to which Sir Colin Campbell and a large number of English officers had temporarily attached themselves. The Grenadiers looked martial and imposing in their long blue coats and lofty bearskins, the Chasseurs smart and active in their most active service-like costume; the Zouaves, as usual, picturesque and effective. These two corps, the Chasseurs and Zouaves, excite the warm admiration of our officers, and are probably the most perfect soldiers in the world. I do not mean in respect of fighting, although they are no fools at that; but considering them with respect to all their military qualities and accomplishments, as well as to their dress and equipment.—their powers of marching and endurance, everything, in short, that constitutes perfection in a soldier. One of the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity, Sister Winifred, has died of cholera, and was interred yesterday afternoon in a grave dug high up in the hill behind the general hospital at Balaklava. She was followed to her last resting-blace by the surviving sisters and by Miss Nightingale, also by a few officers and a large number of soldiers and inmates of the hospital. Service was performed at the grave according to the Roman Catholic ritual. Complaints are still rife among the officers of this army concerning the great irregularity with which they receive the newspapers sent to them from England and elsewhere. I hear daily grumbling on this account, proceeding from persons who receive letters from their friends, informing them that by the same post, papers are despatched to their address, which never arrive. The grievance is a vexatious one. We are now on the verge of winter. Days grow short, evenings long. One of the greatest pleasures of a man out here is the receipt of newspapers from England; and so you would say, could you behold how the fortunates who receive them are beset. It is a cruel privation and disappointment when, by mismanagement in some quarter or other, they do not arrive. The matter ought to be seen to by all concerned.

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The Genoa papers announce that recruiting offices for the British Legion have been opened both at Genoa and La Spezzia.

The Emperor of Russia has returned from Nicolaieff direct to St. Petersburg, without visiting Warsaw.

THREATENED RUPTURE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SPAIN.

The Madrid correspondent of the *Times*, writing on the 3rd inst., says:—"There are two cases respecting which our own and the Spanish Government are at difference, and which, I regret to say, have each arrived at a stage which seems to hreaten very seriously the friendly relations between the two countries; and I have reason to think, that Lord Howden has received instructions relative to these circumstances and the possible result of the negociations respecting them, which will be very unpalatable to the Spanish Government."

The chief details of the above mentioned cases are as follows:—Mr. Boylan, an English merchant of great respectability, had been resident for 14 years in the island of Cuba, and was established at Santiago de Cuba, where he carried on an extensive commerce. About two years since he was suddenly ordered by the authorities to leave the island, and he proceeded to England to lay his case before his own Government. It is said, though no proofs whatever have been brought forward to back the report, that he was suspected by the Spanish authorities of being implicated in political intrigues, which Mr. Boylan firmly denies, declaring, on the contrary, that he has never interfered or had anything to do with politics at all, and that his own interests were entirely bound up with the peace and prosperity of the island. It appears that our Government took up Mr. Boylan's case very strongly. He had been subjected to heavy losses by being obliged to abandon his large establishment in Cuba, and they insisted on the Spanish Government making him due reparation. The result of the negociations which ensued was that the latter agreed to do so, and it was mutually arranged that the case should be submitted to arbitration, our Government nominating Mr. Muir, English Consul at New Orleans, as their arbitrator, and the Spanish Government the Marquis de Espana, then Governor of Santiago de Cuba, on their side. Mr. Boylan was also allowed to return to Cuba for a year to arrange his affairs and abide the result of the arbitration; but now comes the most serious part of the case. In April last, before the result of the arbitration was known, and, indeed, before the English arbitrator had even arrived, Mr. Boylan received a peremptory order from the authorities of Santiago de Cuba to leave the island within eight days, the pretext for which was, that he had not fulfilled the conditions on which he was allowed to return, the principal of which were that he must either take out a letter of naturalization (which would require him to change his religion), or must apply to the Captain-General for special permission to remain longer. The latter condition he had complied with, having memorialized the Captain-General, stating that he had found it impossible hitherto to dispose of his property there, and praying for further time to allow him to do so. To this memorial no answer was received, nor would the authorities of Santiago de Cuba allow Mr. Boylan to proceed to the Havannah to lay his case before the Captain-General, but he was put on board a French merchant vessel at Santiago, and conveyed again to England. The result of all this has been, that Mr. Boylan is ruined, and that our Government, naturally indignant at the conduct pursued by the Spanish authorities, after the two governments had agreed to submit the whole case to arbitration, have demanded full and speedy satisfaction, and I believe that it has been formally intimated that the continuance of friendly relations between England and Spain may depend on these demands being promptly complied with.

The other cause is also a very serious one. A Spanish vessel called the Fernando Po, and owned by Barcelona houses sailed from that port for Fernando Po, having on board a great number of water-casks, respecting which she possessed no document to prove that they were required for any lawful purpose. She was captured by two English cruisers—the Dolphin, Lieutenant-Commander Webber, and the Minx, Lieutenant-Commander Roe—on suspicion of being employed in the slave trade, and was sent to Sierra Leone for trial by the mixed commision there. The result is not yet known. The owners have addressed strong reclamations to the Government here, and among them is Don Domingo Moostich, who was long established on the African coast, and, according to the official reports of our authorities, was engaged most extensively in the slave-trade at Whydah, and other parts. It came to the knowledge of our Government, that this person had been selected by the Government here to fill the post of Governor of Fernando Po, which, lying in the bight of Biafra, and under the absolute sway of such a person, would become a mere depot for the convenience of slave-traders, and strong remonstrances was made against such an appointment, in the face of the engagements exsisting between the two countries respecting the slave-trade; but it appears that the Spanish Government persist in their intention, and that things have gone so far that our Government have felt it necessary to intimate that the appointment of Don Domingo Moostich as Governor of Fernando Po will be regarded as tantamount to making that island a depot for slaves, and that it will be dealt with accordingly.

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WINTER QUARTERS IN THE CRIMEA.

A correspondent at Bala Clava, writing to us upon this point, says:—"Mr. Doyne, the indefatigable superintendent of the Army Works Corps, proceeds vigorously with his labours. Roads are opening in all directions. There are about 20 miles in progress. The pains that are taking with their constructions, and its excellence, appeared almost superfluous to some of the military bigwigs here, but before we have got through our four months' winter, they will probably change their opinion on that head. The number of men employed is very considerable. To-morrow 8,600 soldiers go on work, besides 1,000 Croats and the Army Work, Corps, which, notwithstanding its losses from sickness, is still 1,000 or 1,100 strong, and expects to be reinforced from England to the extent of some hundred more."

The most remarkable addition, however, to the efficiency of the Army Works in the Crimea, is the floating factory, which has just arrived at Bala Clava. In the words of Colonel M'Murdo, "This is a measure worthy of England, for her base is on the waters, and she has now floated Woolwich to her army in the Crimea." This factory consists of a large vessel, in which many of the great works carried on at Woolwich may be done at Bala Clava. It is thoroughly fited with every requisite. Iron anchors can be welded and turned, engines fitted, and timbers sawn. Carpenter's and smith's work of all kinds can be here performed, under circumstances the most trying, and in spite of the difficulties usually arising in the country of an enemy. This factory is to continue at work throughout the winter, while the army is resting from its past exertions, and preparing for a new campaign. In the spring, when fighting begins again, the services of the Transport Corps will be called into greater requisition, and then the full merit of this new appliance will be seen. By means of its strong reserves of wheels, axles, poles, shafts, and harness, will be ready, besides the requisites for repairing railway engines, guns, and the like. Indeed we cannot, by any sort of description, do the project better justice than in Col. M'Murdo's own words:—'I have no longer to look three thousand miles for the source of vitality!"

In the midst of all these huge and most creditable exertions to preserve the health and efficiency of the army during the winter, the only thing to be regretted is the disposition which our soldiery have lately exhibited to abuse the indulgences which have been so lavishly bestowed upon them, by excessive and habitual drunkenness. The accounts which we have received upon this head cause us to blush for our countrymen, and we sincerely trust, that some practical means will be speedily adapted by the authorities at home to check the continuance of a vice which it appears the regimental officers upon the spot cannot control, and which, if persisted in, must infallibly lead to a complete disorganization of our once well-disciplined and manly army.

Accounts from Russia state, that the rye crops were excellent, but the wheat and barley were deficient.