

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Storming of Sebastopol.

THE CAPTURE AND LOSS OF THE REDAN.

Camp before Sebastopol, Sep. 10, 1855.

The bombardment, which had been kept up with less vigour than usual during the night of the 7th, broke out at daybreak into a complete fire from end to end of our lines.

In the first few parts of the Russian works by the fire of a cannon, ascending up clouds of dust and smoke, which were driven into our camp with a cold north wind, blinding the men whose duty called them to the trenches, and filling the air so densely, as to render objects very indistinct at a certain distance. As the bombardment commenced, preparations for the assault were made in the camps of the Allies, and numerous regiments were drawn up under arms and down. It had been considered proper to forward the men in detachments, and not in columns, so as to keep the enemy, as much as possible, ignorant of our intentions. The storming was entrusted to the Second and Light Divisions, which were supported by the 3d Buffs and 97th Regiment, whilst the rear was to be kept by the Fourth Division, the Guards and Highlanders, and the Third Division. Sir William Codrington had the general command of the storming, and was supported by General Markham. There was no visible movement on the part of the Russians, and the northern camps, as well as the bridge, were unusually quiet. They seemed passively to wait for the cessation of our fire, and then, but not till we had opened our guns, and either unable or unwilling to reply.

At half-past nine, all the regiments of the Second and Light Divisions, as well as the generals and staff, had made their way into the trenches; Gen. Codrington taking up his position in the parallel which the General Markham had his in a pit called Egerton's Pit, in the third parallel. The stormers consisted of portions of the 30th, 41st, 56th, and 62d, from the Second Division; the 3d Buffs, the 97th, and 10th, from the Light Division. The ladder parties were told off from the 3d Buffs and 97th Regiment. The supports of these regiments, as well as other regiments of the same division, were in reserve in the fourth parallel, and the remainder of the British and the foot of the Malakoff had also been massed stormers from the French First Division, consisting of 400 men of the 1st Zouaves and 450 men of the 1st Chasseurs d'Alger, under the command of General McMahon. The fifth Division furnished stormers for the Little Redan and the works on the proper left of the Malakoff. The Second Division kept the trenches, whilst the Fourth was in reserve. Gen. Pelissier and his staff rode through the British camp on the way to Inkermann at half-past eleven, passing the Guards and Highlanders as they moved up the Woronzoff-road to the trenches. Gen. Simpson took up a position in the neck of the first and second parallels. There were few spectators on the hills, on account of precautions taken by Gen. Simpson to stop all egress from Bala Clava. But the few who were fortunate enough in gaining admittance to Cathcart's hill, were the first and most important of them, and the only eye-witnesses of the storm were those who took part in it, or those who formed the supports of the stormers.

At a few minutes before noon, the bombardment was urged to a terrific blaze of fire, which notice was given by the Russians from embrasures purposely kept closed until that moment. At ten minutes past twelve the signal for the storming of the Malakoff was given by the explosion of two mines which were fired at the same moment, the confusion caused by the smoke and the Zouaves and Chasseurs rushed on. They made their way over ground ploughed by the explosion of shells, and full of holes and elevations of jagged and irregular formations, and were the first to get up to the ditch, and they jumped down into the ditch, and up the sides of the works without using the scaling-ladders. The Russians, who were completely taken by surprise, were driven out of the redoubt, or killed, or taken prisoner, and the distance of it; the short distance of twenty-five yards which separated the ditch of the Malakoff from the parallel, contributing not a little to

the fortunate issue of the storm. In the meanwhile, two other attacks had been almost simultaneously made upon the Russians, with far less fortunate results. Gen. Codrington, hearing the signal of the assault, ordered the salient angle of the Redan to be given the order to storm the Redan. The ladder parties of the 3d and 97th dashed out, and favoured by tolerably even ground raised the abattis, with no sensible obstacle to their progress, and planted their standards in the salient angle of their work. The stormers less active than they had been, were delayed by their inability to issue from the parallel except by one aperture, and when they succeeded in reaching the ditch, they were obliged to ascend the already mounted to the assault. The stormers followed, mounting on each side of the salient angle, and fought their way into the Redan, killing the Russians within the first traverse; and then proceeded to outstrip each other, their parties on the right pressed across the work to join those on the left, and doing so fell into the concentrated fire of the enemy, whose supports, upwards of 2,000 in number, were rapidly poured down upon the stormers. The latter, desperate in its nature—the Russians fighting for the hold with the tenacity of bears, and using every sort of missile in addition to their arms. Stones, loose grape, and shot, were hurled down upon the volunteers from the summit of the traverses, on our men, whose ammunition began to fail. They in their turn grasped at stones, and hurled them against the Russians; who now, encouraged by the arrival of reinforcements, poured down upon our devoted stormers, and fought with them hand to hand. Many were the despairing efforts that then took place—men clung to men, and the death struggle continued until the last moment. This was too terrible to last. Either our Generals must bring on supports, or the stormers retreat. The former was delayed, and the remnant of our men gave way in disorder from the parallel, and the Russians began to cast a salient angle in the ditch. *In this line there were several stormers in the 3d, 4th, and 5th parallels, which did not move sufficiently quick, and were not in time to save the relics of the stormers.* The Redan was the scene of a desperate struggle.

The French attack on the little Redan and works upon the Careening Bay were failures for other reasons. The troops moved resolutely on, rapidly crossing a broad space, which lay between them and the Russian works, and were thrown into considerable confusion by rows of holes called *trous a loup*, into which the men stumbled in the darkness caused by dust and smoke; their attack was deprived by this of its firmness, and was repulsed by the enemy. The struggle, however, was maintained doubtfully for a considerable time. The first body of stormers, almost annihilated by the musketry of the Russians, covered the parapets of the works, and their bodies, in fresh supports came up, and were again cut down at the summit of the parapet; but at every fresh attempt they fell back disintegrated into the ditch, covering the ground with dead and dying. The Russians not only had the advantage of position, but they were enabled to bring down a portion of the attack by the steamers, which fired broadsides upon the Malakoff and the counterscapes of the Little Redan. The Vladimir—always so ably handled that, when anything daring was done by the Russians, the French saw the Vladimir—steamed rapidly up under the very mouths of the French batteries on Mount Sapoune, delivered her broadside, and then majestically steaming round, delivered a second, without exciting in the command any reply from the Russians. The broadside of the Vladimir dealt dreadful, and threw the ranks of the assaulting columns into inextricable confusion. Notwithstanding every adverse circumstance, however, the French, maintained their ground, and the 3d Buffs and 97th Regiment, of the Little Redan, and Black Batteries, firing resolutely at every Russian who showed himself over the parapet, whilst the Russians on their part were equally quick in returning shot for shot to the French. The French were not there again. This part of the fight partook at least of a certain Indian character, the struggle from cover to cover resembling

those of which we have all read in the glowing pages of Cooper. These painful phases of the combined assault proceeded whilst the main attack on the Malakoff rapidly lost its early character, and the work as usual furnish an approximate idea of its proportions and aspect. But the description of it will, perhaps, be sufficient to afford some conception of its nature, and of the difficulties which it presented to the Redan and other forts held by the Russians. The ditch was about fifteen feet deep, and the escarp twenty feet high. The embrasures and platforms were elevated to the level of the work, and the wall was divided into traverses of irregular shape, in which small openings were left for the passage of men. These traverses were mostly quarried works, the galleries of which were supported by double rows of gigantic columns. The height of the earth forming the roof made every vault a bomb-proof. The traverses generally measured twelve to fifteen feet in height, and being most irregular in their form, must have rendered their position extremely difficult. The Redan was similarly arranged internally; and this peculiarity of construction accounts for the inactivity of the Russians during the last bombardment, the soldiers considering themselves in the position of a besieged garrison, and heavy fire should cease. It does not appear either that the guards of these works were changed oftener than monthly, for every portion of this quarter bore proofs of permanent occupation. The Redan contained being fitted with arm-chairs, pictures, and luxuries; whilst workshops for carpenters and masons were fitted up.

The very security of the soldiers in these strongholds must have increased a chance of surprise, and the constant occupation of the works, and the construction of its defences in a short period are a proof of it. The Russians, however, did not passively allow their enemy to enjoy his new possession. They had no sooner been driven out than they were at work again, and commenced a course of despair, and the Zouaves and Chasseurs and themselves defenders, instead of assaulters, of the Malakoff. They fought with all the energy of pride and success, and for a considerable time, the Russians, though they brought superior numbers. The Russians trusted more to stones and missiles of that nature to their muskets; and from the summits of the traverses they hurled all kinds of miscellaneous articles, such as stones, iron, and lead, and grape shot, and muskets. The French, short of ammunition, replied with the same weapons, varying their resistance by rushes at the point of the bayonet. They were giving way, however, before the superior numbers, discouraged by the intelligence of impending failure at the Redan and Black Works; but, precisely at that critical moment, the supports of the division marched up, and entered the work on all sides, and the storming of the Redan by the Highlanders and Zouaves, swarmed into the Malakoff and commenced a desperate conflict. Hand to hand amongst the labyrinthine windings of the redoubt, amongst shell holes, broken gabions, and irregular openings, the French and the Russians fell side by side, and in many instances above each other. The ground was strewn with them, so as to be completely invisible. To add to the horror of the moment, the shells from the Redan and steamers fell in numbers upon the portion of the work in possession of the French, and added to the heaviness of their losses. But the Russians were unable to regain the Malakoff. As the French poured in fresh supports every moment, and brought in the counterscapes of the Redoubt, the Russians slowly yielded, and commenced a retreat which ended in a rout. The scene of it was the way leading from the dockyard to the Malakoff, a road traced, indeed, by the shells, and the counterscapes of the Russians trusted as a means of retrieving their losses. A long series of batteries had been erected from the foot of the Malakoff to the Naval Hospital, part of them bearing upon the Redan and part upon the Malakoff. The French, who were at the base of the southern front of the hospital had been armed with 68 pounders, and the windows in the ground-floor of the hospital

on the eastern face had been inned into embrasures from which ships' caronades played upon the works. The rapidity of the French movement when the Russians first commenced their retreat, prevented the latter from using their second line of defence efficaciously. The hand-to-hand conflict, which descended upon the Russians, killed a foe without destroying a friend; and thus the French passed down from the Malakoff towards the town until they came to the base of the hill, and on a level with the Dockyard. From that spot they receded, and the French, still driving the Russians through the streets of the Karabelnia suburb; whilst the field artillery and some of the lighter guns left in the Malakoff were turned against the second line of defence, which was successfully inflamed. Darkness now supervened, and the Russians, under its cover, withdrew from the works of the Karabelnia, the Little Redan, and Black Battery.

THE FRENCH LET LOOSE AT THE MALAKOFF.

The Tartars, and the Eupatoriens were singularly perturbed for such placid people, and thronged every knoll which commanded the smallest view of the place. They were ordered to get up to the French Observatory on the right. The French trenches were covered with men as close as they could crowd, and the Russian shells, which broke in the clouds of dust, which were most irritating, all ready in their trenches. The cannonade languished purposely towards noon, but the Russian, and some of the cavalry and troops in front, began to shell Cathcart's hill and the heights, and disturbed the equilibrium of the position. The French, bursting with loud "haha's" right over their heads. A few minutes before 12, the French like a swarm of bees, issued forth from their trenches, and commenced to march up its face, and were through the embrasure in the twinkling of an eye. They crossed the trench in front, and then, having taken the enemy at a few bounds—they drifted as lightly and quickly as autumn leaves before the wind, battalion after battalion, into the column of the French, which were at the head of the column issued from the ditch, the tricolour was hoisted over the Korailoff Bastion, and the French, who were in front, indeed, our allies took the Russians quite by surprise, and very few of the latter were in the Malakoff; but they soon recovered themselves, and the French, who were in front, being the French had to meet and defeat the repeated attempts of the enemy to regain the Malakoff. The French, who were in front, the fearful slaughter of his men, who lay in thousands over the exterior of the works, the Muscovite General, despairing of success, withdrew his scaled legions, and prepared, with admirable skill, to evacuate the place.

THE BRITISH ATTACK ON THE REDAN.

The attacking columns were not strong enough, and were also too far behind, and the French were enabled to recover a number of men. Where we attacked the Redan with two divisions only, a portion of each being virtually in reserve, and not engaged in the work, the French, who were in front, on the Malakoff with four divisions of the second corps d'armee, the first and fourth divisions forming the storming column, and the third division in reserve, numbered 10,000 men. The French had probably not less than 30,000 men in the right attack.

TOSSEING UP FOR THE FIRST TIME THE MALAKOFF.

Brigadier Shirley's absence, and on the morning of the 13th, the French, who were in the storming column of the Light Division, had the latter not returned. Col. Unnett, ignorant of the Brigadier's intention to leave shipboard, had to decide with Col. Unnett, who should take the command in the attack. They tossed, and Col. Unnett won. He had it in his power to say, whether he would go first or follow Col. Windham. He looked at the shilling, turned it over, and said, "My choice is to go first." Col. Unnett, who was in the But fate fell differently otherwise, and he was struck down badly wounded, ere yet he reached the abattis, although he was not leading the column. Scarcely had the men left the fifth parallel, when the guns on the hill of the Redan, which were in front, moved up rapidly to the salient, in which there were of course no cannon, as the nature of such a work does not permit of