GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE CRIMEAN EXPEDITION.

Some remarkable statements have appeared in one of the papers attributing the expedition to the Crimea to the Emperor of the French alone. It is alleged that Marshal St. Arnaud, a day or two before the Council was held, privately sounded Lord Raglan and Admiral Dundas, as to what their notions were respecting the prudence of invading the Crimea. They both expressed the most decided disapproval of the idea. When Admiral Dundas did so, Marshal St. Arnaud remarked, with a sort of shrug of the shoulders, "Our Admiral (meaning Admiral Hamelin) is of the same opinion"—that is, that it would be most imprudent to proceed at that particular time to the Crimea with the view of attacking Sebastopol. It was well known, that the opinions both of Prince Napoleon and the Duke of Cambridge were equally adverse to the expedition to the Crimea and that General Canrobert had also expressed himself unfavorable to it, though not perhaps with the same fervour as the others. In fact, before the day on which the Council was held, there was not one composing that Council that was not opposed to it, except Marshal St. Arnaud himself; and even he was supposed to have changed his opinions, when he ascertained that he stood alone in urging the propriety of an invasion of the Crimea. The expedition was consequently left, when he asked for a Council of War to decide the point. The Council was held, and the vote being put, it was found that Marshal St. Arnaud, Lord Raglan, General Canrobert, and General Bosquet, were in favour of the expedition, and that Prince Napoleon, the Duke of Cambridge, and Admirals Dundas and Hamelin, were against it. Marshal St. Arnaud, we are assured, was taken quite aback by the vote; for he made sure, from the adverse opinions previously expressed in private, that he would have had it all to being in favour of it. And it is even supposed that he was disappointed, as well as surprised, when he found that Lord Raglan voted with him; for it is thought, that he imagined he would have gained great reputation for gallantry, being known to be in favour of it, while Lord Raglan would have suffered from the supposition, that he was devoid of courage or pluck because he had voted against it. The pamphlet ascribed to Prince Napoleon represents Lord Raglan as have given his assent to the invasion of the Crimea by an audible "Yes!" This is a mistake. Lord Raglan spoke not a word, when the question was put to the vote. He merely made a stiff formal bow of his head, in token of his concurrence. If it be true that the expedition was exclusively planned by the Emperor of the French, light is thrown on two circumstances which had hitherto been enveloped in darkness. Our readers will remember the uneasiness and perplexity which were caused in the public mind by the phrase which the Emperor made use of in Louis Napoleon's letter of condolence to the widow of Marshal St. Arnaud, in reference to the Crimea expedition. The expression was supposed to reflect on Lord Raglan or Admiral Dundas, and it is understood that our Government demanded explanations of Louis Napoleon, in an official article in the *Moniteur*, acquitted our officers. But it now appears that the phrase was as applicable to at least the Duke of Cambridge and Admiral Dundas, as to Prince Napoleon, for whom the article in the *Moniteur* left it to be inferred the reproof was alone intended. The fact of Louis Napoleon being the sole author of the disastrous expedition to the Crimea, satisfactorily explains the reason why he has betrayed so great an anxiety to visit the Crimea in person; in the hope that by his presence there he might so evoke the enthusiasm of his soldiers as to insure the capture of Sebastopol. The failure to take Sebastopol would necessarily imperil his throne; but far greater will be the danger to the Empire, now that it is known, that the expedition was his idea alone, should the Allied armies fail to take the great Russian fortress.

THE INVALIDED SOLDIERS FROM THE CRIMEA.—The recent inspections of the invalided soldiers who have returned from the Crimea have afforded most interesting, yet melancholy, proofs of the desperate nature of the late campaign. Nearly all those men bear too plainly the marks of the fearful struggle in which they were engaged, and are unfortunately disabled from further service in the army. Several of them having been but a short time in the army will be entitled to only a very small amount of pension, and the bare idea, that men who have performed such feats of valour in the service of their country should be left to struggle with penury and destitution, cannot be for a moment tolerated. Many of these men, although unfit for military service, are quite capable of duties where steady habits of discipline, trustworthiness, and obedience are required, and would rejoice in any employment, that would enable them to maintain their independence. They are well suited to act as private watchmen, gatekeepers, porters, or warehousekeepers, and as porters in attendance upon passengers at railways would be highly useful. It is to be hoped, that the generous feeling manifested in innumerable instances by the public during the present war will not fail to find employment for these noble fellows. We believe, we may add, that every opportunity of employing them in the Royal Parks will not be forgotten.

DEPARTURE OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.—The Emperor set out on Wednesday, at one o'clock, for the camp at St. Omer. It is said that he will return in two days. A hundred of his Majesty's horses were to arrive at Lyons, as well as a strong detachment of the Imperial Guard. All doubts and hesitations as to the Emperor's journey to Sebastopol are now at an end. His Majesty will decidedly leave. Even the day is fixed for the departure—it will be at latest, Monday, the 5th. The Empress will accompany him. A consultation of physicians has taken place, as to whether or not it would be prudent for her Majesty to make the journey. The result is, that seeing her health is exceedingly good at present, she may safely undertake to go with the Emperor. The Emperor has nominated the personages who are to attend him.

A LIFE SAVED BY A TEMPERANCE MEDAL

"Camp before Sebastopol,
20th Dec. 1854.

"By the bye, dear mother, I was just going to miss out the most interesting part of my letter. You will mind the old badge which my father used to carry always with him, to frighten off (he used to say) his appetite for whiskey, and which you presented to me two or three nights before I sailed, telling me to wear it in my jacket pocket, and by no means to break my mother's pledge. Now, mother, I won't say, whether I never tasted spirits or not since I left, but at the battle of Inkerman I got it broken for me in fine style. A bullet from a Russian officer's pistol struck me about the waist; I felt it plainly tell at the time, but on finding myself dismounted, I found him the contents of my rifle in exchange, which produced a very different effect on his system. I was fortunate enough to escape with one or two scratches and a few holes in my clothes, if such they can be called, as they just resemble a professional beggar's habiliments—that is, if they were put off, it would be difficult to steer my limbs into them again. I had lost all recollection of being struck by the ball I received in front till, on putting my hand into my pocket for a tin whistle, my fingers came through a small hole, and appeared to my astonishment, on the out side of my jacket, which immediately brought the event of my being struck there back to my mind, and, on taking the different odds and ends out of my front receptacle, I was surprised to see my medal wanting a large piece off the top, and, following up the spoor, as 'Gordon Cumming' would say, found the bullet and bit of my medal sticking in the top hem of my trousers. You will recognize it, as it has the words 'SOCIETY OF GOOD TEMPLARS' on it, and a piece part adhering to the bullet, also the mark of the little round hole that my father wore a string through. All I have to add is, that it has been the means of saving my life, for if the ball had not been arrested in its course at that point, it would have landed somewhere (at least, I learned my heart was somehere thereabouts when I was at the High School), and thus have spoiled Jessie's brightest prospect. So, dear mother, I am indebted to you indirectly for saving my life —so, tell all the young chaps coming out here to fortify themselves with a teetoaller's medal, for mine has proved itself a breastplate of protection in more ways than this, as I have seen many of my comrades unnecessarily expose themselves from being over giddy in the head.—I remain, etc.,

"BILL SMITH."

Sir George Brown has joined the army and resumed the command of the Light Division. General Jones, R.E., has taken charge of his duties. The changes in the army are—Sir Colin Campbell to have the first Division, Sir John Campbell, the Highland Brigade, General Bentinck to command the Fourth Division, General Barnard a brigade of Fourth Division.

DEATH OF THE CAPTURED RUSSIAN PRINCE.

The Russian officer whom I mentioned in my last letter as having been captured by the French, while leading an unsuccessful sortie on their lines, and about whose fate so much interest was evinced by the enemy, has since died of his wounds, and his body, under a flag of truce, sent in to Sebastopol. He was said to be a Russian prince by birth, and a aide-de-camp to the Emperor Nicholas. It is also rumoured here, that he was the Emperor's natural son. Whatever his real birth of rank may have been, he is represented to have left behind him with the most daring courage and skill.—*Morning Herald.*

A HIGHLAND DIVISION.

It is said, that a Highland division is to be formed and placed under the command of Sir Colin Campbell. If so, the 93d, 42d, and 79th, now here, will all require large reinforcements before spring. Though these regiments—stationed at Balaklava—have suffered none of the terrible privations which fell to the lot of those here in camp, they are still much reduced in effective strength, and united barely muster 1200 effective soldiers.—*Morning Herald.*

HOW IMPROVEMENTS ARE APPRECIATED BY THE ARMY OFFICIALS.

Mr. Murdoch, of the Sanspareil, who has performed the operation of "bouching" (or fitting new vents into guns) on several large pieces of ordnance in the trenches, has received the thanks of Lord Raglan for his very useful labours, and his Lordship inspected the process the other day in person. He gave orders, that some artillerymen should be sent to meet Mr. Murdoch on the following day, in order that he might instruct the men, and Mr. Murdoch walked up from Balaklava, and was in the appointed place at 10 o'clock to meet them, but he waited for two hours in vain; not a man came near him. He offered to leave the tools to perform the work on his own responsibility with the artillery, but somehow or other, no readiness was evinced to accept his offer. The value of the operation performed on the spot on a gun whose vent has been injured by excessive firing, is enormous. Instead of a piece of useless metal, in a few hours you have a gun as good as new, and ready for instant use.—*Times.*

JUNCTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD TATERS WITH THE RUSSIAN ARMY.—The regiment of Baskirs has just passed through St. Petersburg. These troops have not been seen in St. Petersburg since 1812, when they carried bows and arrows. They are true Calmucks, with little eyes and flat noses, and eat horseflesh. The yare now armed with a musket.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMP.

Camp before Sebastopol.

My Dear Father and Mother,—I hope to spend some happy days at home with you all yet. You need not despair of seeing either Malcolm or me, for I trust in Him who has saved me through all dangers, and whose protection I felt, when I was marching in a Russian prisoner, who was shot dead beside me. You say that Murdock has heard from William, that I, in company with one of our Grenadiers, had taken a Russian prisoner. Well, if you have heard it before, you need not say or think I am boasting. On the 5th of November, when that bloody battle was fought, I was one of the band in the front of our regiment, being nearest to Inkerman, was ordered to advance; and out commanding officer, not telling the band to go to the rear, I along with the rest, advanced with the regiment, as I would scorn, without orders, to stop behind with the band. We were met by a column of Russians; we waited, lying down, for the enemy to advance near enough to us to give them a volley, which, when the men did fire, or tried to do, their firelocks would not go off, but we set up a great cheer, and the Russians turned to the right about, and off. So, during a night, have a chance of cutting one of them off with my sword, I set out in chase of them; but, as I got nearer to them, I saw there were four, but one of our Grenadiers, being near me, came to the charge, and we soon came up with the retreating foe. The Grenadier run through with his bayonet, and took another prisoner. I felled the other with my sword; but my sword, being so light, only stunned him. He fell, and I immediately snatched his loaded musket, and gave him a gentle knock on the pate to get on his knees with me, which he did, in as great a fear as though he was going to be shot; but I did him no further injury. So that made three out of four Russians —one being able to run quicker than the remainder. It was only sorry that I did not shoot down the one to win a medal, and not run the musket I took from the other; but, in such a scene, he is a very cool person who will not be confused, for the cannon of the enemy and our own were playing over our heads, both being on hills, while the infantry were in a hollow; but, a while after, I was marching my prisoner within our own lines, along with two others, and as we came very near out of what we thought danger, one of the Russians, who I was pointing to go on in front of me, when he was passing me, was shot through the spine, and fell, shaking from head to toe, dead. Poor fellow, I don't think he lived long after. He fell flat on the ground, roaring out with pain. I felt sure it was a Russian ball that went through him So, I had a narrow escape. At the sortie that the Russians made on the 26th, we were ordered to lie down, to let the enemy's cannon play over our heads. One ball, a six-pounder, flew close over us, and blew the head off a man of the 47th Regiment. A few minutes after, I just got up to walk over to my comrade to speak to him—and I was not two paces from the spot, when the men shouted, "Look out, Jack," and a musket ball just lodged where I left. The musket ball makes a lighter whistle than a cannon, and you can easily hear whether it is a shell or ball, after you are awhile listening to them. At the Battle of the Alma, all the bands were kept to the rear of the regiments, when the action was commenced but soon all the bands were ordered to advance to the front, with the stretchers for the wounded—and the Russian artillery must have thought we were something more than bandsmen, for they sent a shower of cannon balls at us. One hopped in the very centre of the 49th's, band, without injuring one of them; and the balls came whistling past us in tens, one passing between one of our men and a horse. Out of all, there was only one wounded in the service; he belonged to the 79th Highlanders. So, I escaped there, as well as at Inkerman and Bala Clava. Several of our band would not go to the front, but fought all day with what guns they could pick up. Our regiment has taken a large double-headed eagle, which is to be presented to her Majesty the Queen, from the 30th Regiment; but, because it is not the Light Division, there will be nothing about the prize from Inkerman. We have the bravest and most skilful Major-General, I think, in the army. His name is well known—General Pennefather—but all depended on the private soldiers' bravery, which was well shown, as one of our Grenadiers was found lying dead with seven dead Russians lying round him, showing that he had used the butt of his musket in grand style; but we have so well fortified our position, that we shall not have the pleasure of a good fight with them any more. Our men often say, when the day is cold, that they wish the Russians would advance, that they might warm themselves in a good fight. If I live to go home to you, I will be able to tell you many little anecdotes of the war. The rumour is, that old Nick is coming to terms of peace. But I would rather not, and, for spite, we would take Sebastopol, if I had to suffer a whole winter. They cannot stand long.

JOHN MURDOCK, Band, 20th Regiment.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, Feb. 26, 1855.

THE LATE JOSEPH HUME.

Lord PALMERSTON: In rising to move a new writ for the burgh of Montrose for the election of a member in the room of the late Mr. Hume, I cannot, in doing so, simply confine myself to the bare motion I have placed in your hands. I think, sir, I should not be doing justice to the feelings of the house, if I were not to express some feelings of regret which I am sure is shared in by all for the loss of that honored member, whose place we are now called upon to supply. It was said of an eminent man in former times, that he gave up to party what was meant for mankind. The very reverse of that might be said of the late Mr. Hume, for the party, to which he devoted the labours of his life, was the world at large, and beyond it to the general interests of mankind at large. There may have been men who have gained for themselves a greater position in this house by placing themselves at the head of a faithful band of friends whose object was to acquire political power for the sake of governing the country. Mr. Hume was a remarkable instance of a man who had not only gained an eminent position in this house and in this country, but who had established for himself a name that may be said to have been not only European, but to have stretched even beyond that limit, by exertions wholly disinterested, so far as he himself was concerned, and totally separate from any attempt to acquire, by his own exertions or those of his friends, political power in the country. He was a man of whom it may be said, that he took the lead in almost every measure of improvement, which has of late years been carried into practical operation. He had an industry which nothing could tire or overcome. His acquirements were not a mere smattering of those subjects which concerned the interests of the country and the general welfare of the community at large. He had a perseverance which was baffled by no obstacle; and it is but due to his memory to say, that though he differed in many of his opinions, and his attempts to carry out his own opinions—he frequently had many opposed to him—was frequently exposed to those rough conflicts unavoidable by any man wishing to enforce his opinions—yet nothing that ever passed between him and those who opposed to his views ever left one trace of resentment or one particle of bitterness in his mind. I am persuaded, that even those, who most differed with him in opinion on matters which he felt it to be his duty to bring before the house and recommend for the adoption of parliament, must do him the justice to admit, that he was one of the purest motives, and from a sincere desire for the welfare of his country. I am sure we must look back with regret at the loss of such a man—a loss which no man more regrets than I do.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE JOSEPH HUME.—On Thursday morning, the remains of this much esteemed gentleman were removed from his town house, Bryanstone-square, Marylebone, to Kensal-green Cemetery, Harrow-road, according to the wish of the deceased. The funeral arrangements were of a most unostentatious character. As the time for the starting of the funeral *cortege* drew nigh, the square was thronged with spectators. From an early hour in the morning, the minute bells of the various churches in the neighbourhood were solemnly tolled, and the trading establishments ware partially closed. Numerous applications were made by several public bodies and private individuals for permission to evince their respect for the departed statesman, and their sympathy in the general grief for his loss, by attending at the funeral and forming part of the procession; but it was intimated, that the body was to be followed to the grave only by the near relations of the deceased and a few of his particular private friends.