NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Progress of the War.

SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

From the News of the World, April 29.

The bombardment of Sebastopol is vigorously continued. The latest accounts from the Crimea inform us that several of the most important works of the enemy have been effectually silenced, and that the garrison replies but feebly to the uninterrupted fire of the besiegers. Still, it is said, that an immediate result is not anticipated by the Allied commanders, their plan being to effect a gradual but certain reduction of the place by the superiority of their fire, rather than to incur the fearful sacrifice of life which must necessarily attend a hurried assault, however brilliantly successful such a movement might be.

Acting with this view, the Generals appear to have determined to limit the fire of their batteries to the extent necessary to damage the works of defence, and to prevent the enemy, at the same time, by an uninterrupted cannonade, from repairing by night the injuries inflicted in the day. By thus husbanding their resources, the Allies will be enabled to await the arrival of the reinforcements that are required for ulterior operations, and will likewise avoid the disastrous effects experienced in the first bombardment of Sebastopol. On that occasion, the absence of sufficient supplies of ammunition prevented the Allied batteries from maintaining an uninterrupted cannonade, and the enemy were therefore enabled to repair in the night the great damages sustained in the day. The Allies are, at the present hour, in a position to continue the bombardment for several weeks on the same extensive scale, and the terrible effect created by their continual fire may be conceived from the result of the first few days' cannonade. We are assured that, on the 13th inst., the formidable Russian works of the Mamelon and Malakoff tower were reduced to nearly complete silence by the over-mastering fire of the British batteries; and that our Allies, the French, had so far damaged the great Flagstaff battery, as to disable it from returning more than one shot to every three directed against it. At other points of the attack, similar advantages had been gained; and on the 14th, one of the ablest of our correspondents writing from the spot says,—"The result of each day's bombardment continues to be most favourable to the Allies. The Flagstaff still makes a heroic defence, but is evidently sinking fast. The Redan is still vigorous; but on the whole line the enemy's fire is not half of that of the Allies. To-day our superiority has been much mere marked than ever, the Russians not replying one gun to our three or four."

Later accounts forwarded by the electric telegraph, and published in the French *Moniteur*, tell us, that up to the 17th the superiority of the Allied fire was steadily maintained—that a series of ambuscades in front of the central tower had been successfully carried, and were now comprehended within the lines of the besiegers; and that a mine had been sprung in immediate proximity to the Flagstaff Bastion, giving to the French a new parallel, which they had successfully joined with their other works of advance.

All this would certainly lead to the conclusion that the bombardment, if not so rapidly triumphant as our sanguine hopes induced us to anticipate, is still steadily and surely tending to the end we all so earnestly desire—the final downfall and destruction of this stronghold of Russian tyranny in the south.

Independent of the immense *materiel* employed in the actual process of the siege, the means placed at the disposal of the Allied Commanders for operations of another character are rapidly attaining the proportions demanded by circumstances. We believe we are correct in stating, that at the present moment above 100,000 British and French troops are encamped before Sebastopol, while a corps of 25,000 excellent Turkish and Egyptian soldiers, commanded by Omar Pasha, swell the strength of the Allied Armies. Within a few weeks, the Sardinian contingent and a large reinforcement of French troops will have disembarked at the seat of war; and the deficiency in cavalry experienced by the Allies will have been partially removed by the arrival of the British regiments from India.

Supported by these reinforcements, the Allied Commanders, even if an assault on Sebastopol should not prove so successful as is confidently anticipated, will be in a condition to take the field with a fine army, and to establish, if necessary a fresh basis of operations.

When the last accounts left the Crimea, a considerable body of Russian troops was showing itself upon the heights of the Woronzow-road, opposite to Balaclava, and there appears to be little doubt, but that the enemy will sooner or later strive to effect a division by attacking that place. We are led to believe, however, that any attempt of that kind will be indeed but a forlorn hope. Omar Pasha, with 15,000 chosen Turks, has marched into the fortified lines of Balaclava, where he will be supported by the gallant remnant of the British Guards, and an ample force of British artillerymen. Thus established in a strong position, all that the old warrior deigns to say to the Russian legions is—"Come, if you dare." If they venture to attack him, there can be no question but that he will give a good account of them.

LATEST PARTICULARS.

The following Despatch has been received from Admiral Bruat, by the Minister of Marine:

"On the 17th, the fire of our batteries maintained its superiority. In the front of the Central Tower we have carried a series of ambuscades, and those works where we have established ourselves are now comprised in our lines. We have crowned a ravine in that direction, which runs along the fortifications of the town, where the enemy formerly kept its reserves in safety. Before the Flagstaff Bastion we sprung a mine at a distance of about fifty metres. That operation, which perfectly succeeded, gave us a new parallel, and was successfully joined to the others. From the 12th to the 14th, notwithstanding the terrible fire of the Russians, we had only about 300 men *hors de combat*. The commander of the frigate who brought the news added that the situation was generally considered very satisfactory."

LATEST RUSSIAN ACCOUNT.

St. Petersburg, Tuesday.—Prince Gortschakoff writes as follows on the 19th:—On the 16th, 17th, and 18th, the fire of the enemy was not so sustained as on the preceding days. Our batteries have replied successfully; particularly by their cross-fire in front of the 4th bastion, directed against the works which the enemy is actively executing against that fortification. The injuries caused by the day's fire are repaired during the night. In the night between the 18th and 19th, one of our battalions, successfully and at a very slight loss, effected a sortie, with the object of destroying the enemy's most advanced works of approach. In general, the loss of the garrison has been much less within the last two or three days than at the commencement of the bombardment.

Extraordinary Manœuvres of the Russians—Further details of the First Day's Firing.

English Camp,
Heights of Sebastopol, April 10.

At about four o'clock yesterday, all the enemy's lines and batteries suddenly sprung into life and vigour. Volleys of from 100 to 250 guns were fired at once from the Redan, the Flagstaff, Barrack, Garden, and Malakoff Batteries; even the Mamelon, which all thought destroyed and untenable, fired five or six guns in rapid succession. Their shot came in upon our works like hail. On every point along our lines balls were to be seen bounding and plunging, and shells bursting like fireworks in the air. Never, perhaps, was such a concentrated and destructive cannonade witnessed since the commencement of the siege. All felt that if it continued two or three hours, our works would be levelled with the dust, as though both English and French kept up a terrific fire, the enemy in spite of our utmost efforts gave five guns in reply to our one. The rapidity and deafening uproar of the fire brought all who were at leisure to the front, and the oldest and most experienced artillery officers augured very unfavourably of our prospect of taking a fortress which could command such a fierce cannonade. Suddenly, and in the midst of such remarks, the enemy's batteries made a dead pause. For nearly a quarter of an hour not a gun was fired. The Allies kept up their bombardment; the French battered the Flagstaff and works to the left; our shot ploughed into the Redan and Malakoff, and our 13-inch shells burst in regular succession in the centre of the Mamelon; but not five guns did the Russians give in reply. Nearly twenty minutes passed on their side in this state of unaccountable inactivity, when again suddenly the Redan and Flagstaff broke out in heavy volleys, and maintained them. This was at about five o'clock, and from this time until the fire of the long guns discontinued for the night, except by occasional guns, few and far between, no other Russian works but the Redan and Flagstaff took part in the contest. Our long guns ceased firing a little after seven, the enemy's about eight, and then both Russians and allies resorted to their mortars. The fire of these latter was maintained all night. Every five minutes one of our 13-inch shells was dropped into the Mamelon, and from the advanced work, at the same intervals, 10-inch were thrown into the Malakoff. The French direted their bombs into the Flagstaff, and our left attack threw them into the Redan. On the extreme left of all, the French rocket battery sent their burning missiles in all directions, except into the town, the orders to spare that being still in full force. The enemy replied with mortars from the rear of Malakoff, the Redan, and Flagstaff works; but we were evidently two to one superior to them in such ordnance. This deficiency they occasionally compensated for by the use of their guns, which, when fired in volleys, are by no means to be trifled with. The advantage of the whole day's fire is evidently with the allies. Whatever is the reason, the enemy most certainly are not fighting with their usual vigour. We have not yet destroyed their works—their guns are still good and serviceable, yet still they continue silent under our cannonade during the greater part of the day. The conduct of the enemy is, on the whole, so extraordinary, that even the wildest conjectures to account for it gain temporary credit. According to some, the garrison is not sufficient to man all the defences, and this being also, I believe, the opinion of General Jones, is generally believed. Another rumour ascribes it to the want of ammunition, which is certainly less probable, as up to the moment of our opening fire, the enemy have wasted it in the most reckless manner, as if their stores of it were inexhaustible. Some, remembering Bala Clava and the subtle attack of Inkerman, look on their want of activity as a mere *ruse* to induce the allies to storm.

SECOND DAY.—REVENGE OF THE FRENCH UPON THE FLAGSTAFF BATTERY.

April 11.—At daybreak this morning the fire was resumed by the allies and Russians, and for some time with equal vigor on both sides. In spite of the fire of our mortars, the enemy during the past night have managed to repair much of the damage which the Mamelon sustained, and also the works of the Flagstaff Battery opposed to the French. For the first hour of hostilities this morning, all the Russian works were fonght with vigor and determination; but after that time (about half-past six) the guns round the Malakoff and Mamelon again ceased their cannonade, and from this period until late in the day seemed perfectly indifferent to our fire. As to-day the weather has been fine and clear, a perfect view of the whole fight could be obtained from the hills. I availed myself of the change to watch the progress of the siege for some hours, and as I had a powerful telescope, was able to see minutely everything which went forward in the batteries of our antagonists. First, then, as to the real amount of mischief which our fire has inflicted. On the extreme left, where the French are attacking, much harm has undoubtedly been done. The Mud Fort has received some hard knocks, several of its guns have been dismounted, and are not yet replaced. Still, as a battery, it is perfectly defensible, and the Russians evidently consider it so, as when I looked and during the rest of the day, it was hotly engaged with the French, and appeared to be giving gun for gun with the battery attacking it. Next to this came the Flagstaff, one of the most formidable of the Russian defences, and the same which blew up all the French batteries on the 17th of October last. Since that attack its strength has been increased fourfold; then, it mounted 45, now it mounts upwards of 160 heavy guns, at some parts in three tiers, and at others in two. This work has sustained much damage; more, perhaps, than all the other Russian batteries put together. Its lower and more advanced tier of guns are quite silenced. The guns themselves are overthrown the embrasures destroyed, in some cases shot quite away, in others so damaged as to be mere piles of black earth from which the remnants of white sandbags peep out here and there. The second tier is also much knocked about, and one or two of the guns silent, and the slopes of the earthworks much damaged. Still this portion is good and serviceable, and some thirty or forty pieces of ordnace in position in it maintained a hot cannonade. The upper tier of about thirty guns was almost uninjured; certain it is, that none of its guns were touched. It was into this upper tier that the French last night threw their bomb-shells, which of course must have caused much damage inside the parapet, but as yet there is no reduction in its fire. The two small batteries, which flank the lower tiers of the Flagstaff, are more out of the direct line of fire. They had suffered very little, and continued to inflict some mischief upon the French. One face of the Barrack Battery, which adjoins the Flagstaff, had been hit hard by the French, but was still firing. The other two sides of it were almost unscathed, and seemed even to be making head against a French battery on our left, and part of our left attack. Next to this came the Garden Battery. It suffered much yesterday, but, from its position in rear of the other works, the Russians have been able to repair it easily, and this morning it was again in active operation. The Redan, the enemy's *piéce de resistance*, I regret to say, shows but little tokens of injury. Its front face was considerably marked, and some three or four guns quieted, but this was all. It was still firing 30 or 40 guns a minute,. The Malakoff Tower—the key of the whole position, the point on which formerly the enemy appeared to concentrate all the vigor of their defensive energies—was silent. It was undoubtedly much injured, and half the guns of the semicircular battery gone, but still very, very far from being untenable or incapable of formidable opposition. Its two flanking batteries, mounting each some 10 or 12 guns, were, comparatively speaking, untouched. The Mamelon was much injured. Its parapets were mere loose piles of earth, and the fire of our mortars played so direct into its centre that the enemy can only retain it by an immense sacrifice of life. It was impossible to judge of the state of the enemy's works beyond the Mamelon except by their fire, which was incessant, and appeared far to overpower the French batteries opposed to them on the Inkermann heights. This statement, I think, will be found to contain a tolerably accurate account of the mischief we have yet done the Russians. Our mortar batteries near the picket-house were firing hotly into the Mamelon part of our right attack, and the mortars in the advanced trench on the Malakoff. Two of our right attack and mortar battery, an advanced battery of heavy guns, with the left attack, engaged the Redan. Some French batteries fought the Barrack and Garden works, assisted by a small battery of ours beyond the playing upon the Flagstaff, and the French works at Kamiesch on the Quarantine and Mud Forts.

THIRD DAY.—A BRITISH MISTAKE.

April 12.—During the whole of last night, the fire of our mortars was incessant, and this morning the long guns recommenced with renewed energy; but, in spite of our bombardment, the enemy had evidently been again busy during the night, and part of the Flagstaff and nearly all the Mamelon embrasures were repaired. In the former, apparently, no new guns had been mounted, but in the latter there were two. The fire to-day has been much the same as during yesterday—viz., a well-sustained cannonade from the Allies throughout, and the enemy replying very slackly, except from the Flagstaff and Redan. Occasionally, as since we first opened, nearly all their works gave forth tremendous volleys, almost simultaneously; but their spirts, though terrific, never lasted above half an hour, after which two-thirds of their line relapsed into comparative silence. One of our batteries on the slopes at Inkerman, mounting eight 68-pounders, and which has hitherto been masked, was opened this morning on the flank of the Malakoff. But the position of this work has been most unfortunately chosen. As it commenced its fire, it was discovered, not only that the Malakoff could and would reply, but that two other of the enemy's works bore full upon the spot. The result was, that it had to maintain a most unequal contest, and before twelve in the day three of its guns were so injured as to be unserviceable, and the rest of the work seriously damaged and the men exposed. Accordingly the artillerymen were withdrawn, and the battery remained silent. Still, before this step was taken, its fire had wrought considerable mischief in the Malakoff, shattering the chevaux-de-frise abbattis, and almost destroying one part of the parapet. During the rest of the day, the fighting was principally between the Flagstaff and French batteries, and the Redan and our right and left attacks. The Flagstaff each hour seemed to suffer more and more under the incessant cannonade of the French, and towards evening its fire was most considerably slackened. Its fire is certainly not now more than one-half of that which it maintained on the morning of the 9th. Owing to the much greater distance of the Redan from our works it has sustained less damage, but still our heavy guns are evidently telling upon it. The other Russian batteries took little part in the contest. Our own mortars have been active all day, and in spite of last night's repairs the Mamelon is now as bad as ever; much injury has also been done to the Malakoff in this manner. Our casualities during the day have not been very severe, except among the sailors of the naval brigade. One shell from the Redan entered the left attack, killing two men on the spot, and severely wounding seven others; all these poor fellows were sailors. Lieut. Urmstiern, of the Queen, was wounded, and Lieut. Crofton, of the Royal Engineers, was severely wounded late last night.

Fourth Day.—Opening of a New Battery—Consternation of the Russians—Gradual Destruction of the Enemy's Defences.

April 13.—Last night was wild and unfavorable, with continued heavy rain, yet still our bombardment never slackened for a moment. The Beagle, which was moored off Sebastopol at a long range, also assisted in the fire, by casting loose her Lancaster guns, and throwing shells into the works the whole night. She also fired about 50 Congreve rockets into the works opposed to the French. This morning, when our batteries recommenced, the effects of our assaults were still more apparent. The fire of the Flagstaff was evidently slack, even more marked so than on the previous evening. It scarcely replied one gun to the French three. The devastating traces of the shot were also most apparent. Not only are the lower tier of guns quite destroyed, but the upper seem in a fair way of following them. Two or three of them are already dismounted, and the earth of the parapets so seamed and torn that the rest of the ordnance appear as if pointing out between loose piles of earth The flanking batteries are now being fired at, and apparently with much effect. The Barrack work is also suffering much, and nearly one-third of its embrasures are empty. The Redan still shows a bold front. As I have already said, this colossal work is at so long a range from ours (1,250 yards),.and mounts such an enormous mass of ordnance, that it would stand its present battering for two or three weeks to come, without receiving such injury as to render it untenable. But this is a matter of no moment. The Redan, *per se*, is a strong battery, but, unlike the Flagstaff or Malakoff, it is by no means so importantly situated as to necessitate our taking it by storm. The former works are the keys of the enemy's position; when they are silenced and captured, the Redan will fall of itself,