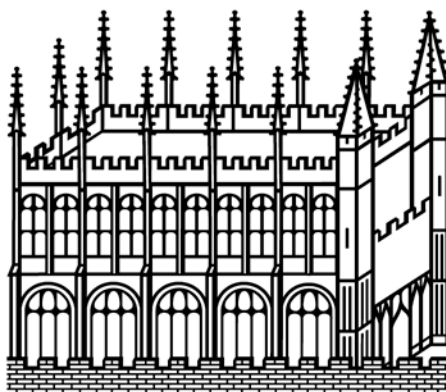




Bodleian Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

This book is part of the collection held by the Bodleian Libraries
and scanned by Google, Inc. for the Google Books Library Project.

For more information see:

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks>



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-
ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) licence.

REMARKS



ON

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

IN THE

PRESENT WAR.

BY AN OFFICER.

LONDON:

THOMAS HATCHARD, 187. PICCADILLY;
SEELEYS, FLEET STREET, AND HANOVER STREET; AND
NISBET AND CO. 21. BERNERS STREET.

1855.



REMARKS

ON

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

IN THE

PRESENT WAR.

BY AN OFFICER.

LONDON:

THOMAS HATCHARD, 187. PICCADILLY;
SEELEYS, FLEET STREET, AND HANOVER STREET; AND
NISBET AND CO. 21. BERNERS STREET.

1855.



LONDON:
A. and G. A. SPOTTISWOODE,
New-street-Square.

REMARKS,

&c.

THE extraordinary and unparalleled war in which we are engaged with Russia must occasion serious thought as well as painful reflections to every religious mind.

There are many in our Christian country who, while not actually denying the fact revealed in the Scriptures of the power and superintendence of Almighty God over the affairs of this world, yet do not give it that implicit credit which it demands; and they therefore fail to enjoy that confidence and comfort which they would otherwise derive from so consoling a truth. Yet who can read the encouraging assurance of our Saviour to his disciples, "that the very hairs of our head are all numbered, that not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without the permission of our heavenly Father*," and not be deeply impressed with the conviction that nothing can take place, with regard

* Matthew x.

to His creatures, but by the permission or direction of God.

In the midst of a war most afflictive in its consequences, and very grievous to many—from the melancholy and dreadful losses sustained both in battle and by disease—while at the same time it is so glorious to our country, through the great victories hitherto achieved, it may be useful to review in a Christian spirit many of the remarkable circumstances which have taken place since its commencement. The present remarks are therefore offered with the object of leading the mind to a contemplation of those events in connexion with the present war which clearly appear to be marked by the special providence of God.*

War is undoubtedly an evil, but it may be said to be, in many cases, a necessary evil. It is the inevitable consequence of our fallen state: “From whence came wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?”† This sentence of the inspired Apostle explains the origin of all the wars and fightings the world has ever known; and perhaps there never was a more striking example than the

* Is it not to be feared that some persons speak of the providence of God, not only as meaning His bounteous care, His gracious guidance, His merciful preservation of His creatures, but also use the term Providence as if this *means* of the Divine agency were the Deity Himself; thus setting aside the Name of God, and that of Christ, that Name which is above every name. Yet what pious mind would address God, O Providence?

† James iv. 1.

present, of the lust of power being so intense, and so firmly seated in the breast of one individual, that, reckless of all its baneful consequences, he should obstinately persevere in the prosecution of his unlawful aims of aggrandisement and aggression, regardless alike of the lives of those whom he governs, and of those whom he has made his enemies.

The late Emperor of Russia, so long our faithful ally, for some time past appears to have been intent on carrying out his ambitious schemes against Turkey, which, if accomplished, would probably be extended to other parts of Europe, and perhaps to India. This unwarrantable conduct justifies us in considering him the sole promoter of the present war; and it is gratifying to reflect that an almost unanimous opinion prevails throughout our own country, that this war, on the part of the allies, is a just and honourable one. The *Times* observes, "This war is waged by the whole British nation, without distinction of parties, because we believe it to be a war for the defence of right, for the chastisement of wrong, and for the safety of Europe."

Europe has, probably, never been so deceived in the character of a monarch as in that of the late Czar Nicholas of Russia. He has endeavoured to make it appear that he was actuated in this war solely by religious motives; and in a spirit of self-deception persuaded his deluded subjects, that he was directed in his unprincipled policy from above.

He adopts the words of the good Emperor Alexander: "The sword in my hand and the cross in my heart;" but how different are the principles which have actuated these two Emperors! Alexander, joined by all the Christian powers of Europe, was defending his country against invasion; Nicholas, on the contrary, invades Turkey without any just cause, having nearly all the powers of Europe against him. His influence over the minds of his ignorant and unenlightened people was unbounded. By his army he was considered, not only as an earthly father, but was almost worshipped as a divine ruler; and, in conjunction with the bishops of the superstitious Greek Church, he acquiesced in this devotion of his people, and encouraged his army in the grossest fanaticism.

He is said, at the commencement of the war, to have addressed the chief of the Don Cossacks thus: "In the war which has broken out for the Christian faith, my brave Cossacks of the Don have given fresh proofs of devotedness and valour, and I am convinced that they will be this year, as ever, the terror of the enemies of Russia and of the Holy Cross." And the Patriarch of Moscow, no doubt with the approval of the Emperor, thus addresses the 6th corps of the army: "Children of the Czar our father, and of Russia our mother, our brothers of the army, the Czar, the country, and Christianity call upon you. . . . Russia is again *provoked* by the enemy. . . . Already have your

brothers revived the old habit of beating him by land and sea. . . . Recollect you are fighting for the *most pious* of Czars, for your dear country, for the Holy Church, against the persecutors of Christianity, against the profaners of the holy and venerated cities which have seen the birth, the passion, and the resurrection of Christ. . . . In former times, Sergius, our old and venerable father and predecessor, who ever lives for Russia, blessed the victorious contest of your ancestors against the oppressors of their country. . . . The holy image was carried in our regiments. . . . Let the image of the venerable Sergius accompany you as a pledge of the pressing and efficacious prayer which he is addressing to God for you." Many of the Russian soldiers, following this idolatrous advice, carried images of their patron saint about their persons to battle.

When we mark the progress of the present war, may we not trace the hand of God stretched forth to curb the licentious spirit of a grasping and overgrowing power, called Christian, but in error, darkness, and superstition, and bent on mischief?

Comparing the spirit which has actuated the Allied army with that evinced by the Russians, we have much cause for thankfulness to God for the contrast. We need only refer to the Christian conduct of the allied troops towards their wounded enemies on the field of battle, in giving them water out of their canteens, and, in the spirit of their Divine Master, ministering to their wants; and

endeavouring to alleviate their sufferings as far as circumstances would permit; and contrast it with the brutality and fiendlike conduct of the Russians, which is almost beyond belief, when it is remembered that these men also call themselves Christians.

It is generally observed, that the moral conduct of both our soldiers and sailors is much improved of late years; and can there be any doubt of the change being owing to the increased attention, for many years past, to Sunday and other schools, where the teaching is founded upon the Bible—the Word of God? Many who have strenuously advocated this great principle of education have been permitted to see the effect produced by it on our young army; of whom the *Times* observes, that they “have performed their duty nobly, reckless even of their lives, at the same time with a feeling of religious obligation, which all must admire; for while they have endured with the greatest firmness the assault of their enemies, they have shrunk with the utmost avoidance from committing the slightest outrage upon any one.

It was most gratifying to the feelings of all who have the spiritual good of the soldier at heart, to know that, from the first, a great desire prevailed that the army ordered to the East should be well supplied with the Scriptures; and many Bibles, and thousands of copies of the New Testament, were distributed among the soldiers, who received them thankfully. The beneficial effects

of this measure have been abundantly shown in various letters from soldiers. The following observations from the *Times* bear testimony to the truth of this:—

“Conspicuous above all other features is the tone of religious feeling by which the majority of these communications are distinguished. Almost every soldier who writes to his parents or his friends alludes to the uncertainty of life before the guns of the enemy, expresses his thankfulness for the protection vouchsafed to him, and records his unshaken trust in that Providence by which he has hitherto been preserved. And with this there is no uncharitableness—no expression of animosity against the foe—no spirit of rancour or fanaticism. Our adversaries, it is said, are persuaded by their officers and their priests that they are fighting for the cause of religion, against fiends in human shape, and are taught, while they carry crosses and images about their persons, to murder their opponents as they lie wounded and helpless on the field. Contrast this spirit with that of the British soldier, sensible of all his risks, entering the battle with a consciousness that his life is in the hands of God, but abstaining from any sentiment of malice or vindictiveness, and nerved to the discharge of his perilous duties by the aid of principle alone.”

Probably no army ever went forth to war so well furnished with the Word of Life, the armoury of the weapons of salvation.

While the army was in a state of inactivity at

Varna, and many poor fellows fell victims to the awful visitation of the cholera, a religious feeling prevailed amongst many, both officers and men. Some had meetings for reading and prayer; and, before the battle of the Alma, it is said, that one or more divisions of the army had prayer offered up by the chaplain. Private letters from the soldiers, while at Varna, speak of the good they had derived from reading the Bible; and it may be confidently hoped that many of those who fell in the battle on the banks of the Alma, or in the still more deadly conflicts which followed, had learnt, through the teaching of the Spirit and Word of God, to look into their own hearts, and, discovering their sin and their lost condition by nature, and the only way of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the lost, had fled for refuge to the hope of eternal life held out to them in the blessed Gospel. No doubt, also, many a soldier then remembered the vow — perhaps long forgotten — which he once made in baptism, when he enlisted to fight manfully the spiritual fight of faith, under Christ's banner, "against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue His faithful soldier and servant unto his life's end;" and, if true to his Christian vow, such a one would surely not be among the least-brave or the least-devoted soldiers of his Queen and country.

The marked and special mercies of God to this nation, above others, have been manifested, in the first place, by the spiritual blessings bestowed upon us — the free use of God's Word, our excellent

Protestant institutions, &c.; and then, as regards temporal good, in our admirable constitution, and the peace and security which for a considerable period we have been permitted to enjoy, for which we cannot be thankful enough. But it has now pleased the great Disposer of events that England, from a state of perfect repose, should suddenly and unexpectedly be called into one of the most anxious contests she has ever known; and that not with the rival and neighbouring country, her ancient foe, but with that power which she has always looked upon as a most firm and friendly one.

When a Bonaparte once more ascended the throne of France, it was only to be expected that old reminiscences and old jealousies should revive; but, so far from it, we are now in the closest and most friendly alliance with France, against the aggressions of Russia,—now become our bitter enemy. Who, a short time since, would for a moment have entertained a thought of the possibility of such a state of things? And can it be attributed to anything short of Almighty power? “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will.”*

It has been said that, as a *Christian* nation, we are inconsistent in fighting for *Mahometans*, and thus upholding their false religion; but surely we are justified in acting for the general good and peace of Europe, against unlawful and unjust op-

* Proverbs, xxi. 1.

pression : and, although we tolerate false religions, we adopt every mild means to convince them that they are in error, of the truth of the Gospel, in accordance with our Lord's injunction, to "preach the Gospel to every creature." Mahometanism is fast waning, and the close intercourse into which Turkey is now brought with Christian England, the admirable conduct of our troops, their valour and dreadful sufferings—many thousands having fallen in battle, died by disease, or perished from cold and want of food—their subordination and discipline under their unheard-of trials, the patience and resignation they have exhibited, and chiefly in the cause of Turkey ; again, the mercy and kindness they have shown to their cruel enemies, who, for a time, gave no quarter,*—may lead the

* Extract from a letter in the *Times*, Dec. 4.

"I know one instance in which an officer who had been previously unhorsed by a musket-shot in the knee, received no less than sixteen bayonet-wounds, besides being beaten with the butt-end of muskets while alone in the hands of the enemy and quite defenceless. Wonderful to relate, he has survived all these injuries, and confident hopes are entertained of his recovery." Another letter says : —

"Colonel ——— would no doubt have lived, but for the wounds he received while lying on the ground. His leg was broken, and he was so weak from the loss of blood that he died under the operation of removing it. Sir R. N ——— was stabbed all over. Russian officers were seen passing their swords through the bodies of our men as they writhed in agony on the ground, and pointing to their men to bayonet them as they passed. A major, a man of rank, the ruffian soldier who perpetrated these things, is in our hands.

"A letter from a private states : 'My sergeant was found next morning dead. It seemed he had only been wounded at first, but the savages stabbed him three times with their bayonets.'

Turk to observe the superiority, the order, and civilisation which generally characterises Christianity, and may he not hence be induced to put away the Koran and take up the infallible Word of God, which by His blessing has made England what she is, and even read it in his own tongue, and through the grace and mercy of God be brought from darkness to light, and become wise unto salvation, through faith, which is in Christ Jesus? Missionaries are now employed in Turkey, and our excellent Ambassador has done

Another: 'After the charge of our light brigade, the Cossacks were observed to overrun the field, and drive their lances into the bodies of the wounded.'

"From a sergeant of the Scots Fusilier Guards who, in the commencement of his letter, says: 'How I have escaped in this last battle I can't think: however, I thank the Almighty for the great mercy he has shown me a sinner.' After detailing the circumstances of the loss of the Guards, he says: 'How differently we act towards the Russian wounded to what they do with ours. We carry their wounded away, and the same attention is paid to them as to our own men. We saw the Russians, the miserable cowards, stabbing our wounded with their bayonets, and beating their brains out with the butt-ends of their fire-locks.'"—*Times*, Dec. 7.

"Many of the wounded described the terrible cruelty of the Russians towards the wounded as they lay on the field. Many were mangled and hacked to death in the presence of their comrades. One poor fellow (who had not less than fourteen wounds, some of them of a fearful nature) gave a most vivid description of the cruelty practised upon the helpless. Officers were generally turned over, and, whether dead or alive, had their fingers cut to secure their rings; coats were cut open to secure the purse, and cloth and flesh shared the same fate. In fact, such is the feeling of the Allied army, that no quarter will be given in the next engagement."—*Morning Herald*, Feb. 10. 1855.

It is but just to add that the Emperor subsequently forbade these atrocities.

all in his power to favour the Christian cause ; and may not this extraordinary war be the means, in the hand of God, to bring down a false religion and to establish in its stead that of His dear Son, who "is the way, the truth, and the life." His ways are not our ways, and are past finding out ; and all the circumstances of this war are so wonderful, that we dare not presume to predict what is to arise out of it. We know only that the Lord's purposes must be accomplished, according to His own sovereign will, as He says in Isaiah xlv. 10., "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."

The first providential circumstance of the war with Russia was no doubt the unanimity of opinion and the close alliance which took place between France and England to resist the aggressions of the Czar ; and the different incidents of it are clearly marked with the impress of God's providential care over this country.

When the war with Russia appeared inevitable, it was just at a time of year when Russian ships of war in the Baltic were frozen up at Cronstadt and Helsingfors, and consequently were immoveable. Had the war been declared when the Baltic was open, into what a perilous position would it have thrown our coast and commerce ! If the Emperor Nicholas had forced us into war when his fine and well-manned fleet, of twenty-eight sail of the line, could have come out of port, while we, not thinking of war, especially with Russia, had scarcely a

ship ready, what a panic would it have justly caused throughout the country! But England, after making, conjointly with France, every effort to keep peace with Russia—though ineffectually—put forth her every energy to prepare for war. Ten or twelve of our finest line-of-battle ships, with some frigates and smaller vessels, were fitted with the auxiliary screw, the machinery for that purpose which had been ordered by a former Government, and had been long manufacturing, being just completed. Five thousand seamen had also been voted at the time. Seamen came forward willingly; so that when the Baltic opened we had also, including our sailing-ships and some French line-of-battle ships, a fine fleet of twenty-eight sail of the line, and many other vessels of inferior force, ready to blockade the Russians—the number of our steam-ships giving us an immense advantage while blockading the Russian sailing-ships in the dangerous and intricate navigation of the Gulf of Finland.

Again, the weather was, providentially, finer than had been ever remembered for the time of year, which was of infinite service in fitting out our fleet in probably one-third less time than if the weather had been wet and stormy.

Later, again, God's goodness and mercy to our country was obviously manifested in the bountiful harvest with which we were blessed, and which should the more fill every English heart with gratitude when the dire consequences are contem-

plated which would have resulted, had the produce been no greater than that of the previous year—foreign countries, too, not being able to help us, owing to their short crops, and on account of the war.

The discovery of gold in our Australian colonies has also proved a remarkably providential gift to this country in the present emergency ; for, without it, we have reason to suppose, we could not have carried on the war so vigorously as we have done.

After effectually blockading the Russian ports, and, in conjunction with a French army, bombarding and destroying the strong fortifications of Bomarsund—providentially with little loss—the Baltic fleet was recalled to England ; and by the same Almighty protection, every ship and vessel of this large fleet arrived safely, late in the year, without any loss from the dangerous seas where they had been so long employed.

The united fleets and armies of France and England which were sent to Turkey were also manifestly favoured by the Almighty in many ways.

The attack of the Allies on Sebastopol was postponed for a considerable time, while the troops were kept in a state of inaction at Varna—a delay no doubt necessary to await the result of Omar Pacha's defence of Silistria, and campaign on the Danube. When at length the day of departure for the Crimea had been named, a further detention took place, by which they were saved from

encountering a heavy gale of wind, which might have occasioned dispersion and serious disaster to the allied fleets.

This splendid expedition was favoured with a fine voyage to Kalamita Bay, and in the course of two days effected a landing. Eupatoria, a place of small force, yielded at once to the Allies.

It may be considered a very providential feature in the war, that the Russians allowed the Allies to remain in possession of Eupatoria, which they occupied for a considerable time with but a small garrison. They have thus given us time so to strengthen a place of great importance, that Omar Pacha has lately gained there an easy victory over a Russian force.

How it happened that the Russians did not harass the Allied army while landing is inexplicable. And here is another instance of God's providential care; for, although the ships of war could, to a certain degree, cover the landing in the day-time, they could not assist the army in the night; and had the enemy attacked the portion of the troops landed on the first day*, during the ensuing night, they might easily have given the expedition a severe blow, the Russians having the advantages of position and easy retreat, the country behind them their own, and strong entrenchments—much stronger than was at first supposed—to fall back upon. Prince Menchikoff, indeed, considered his position on

* We do not appear to have landed any artillery the first day.

the Alma so strong, that he could hold his ground there for three weeks against any army brought against him.*

Our army marched towards the Alma, and halted, on the 19th of September, a few miles from the formidable Russian lines. On the following day took place one of the most sanguinary battles we had ever before known. Our troops had to cross a river, the Alma; many were obliged to wade up to their middle in water, under a heavy fire of shot, shell, and grape.

It must here be noticed that the English army was nearly all composed of young men; many of their officers were under twenty; very few in the whole army, except the Generals and some others, had ever seen a shot fired in the presence of an enemy.

The French first attacked the left of the enemy's line, and had a hard contest, but carried the heights. It had been arranged that the English should make an attack upon the right flank of the enemy; but Marshal St. Arnaud sent to Lord Raglan, requesting him to advance without further delay, the French being hardly pressed. Lord Raglan appears then to have abandoned his first plan, and determined

* "Prince Menchikoff," it is said, "was so sure of his position, that he declared he could hold it against 200,000 men, and drive them into the sea. Nothing could be more admirably chosen. The heights of the Alma were strong by nature, and made still more strong by art. They were defended by a vast force of infantry, of cavalry, and artillery; the very pick of the Muscovite army."

at once to storm the very centre itself, comprising the heavy batteries of the enemy, the most formidable part of the Russian position. Our foremost troops, displaying the most heroic valour, rushed into a deadly fire; numbers, especially officers, were shot down; but other regiments followed up the steep ascent, and those who reached the summit alive drove out the enemy at the point of the bayonet. The Russians fled, and were very much cut up; and more would have been destroyed, but for our deficiency in cavalry, while they had 10,000 ready to be called upon.

A Russian army, numbering 45,000 men, mostly old soldiers, were here driven out of a position considered almost impregnable, by this young army; and, besides, there had been so much sickness in the regiments at Varna, that the soldiers in general could not be reckoned in strong health. What could have enabled this army to conquer those veteran soldiers of Russia in a situation which bid defiance to any hostile foe? From whence could they have derived the strength and nerve for such an encounter, but from an Almighty source? Surely, it might be said, "It was the Lord who was on our side," and every individual in that army might, with a grateful heart, have exclaimed, "Thou hast girded me with strength to battle; them that rose up against me hast Thou subdued under me" (2 Sam. xxii. 40.) ; "The Lord is my Rock and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust: I will call upon the Lord, who

is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from my enemies " (Ps. xviii. 2, 3.).*

Neither the French nor the English seem to have been aware, until quite close to the enemy, of the great strength of their defences, or the naturally strong ground upon which they were placed. Prince Menchikoff was perfectly confident of a victory; and some of the inhabitants, even ladies, had come out of Sebastopol to enjoy the sight of the defeat of the Allied armies. It was, no doubt, under this supposed security, that he awaited the attack, allowing the Allies to land, and to march onwards with scarcely any molestation, reserving his men fresh and ready to burst upon them and beat them back to the sea, when, to judge from the atrocities afterwards perpetrated, we may conclude no quarter would have been given, but cruelty would have marked the progress of the Russians. Had the English given way, the French must have followed, and both armies would have had to recross the Alma. What would, therefore, have been the consequence, had our gallant men received a check when exposed to the murderous fire into which

* Lord Cardigan, in speaking of this battle, of which he was an eye witness, the cavalry not being employed, says: "Afterwards came that glorious affair, the battle of the Alma. The columns of our infantry advanced straight down the hill, fording the river; then ascended the hill on the opposite bank, and, marching straight into the fort and batteries, which appeared to be impregnable, they drove out, at the point of the bayonet, a Russian army of 45,000 men in the short space of two hours and a half."

they threw themselves? and who can bear to contemplate the mere possibility of such a catastrophe? Menchikoff would, doubtless, have been reinforced from Sebastopol, and already he had 10,000 cavalry and numerous artillery to act upon the Allied army in the event of a disastrous retreat.

The Allies being deficient in cavalry, and the enemy so strong in this arm, we were unable to follow up the victory. After attending to the wounded, the army, two days after, marched towards Sebastopol; but suddenly Lord Raglan turned to the left, passing through a wood; upon emerging from which, our advanced artillery came upon the rear of the enemy's army, with their baggage, on their way to Bakshisherai or Simpheropol. The enemy, supposing themselves pursued, abandoned their baggage, leaving it in possession of the English, and fled. The French, by the same route, joined the next day.

This flank movement was probably made, supposing the Russians had retreated into Sebastopol. If, however, they had known the different direction of the Allied armies, and had waited at the entrance of the wood for the British troops who came through it alone the first day, instead of thinking they were pursued by the whole Allied army, what incalculable mischief they might have done us, with their knowledge of the country! They might, perhaps, in this case, have set the wood on fire, with our troops in it, and the smoke alone would have retarded our advance.

The Castle of Balaklava immediately surrendered, and the English found themselves in possession of a commanding position and of a sea-port; only capable, however, of holding a few, but large, ships, about seven miles from the heights of Sebastopol. The French established their camp some miles nearer, not far from the Bay of Kamiesch, where they had a better landing for their supplies. The change of place, then, in not attacking Sebastopol to the north, had placed our armies in a secure position, where they would not only hold their ground; but, from their contiguity to their fleet, they were enabled to land their heavy guns for the siege, as well as their ammunition and supplies.* This alteration, therefore, may be considered a very providential circumstance; and it is to be hoped will yet be proved to have been a real cause of thankfulness to God. Had our united armies, now diminished by nearly 5000, and still losing men by cholera and other diseases, endeavoured to establish themselves to the north of Sebastopol, with the heavy batteries of the enemy and their troops in the town to contend with, at a considerable distance from a landing-place, and *without their battering guns for the attack*, they would have had no *point d'appui* to retreat upon, and must have brought their ammunition and all their supplies through many miles of the enemy's country, subject to the attack of 10,000 cavalry, in addition

* There being only an open beach to land upon in Kalamita Bay, it would be only in fine weather that provisions and supplies could be landed, much less heavy guns and ammunition.

to artillery and other troops—the enemy being at the same time superior in numbers to the Allies, and having reinforcements on the road. Had the first plan been adopted, the Allies must have acted entirely on the defensive, even had they been able to maintain their position; and would not any of their reinforcements have been easily cut off? It seems that Prince Menchikoff, after his defeat on the Alma, had retired with his army on the south of Sebastopol, and then set out northward, with the intention of subsequently taking our army in the rear (had we taken up our position on the north of Sebastopol), and compelling us to raise the siege. Thus it is not improbable that the famous and judicious flank movement on Balaklava, not only baffled Prince Menchikoff, but was the means of saving our army from utter destruction; and it surely was a marked and merciful interposition of the Almighty to save our united army, then perhaps not 40,000 men, and still diminishing by disease.

But, of all the events connected with this unparalleled siege, there is not one for which we ought to be more thankful to Almighty God than that the Russians should themselves have blocked up the harbour of Sebastopol by sinking five ships of the line, of from 120 to 84 guns each, and some frigates, in order to prevent our fleet entering it. In so doing the enemy effectually closed their port against the egress of their own remaining

ships,* and no one act on their part could have been more favourable to the Allies; for (small vessels only being able to come out of the harbour) our fleet were released from an anxious blockade, and were now able to land not only a large body of their seamen and marines, but also some of their heavy guns to assist in the siege.†

The idea of our combined fleet attempting to enter the harbour of Sebastopol appears preposterous. With its immense batteries towards the sea, and the harbour enfiladed by the numerous heavy ships of the Russian fleet, not a ship of war of the Allies could have passed the narrows without being sunk or burnt, in all probability before she could bring her guns to bear upon any of the batteries. Again, had the Russians kept all their fleet in order, they might have had favourable opportunities of going out when our ships might perhaps be dispersed by sudden bad weather, and could then have been attacked with advantage; and what could they not have done the morning after the disastrous gale occurred in which the French line-

* "The eight Russian ships which had been sunk at the entrance of the bay were in two lines, the second line covering the interstices of the first. The bay at the point where they lay was about 700 yards across, so that the entrance was effectually barred to ships of the line, though steamers might manage to effect an entrance — the more so, as the masts of the sunken vessels still indicate their position."

† "About 4,600 seamen and marines were landed, and upwards of 100 guns of large calibre."

of-battle ship the *Henri IV.*, the *Prince*, and other ships were wrecked! They might at least have destroyed the numerous transports close into the shore off the *Katscha*, and at *Balaklava*.

It is true that by acting as they did the Russians were enabled to land some of the guns and part of the crews of their remaining ships; but this would be a matter of little importance compared with the incalculable advantages the Allies derived from their desperate act of closing up their port.

One of the most lamentable events, however, occurred on the 25th October. The Russian General *Liprandi*, being encamped a few miles off, made an attack upon the force with which we defended *Balaklava*. The Turks were first driven from two redoubts and lost fourteen guns. The enemy were nevertheless repulsed by the 93rd Highlanders, with a small force of our heavy cavalry; and some more of our troops and two regiments of French *Chasseurs* appearing, they retired. By some mistake in an order sent to our Light Cavalry brigade to attack the enemy and endeavour to retake the captured guns, headed by the gallant Lord *Cardigan*, they charged into the thick of the enemy. But while their dauntless courage was admired by all who beheld it, they were considered doomed to certain destruction, and not a man was expected to return. Lord *Cardigan* says, "We advanced with one of the batteries opposed to us vomiting forth shot, shell, and grape; the battery on the right flank, a battery on the left, and a distant battery

which had been lost by the Turks, and all the intermediate ground covered with riflemen. We were, in fact, surrounded and encircled by a blaze of fire, and raked by the riflemen, who fired upon us in flank. Thus we had a strong fire in our front, in the rear, and on both our flanks. In the two regiments I had the honour to lead, every officer was either killed or wounded, or had his horse shot under him, except one. . . . This body of 600 cavalry succeeded in passing through a body of 5600 Russian cavalry. After riding through their cavalry, we came upon the Chernaya River. There we stopped. . . . The scene on retiring was lamentable in the extreme. Still, nothing could be accomplished in better order, and we had to run the same gauntlet and incur the same risk from the flank-fire of the Russians. Numbers of men and horses were shot down, and many soldiers who lost their chargers were killed trying to escape on foot. There was but one-third of the brigade left."

When these painful details are considered, will it not appear almost miraculous that a single man should have escaped from so daring and fierce an encounter. Let us retrace the scene of a small body of 600 Light Cavalry without any support, following their gallant general, and charging 5600 of the enemy's cavalry after having their ranks thinned by the murderous fire of batteries and riflemen, forcing their way through this Russian phalanx, and thus obliged to cut their way back in the same

manner as they had advanced, and we must surely acknowledge that, though the heroism of this gallant band might well have astonished the Russians, notwithstanding their own immense force, yet one thing is certain, that He with whom "there is no restraint to save by many or by few," shielded those who were to be preserved to render further service to their Queen and country.

Lord Cardigan thus speaks of those who escaped out of that extraordinary conflict: "I will only say that, in the minds of those who escaped the dangers of that terrible attack to which I have referred, there exist reflections of which they cannot divest themselves. I think that every man who was engaged in that disastrous affair at Balaklava, and who was fortunate enough to come out of it alive, must feel that it was only by a merciful decree of Almighty Providence that he escaped from the greatest apparent certainty of death which could possibly be conceived."

After this melancholy affair, in which a small choice portion of our gallant army suffered so severely, special messengers, it is said, were sent by the Russians into Sebastopol with the exaggerated tidings of a great victory gained over the English. A tremendous cheer was sent forth by the garrison, and *Te Deum* chanted, and a general order came out, detailing their success, "The capture of the Turkish redoubts and guns, and the annihilation of the British cavalry."

Emboldened by this reported victory, and stimu-

lated by the distribution of an extra quantity of grog, the Russian troops became so enthusiastic, that General Gortschakoff took advantage of the moment to make an attack the following morning, with a large body of infantry and artillery, upon the right of the English lines, commanded by Sir De Lacy Evans; but they were quickly repulsed with great loss, estimated at nearly 1000, 30 prisoners were taken, and 160 soldiers were found dead in our lines; while the English loss amounted to only 12 killed and about 80 wounded. In this action, again, how obviously was the favour and protection of God shown to our arms!

We now come to one of the most sanguinary battles ever recorded in English history — the battle of Inkermann; in which it pleased God to give our army a signal victory over an enemy's force of vast superiority, and possessed of every advantage they could desire. The small force of the English was much weakened by sickness and hard work in the trenches. They were not expecting an attack; the night had been rainy, and the morning was dark and foggy. The soldiers had not had their breakfasts, when, at the first dawn of day, the alarm was given of the close approach of the Russians; and very soon this murderous battle was at its height. So sudden was the attack, that just before the alarm from the picquets, the colonel on duty had visited the different posts, and, from the quietness of the Russians, perceived no indication whatever of an

attack. He was on his way back to the camp when the firing began, and he galloped off to his division.

Although Sebastopol had already a large garrison, besides the crews of the Russian ships of war*, the Czar had determined to increase his army in the Crimea to such an overpowering force as utterly to overwhelm the Allied armies. Accordingly, before the sanguinary battle of Inkermann, he sent two of the Archdukes, his sons — whom he previously blessed before the army at St. Petersburg — accompanied by some bishops, to join the army at Sebastopol with a reinforcement of 30,000. On the eve of the battle these bishops celebrated a solemn religious service, and one of them afterwards addressed the troops, whom he informed that the English were “poor soldiers, destitute of all energy, and hostile to the cause of God.” He adds, “We know from unimpeachable sources that these English heretics have in their camp an enormous sum, which God will give into your hands;” and he tells them what share they were to expect in the booty. The scene is described by a Russian officer, afterwards made prisoner, as, “almost sublime;” and the effect of it on the Russian soldiers undoubtedly was, that they “fought admirably on the morrow.”

* The Russian naval force in Sebastopol was five ships of 120 guns, nine of 84, four frigates of 60, five of from 18 to 20, and some smaller vessels and steamers, and about 15,000 or 16,000 seamen.

These fresh troops, brought in vehicles of the country of every description, had encamped and rested for two days before the battle near Inkermann, on the right flank of the army, but not in sight; and, in addition to the means already noticed, by which their valour and enthusiasm were stimulated, it is said that the material excitement of an extra quantity of spirits was not omitted, and that the bearing of the Russian troops during the battle of Inkermann was that of men "under the influence of religious and sensual frenzy." Prince Menchikoff had been making great preparations for this grand attack; which was so well planned, that it is no wonder he thought there was not the smallest probability of a failure; and he is reported to have written thus to the Emperor, previously to the arrival of the two Grand Dukes: "A terrible calamity impends over the invaders of your dominions. In a few days they will have perished by the sword, or will be driven into the sea. Let your Majesty send your sons here, that I may render up to them, untouched, the priceless treasure which your Majesty has entrusted to my keeping."

The presence of these Grand Dukes was doubtless the greatest possible stimulant to an army under such abject subjection as the Russian soldiers are to their Emperor. The enemy had been able, stealthily, to get their artillery in advance, and to have altogether an enemy of 60,000 men under arms without our having the least intimation of

their approach, hidden, as they were, by the thickness of the weather. When daylight first broke on the morning of the 5th, by a stratagem of the enemy, who had sent a party of unarmed men making signs of surrender, the officer of our advanced picquet was thrown off his guard, and, approaching too near, was, with his men, surrounded and taken prisoner. Here, then, without any alarm, an army of 60,000 Russian troops, headed by two princes of the blood-royal, with every equipment and every advantage which can be conceived, suddenly came upon the ill-defended position of the reduced English army, of whom only about 8,000 could be brought into the field. The surprise of the English was so complete, that nothing could naturally have been expected but utter defeat. The first Russian columns were fast drawing near to the English lines before they were discovered by the remaining picquets; but it pleased God to put strength into the hearts of our little army. "The battle is not to the strong." The Russians soon found that, with all their numerical force and physical strength, they were not permitted to conquer. The moral courage of our brave troops rose superior to their enfeebled condition.* After the battle had gone on for hours, and

* Lord Derby in the House of Lords alluded with admiration to "the unequal contest and the vast disparity." He dwells on "the numerical small body of our troops, not one in ten of the officers ever having heard a shot fired in presence of an enemy; and remarks, that they had been pining away with disease sufficient to depress their indomitable bravery."

our men, who had not partaken of sustenance that day, were becoming much exhausted, and were looking for help from the French, some regiments of the latter were perceived rushing to their aid. Here, again, we see the hand of the Lord of Hosts stretched forth on behalf of our army, who were scarcely able any longer to oppose their shattered lines to the repeated streams of the overpowering Russian force, and who must soon have been forced back on all points. The Russians, most likely, already considered the victory their own, when, just at this crisis, the gallant General Bosquet advanced with his division of the French army, numbering about 6,000, including horse artillery. Lord Raglan, in his thanks to the army after the battle of Inkermann, speaks of the arrival of the French reinforcements with "gratitude and admiration for their splendid advance at a most critical moment." The French rushed headlong upon the Russians with an impetuosity which nothing could withstand, and drove them back in confusion. "These brave troops," it is truly remarked, "well sustained their reputation." Our exhausted troops, thus relieved, rallied, and both armies fought together, and in the end completely routed the immensely superior army of the enemy. It is estimated that the Russians had that day in the field ninety guns, all of superior weight and range to our own; yet, as their masses came pouring on to the assault, it was only to their destruction; and the greater their strength and reinforcements, the more signal was their defeat.

Never probably was such a field of battle seen; it is described as a "horrible spectacle": the battle field being so circumscribed, the dead lay in heaps, and, melancholy to relate, among the wounded both officers and men who might have recovered, but from the murderous bayonet-wounds inflicted upon them by the Russians as they lay bleeding upon the ground.

There are special circumstances attending this wonderful battle which show to the Christian mind the great mercy extended by God to our army when almost overwhelmed, and we must again acknowledge, with a nation's gratitude, the great goodness of God in bringing those brave men who survived victoriously out of so unequal a contest. Who could have believed for a moment the possibility of this little remnant of our army defending itself so long against such an overpowering force, or that Menchikoff would not succeed in his well-laid plans? Different accounts of the battle agree in stating that the great attack was to be made first upon the right wing of the English army, the weakest part of our lines; and as soon as the Russians had forced back our troops and crowned the heights, General Liprandi's army, including 5000 cavalry situated on the heights of Balaklava, were also to commence their attack. Liprandi, however, never moved, because the Russians never gained the heights as Menchikoff intended!

An attack was also to be made from Sebastopol upon the left of the French position; and most

providential it was that *sortie* did not take place till after the distinguished General Bosquet had, with ready alacrity, led his division to the rescue of our remaining gallant troops from their perilous position : for had this attack upon the French from Sebastopol been made before General Bosquet heard of the critical situation of the English, he would naturally have reinforced the French army, who gallantly repelled the Russian attack, though with some loss, including that of one of their best generals. The situation of our enfeebled army would then have been desperate, and what could have been expected less than their defeat and the realisation of Prince Menchikoff's most sanguine expectations ? The timely succour of the French, therefore, surely saved our gallant troops, who must have succumbed without this assistance, notwithstanding their unparalleled and persevering courage, in combating an enemy of about seven times their number. The slaughter is described as being dreadful. Three of our generals were killed on the field, and five wounded, as well as a fearful list of officers and men. .

Our army might indeed be said to have been weakened in numbers and in physical strength ; but the Lord that day " weakened the strength of the mighty." " The Lord wrought a great victory on that day." " The Lord was on our side."

Many pious, praying soldiers, doubtless, before the battle, lifted up their hearts to the Captain of their salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ, and re-

membered the words, "Be strong in the Lord;" and many also, like some of old, may have "cried to the Lord in the battle, and He was entreated of them because they put their trust in Him."

We read in the Scriptures that, of old, trust was placed in the God of battles, and victory followed. King David was a great warrior; and where was his trust and confidence in battle? "Through God we shall do valiantly, for He it is that shall tread down our enemies."* Joshua, also, before going out again to battle after recent victory, called his captains, and said unto them, "Fear not, nor be discouraged, be strong and of good courage, for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight."†

In these remarkable battles of Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann, and in the frequent *sorties* of the enemy, it is a cause of the deepest gratitude to the God of battles, that our troops have not once suffered a defeat, let the enemy have been ever so strong. The soldiers of that military nation, France, our ally, have extolled to the highest pitch of panegyric the cool bravery of our troops under their different trying circumstances; and in our Parliament language was exhausted in the praise of our army. Lord John Russell spoke of their gallant conduct as superhuman; and surely all religious minds will join in giving unbounded

* Ps. lx. 12.

† Joshua x. 25.

praise to God for that strength which could come alone from above.*

The escapes of so many officers and men from death-wounds is worthy of especial remark. Some had received wounds which were all but mortal; others had their clothes shot through in many places, and balls were found lodged about their persons, and they attributed their preservation to Divine Providence. Well may these lift up their hearts and minds, as did that warrior of old, and say, "The Lord hath shielded my head in the day of battle." "I will sing of Thy power, yea, I will sing aloud of Thy mercy." "Unto Thee, Oh, my strength, will I sing, for God is my defence."†

When, indeed, have we ever witnessed, of late years, such a powerful military nation as Russia so continually defeated as she has recently been; first by the Turks on the Danube, then in every battle fought with the Allies in the Crimea, and again by the Turks at Eupatoria.

This great Power has lowered her character as a nation, by forcing on the present unhappy war upon unholy, false, unchristian principles. Independently of the success which, providentially, has attended our arms, the visitation of disease

* It was computed that the Allied armies, before the battle of Inkermann, could not reckon on many more than 30,000 men who could be brought into the field, while the Russians might muster in Sebastopol at least 80,000, reckoning the garrison and seamen, who are trained as soldiers.

† Ps. cix. 16, 17.

which has befallen our brave and devoted troops, and swept away so many, cannot be too deeply deplored; and is one of those calamities, the cause of which is beyond the power of finite reason to discern. We know not what may be the will of our gracious and merciful God; but we may humbly hope and pray that it may please Him to hear the many prayers offered up for the removal of this chastisement from us, and that an honourable and lasting peace may speedily put an end to the present lamentable war.

The astounding and awful event which has just been announced—the death of the Emperor Nicholas—will probably alter entirely the face of affairs in Europe, and may be the means, in the hand of God, of arresting a war not yet perhaps arrived at its climax, and which, to judge from the immense preparations now making on both sides, will otherwise be continued on the most gigantic scale.

Inscrutable are the ways of God; and should the sudden death of the Czar have the effect of restoring to Europe the state of peace so earnestly to be desired, this striking interposition of the Almighty will be the crowning Providence of this melancholy but glorious war.

England, it is true, has paid dearly for her victories; and painful indeed it is to contemplate the sufferings and severe trials brought upon so many families, high and low, from the grievous losses they have sustained even more by disease than in battle. But it has pleased God, through

these struggles, to place her still higher in the scale of nations, and while her best bulwark is her Christianity—the Christianity of the Bible—we may hope she has nothing to fear.

The observations contained in the foregoing pages are founded upon what appears to be the most correct accounts published, and also private letters. They are offered to those who look with the eye of faith upon the events of this life as ordered of God, agreeably to his own Almighty purposes, with the endeavour to show how marked have hitherto been His merciful dealings in regard to our highly-favoured country, and with the earnest hope that the people of England, when reflecting upon the very providential circumstances which have attended the present war, and remembering how their country has been preserved for a length of time from the calamities which have befallen other nations, may be induced to ascribe due praise to the Almighty Author of all the good they are privileged to enjoy.

“THINE, O LORD, IS THE GREATNESS, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, AND THE VICTORY, AND THE MAJESTY; FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE HEAVENS AND IN THE EARTH IS THINE: THINE IS THE KINGDOM, O LORD, AND THOU ART EXALTED ABOVE ALL.” —
1 *Chron.* xxix. 11.

APPENDIX.

THE SUBJOINED EXTRACTS WILL BE FOUND TO CORROBORATE THE FOREGOING OBSERVATIONS:—

Extract from a Soldier's Letter.

“ One day a shot came through my cap, and another killed my right-hand man. I fired as fast as I could, thinking of *One above*. I am in the hospital with a slight wound. I had a musket-ball through my left arm, but it has not took the bone.”

Another.

“ I have reason to thank God for His mercies to me. I have escaped with a slight wound on my foot ; but, thank God, it is all right again now, and I am able to resume my duties again.”

Another, after the Battle of Inkermann.

“ I am sorry to say that we lost almost all our men. Some companies lost 40 or 50; my own company 38; out of the three regiments of Guards we cannot muster 1000; so you may guess the horrid slaughter which they made among us, losing 2000 at a blow. I have to thank the Almighty for allowing me to escape unhurt, for we had five full-sergeants killed, and almost all the others wounded.”

From a Lieutenant-Colonel, December 28. 1854.

“ I don't know what it is to feel ill, though sickness is all around me. I put down my safety and preservation entirely to those blessed prayers which have been offered up on my behalf by you and your dear friends, who have been led to pray for me.” And he says, in another letter, “ I hope you will not worry yourself on my account, for I am in God's keeping, and I often say to myself that, in reality, I am just as safe here as if I were in St. James's Street, for not a hair of my head can be touched without His will; and, although I have many hardships and sufferings, He can and does support me.”

Mr. Stafford says, in speaking before the House of the soldiers in hospital, that “ many were the exclamations of sincere and humble piety which he heard—piety not the less acceptable to the great Being, he was satisfied, because it was expressed in homely guise; and not even the pain of approaching death could unman them.”

Extracts from a Seaman's Letter.

"We have a very strong force of shipping up here, English and French ; but, at the same time, the Russians have got some shipping, and some shot likewise, and no doubt but some of us will fall ; God only knows who they might be to be spared to come home. I thank you kindly for the kind and good spiritual advice you gave me. I certainly feel the weight of my situation, and no man that has any sense or feeling, but must feel the awful sensation ; but, I hope, whatever might be the result, I fight for the protection of you, my wife and my family ; for, if this ambitious tyrant was let alone, he would soon make an attempt upon the peace and comfort of my little island England, so now it is high time to stop him in his career. If I fall in the attempt, I hope God will forgive me my sins, and rest my soul Me and my son Jim was present at the first affray on Saturday, 8th of April, and I assure you that, for the first few shots I felt very queer ; but that was soon got over when all things began to get warm If all the fleet should engage, I doubt not but that there will be a great slaughter ; but I hope that you will compose yourself, for there is the same Almighty hand to protect us all here, even in battle, as there was when we were at home. I place my trust in Him ; if it should be His gracious pleasure to summon me before His throne of grace, I hope, through the blood of Christ, to be pardoned all my sins. I know that my sins are manifold ; but I feel assured that the blood of Christ is able to cleanse them ; and, although my sins be as red as scarlet, that will purge them as white as snow. I know that, situated as sailors are, they have no opportunity of communion with ~~their~~ God in private, except in silent night ; but if we should all be spared your and my boy, I hope we shall all unite together in prayer at the throne of grace. Thank

God I feel very easy on the matter when in battle. I hope to be allowed the opportunity of punishing those that would enslave me and my family and friends, if they had an opportunity; but, if I am summoned away, I hope to enjoy eternal rest. I certainly have the same human feelings respecting my wife and family that other men have; but if my wife is to become a widow, and my children poor orphans, I hope God will provide for them. I feel firm and strong at present, thank God, and I hope and earnestly pray that the grace of God will keep me so”

Extract of a Letter from before Sebastopol, Jan. 4.

“ Little, oh ! little, do you at home know the state of our army, or such a cry would go up to God as would bring down help. There should be united prayers. There should be a day of national prayer. Moscow had its sad story, and nothing hinders its being repeated here.”

It is a cause of thankfulness that many dying of their wounds, after the exhibition of the greatest heroism on the field of battle, were led to prayer, and died in peace through faith in Christ. One exemplary clergyman, who ministered spiritual consolation to the wounded and dying who were carried off the field of battle, remarks, “ What a sad spectacle was now before my eyes,” and after describing the number and state of the wounded brought from the field and laid on the ground, “ many a one seemed to have an ear to hear, and joined fervently in

prayer; some that, if spared, they might realise the blessing of 'entering into life maimed.' Several, while conscious that their wound was mortal, exhibited the greatest patience under agony, and expressed meek and humble, but cheerful and hearty, faith in the Lord and Saviour." Of one he says: "He bore the pain with the greatest fortitude, and expressed himself as a Christian." Of another he says: "He joined fervently in prayer, 'casting his care' upon God, and declaring his trust in the Saviour. He was calm and resigned, but in extreme pain." Again: "I found poor Col. — in great pain, not expecting to survive the night. He was in deep concern for his soul, and desirous to lay hold of the hope for sinners. He joined earnestly in prayer! Oh! how solemn to witness the soul's anxiety in its fast-ebbing moments, and how anxious the ministerial task to guard against a false peace and yet not to withhold the free promise of perfect peace through Christ. Col. — was dreadfully wounded; he received me most warmly, and appeared to be quite aware of the dangerous condition he was in, and gave utterance to a long and fervid prayer."

From a Letter after the Battle of the Alma.

"No men could behave better than our corps of young soldiers did. On they pressed, without the least hesitation, and the fourth part of them mere lads and boys."

"The position to be attacked was a line of heights, defended by a five-gun battery and two strong columns of infantry, with the risk of a powerful cavalry on our left. Not a man of this corps had ever seen a shot fired. We advanced amid showers of shot, shell, and musketry — plunged into the river — some nearly waist-deep; and how beautifully they kept their order under our gallant

colonel! And now the brigade ascended the steep heights where we expected to be annihilated; but on they pressed, and the numerous infantry gave way, and we crowned the heights as conquerors, when the Minié rifles told most terribly on the enemy's ranks. The battery was silenced, and their columns retired in disorder, broken and dispersed by our brave artillery."

A medical officer writes: "On the battle-field of Alma were concentrated all the horrors of war, as, in addition to the dead and wounded, cholera prevailed universally; so that everywhere were seen and heard the signs of mortal agony." "They fell down by scores almost every day from exhaustion and actual disease of the most virulent and helpless character." "All our tents were blown down about a week ago amid a perfect deluge of rain, sleet, and snow, and our situation for thirty-six or forty-eight hours was most trying." "Some of the narrowest escapes possible have occurred, and are constantly occurring."

A letter in *The Times* says: "In general they [the Russian troops at the battle of Inkermann] were troops which had not been in the battle of the Alma. These troops, raised to the utmost pitch of fanaticism, and their courage animated by other means, came in vast columns to the attack of the British position. In the darkness of the night, and in the fog of the morning, the Russians were able to place a very large artillery force, and to advance vast columns close to the English position. In that darkness and thickness of the fog it was impossible to exercise the powers and the discrimination of a com-

mander. It was impossible to survey the field, or to direct operations. There were only about 8000 British soldiers in that field; but, though their numbers were few, —though they had been weakened by sickness and battle— though they presented themselves fagged from the labours and privations they had gone through — though a great portion of them came after twenty-four hours' hard work in the trenches — though they had not time to take even a scanty meal before they met this powerful enemy, — yet there remained, unquenched and unquenchable, the spirit of British soldiers; and that spirit bore them on to victory. . . . But yet that band of heroes, exposed as they were to an artillery against which nothing for a very long time could have stood, might have been, not driven from the field or defeated, but forced to lay down their lives on the heights which the enemy, in consequence of their overwhelming numbers, might then have occupied, had there not at this very moment arrived, after the English had for hours withstood a most determined attack, a reinforcement of our French Allies, commanded by General Bosquet, one of the most distinguished chiefs in the French army, and who directed with great skill and valour the troops he led to the spot. The French soldiers rushed on with such impetuosity, that they saved the day, and preserved both armies from the disasters that might have occurred to them had the Russians gained any part of the position, and from that had been able to continue the attack against the Allied forces. Still, including these French troops, there were but 14,000 of the Allies engaged in this famous action; and, I believe, in respect of the destruction of the enemy, scarcely any battle has been equal to it. More than 5000 dead were left on the field of battle by the Russians; and it would be a moderate estimate to say that three times as many must have been wounded: so that these 14,000 Allied troops caused a loss to the enemy of far more than their own number."

From a Private, after the Battle of Inkermann.

“The day before my company was on outlying picquet : a cold, wet day and night it was. Next morning, before daybreak, we were relieved, and were about half-way down to the camp, when the outposts were attacked by the enemy ; so we had to throw down our wet blankets, and return to reinforce the picquets, to keep the enemy in check till the division got under arms ; but the enemy got a force of artillery to play upon us that the place got too hot to hold us ; so we retired and fired, till we met our different regiments and joined them, and our artillery commenced to play their part in beautiful style. The battle had begun in earnest, and such slaughter I never beheld, and hope never to see again. We were knocked down by hundreds. I may say our division was nearly cut up ; for by the time we were reinforced we were put back three times, and very nearly the fourth, when other divisions arrived, also the French ; so we gave them a British cheer—at them again, and this was the time this butchery began. It was bayonet to bayonet, and butt to butt. I can tell you we had satisfaction for the death of our comrades. The fact is, I don't know how it was possible a single man escaped, for shot and shell, grape and canister musketry, &c., flew like hail ; the small shot reminded me of a hive of bees. By ten o'clock the battle became general ; all our reinforcements had arrived at the scene of action ; and such a fight I think never was before. Alma was bad enough, but it was nothing to Inkermann. At 4 P.M. our division was ordered to retire, as most of us were out of ammunition. I fired myself about 200 rounds. The Russians made a general retreat. Never in my life did I feel more fatigued. After I got cool I did not forget to thank God for my preservation. I had some very narrow escapes. A piece of shell went through my great coat ; a musket-ball grazed between my finger and thumb.”

Another.

“I have not had my clothes off to sleep since I have been here, and I shan’t if we stop for six months. We sleep with our belts on, and 60 rounds of ammunition, and our muskets loaded by our side. There are sixteen of us crowded in a small tent made to hold eight; and when it rains, the water comes through in larger drops than it would if there was no tent-cloth.”

Another, after the Battle of Inkermann.

“We held the most assailable point in the whole position (the north) occupied by the British on the 5th November. We fell in an hour before daylight, as usual, relieved our outlying piquets, and were just dismissed; some were preparing to go for water, others lighting their fires to cook, and warm themselves, the night having been very wet, and the morning dark and foggy; but all these little preparations were soon upset by the Russians, who emerged in massive columns from behind the heights, and at the same time made a *sortie* from the garrison. The whole force amounted to between 70,000 and 80,000, including men of all arms, 4000 or 5000 of which were cavalry, and 80 or 90 pieces of artillery of heavy calibre. All the manœuvring and advance was performed unnoticed by us, owing to the early hour, and the great mist arising from the ravines. They commenced by driving in our outlying picquets with grape, canister, and shell. They then threw out clouds of skirmishers, while their artillery played into our camp-ground with dreadful havoc. But, notwithstanding all this, we advanced in the best possible order, and with bravery unparalleled, and commenced our

dreadful work between the hours of four or five in the morning, and from that time until sunset there was nothing but a continual din of musketry and tremendous roaring of artillery, which drowned the groans of the dying, who numbered as follows:—the Russians, between 8000 and 9000 killed and wounded, the English, 2000. Their loss was 1000. I received two slight wounds, one a musket-shot in the right thigh, and a sabre cut in the arm.”

Camp before Sebastopol, raining hard, snow on the ground, the wet coming through the tent, and in bed. Saturday night, Dec. 16. 1854. — *Morning Herald*.

. . . “We are in the most pitiful plight imaginable ; every tent is as porous as a sieve, and the weather most severe. The amount of duty necessary to be performed exacts at least three nights out of the seven for the men to be on duty, without even the slender protection of a tent. The clothes they have will not resist the rain for more than a few moments, and, having no change, the clothes are obliged to remain on the body to dry, as the men are not even allowed (this is absolutely necessary) to sleep without being fully accoutred and ready for work on the first sound of the bugle. This I need scarcely tell you is the cause of the great amount of sickness and mortality amongst our troops ; and when I tell you that the average daily loss of the *English* army for the past month was nearly sixty by disease only, you may infer from that the amount of sickness that exists.”

THE END.

LONDON :
A. and G. A. SPOTTISWOODE,
New-street-Square.