

GREAT BATTLE

BETWEEN THE ALLIES & RUSSIANS.

ANTICIPATED

FALL of SEBASTOPOL.

LANDING OF THE FORCES.

THURSDAY.

As the ships of our expedition drew up in line parallel to the beach, the French fleet passed us under steam, and extended itself on our right and run in close to shore below the cliffs of the plateau. Their small war steamers went much nearer than ours were allowed to go, and a little after seven o'clock the first French boat put off from one of the men-of-war. She was beached quietly on shore at the southern extremity of the red cliff. The crew leaped out; they formed into a knot on the strand, and seemed busily engaged for a few moments over one spot of ground, as though they were digging a grave. Presently a flag staff was visible above their heads, and in a moment more the tricolour was run up to the top, and fluttered out gaily in the wind, while the men took off their hats and shouted "Long live the Emperor!" in good style. The French were thus the first to take possession and seizing of the Crimea. There was no enemy in sight. The most scrutinizing gaze at this moment could not have detected a hostile uniform along the coast. The French admiral fired a gun shortly after eight o'clock, and the disembarkation of their troops commenced. In twenty-two minutes they say that they got 6,000 men on shore. This was very smart work, but it must be remembered that nearly all the French army were on board line-of-battle ships, and were at once carried from their decks to the land by the men-of-war's boats. The Montebello carried upwards of 1,400 men, in addition to her crew. The Valmy had in all 3,000. The fleet of French men-of-war carried more than 20,000 men. Their whole force to be landed consisted of 23,600 men. Our army amounted to 27,000 men, and were embarked in a vast number of transports, covering a great extent of water. But they were carried in comfort and safety; and though there was much sickness on board, it was as nothing compared to the closely packed French. Perhaps no army ever was conveyed with such luxury and security from shore to shore as ours in the whole history of war. The instant the French had landed a regiment, a company was sent on to reconnoitre—skirmishers or pickets were sent on in front. As each regiment followed in column, its predecessors extended in front, and advanced in light

marching order, spreading out like a fan over the plains. It was most curious and interesting to observe their progress, and to note the rapid manner in which they were appropriating the soil. In about an hour after their first detachment had landed, nearly 9,000 troops were on shore, and their advanced posts were faintly discernible between three and four miles from the beach, like little black specks moving over the corn fields, and darkening the highways and meadow paths.

About nine o'clock one black ball was run up to the fore of the Agamemnon, and a gun was fired to enforce attention to the signal. Long before the French had landed their first cargo the figure of a mounted officer followed by three Cossacks had fallen within the scope of many a glass. He rode slowly along by the edge of the cliff apparently noting the number and disposition of the fleet and taking notes with great calmness in a memorandum book.

Meantime the English boats were nearing the shore. When we landed we heard that Sir George Brown had a near escape of being taken prisoner. Never did men work better than our blue jackets—especially valuable were they with horses and artillery, and their delight when they had a horse to hold and to pat all to themselves was excessive. When the gun-carriages stuck fast in the shingle, half a dozen herculean seamen rushed at the wheels, and, with a "Give way my lads—all together," soon spoked it out with a run, and landed it on the hard sand. No praise can do justice to these fine fellows, and many of them, officers as well as men, were twenty-four hours in the boats.

FRIDAY.—Few of us will ever forget last night. Seldom were 27,000 Englishmen more miserable. No tents were sent on shore, partly because there had been no time to land them, partly because there was no certainty of our being able to find carriage for them. Towards night the wind rose and the rain fell. The showers increased in violence about midnight, and the water fell in drenching sheets, which pierced through the blankets and great coats of the houseless and tentless soldiers. Imagine all these old generals exposed hour after hour under the saturated blankets, and the twenty odd thousand of poor fellows who could get no sleep—no fire to cheer them, no hot grog, no breakfast!

THE BATTLE OF ALMA.

On the 20th ult., the allied forces came in contact with the Russians about 15 miles of Sebastopol, and a dreadful slaughter ensued, the allies fighting with the greatest bravery. The loss of the enemy is estimated at 18,000, and, after a desperate battle, the Russians were compelled to retreat on Sebastopol.

TAKING OF SEBASTOPOL.

Intelligence was received of the taking of Sebastopol which has since been officially contradicted, but the troops of the allied powers having succeeded in gaining a favourable position in an opposite direction to that on which they landed, the most sanguine hopes are entertained of the speedy demolition of the whole of the fortresses.

We regret to have to announce the death of General St. Arnaud, of the French army.

LATEST INFORMATION.

The Russians mustered 40,000 infantry assembled from all parts of the Crimea, and on the morning of the 20th they were joined by 6,000 cavalry from Theodosia; 180 field pieces were in position on the heights. A movement made by General Bosquet outflanked the left of the Russians, and turned some of their batteries. The English took the Russian right, and the French formed the centre and covered a distance of 3 miles. At 12 at noon the order to advance was given, and the Alma was crossed at double quick step. Prince Napoleon took possession of the village under the fire of the Russian batteries. The English advanced in admirable order against the Russian positions, stormed them, and drove the Russians out of them, but with heavy loss, and the Russians, utterly routed, threw away their arms and knapsacks in order to escape with greater celerity.

The loss of the English is 1,500 killed and wounded. The loss of the French was about 1,400 killed and wounded. Generals De Lacy Evans, Canrobert, and Thomas, were among the wounded. The Duke of Cambridge displayed able soldiership. His division and that of General Brown behaved splendidly. A number of prisoners and three guns were taken.

The attack on Sebastopol was to commence on the 27th. Further intelligence is expected hourly.

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