

Incidents at the Battle of the Alma.

It ought not to be forgotten, and will not be, we suppose, that nearly everything that reaches us from the theater of the war in the East, comes from French or English sources, and although the reports are as true and reliable, we dare say, as the reports of belligerents generally are, still they ought not to be unhesitatingly credited; and even their official reports furnish but a one-sided account of events. The Russian reports we do not often see, or, if we do, they come to us mutilated, modified, and sometimes so disfigured and changed that they would not be recognizable by the writers. This happens partly through design, and is partly a consequence of hasty translations from and into German, or French, or English, and attempts at condensation. For example, on this side of the Atlantic we ought not to believe too hastily that the defeat at the Alma was so disastrous as the allies represent it to be. We ought first to hear Menschikoff.—If they take Sebastopol though, then we may conclude that they did nearly all at the Alma that they claim to have done.

The British are said to have behaved with great humanity to the Russian wounded, but their conduct met with the basest ingratitude. One man deliberately fired at and wounded an artilleryman, who had just given him some water to quench his burning thirst. An indignant guardsman instantly clubbed the scoundrel. An eye-witness mentions an instance of a Russian officer who was being assisted from the field, where he had lain two days severely wounded, by two marines. He solicited some water to drink, and after he had been lifted down and had drunk enough, as one of the marines was in the act of turning round to pick him up again, the ungrateful villain shot him dead. His comrade amply resented the cowardly act; for seizing a small spar, that the cot was strung to, he beat out the rascally Russian's brains. Several of the wounded Russians fired at our wounded who were lying disabled near them. In consequence of acts of this sort, all the muskets of the prisoners and wounded were broken off at the stock, and their cartridges taken from them. The Russians who crowded the field in all the contortions of the last agony were principally soldiers of the 18th and 32d regiments. One officer, says an eye-witness, lay dead, with a little dog sitting between his legs, a position from which no persuasion could move him. He had been mortally wounded, and had given his gold watch to a soldier who kindly gave him a draught of water. Another, quite a boy, lay with his hands clasped in the attitude of prayer. Beyond the battery was a scene of utter Muscovite route, very few English having fallen after its destruction; the ground was covered with the dead, dying, and wounded; arms and knapsacks lying about in the wildest confusion. The Russians were buried outside the mounds; the English and French inside. There was great spoil on the field—coats, swords, guns, rifles, &c., and in some instances large sums of money.

At the commencement of the action many ladies were on the heights. Prince Menschikoff had given them to understand that, on the part of the Russians, it would be a mere review—that the allies would retreat. A scaffolding had been erected for their accommodation, but they appear to have retreated in great haste when the enemy got too close, for next day, we are told, the French had great sport after the battle with some women's clothes, which they found near the redoubt where they lost so many men.

One of the Russian generals (an old man) who is a prisoner on board the Agamemnon, is described as being more distressed about the loss of his uniform coat and epaulets than anything else, and is constantly worrying about them, and repeatedly has asked for a flag of truce to be sent to Sebastopol for his things.

One of the prisoners from Eupatoria appeared very low spirited; he is a gentlemanly man, and states that he has a young wife

and two babes—one two years, and one six months old—that he greatly fears that the Tartars, who have long been under strict discipline, will, now that they have liberty, commit many atrocities. His father, seventy-five years old, was a few days since shot in his bed by them, after they had robbed his house of all it contained. He fears the Tartars more than the English or French.

Prince Napoleon, it appears, had a narrow escape. While the sharp shooters of his division were endeavoring to dislodge the Russian infantry, a cannon ball was seen bounding along, and was about to fall exactly on the group among which the Prince was standing. General Thomas, who had seen it fall and perceived its direction, cried out: "Take care, Monseigneur!" The Prince gave his horse the spur, and succeeded in turning aside in time to allow the ball to pass, which broke the leg of military intendant Leblanc, who was standing close behind the spot from which the Prince had removed.

A Russian general was captured after the battle under rather singular circumstances. He had heard the firing, and, perfectly conscious that the action must have resulted in our repulse, came with a single attendant to the heights to congratulate, as he believed, Prince Menschikoff upon his victory. To his intense surprise, he was made prisoner, and brought in by sergeant Trotter, of the Coldstream guards, who was on duty at one of the outposts.

Another general officer was captured in the redoubt. He was stretched on the ground beside his fallen horse, apparently dead. An artilleryman, who had taken a violent fancy to his coat, was about to divest the supposed corpse of it, when the body began to move and nearly frightened the man off. It was soon discovered that no harm had come to the general, and on his coat being opened, two stars announced his rank. The general's object was evidently to lie quietly until night, and then make off.

MANCHESTER DRUNKEN RETURNS.—In Chambers's Edinburgh Journal, No. 485, when comparing the drunkenness of great cities, the writer lets off Manchester too easily, and no wonder. In Glasgow and Liverpool, a drunken man, however quiet, is at once laid hold of by the police, and marched off to the office, to be out of harm's way; whereas, in Manchester, unless actually riotous, he is allowed to find his way home. But this is not all; in the last mentioned city, even if his condition is so suspicious as to cause his apprehension, he must be convicted and sent to prison, otherwise his name will not appear in the list of drunken people. This is sufficient to explain the difference in the drunken returns. A city like Manchester, where it was recently proved that, out of a population of 315,000 souls, 214,000 visits were made to the public house on a single Sunday, is hardly entitled to be held forth as an example of comparative sobriety!

THE FEELING IN RUSSIA.—Notwithstanding many people on this side of the water look with confidence to the fall of Sebastopol and the ultimate triumph of the allies in the present war, it is not regarded quite so certain by some at the scene of operations. The following is an extract of a letter published in the National Intelligencer, from a respectable and well informed citizen of the United States, to a friend in Washington, dated, St. Petersburg, Sept. 18, 1854:

"DEAR F.: The war is scarcely begun.—There is no chance for any power, be it ever so great, to conquer Russia. The emperor is only preparing for war. Next year he will have in the field, ready for active battle, one and a half millions of soldiers, well drilled. The people are all for the war, and he has no trouble in getting soldiers, for it is with them a religious war. They want the Christian faith to be sanctioned over the world. They are the most devoted people on earth, and the last crucifix will go for the war before they give it up."

Circleville bank notes are selling in Cincinnati at 80 cents on the dollar; Kentucky Trust Company 50; Newport Safety Fund 25; Kanawha 90.

INTERESTING STATISTICS.—Some interesting facts appear from the recently published appendix to the census report, prepared by Prof. De Bow. It seems, from that portion of these statements which relates to the nativity of our population, that the foreign born number only about *one-eighth* of the natives,—much the largest proportion being in the Middle States. The largest number of immigrants to this country in any one year, was 439,437 in 1852,—though this statement is scarcely accurate, as more than a year is comprised in the returns.

The most valuable crop in the United States is that of Indian corn, estimated in 1850 at two hundred and ninety-six millions of dollars,—and being nearly three times as valuable as wheat, and more than three as valuable as cotton. Six times as many acres of land are devoted to Indian corn as are given to cotton, and three times as much as to wheat. The value of butter made annually in the United States exceeds fifty millions of dollars.

There are only 347,525 slaveholders in the United States, of whom only two own over one thousand negroes, only nine own over five hundred, only fifty-six own over three hundred, one hundred and eighty-seven own over two hundred, and fourteen hundred and seventy-nine own over one hundred. The greatest number of slaveholders own more than one and less than five; the number of this class is 105,683.

The statement of the occupations of the people shows that the farmers outnumber by far any other profession. Their number is 2,363,950,—while the class which approaches nearest to them is that of laborers, who number 909,786. The carpenters stand next, counting 164,671, and then come cordwainers, 130,473, &c.—[N. Y. Times.

The Know Nothings of Philadelphia fired one thousand guns yesterday, in honor of the victories lately achieved by that organization. The firing commenced at sunrise and continued until sunset. A steambot was chartered for the purpose, which plied up and down the Delaware, in front of the consolidated city, having on board the Pennsylvania Corset Band, and a number of the members of the secret order. The cost of the rejoicing was \$800.

Robert Tappan, a compositor in the office of the New York Courier and Enquirer, has stood at his case in that office for 21 years. That journal says, "so faithful, so wedded to his profession, has been this veteran of the type, that his life has glided away in the happy discharge of his arduous duties, and he has already known but two places—his own hearth-stone and the composing room of this office. Until Saturday last, he had never been to Harlem, and had never been behind a locomotive. But he was a philosopher, and neither Harlem or the locomotive astonished him. Calmly he looked at the one, and rode behind the other, and happy with his associates, whom he respects and who respect him, he spent a pleasant day, and thinks by the end of next year he will find time to enjoy another like it."

"Spiking guns" forms now so frequent an item in intelligence from the Crimea, that it may be well to know that spikes are about four inches long, and of the dimensions of a tobacco-pipe; the head flat; the barb at the point acts as a spring, which is naturally pressed to the shaft upon being forced into the touch-hole. Upon reaching the chamber of the gun it resumes its position, and it is impossible to withdraw it. It can only be got out by drilling—no easy task, as it is made of the hardest steel, and being also somewhat loose in the touch-hole, there is much difficulty in making a drill bite as effectively as it should do. Its application is the work of a moment, a simple tap on the flat head with the palm of the hand sufficing. This can be easily done, even if it is ever so dark.—[London Globe.

The Texas rangers, called out by the governor of that State to operate against the Indians, have been rejected by the war department, after having collected at the rendezvous, well organized, well mounted, and well commanded. The requisition upon the governor was originally made by General Smith, by order of the war department.

Speak not Harshly.

Speak not harshly—much of care
Every human heart must bear;
Enough of shadows darkly lie
Veiled within the sunniest eye.
By thy childhood's gushing tears,
By thy griefs of after years;
By the anguish thou dost know,
Add not to another's woe.

Speak not harshly—much of sin
Dwelleth every heart within;
In its closely covered cells
Many a wayward passion dwells.
By the many hours mispent,
By the gifts to errors lent,
By the wrong thou didst not shun,
By the good thou hast not done,
With a lenient spirit scan
The weakness of thy fellow man.

Our American hotel system seems to find favor in Europe just as fast as the European system finds favor here. A magnificent edifice for a hotel on the American plan is in progress of erection in Paris, and it is stated that a project has been started in London to erect similar establishments in all the capitals of Europe, and to connect them by means of telegraphic wires, so that a person in one may speak, with the utmost facility, to his friends in any of the others. It is proposed to have in them all apartments for the American ambassadors, and weekly soirees in the saloons, at which the ministers may receive all their countrymen who happen to be in town, without cost to themselves.

The Memphis navy yard having been formally abandoned by act of Congress, and tendered to the corporation of that city as a free gift, Memphis is loth to accept it, and the city council has therefore resolved to give it back to Congress, on condition that it shall hereafter be kept as a regular naval station, a depot for shipping and other naval purposes, and not as a ropewalk alone.

The St. Louis Republican says that a few days ago, a man and his wife, in that city, were engaged in arranging a separation.—The principal difficulty was the baby, which the woman tearfully begged to be allowed to keep, while the man angrily refused. At length the wife almost threw the child into the husband's arms, and exclaimed, "Take it, I can soon have another!"

Professor Fogel devotes 270 pages to a profoundly philosophical investigation of the origin, use, and benefit of laughter generally, and treats of its different causes and aspects under thirty-seven different heads. He is able to inform us, how to judge of a man's character and disposition by hearing him laugh. The melancholy man's laugh is a poor, thin, hi, hi, hi! the plegmatic indulge in a cheerful ha, ha, ha! and a sanguine habit is betrayed by its own characteristic ho, ho, ho!

The most obstinate opponent which the cause of annexation has found in the Sandwich Islands is Prince Alexander, the heir apparent. While he gives a variety of reasons for his course, it is well known at Honolulu that his invincible antipathy to this country springs from the fact that, when he was traveling here the steward of one of the Boston and New York boats refused him a seat at the supper table on account of his color! That indignity has seethed in his mind ever since.—[Portland Adv.

The wife of the owner of one of the Indiana Free Banks being in company with some friends, the all-absorbing financial crisis became the theme of conversation. The lady remarked that she hoped her husband's bank would "hold out till the fall rains came on"—in that case there would be no danger of its breaking before next May." When interrogated for an explanation, she gave as the reason for the faith that was in her, that the place in which the bank was located could not be approached after the fall rains, on account of the mud.—[O. States.

Some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the stores of winter clothing sent out to the British army, from the fact that upwards of seventy million pairs of worsted socks, ninety thousand of woollen Jerseys, fifty thousand of flannel drawers, and eighty thousand of gloves, have recently been dispatched to the Crimea.