

Operations before Sebastopol.

[From the London Times, March 27th.]

The last accounts from the Crimea allow us to entertain a belief that the condition of the troops is materially improved. The fire of the Russian batteries on the heights of Balaklava opened on the 13th, but without effect, for the enemy was routed by the British troops, assisted by a French division; and four days later, when the Russians attacked the whole line of the allies, they were driven back with great loss, and victory thus marks the opening of the second campaign. We accept for all they are worth, these indications of an improvement in the aspect of affairs, and we heartily wish that we could extend these encouraging prognostications to all the circumstances of our present military position. But neither the last public despatches we receive from numerous authentic sources are of a nature to heighten our confidence, and we cannot but regard with considerable anxiety the inert character of our operations at a moment which appears to us to be in the highest degree critical. The object of exposing the troops of the allied armies to the hardships of a winter passed among the bleak hills and damp ravines before Sebastopol was to enable them to take effectual advantage of the first return of the dry season, and especially of that interval during which the Russians must still be cut off from their reinforcements.

We are unwilling to prejudice the conduct of the allied Generals; we hope that the successful engagement of the 17th of March may speedily be followed by more decisive results, but it is impossible not to remark that of late all originality and enterprise shown in these operations has been on the side of the Russians, while the French and English armies seem condemned by their commanders to remain on the defences within their lines.

Yet their numbers are reported to be not far short of 120,000 men—a force amply sufficient to undertake with success two or three distinct operations of war upon a scene of action so contracted as the south of the Crimea, in presence of an enemy not now superior in numbers, while we ourselves have abundant means of transport to every part of the coast. The army at Eupatoria might be so re-inforced as to enable it to take the field; an expedition might be detached on Kaffa, so as to take the Russian positions in the rear and destroy their magazines; a strong reconnaissance might advance to the Belbek, or force the passes of Baidar; or, lastly, the whole strength of the armies might be concentrated on the siege. It will be presumptuous in us to attempt to determine which of these courses all the circumstances of the case render expedient, but we speak from high military authority when we say that one or more of these operations must be attempted, unless we are prepared for a termination of this enterprise hardly less inglorious than that of the Athenians against Syracuse.

The same want of command which was so fatally perceptible in the arrangements for the winter encampment of the army, and all that related to the stores, the hospitals, and the port of Balaklava, now begins to manifest itself in the preparations of the army for the field; and we learn that our gallant allies, whose troops are numerous and well prepared for war, view with great surprise and some discouragement the inactivity of their own chief.

The prosecution of the siege has for many months been regarded, with reason, as the primary duty of the army. The approaches directed against the southern side of the town of Sebastopol have been pushed forward with infinite labor and perseverance; batteries have been constructed and armed with new guns of a heavier calibre; and an immense supply of projectiles and ammunition has been transported from the harbors to the front of the lines.

The day on which the fire of the besieging armies would re-open on the place has been repeatedly named and impatiently expected. Yet it would seem that some doubts are still entertained of the result of this attack, and still graver uncertainty prevails as to the possibility of the assault by which it was to be followed. The Russians, on the other side, have displayed extraordinary energy and skill in extending the defences of the place. No sooner was one portion of their works menaced by a battery, though as yet unmasked, than they found means to establish another redoubt, so as to command our guns. The seizure and fortification of the right bank of the Careening Harbor is described as an act of singular boldness and judgment on the part of the enemy, for the troops which hold that position are separated from their base of operations by a deep and impassable ravine; yet the attempt to dislodge them from it was unsuccessful; that attempt was not repeated, and as the point remains in the hand of the Russians, it materially interferes with the projected attack on the Malakhoff tower.

Lord Raglan writes that the besieging forces are bringing forward their advanced works with great activity, and that the roads on the northern side of the place are covered with stores of food and munitions of war, which he cannot intercept.—Yet we hear of no attempt from the 23d of February to the 10th of March to check these formidable demonstrations, and to avail ourselves of the superiority of the allied armies. We can only infer that in the opinion of the Council of War the dangers of such an operation outweigh its probable advantages.

But if the siege operations, properly so called, are reduced to this inactive condition, the greater is the motive to resort to other means of attack. If our lines are extensive and difficult to guard, the concentric lines occupied by the Russians beyond our out-posts must be still more so, and Gen. Osten-Saken is, moreover, compelled to watch with a considerable part of his army, the entrenched position of the Turks at Eupatoria.—Moreover, we now learn that the attack on Balaklava and our lines have failed.

[From the St. Louis Luminary.]

LETTER

From Richard Ballantyne, President of the Saints on the Charles Buck.

St. Louis, March 29, 1855.

President Snow:—Through the tender mercies of God, our Eternal Father, I am at this time and in this place, permitted to address you a few lines, that you, and the readers of your excellent Luminary, may be informed of the welfare of myself and the company of Saints, that I had the charge of from Liverpool to St. Louis.

We crossed the Atlantic ocean in eight weeks, on board the commodious and well ventilated ship 'Charles Buck,' commanded by Captain William Smalley, of the state of Maine. Our voyage was pleasant, and the Saints were cheerful on board. They were faithful in attending to their prayers, and in exercising that charity which thinketh no ill, and that hideth a multitude of sins. They were obedient to counsel, and cleanly in their habits. They were compassionate towards each other, and endeavored to cherish that tender sympathy which led them to rejoice and to mourn together. They were patient in adversity, and did not complain, when, through the rascality of those who were not Saints, they found themselves destitute of many of the comforts and necessary blessings of life, and when ultimately they were limited in the usual supplies of food and water.

This company was at first shipped on board the 'Helois,' in Liverpool, by President F. D. Richards, and were provided for on an unusually comfortable and liberal scale, but the ship having drifted ashore in the river Mersey before putting out to sea, was so injured that she had to go into the dry docks for repairs, while the passengers were detained in Liverpool, but ultimately, by the Captain of the 'Helois,' and the Insurance Company, they were re-shipped on the 'Charles Buck.' The excellent provisions furnished by President Richards were withheld from them on their reshipment, either by the Captain of the Helois, or the Insurance Company, or the united avariciousness of both, and in their stead, some raw oatmeal, coarse biscuit, and a little rice and flour furnished, and even of these articles a sufficient quantity was not shipped; so that the passengers were placed on short allowance of provisions two weeks before our arrival in New Orleans, and a few days before our arrival at the city mentioned they were on short allowance of water.

Notwithstanding these unpleasant circumstances, the company manifested an unusual measure of cheerfulness and patience. And, though we had some sickness and debility among the people, which was chiefly occasioned through the want of something nutritious and congenial to eat, we had but few deaths during the voyage. There were on board 401 of our own passengers, and about 50 Irish.

One boy, 6 years old, the son of John Grimmeto, fell into the ocean and perished. The infant child of brother Charles Hartley died of dysentery. A young child belonging to brother Wm. Atkin died of croup. An old lady named Automs, who had been sickly for three years, died at the mouth of the Mississippi, and was buried on an island there. The wife of brother Sutton, gave birth to a boy which died of canker shortly after.

These distressing visitations of providence, though fewer in number than some other companies have experienced, were painful at the time, yet they served to amalgamate the feelings and sympathies of the Saints, and afforded an opportunity of administering consolation to the bereaved. And we endeavored to improve them in awakening the Saints to duty, and in so sanctifying themselves in spirit, body, clothing, and in everything associated with them, as that they being pure in heart might elude severer trials, and the grasp of the destroyer on the Mississippi, and the waters and plains of the Missouri river.

On our arrival at New Orleans we were kindly welcomed by Elder McGaw, who rendered us much aid in providing for the immediate wants and further progress of the company. He contracted with the Captain of the Michigan to carry us to St. Louis for three dollars and a-half for each adult passenger, children under fourteen and over one year half price, and infants under one year free. The Captain's name is Sheble; his conduct towards us was disgraceful in the extreme—of this you will hear from me again. As we left the wharf, John Eccleson fell overboard and was drowned. Four children died on the way up to St. Louis. One Danish brother, by the name of Norberg, fell overboard, the morning before arriving at St. Louis, and perished. The health of the company on arriving was generally good. Provisions were high; costing on an average one dollar and fifty-six cents for each passenger from the time of arriving at New Orleans to arriving at St. Louis, making cost of the passage five dollars and six-cents for each adult passenger.

Yours &c. RICHARD BALLANTYNE.
President of the Company.

Elder Ballantyne's Visit.

COMPANY OF THE CHARLES BUCK SHIPPED FOR ATCHISON.

We have had a very interesting and agreeable intercourse for a few days with our much esteemed and faithful brother, Ballantyne. He arrived among us full of faith and the spirit of God, in the full enjoyment of the faith and confidence of his company, and the spirit and influence of his presidency. On Sunday, the 1st inst., in our large and well filled church, he gave a very interesting and discriptive narrative of his late

mission to Hindostan, which was listened to with intense interest.

We felt ourselves edified and refreshed under his remarks, and felt to thank and praise God for the many manifestations of his overruling power, and providential care towards our faithful brethren whilst wending their way to, and traveling amongst the dark and benighted nations of the earth.

We have been favored by our reporter with a copy of the discourse, which our readers may expect shortly.

Brother Ballantyne rendered us much aid and assistance whilst in this city, in providing for the Saints in his charge, over whom, it may be truly said, he watched with a father's care.

In consequence of the rivers being low, boats were scarce, and fares very high, and it was not without considerable difficulty that we finally succeeded in shipping the company to Atchison, the point of outfit. The unprecedented rush to Kansas and Nebraska has materially increased the rate of fares and the difficulty of shipping to the upper country.

On Saturday March 31st we shipped on the 'Admiral' forty Danes, under the presidency of Elder Hogan.

On Tuesday, April 3d, we shipped one hundred and ninety-one souls of the same company in charge of Elder Richard Ballantyne, with instructions to land at Atchison, and to take the general charge of the P. E. Fund passengers now under his charge, and those that may be hereafter shipped to that place.—[St. Louis Luminary.]

ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE.—On Friday, April 6th, at ten o'clock a m., the Conference met pursuant to appointment, commenced by singing the first hymn, 'The morning breaks the shadows flee.'

Prayer by Elder Milo Andrus, who afterwards gave a brief introductory address, and was followed by Elders McGaw, Case, and Snow, who thanked God for the privilege enjoyed of celebrating this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the kingdom of God on the earth—rejoiced that our brethren in the valleys of Utah have favorably recognized us and our organizations as a stake of Zion, and hoped we should ever prove ourselves worthy of their confidence and blessing. The weather was delightful; the Church was well attended; the spirit of peace and joy seemed to dwell in every bosom. Present, of the Twelve Apostles—Erastus Snow; Presidents of Seventies—Milo Andrus, Charles Bassett, and James McGaw; High Priests—unnumbered. We will give the details in the next issue.—[St. Louis Luminary.]

[From the Mormon.]

From our Maine Correspondent.

WEST RILEY, March 19th, 1855.

BRO. TAYLOR, Dear Sir:—After leaving New York, on the 22d of Jan. last, I took the afternoon Express train of cars for Boston; we moved on pleasantly, until we got within nine miles of Worcester, Mass., when the cars run off the track, throwing one car over a bank some fifty feet into the timber, and the balance of the cars into a confused mass. No person, however, was seriously injured.

I was seated in the back part of the second car and it threw me on my feet, to the forward part, without injury. On returning to my seat, I found it in a mass of splinters.

An express was sent to Worcester for an extra train of cars, which shortly came and relieved us of that unpleasant situation, and we arrived in safety at four o'clock in the morning, at Boston. I left Boston in the afternoon train for this State, the field of my mission.

On my arrival in the north western portion of this State, in the county of Oxford, I found, to my astonishment, snow to the average depth of six feet, with good sleighing and abundance of cold weather.

I have now entered fully upon the field of my mission; the Lord has blest me with his Holy Spirit and has opened the way before me, thus far, with peace and safety. He seems to be pouring out his spirit upon the honest in heart in this part of his vineyard.

I have organized a branch of eight members in the town of Mexico, and appointed Bro. Osgood Virgin to preside over it, and I have a number to baptize there in the Spring. I also organized another branch of nine members in the town of Newry, and appointed Bro. Josiah Smith to preside over them, and have some to baptize there in the spring.

Although gross darkness prevails over the face of the land, and men have fallen into a deep sleep of lethargy, many are inquiring the way of life and eternal salvation. I have spared no pains either day or night in laying before them the true principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

I arrived in this part of the state on Saturday evening last, and found two papers of your publication, 'The Mormon.' You have merited honor to yourself, and to the cause that you represent, to this nation, and to others, with that beautiful sheet, so full of intelligence. I admire also its mottoes and heading; they are very significant, and I must say that, as a whole, it is worthy the patronage of the saints, as well as all men that are seeking after truth, intelligence, and the true way to life and eternal exaltation. It is certainly the true representative of Mormonism.

E. B. TRIPP.

GUNCOTTON VERSUS GUNPOWDER.—A scientific man, in a communication to the London Times, details some of the advantages of guncotton over gunpowder. In the first place, he says that guncotton is not only from four to six times as strong as gunpowder, but in its practical adaptation actually more safe. A charge of guncotton of the same force as the usual charge of powder, occupies only about two-thirds of the space in a gun,

and consequently gives a better effect. Guncotton makes very little smoke, and leaves hardly any solid or liquid residuum.

The former property is of great importance when firing between decks, in affording a clear view of the object fired at, and generally in every battle or naval engagement. To the latter quality is due the fact that the gun hardly ever becomes foul with the longest use, and that the corrosion of the metal is also less. Guncotton also explodes more rapidly than gunpowder, misses fire much less frequently, is not at all injured by being wetted, and can be manufactured with the greatest facility; five minutes immersion in nitric acid, and an hours washing in a running stream, complete the operation. The objections that are urged against it apply with equal force to gunpowder.

Diogenes being asked the biting of which beast was most dangerous, answered: "If you mean wild beasts, 'tis the slanderer—if tame ones, the flatterer."

Deseret Theological Institute.

SOCIAL HALL, G. S. L. City, }
June 6, 1855. }

The Deseret Theological Institute met at 7 1-2 p.m., of Wednesday, 6th inst.

Opened with prayer by Elder Orson Pratt.
Choir sang the hymn, "O my Father, thou that dwellest, &c."

George D. Watt read a lecture on the Deseret Alphabet, and gave illustrations on the black board.

Orchestra performed a waltz composed by John M. Jones.

Choir sang an anthem, "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, &c.," composed by O. Pratt, Jr.

Benediction by W. W. Phelps.

THOMAS BULLOCK, Secretary.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

\$5 REWARD.

STRAYED OR STOLEN From the West Jordan Range, a large clear red OX, six or seven years old, branded SAMUEL MULLINER on left horn, and J Y immediately above. Whoever will return said ox shall receive the above reward. 14-3t

JOSEPH YOUNG.

CITY TAX.

THE TAXES FOR 1855 are now ready for payment. All persons interested are requested to settle as soon as possible and save expense of collecting, at the office at my residence 13th Ward. 14-3t

J. C. LITTLE

Assessor and Collector for G.S.L. City.

STRAYED

A RED BULL 4 years old, some white on flanks and under the belly, a small white spot on one or both shoulders, a little white on face, and a little piece off the tip of one horn. Please leave information or deliver him to John H. Green, or Kays Ward, W.M.M. THOMPSON, at Tithing Office, and be rewarded. 14t

CANNON'S GROVE FOR SALE.

ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE SITUATIONS in Salt Lake City. It is situated near the South West corner of the 17th Ward. There is a good Adobe House with five rooms; 5-8 of an acre of land being half a lot with ten good Peach Trees in full bearing. It needs only to be seen to satisfy any one that it is a beautiful place. Apply on the premises to 14-2t

M. CANNON.

NOTICE.

CAME into my enclosure in South Cottonwood Ward, about the first of January, 2 yearling Helfers—one, dark red, with some white on the belly and back; the other, pale red, some white on the belly and face; no brands or marks perceptible. The owners are requested to prove property, pay charges, and take them away. 14-3t

J. D. HUFFAKER.

Administrator's Sale.

ON SATURDAY the 16th instant, at or near the Council House, Great Salt Lake City, will be Sold, at Public Auction, a large quantity and variety of men, women, and children's wearing apparel, a splendid rifle, a large number of French books, some knives and forks, silver and Britannia spoons, and sundry other articles, belonging to the estate of Francis Stendermann, deceased. Sale to commence at 9 a.m. Terms made known on day of sale. 14-1t

S. L. BALLIFF,

Administrator.

NOTICE.

THE HIGH PRIEST'S QUORUM will meet in the basement of the Social Hall, on Wednesday, June 20, 1855, at 1 o'clock p.m., and will continue to meet every second Wednesday thereafter at the same place.

We hope the brethren will embrace every opportunity to attend these meetings that we may keep advised of their standing and progress in the Kingdom.

DAVID PETTIGREW,
R. CAHOON,
G. B. WALLACE, } PRSTS.

A. CALKIN, Clerk.

14-2t

Wonders Never Cease!

LEVI STEWART & BROTHER, Merchants, on East Temple Street, at O. H. Cogswell's old stand.

We would respectfully announce to the citizens of Great Salt Lake City and surrounding settlements, that they have now opened their large assortment of Fancy and Staple Dry Goods, which they promise to sell cheap for cash or flour. Come one, come all, and examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere. Our stock consists in part of the following articles:

Brown and Bleached Sheetings and Shirts, Denims, Cottonades, Blue drills, Checks, Brown and French Linens, and Irish Linens of All qualities, Tickings of the best brands, Cloths, Black and Fancy Cassimeres, and Sattinets And Vestings of the latest styles; Gloves and Hosiery; Prints, Gingham, Lawns, Delaines, Plaid and Plain Jaconets, Plain and Spotted Swisses, &c. Fancy Silks, Plain Black do. Fancy Silk and Broad Bonnets, Bonnet Silk and Trimmings, and A Variety of Styles of Ladies' Dress Goods, Together with various other articles too numerous to mention.

Boots and Shoes; Ready-made Clothing for Men and Boys; Hats and Caps.

A small lot of Glass and Queen's Ware, Hardware and Nails.

GROCERIES.

Coffee, Tea, Pepper, Spice, Starch, Rice, Saleratus, Indigo, Madder, Extract Logwood, Borax, Pickles, Lemon Syrup, Cotton Yarn, and a few medicines.

We have also on hand heavy wagons, ox yokes and chains, which we will exchange for flour, cattle or good lumber.

Remember the place, at Cogswell's old stand, lately occupied by Branham & Norris, on East Temple Street. 14-3in