

[From the New York Herald, July 21.]

THE WAR.

BATTLE OF JUNE EIGHTEENTH.

The Official Report of Gen. Pelissier.

HEADQUARTERS, before Sebastopol, June 22.
Monsieur le Maréchal:—After the capture of the exterior works on the 7th of June, I rapidly made arrangements for constituting them the basis of our attack upon the enclosed space of Karabelnaia. We armed them with powerful artillery; the Russian communications and places d'armes were adapted for our use; the ground and the disposition for the combat were studied in detail, and the allied armies divided their task. The English were to force the great Redan; and we on our part were to carry the Malakoff batteries, the Careening Redan, and the entrenchments that cover this extremity of the suburbs. It is superfluous, Monsieur le Maréchal, to enhance in the eyes of your Excellency the consequences which the successful issue of such an operation would have led to. Since our last success the attitude of the enemy and the enthusiasm of our troops promised victory. There was no motive for procrastination.

By agreement with Lord Raglan, on the 17th, we overwhelmed the place, and especially the works we had resolved to carry, with a crushing fire. The enemy soon ceased to reply from the Malakoff and the Great Redan. It is probable he wished to spare his batteries and reserve his fire, and that he did not suffer so much as we supposed from the effects of our artillery.

Be that as it may, the superiority of our cannon confirmed us in the project of attacking on the 18th June; and during the preceding night we made all the arrangements necessary for effecting our general movement by break of day.

Three divisions were to take part in the combat—the division of Mayran and Brunet, of the second corps; the division of D'Antemarre, of the first. The division of the Imperial Guard formed the reserve.

The division of Mayran had the right of the attacks, and was to carry the entrenchments that extended from the battery of the point to the Careening Redan.

Brunet's division was to turn the Malakoff on the right.

D'Antemarre's division was to manoeuvre on the left, in order to carry this important work.

General Mayran's mission was difficult. His first brigade, commanded by Col. Saurin, of the 3d regiment of Zouaves, was to issue from the Careening Bay ravine, at the spot where the aqueduct is, to proceed along the left slope of the ravine by defiling as much as possible from the fire of the enemy's lines, and to turn by the gorge the battery of the point.

The second brigade, under the orders of General de Failly, was to endeavor to act on the right of the Careening Redan. It was supplied with all the means for scaling.

The special reserve of this division consisted of two battalions of the 1st regiment of the Voltigeurs of the Guard. All these troops were stationed at an early hour at their posts.

Brunet's division had one of its brigades in front, and to the right of the Brancion Redoubt (Green Mamelon); the other was in the parallel to the rear and the right of this redoubt.

An analogous disposition had been made for D'Antemarre's division; the brigade of Noel in front and to the left of the Brancion Redoubt; the brigade of Breton in the parallel behind.

Two batteries of artillery, capable of being worked a la bricole, were placed behind the Brancion Redoubt, so as to be brought to bear on the enemy's position, if we succeeded in taking them.

The division of the Imperial Guard, forming a general reserve for the three attacks, was concentrated behind the Victoria Redoubt.

I had chosen for my post the Lancaster Battery, and it was thence I was to give the signal by means of star rockets, for the general movement. Notwithstanding great difficulties in the ground, notwithstanding the obstacles accumulated by the enemy, and although the Russians, decidedly informed of our projects, were on their guard, and ready to repel the assault, I may be permitted to believe that if the attack could have been general and instantaneous along the whole extent of the line; if there had been suddenness and unity of actions in the efforts of our brave troops, the object would have been attained. Unfortunately, such was not the case, and an inconceivable fatality caused our failure.

I was still more than 1,000 metres from the spot where I was to give the signal, when a brisk fusillade, mingled with grape shot, told me that the action had been seriously commenced towards the right. In fact, shortly before three o'clock, General Mayran thought he saw my signal in a bomb, with its flaming fuse that had been fired from the Brancion redoubt. He was informed, but to no purpose, of his mistake.

This brave and unfortunate general gave the order to commence the attack. The columns of Saurin and de Failly dashed forward at once. The first rush was magnificent; but hardly had these heads of columns advanced when they were assailed by a shower of balls and grape. This overwhelming grape came not merely from the works we wanted to carry, but from the enemy's steamers also, which arrived with full steam on, and manoeuvred with equal good fortune and skill. We, however, must have inflicted some damage on them. This prodigious fire arrested the efforts of our troops. It became impossible for our soldiers to march forwards, but not one made a single step in retreat. It was then that General Mayran, twice hit already, was struck down by grape shot, and compelled to give up the command of his division.

All this was the work of a moment, and General Mayran had been already carried off the field of battle, when I gave the signal from the spot I had reached of the Lancaster battery. The other troops then engaged, in order to support the pre-

mature movement of division on the right. This valiant division, dispirited for an instant by the loss of its general, rallied promptly to the voice of General de Failly. The troops engaged supported by the 2d battalion of the 95th regiment of the line, and one battalion of the Voltigeurs of the Guard, under the orders of the brave Colonel Bondville, kept firm near a ridge, where the General placed between them, and maintained their ground with intrepidity. In the meantime, being informed of this situation, which might become critical, I gave orders to General Regnault de Saint Jean de Angely to send four battalions of the Voltigeurs of the Guard, taken from the general reserve, to the succor of this division. Generals Millinet and Ulrich marched with this fine troop, rallied what was scattered in the Careening ravine, and came up with their solid support to General de Failly, by occupying the bottom of the ravine.

General Millinet repaired in person to General de Failly's right with a battalion of grenadiers, which had been attached the evening before to the guard of the ravine, and was very useful to him by securing his right. The central attack had no better success. General Grunet had not yet been able to complete all his arrangements when the cluster of rockets that were to serve as a signal burst in the air. For twenty or twenty-five minutes, all the right had been prematurely engaged. Nevertheless his troops marched with resolution, but their valor failed under the steady fire of the Russians, and against unforeseen obstacles.

At the outset General Brunet was mortally wounded by a musket ball in the centre of his chest. The flag of the 91st was broken by a ball, but it is needless to add that these glorious fragments were brought back by the brave regiment.

General Lafont de Villiers took the command of the division, and confided that of the troops engaged to Col. Dorencez. These kept steady while the rest of the division occupied the trenches, to be prepared against the eventualities of the contest.

On the left, Gen. d'Antemarre had not been able to engage before Brunet's division; besides, he could not account for the hurried fire of the musketry he heard in the direction of the Careening Bay. But at the signal appointed for the assault he let loose with impetuosity the 5th Foot Chasseurs and the 1st battalion of the 19th regiment of the line, who, by keeping along the crest of the Karabelnaia ravine, reached the entrenchment that connects it with the Malakoff tower, scaled this entrenchment, and thus entered the enciente itself. Already the sappers of the engineers were planting the ladders for the remainder of the 19th and 26th regiments, whose general d'Antemarre was hurrying on the movement behind his valiant head of the column.

One instant we could believe in success. Our eagles had been planted on the Russian works. Unfortunately this hope was speedily dissipated. Our allies had encountered such obstacles in their attack of the great Redan, and they had met such a fire of grape that, in spite of their well known tenacity, they had been already compelled to make a movement of retreat. Such was the spirit of our troops that, despite this circumstance, they would have pushed on and continued to charge home the enemy; but the want of simultaneous action in the attack of our divisions left the Russians free to overwhelm us with the reserves and the artillery of the great Redan, and the enemy lost not a moment to direct against our brave Foot Chasseurs all the other reserves of Karabelnaia.

Before such imposing forces, the Commandant Gilnier, of the 5th battalion, already wounded five times with gunshot, endeavored, but in vain, to hold the ground that had been won. Obligated to retire before numbers, he recrossed the entrenchment. Gen. Niel rallied his brigade, reinforced by the 39th of the line; they wished to attempt a fresh offensive movement in order to insure the success of this new effort, and on word being sent by General d'Antemarre that his reserve was reduced to the 74th of the line, I sent him the regiment of Zouaves of the Guard, but on the arrival of these veterans of our African wars, the movement no longer having the unity so desirable for a coup of this vigor, with one single division unsupported either on the right or on the left, and cut up by the artillery of the Redan, against which our Allies were suspending their attack, I did not fail soon to perceive that every favorable chance was exhausted.

A fresh effort would merely have occasioned a useless effusion of blood. It was half-past eight. I gave orders in all directions to return to the trenches. This operation was effected with dignity, much order, and coolness, and without pursuit of the enemy on any one point. A part of the Russian trenches still continued even to be held by our men, who got away in succession, nor did the enemy venture to profit by his advantages and attack them.

Our loss has been great. We took care, from the very commencement of the action, to remove most of the men hit by the enemy. But a certain number of these glorious dead remained stretched upon the glacis or in the moats of the place. The last honors were paid them on the following day.

Besides Gen. Brunet and Gen. Mayran, (the latter succumbed last night) we have to regret an officer beloved and appreciated by the whole army, the young and brave de Laboussiniere, a Lieutenant-Colonel of the artillery, killed while ascending the slope of a trench crowded with troops, and while repairing with one of his batteries to the Brancion redoubt. It is a heavy loss; there was much promise about him. A great many brave superior officers were struck down while setting the noblest example. Staff officers, regimental officers, fulfilled their duties worthily, and the soldier was admirable everywhere.

We had 37 officers killed, and 17 taken prisoners, 1,544 non-commissioned officers and privates killed or missing; 98 officers and 1,611 men con-

veyed to the ambulances on the evening of the 18th.

Many wounds considered very severe are far from being so dangerous as was at first believed. The bearers of these honorable scars will shortly reappear beneath their colors.

These losses have neither quenched the ardor nor abated the confidence of these valiant divisions. All they ask is to make the enemy pay dearly for that day. The hope and desire of the conquest are in the hearts of all, and all reckon that in the next struggle fortune will not disappoint valor.

PELISSIER.

The English Account.

THE LAST DISPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN—THE REPORT OF GEN. EYRE'S ENTRANCE INTO SEBASTOPOL.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, June 23, 1855.

MY LORD—I informed your Lordship in my despatch of the 19th inst., that I would make a more special report upon the movements of the Third division, as soon as I should receive the reports of Lieutenant General Sir R. England and the major generals commanding brigades under him.

The First brigade, under Major General Barnard, proceeded down the Woronzoff road, and was placed in position on the right of the ravine, ready to co-operate with the columns of attack on the right; while the Second Brigade, under Major-General Eyre, moved down the ravine which separates the left of the English from the right of the French advanced works, for the purpose of attacking the enemy's ambuscades, and making a demonstration on the head of the Dockyard creek.

This service was performed with the utmost gallantry, and, notwithstanding that they were exposed to a most galling fire, the troops maintained themselves in the position they had taken up during the day, and in the evening withdrew unmolested, leaving a post at the Cemetery, which had been one of the objects of the attack in the morning. The action having from circumstances become a most serious one, I beg, as the most satisfactory way of making your Lordship acquainted with the particulars, to lay a copy of the Major-General's letter before your Lordship, and to solicit your attention to the officers whose services he particularly notices, and at the same time to his own distinguished conduct.

Your Lordship will see with concern that the loss sustained by this brigade is very considerable, and that Major General Eyre is himself wounded; but I have every reason to hope that the injury he has received is not very severe, and will not incapacitate him from the discharge of his duty with the same energy and devotedness as he has already applied himself to its performance during the protracted operations before Sebastopol.

I enclose the returns of casualties from the 18th to the 21st.

RAGLAN.

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, June 19.

SIR—I have the honor to report for the information of Lieutenant General Sir Richard England, K. C. B., commanding the division that, agreeably to his instructions, I moved off yesterday morning, between one and two o'clock, a. m., with my brigade, consisting of the 9th, 18th, 28th, 38th, and 44th Regiments—total strength about 2,000 bayonets, and proceeded down to the ravine on our left, by the French Picket house, for the purpose of attacking the enemies' ambuscade, and of making a demonstration on that side.

In attacking the first of these ambuscades we were anticipated by the French, who cleverly took them on their left flank as we advanced in front, and made several prisoners. Beyond this the French had no instructions to co-operate with us; therefore immediately pushed on an advanced guard under Major Fielden, 44th regiment, composed of marksmen from each regiment, supporting it on the right by the 44th and 38th regiments, and on the left by the 18th regiment, keeping at first the 9th and 28th regiments in reserve.

The enemy, whose strength I could not estimate, occupied a strong position; their right rested on a Mamelon, their left on a cemetery. These points were occupied by marksmen.

The intervening ground was intersected, and the road barricaded with stone walls, which our men were obliged to pull down, under fire, before they could advance.

In rear of this position, towards the fortress, the enemy occupied several houses, and there were bodies of the enemy seen in rear as reserves, but of what strength I could not say. This position, under the fire of the guns of the fortress, was strong, and we could not expect to carry it and retain it without sustaining a considerable loss, and which, I regret to state, we have experienced both in officers and men; but it is gratifying to feel that they all most nobly performed their duty on this occasion. The 18th regiment pushed on and occupied some houses immediately under the Garden-wall battery.

The 44th occupied some houses on the right, whence they kept up a fire on the enemy's embrasures. Lieut. Colonel Lowth moved on with his regiment, (the 38th) and, after taking possession of some houses in front, endeavored to turn the flank of a battery which annoyed us in front. These parties were afterwards, from time to time, reinforced or relieved by the 9th regiment being drawn up in line in rear to support the whole.

Having driven the enemy from these points, I continued to occupy them, with the view of ulterior movements, in the event of the attack on the right being successful, and until it was decided what portion of the ground should be retained for siege operations.

I cannot sufficiently express my sense of the conduct of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men on this occasion. They attacked the enemy in the first instance with the utmost gallantry, holding their ground until late in the evening, although exposed all day to a concentrated fire from the guns of the fortress, in addition to which I believe the enemy brought up some field guns, and kept continually firing shells. The losses occasioned were considerable, the total being thirty-one officers, forty-four sergeants, and 587 rank and file killed and wounded.

At about five o'clock in the evening, after giving orders for the removal of the officers to the rear, the gradual withdrawal of the parties from the front—the ground being too far in advance to be permanently occupied for siege operations—I gave over the command of the brigade to Lieutenant Col. Adams, 28th regiment, having received a wound in the head, in the early part of the day, which prevented me latterly from attending properly to my duties. The enemy did not attempt to molest the troops on retiring. The conduct of all was so exemplary during this trying day that I can scarcely with justice particularize individuals.

I have, &c., W. EYRE, Maj. Gen.

THE FLOATING BATTERIES.—One of these enormous washing-tubs is to be seen at Woolwich. Ahead, astern, or broadside on, all is a mass of deformity. Neither rudder nor hawse holes are visible. Masts, yards, and funnel denote that it is a ship, or it might easily be mistaken for a dummy, pierced with port-holes for windows. But putting aside the eccentric exterior of the craft, there are in them some most serious defects. These "things," without a gun, shot, or powder on board, draw eight feet, and their port sills are now only five feet from the water's edge.

Before they are armed, manned, provisioned, and stored, weights will have to be put on board, which will probably immerse them three feet more. Thus the port-holes will be only two feet out of water! The fighting deck has been so carefully covered with a bomb-proof protection that not an aperture has been left sufficiently large to admit a shell, the consequence is there is no way for smoke to escape, except at the port-holes. The hatchways, which would have admitted a shell, would have let off the smoke; so, to avoid being killed by a destructive missile, the crew must all be suffocated! After the first broadside the crew will be unable to see the object of their engagement, and after the third round strangulation must ensue.

To steer or propel such an unwieldy conglomeration of wood and iron is out of the question. They will go where they please and how they please—never uncommonly fast without being dry. Yet five of these precious instruments of torture, which will not cost less than half-a-million, are built and paid for by honest, good-natured John Bull.—[United Service Gazette.]

ITEMS OF NEWS.

DR. KREIL, director of the Observatory of Vienna, has just invented an instrument by means of which he can discover the intensity and direction of shocks of earthquakes. It is composed of a pendulum oscillating towards any point, and at the lower extremity of which is fixed a vertical cylinder, containing a watch movement which causes it to turn on its axis once in twenty-four hours. Close to this cylinder is placed an upright piece of wood to which is fixed an elastic arm, carrying a pencil coming in contact with the cylinder, on which, as long as the pendulum is still, is described an uninterrupted line; but as soon as the earth moves, and the pendulum consequently makes some oscillations, the pencil traces on the cylinder marks, the length and variety of which show the strength and direction of shocks.—[Ex.]

FIRES IN SIX MONTHS, ending June 30.—According to the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, there were thirty-two fires in the United States during the last month, where the loss was equal to \$10,000 or more, the most destructive being one which occurred at Payon Sara, La., with a loss of \$500,000; the total amount of property destroyed during June was \$1,291,090. This sum may be increased by the fires not yet reported. Since the beginning of the year, the monthly losses have reached an aggregate of \$7,639,000.

When the class which has just graduated at West Point, entered that institution, it numbered eighty-one. Only thirty-four succeeded in holding on. The rest fell off from time to time, from inability to meet the stringent requirements of the school. One of the thirty-four was the youngest member of the class. Hereafter there are to be five classes instead of four; and the term will be extended to five years.—[Cleveland Herald.]

MINIE RIFLES are being manufactured at the U. S. Ordnance Department, in Baton Rouge, by effecting certain changes in the ordinary ones. The commandant of that establishment, Capt. Rodman, has also invented a machine capable of casting sixty Minie bullets per minute. The English machine casts but forty.—[Cleveland Herald.]

The surveys of Lakes Huron and Michigan, and the straits of Mackinac, are now complete, and the results in the hands of the engineer. They have all been done under the superintendence of Capt. Macomb, who is now engaged in surveying the Sauk River.—[Det. Tri., June 26th.]

An exchange paper calculates that to furnish timber sufficient to construct a single twenty-four gun ship, requires the matured crop of forty-four acres of wood land, or two thousand two hundred full grown trees.