

WAR IN THE EAST.

COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA. DESTRUCTION OF BEYROUT.

We have collected the following interesting details of these most important events, from the correspondence of the *Chronicle*. The first communication is dated September 10th. It states that at daylight on the morning of the 9th, the admiral was at anchor in the harbour of Beyrouth. He brought from Alexandria intelligence of the final rejection by the Pacha of the offer of the Sultan and the Four Powers. As neither the Turkish Admiral (Walker) nor the transports from Cyprus had yet arrived, it was doubted by many whether operations would immediately commence. About nine o'clock her Majesty's steam-frigate Cyclops, Captain Austin, came into harbour from Alexandria, bringing intelligence that she had fallen in with the fleet off Sidon, and that they were bearing up to Beyrouth under a heavy press of canvass. Commodore Napier immediately waited upon the admiral, and a plan of operations was then decided upon, the design of an immediate landing being adopted, and throughout the evening the harbour exhibited all the busy and stirring signs of preparation. Boats without number passing and re-passing, signals flying, drums beating to quarters, the shrill whistle of the boat-swain—all gave to the scene an extreme degree of animation and excitement. The plan adopted, so far as it was known last evening, was this:—The Turkish force, consisting of about five thousand four hundred men, were ordered to be sent in three divisions on board the Cyclops, the Phoenix, and the Hydra steamers, and the marines and artillery to be sent on board the Gorgon. This was understood to be preparatory to landing them in the morning. The boats of the different men-of-war commenced to take the men from the transports immediately after sunset, and about twelve o'clock the whole was accomplished with the utmost order and regularity, and without a single accident.

Again, at sunrise this morning, the whole harbour may be said literally to have been in motion, and it would be difficult to imagine a scene more strikingly beautiful. The harbour of Beyrouth is formed by a range of bold mountains; the Anti-Lebanon range rising about a mile from the shore, and running in a crescent from north-east to west. The town itself lies at the southern extremity of this harbour, and seen from a little distance embedded in deep verdure, has a very picturesque effect. As a place of defence you might as well think of defending Broadstairs from the Channel fleet, as Beyrouth from a single ship of the line. It possesses, however, an amazingly strong fortress, which might hold out when the whole town is in ruins. At daybreak I was enabled to see for the first time at one glance the whole forces collected for operations. With British pennants—there were, the flag-ship the Princess Charlotte, 110 guns, the Powerful (with a commodore's broad pennant), 84 guns; the Ganges, 84; the Bellerophon, 80; the Thunderer, 84; the Benbow, 74; the Edinburgh, 76; the Revenge, 76; the Hastings, 74; the Castor, 36; the Pique, 36; the Carysfort, 26; the Zebra, 16. War steamers—Cyclops, Gorgon, Hydra, and Phoenix. Under the command of the Turkish Admiral (Walker) there were—one line-of battle ship; three frigates, 50 guns; two corvettes, 20 guns; one brig, 16 guns. Besides these there were two Austrian frigates, 50 guns; and one corvette, eighteen guns. The transports of all sizes amounted to twenty-three. Shortly after daybreak a signal was made to the steamers to get under weigh. The Cyclops took the Turkish Admiral's ship in tow, besides a number of boats which were attached to her, as well as the other steamers, for the purpose of landing the troops. While moving down to the south-western-most point of the harbour, we could see the Egyptian troops passing over the crest of the hill and falling into position. As the steamers neared the shore they moved down in immense force, and in a short time they were so securely posted that we could see only here and there the red fez or their bayonets glistening through the copse wood. In the mean time a detachment of the squadron was bearing down due east, followed by the commodore's ship, the Powerful. While we were every moment expecting a signal to land, the Benbow received orders to open fire upon the Egyptian troops; shell followed shell in rapid succession, and although the range was nearly three miles, five out of every six shells fell with the precision of a musket ball; with what effect, however, I could not ascertain, all communication with the shore being most rigidly cut off. During the firing of the Benbow a signal was made for the steamers and boats to follow the commodore, who was rounding the north-eastern point of the harbour. It was now clear that the first move was only a demonstration, and that the landing would take place at some point on the coast between Djibail and Beyrouth. As we moved along the shore, we could discern some of the mountaineers on the hills, but not a soldier on the beach north of the town. The Zebra was anchored close in shore, to prevent any advance in this direction; and to her effective fire, aided by one of the Austrian frigates, we are indebted that no Egyptian force was able to move down. About eight miles beyond the harbour of Beyrouth the Powerful, the Pique, and the steamers cast anchor, in an hour after their departure. They were soon joined by the Turkish Admiral's ship and frigate, the Castor and the Carysfort. A better spot for the landing could not have been selected, and as the march of the Egyptian troops was effectually cut off by the ships along shore, the order for an immediate landing was given. Within an hour and a quarter nearly five thousand men, including 1,500 marines and artillery, were ashore without a single accident, almost without a wet foot. One of the steamers (the Hydra) landed her men

(1,500) about three miles nearer to Beyrouth, and I am informed quite as safely. An attempt was made to detach a body of the Egyptian army to interrupt the landing, and they had made some advance when the Zebra opened fire upon them. The fire was returned from the shore. The Zebra is said to have sustained some slight damage. At all events, we could see as we advanced that the Princess Charlotte had joined in the fire, which was briskly kept up until we lost sight of the town.

Upon landing, the troops formed in excellent order on the beach, and immediately marched and took possession of the most commanding heights in the neighbourhood.

[The letter then goes on to describe the coming down from the mountains of parties of men, who displayed the utmost enthusiasm at the prospect of being delivered from the Pacha's yoke. At nightfall there were about 250 of these mountaineers collected on the beach, to whom arms and ammunition were distributed.]

About one o'clock, a. m., an alarm came to the temporary head quarters of our force that "the Egyptians were coming." Boats were immediately despatched to the ships, and means quickly provided for embarkation, in case of necessity. The boats of all the ships put off to shore, and the guns which had been landed were carried by the blue jackets to the commanding position selected for the camp. In a very short time after the alarm had been given, Commodore Napier was ashore and hard at work forwarding means of defence. Indeed, the energy of this gallant sailor is truly surprising. He is every where, and apparently at every hour. The alarm which had created so much confusion amongst our forces proved to be unfounded, although it was perhaps beneficial that it was given; for in the cool of the night the blue jackets were able to carry up the guns, in spite of difficulties which, even to some of the artillerymen, seemed insurmountable. The daylight of the 12th showed us nearly the whole valley to Beyrouth, still unoccupied, and the men were enabled quietly to proceed to mind their work.

OPERATIONS AGAINST DJIBAIL.

On the morning of the 13th, orders were despatched to the Carysfort, Captain Martin, the Cyclops, Captain Austin, and the Dido, Capt. Davis, to repair to Djibail, a small town about ten miles along the coast. The vessels got under weigh about 10 o'clock, the Cyclops having on board 200 marines and 200 Syrians, to whom muskets and bayonets were distributed. These mountaineers were a portion of those who had joined at the camp. We arrived at Djibail in about an hour. This is a small but very strongly built village, commanded by a castle of great strength. The Carysfort and Dido immediately fired upon the castle and the buildings which surrounded it. For more than two hours a tremendous fire was kept up, which laid the upper part of the castle in complete ruin. The base of it, however, being covered with an immense cliff, seemed to bid defiance even to the heavy guns and steady firing of the Cyclops, which also opened as soon as the marines and Turks were disembarked. When it seemed that the castle had been sufficiently cannonaded, the boats of the Princess Charlotte, Bellerophon, and Hastings, under the command of Lieuts. Thomson, Johnson, and Hallet, left the Cyclops, having on board 200 marines, commanded by Capt. Robinson. They disembarked safely and well, and immediately formed into four companies, under the command of Capt. Searle, Lieutenants Searle, Harrison, and Adair, the whole superintended by Capt. Austin. The space between the point of disembarkation and the castle was covered with fig and mulberry trees, intersected by stone walls breast high. The guns from the launches fired several rounds into the plantation, and, when it appeared to have been well scoured, the companies of marines advanced. The Syrians immediately upon landing dashed into the wood and scattered themselves, advancing without much order. The marines, however, moved on through the wood, crossing over the stone walls, meeting with no obstruction till within pistol shot of the castle. Here a sharp and destructive fire was opened upon them. Placed as they were, it was impossible to form; nor yet could they return the fire with much prospect of effect, as not one of their opponents was visible. The firing came apparently from loopholes in the very basement of the castle; indeed, a considerable extent of the ground seemed to be undermined and loop-holed. The marines were immediately drawn off under cover of a stone wall. A sergeant of marines (Brundell) and four men volunteered to move forward to see if there was any possibility of effecting an entrance. They had scarcely advanced, however, when a heavy fire of musketry was again opened upon them, and the sergeant fell under it. Upon the closest inspection it was possible to make, it seemed useless to again attempt to carry the fortress. The marines accordingly retired in excellent order, and were all embarked by sunset.

The conduct of our people in this little but very trying expedition was above all praise. The men all but importuned to be permitted to attempt the place a second time, and their officers would have eagerly led them, but they were prudently restrained. The 200 Syrians were left to guard the passes leading to the castle. At day-break this morning intelligence came out that the Arnaouts had escaped in the course of the night, and we had the gratification of seeing the Turkish ensign hoisted on the battlements. The affair, I am sorry to say, has cost us dearly. Two men, corporal Samuel Roberts of the 86th divisional company, and Robert Campbell of the 4th, were killed in the wood. Three have since died of their wounds—corporal W. Gye of the 14th divisional company; John King, private (85th do.); and James Argent, ditto. There were besides sixteen wounded, ten of them very seriously. Of the ship's crew, one

officer was wounded, Lieutenant Gifford, a gallant young fellow of the Cyclops. Captain Austin's coxswain was shot by his side, though I am happy to add, that that intrepid officer himself escaped uninjured. The man is dangerously wounded. I had written thus far before I had an opportunity of examining the fortress of Djibail, and now that I have seen it, I only wonder that our loss has been so trifling. The castle might defy the continuous broadside of our whole squadron, the only means of reducing it being to bury the basement and first gallery in the ruins of the upper and only pregnable part of the building. The mountaineers conducted us into the large quadrangular apartment, which is half subterranean, in which the Arnaouts had determined to hold out, and in which they might have done so until compelled by hunger to capitulate. It more resembles in its massive construction one of the chambers of the Pyramids than anything else I have ever seen. The chamber immediately above it commands the wooded ascent by which the Marines were approaching, and looking through its loop-holes I can well conceive the difficulty, the impossibility indeed, of advancing under a fire of musketry directed from them.

Sept. 14.—The Cyclops steamer sailed last night for the camp, off which the Powerful is lying, and returned at a late hour with 1,000 stand of arms, which were distributed to the mountaineers within six hours, leaving then more than 1,000 men unsupplied! The Princess Charlotte, the Benbow, and the Thunderer have continued to fire upon Beyrouth, which I am told is now nearly a heap of ruins. One of the forts is said to have fired upon the Princess Charlotte, which returned a broadside and then sent two boats crews ashore, who entered and spiked the guns.

BOMBARDMENT OF BEYROUT.

Beyrouth, Sept. 20.—Intelligence having reached Admiral Sir Robert Stophord that in addition to the already large garrison of Beyrouth, 1,000 of Ibrahim Pacha's cavalry were about to enter it, he resolved at once to make the place untenable for them; and having first withdrawn the English residents on board the British ships, and warned the other European residents, who retired to the country—on the 9th some shells were thrown in, and on the 11th, at noon, he despatched a flag of truce to Soliman Pacha, with an order that he should evacuate the town forthwith. An answer was returned, that Soliman Pacha was not there; but about 4 p. m. the governor returned for answer, that he (the governor) was then otherwise occupied, and had no time to attend to the admiral's message. Accordingly, at about 5 30 p. m., a signal was made "to open fire upon the town", whereupon the Ganges, Bellerophon, Edinburgh, and Benbow, as well as the Austrian admiral's ship, commenced throwing shot and shell, broadside after broadside, for an hour and ten minutes, the Austrian ship throwing Congreve rockets with admirable precision. From this date, to the 16th, shot and shell were occasionally thrown in, and particularly whenever any troops were seen assembling. On the last-mentioned day, the Egyptian troops having all departed for the mountains, the firing upon the town ceased after causing considerable injury; and as many as 1,000 individuals are reported to have perished, by the combined effects of the fire and the falling of the ruins. Only two shots were returned by the town, without, however, causing any damage. The flags of the American, Danish, Spanish, and Greek consuls continued flying on the ruins of their respective consulates, on the 26th, notwithstanding that these functionaries had withdrawn themselves. The American consulate had suffered most by the bombardment and the subsequent pillage of the valuables and furniture by the Egyptian troops. The stores of the British merchants have likewise been ransacked. The British consul is in the British camp, with Commodore Napier. His lady, with the lady of the American consul, and Mr. Kilbie, a British merchant, have proceeded to Cyprus, in the United States corvette Cyanne. Messrs. Black, Watson, and Herald, British merchants, are on board the Powerful and the Ganges.

On the 19th of September, the Edinburgh and Hastings were the only ships at Beyrouth, stationed there to prevent communication with Alexandria by sea. The Princess Charlotte, with the Powerful, Ganges, Thunderer, Wasp, Cyclops, Gorgon, Hydra, Phoenix, the Austrian admiral Bandiera, in the Medea, with the Guerriere, Walker Bey in a Turkish ship of the line, with an Ottoman frigate, an Egyptian frigate and yacht, with some store ships and other small prizes, were at anchor at Djouni or Anouratta Bay, about nine miles from Beyrouth, as also two Austrian steamers just arrived with 800 Ottoman troops from Constantinople, under Izzet Mehemet Pacha, the newly appointed viceroy of Egypt.

The allied troops are all on shore at Djouni, under the immediate command of Commodore Napier, whose camp is distinguished by his broad pennant. The standards of Austria and Turkey are flying from their respective camps. Breastworks and entrenchments are formed all round the British lines. The entire force consists of 6,500 Turks, 1,500 British marines, 250 Austrian marines, 3,000 mountaineers, besides together nearly 12,000. These are posted in three separate fortified lines—the outer one nearest the enemy is composed of 1,500 Turks, the centre one 2,600 Turks, and the inner one 3,000 British, Austrians, and Turks, besides the mountaineers, of which latter other 3,000 have been armed at Djibail and Tripoli, by the Castor, Carysfort, and Pique, stationed there for that purpose. Ibrahim occupies, with an army of 14,000 troops, the high range of mountains from whose outer lines skirmishes are frequently observed to take place between Ibrahim's troops and the newly-arrived Maronites. Already from

8,000 to 12,000 of the mountaineers have been supplied with arms.

The Bellerophon and Revenge are stationed off the Bahr-el-kelp, or Dog River, between the Admiral's position and Beyrouth, with their guns shotted, ready to "annihilate the Egyptians, if they show themselves." The ships have all springs out, ready to cover the allied forces, and the steamers keep their fires alight night and day, and the guns shotted.

Operations had been confined to the coast between Sidon and Tripoli—a distance of 35 miles. A cordon of signals extends by British ships from point to point.

A PREDICAMENT.—Cromwell's youngest daughter—married to Robert Rich, and again, on his decease, to Sir John Russell—a lively young lady, is said to have brought one of the least dignified of her numerous suitors into the following predicament:—"But the most notable suitor of Frances Cromwell was Jerry White, the protector's facetious chaplain. There is some doubt whether the joyous lady were merely amusing herself with the amorous protestations of the reverend puritan, or whether she was actually infected by him with the tender passion. That Cromwell entertained some anxious doubts on the subject is evident from his causing them to be carefully watched by one of his own spies. The person thus employed one day hurried into the protector's presence, with the information that the Lady Frances and his spiritual adviser were together in the private apartment of the lady. Cromwell hastened to the spot, and, unluckily for the parties, discovered Jerry on his knees, kissing his daughter's hand. Demanding angrily the meaning of such a posture, "May it please your highness," said Jerry, with admirable presence of mind, "I have a long time courted that young gentleman there, my lady's woman, and I cannot prevail; I was, therefore, humbly praying her ladyship to intercede for me." The protector turned to the waiting-maid, and demanded the reason of her obduracy. As she was far from being displeased with the opening prospect of improving her condition, she answered, with a courtesy, that if Mr. White intended the honour, she had no wish to oppose him. Cromwell, in his prompt way, instantly sent for a clergyman; and, as it was too late for Jerry to recede, they were actually married on the spot! The protector sweetened the dose to his chaplain by presenting the bride with a dowry of £500. Oldmixon, who was acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. White, heard the anecdote related in the presence of them both. The lady, he says, frankly admitted that there was something in it. The familiar name of Jerry, and his ministry at the fanatical court, may, perhaps, lead the reader to form a contemptible opinion of the hero of this amusing tale. Jerry White, however, was in person extremely handsome, and he had nothing of the puritan in his manners, though he probably affected it in the pulpit.—*Jesse's Memoirs of the Court of England.*

RELICS AT AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.—The Petites Reliques are displayed by the less hallowed hand of the sacristan. Amongst these valuables is a locket of the Virgin's hair, a piece of the true cross, a nail of the same. Christ's leather girdle, impressed with the seal of Charlemagne, the cord of the rod that smote him, the sponge which held the vinegar; the arm of Simeon, on which he bore the infant Christ; some manure from the Wilderness, some bits of Aaron's rod, and some of the blood and bones of St. Stephen. Here, too, in strange companionship, are the skull of Charlemagne in a silver case—his hunting horn, formed of an elephant's tusk, and a tremendous bone, called his arm, from which the good folks infer that the Emperor was a man of mould as well as metal; unluckily for this theory of the imperial greatness, the arm is no arm, but a thigh, as any anatomist will easily find out for himself. The Grandes Reliques are not shown in public more than once in seven years, no doubt upon the wise maxim that too much familiarity breeds contempt. They are then exhibited from the 15th to the 17th of July, and thousands of pilgrims resort to Aix-la-Chapelle on the occasion. At other times a fee of ten shillings is requisite to unlock these wonders, which were presented to Charlemagne by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, and by Aaron, King of Persia. The abominable swindlers;—they should have been sent to the Old Bailey; that is, if any such tribunal existed in those days. The principal of the reliques are—the robe worn by the Virgin at the nativity, a cotton dress five feet long; Christ's swaddling clothes, of yellow cloth, and well nigh as coarse as sacking; the towel on which was laid the head of John the Baptist; the scarf worn by Christ at the crucifixion, duly stained with blood, &c. *Hand-book up the Rhine.*

HOW TO MAKE LUCIFER MATCHES.—"I wonder how they make lucifer matches," said a young married lady to her husband, about six weeks after their nuptials, and with whom she could never agree. "The process is very simple," he replied, "I once made one." "Indeed! and pray how did you manage it?" "By going to church with you," was the brief and satisfactory explanation.

ABILITY REQUIRED FOR INSTRUCTION.—No mistake is more gross than that of imagining that undisciplined teachers are the fittest to deal with ignorance and mental rudeness. On the contrary, to force the rays of thought intelligently through so opaque a medium, demands, peculiarly and emphatically, a great clearness and pre-eminence of thinking, and an exact feeling of the effect of words to be chosen, combined, and varied.—*Foster's Essays.*