

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 713.—VOL. XXV.]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1854.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

## THE BATTLE OF BALACLAVA.

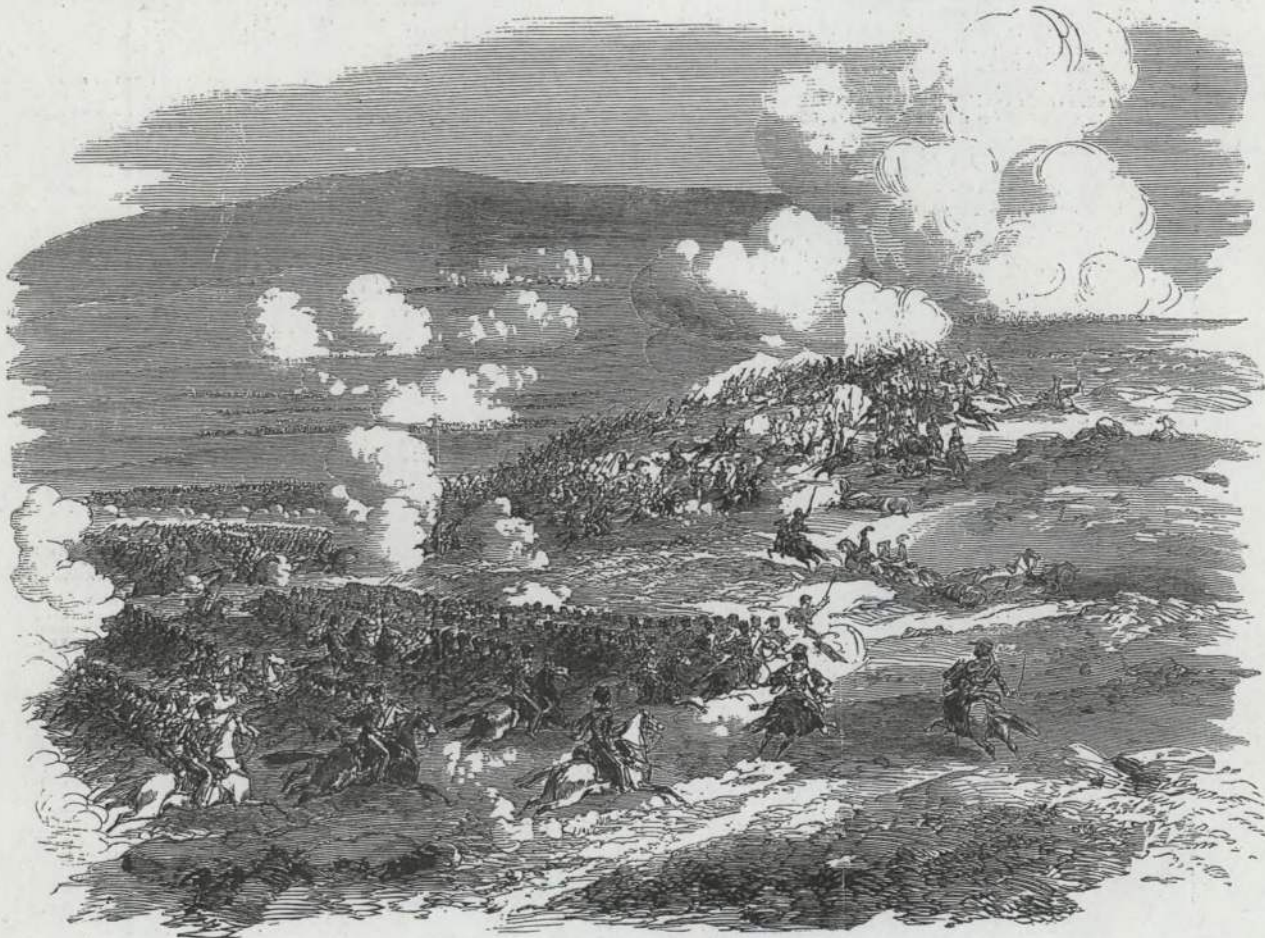
The Despatches of Lord Raglan and of General Canrobert give an intelligible history of the memorable days of the 25th and 26th October, when the Russians were defeated in their attempts to raise the siege of Sebastopol. The report of Prince Menschikoff to the Czar—corroborated, as it appeared to be, by the vague hints and half-statements of the Electric Telegraph—threw a gloom over London and Paris during a portion of last week, especially in the sensitive regions of the Money-market and the Bourse. But the publication of the Official Despatches dispelled the momentary alarm. If uneasiness still subsist with reference to the progress of the War, and to the heavy cost we have paid, and must yet pay for our victory, the uneasiness is natural. The lives that are at stake are too many and too noble to permit England to look with indifference at the possibility of their sacrifice. But, whatever may be the amount of anxiety which is felt, it is not complicated by any doubts of the military skill and courage of our Commanders, or of the undaunted "pluck" and the chivalric bravery of our soldiers. It is scarcely enough to say that our heroes in the Crimea—for heroes they are, if heroism ever existed in this world—will do all that men can do to maintain the honour of their country. They have already done more than could have been expected even of British and French manhood; and have thrown into the shade—in the sober and scientific nineteenth century—the mythic deeds of

the warriors of antiquity. Let no idle tongue allege for the future that the highest stages of civilisation impair the manly virtues; and that the aristocracy of Great Britain is effete, or its democracy ignoble. The great memories of Alma and Balaklava give the lie to the assertion, and make every true heart in these islands throb with pride to reflect that the men who gained such victories are its countrymen.

We refer elsewhere to the events of the 5th of November, and of our dearly-purchased triumph of that day, and confine ourselves at present to the consecutive story told by Lord Raglan, Sir Colin Campbell, Lord Lucan, and General Canrobert; and to the simpler details communicated by our own Special Correspondents, and those of our daily contemporaries, at Balaklava. And, first of all, while rendering full justice to the modest terseness of the Allied Generals, let us say a word for the brave men who transmit information to the London journals, who gather it at the cannon's mouth, and amid dangers and difficulties of no common kind. The perils and hardships which they undergo are almost, if not quite, equal to those of the soldier; but have not the glory of the soldier to reward them. Though undertaken at the call of private enterprise, it is but due to these gentlemen to assert that their duties are performed with as much conscientiousness as if they were public trusts. They may sometimes err, in their judgment of individuals at home and in the camp; but, on the whole, their impartiality is admirable, their patriotism unquestionable, and their services, in keep-

ing up the enthusiasm of the public at home, and making the war, in every sense, a popular and a national one, are of a kind that it is impossible to estimate too highly.

It is needless to attempt to epitomise the narrative, which we owe to their pens, and to those of the more important men whose business it is to set history—and not to write it. In every home, and every place of public resort within our realms, as well as in our sympathising Colonies, and among our brothers in blood and language in the United States, they will be read with the most eager and admiring interest. Wherever Russia has a friend, their details will excite both gratitude and hope. We shall merely allude to one or two points, which throw light upon our necessarily incomplete summary of last week, and which have since that time transpired to enlist the applause, or to excite the regret—perhaps the blame—of the nation. In the first place, the Official Despatches confirm the intelligence conveyed to us last week by the Electric Telegraph; that victory was on the side of the Allies, and that they gallantly repulsed an attempt, on the 25th ult., which, if it had been successful, would have saved Sebastopol, and inflicted loss of credit, if not ruin, upon our arms. They also confirm the statement that, on the 26th, a similar attempt was defeated, with little loss to our arms, and with great loss and discomfiture to the foe. When the raw and undisciplined levies of the Turks gave way, under the impetuous charge of the Russians, and the for-



THE LIGHT CAVALRY CHARGE, AT BALACLAVA.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

