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WAR-DEPARTMENT, January 8, 1856.

LORD PANMURE has this day received a Despatch, of which the following is a copy, addressed to his Lordship by General Sir William Codrington, K.C.B.—

Sevastopol, December 25, 1855.

MY LORD,

NOTWITHSTANDING the recent severe weather, the thermometer a few nights ago having fallen nearly to zero, the general state of health of the Army has continued good. The roads are in fair working order; and though the efficiency of the locomotive engines was impaired by the frost, the damage has been made good.

The final operations on the Docks have been somewhat delayed on our side, by the influx of water, and by the freezing of pumps.

The fire from the forts on the northern side of the harbour continues, and it is at times heavy; but the casualties, I am happy to say, are few.

There has been no movement of importance on the part of the enemy in our neighbourhood of late. A detachment of French troops surprised a Cossack post near Teilion, a few days ago, killing several men, and taking the rest prisoners.

The general drill of the Army makes good progress.

I have, &c.,

W. J. CODRINGTON,
General Commanding.

The Lord Panmure, &c., &c., &c.

WAR-DEPARTMENT, January 9, 1856.

LORD PANMURE has this day received two Despatches, of which the following are Copies, addressed to his Lordship by General Sir William Codrington, K. C. B., and Lieutenant-General Vivian:—

Sevastopol, December 27, 1855.

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship has referred in several Despatches to drunkenness in this Army. Reports of all sorts seem to have been circulated, statements read, descriptions made, until it was apparently believed that this Army was composed of drunkards, and immersed in riot and vice.

I took the opportunity of expressing myself strongly to your Lordship that this would prove not to be the truth.

I now state, in confirmation of this opinion, that Returns are in my possession, from every regiment, of all cases of drunkenness tried by Court-Martial, as well as those settled at the regimental orderly rooms for three months.* It was during this time that arrears of field allowance, more than £2 each man, were received as back pay, besides 10,000 men receiving additional working pay; and yet the result is, that including Artillery, Sappers, and Infantry, the number of crimes of drunkenness (and these are many more than the men drunk,) is a little above one man in two days per company, estimated at 100 men.

No doubt there are many facilities in all these open and crowded camps, for drunken men to get in without being seen. They do so, and escape observation. But suppose we double or treble the amount of these numbers—which are taken from official returns,—and I suspect the Army will bear a comparison with many towns, many villages, many populations of Great Britain.

It is easy to give—it is as easy to read, a minute, a ludicrous, or even a filthy description of a drunken man, and it seems seized upon as the type of the whole. The fathers, and mothers, and wives, and sisters in England, are fully persuaded we do nothing but drink, and the good character of the Army is forgotten in a few sketches from nature.

That such need not be the case with those who know anything about the matter, will, I think, be proved by the statement now made to your Lordship.

I have &c.,

W. J. CODRINGTON,
General Commanding.

The Lord Panmure, &c., &c., &c.

Head-Quarters, Kertch,

December 21, 1855.

MY LORD,

I HAVE with much regret to report to you the death of Captain R. S. Sherwood, of the cavalry of this force.

This officer was engaged in a skirmish that took place on the 16th instant between a detach-

* For September, October, and November.

