

**Л. Н. Толстой**

# **Севастополь**

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LEO TOLSTOY

SEVASTOPOL

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## ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

- Introd. p. xi. *For* Rédan *read* Redán.
- p. 2, l. 3 (note p. 163). The crews of the war-vessels had reinforced the garrison on shore. See Introd. p. x.
- p. 17, l. 14. Ваську. Familiar for Василий.
- p. 18, l. 33 (note p. 173). фортоплясы is probably a popular form of фортепяны (p. 17, l. 22) used jocularly by the Prince.
- p. 27, l. 22. *For* когла́ *read* когда́.
- p. 51, l. 16 (note p. 183). “туть вонъ...” Lit. “here what hot work is going on.” вонъ (*fam.*) = вотъ.
- p. 51, l. 25. *For* доводы *read* доводы.
- p. 87, l. 31. „ при смёрти „ при смерти.
- p. 96, l. 15 (note p. 198). *For* “supported arms” *read* “brought his rifle to the charge.”
- p. 117, l. 24. *For* ноги́ *read* нога́.
- p. 119, l. 7 (note p. 204). дурно may be taken in the sense of даромъ, “they are hammering us at no cost to themselves.” The word is used with this meaning in the South of Russia (see Dahl).
- p. 123, l. 1. *For* занавѣсу *read* занавѣсу.
- p. 124, l. 8. „ Дяденко „ Дядѣнко. Such Little Russian names are usually accented on the ending.
- p. 129, l. 8. *For* кѣшать *read* кѣшать.
- p. 138, l. 25 (note p. 210). забился, “ensconced himself.”
- p. 146, l. 22. безпремѣнно. Поп.=непремѣнно.
- p. 161, l. 28 (note p. 217). закладки. Probably the plugs in the bottoms of the vessels.
- p. 201 (note p. 108, l. 19). *Read* “use of по with the dat.”
- p. 223. *Insert* воевѣръ, round, round about.
- p. 227. „ губастый, thick-lipped.
- p. 233. „ звонкій, sonorous, resonant.
- p. 238. „ кустъ, bush, shrub.
- p. 278. чуть. *For* “almost” *read* “scarcely.”



## INTRODUCTION

**L**EO TOLSTOY'S three *Stories from Sevastopol*, as they were originally called, do not pretend to be a history of the siege of that fortress. They were intended rather as sketches, dated December, 1854, May and August, 1855, of the state of mind of the besieged during the eleven months that the siege lasted, and, above all, as the record, sometimes ironical, often profoundly pathetic and always astonishingly penetrating, of the human weakness as well as the stolid heroism of the defenders. English readers will look in vain for any special reference to the doings of Lord Raglan's army; historical events such as the battle of Inkerman are barely mentioned; localities are referred to and scenes are described, but without topographical details, as a man might recall to a friend the local setting of an event in which both had shared. The important thing is the event itself, the feelings evoked by it or giving it its significance. The purely human interest in it and the portraiture and doings of the characters of the tales stand out as the main object of the author and as the enduring source of enjoyment of the reader, quite independently of any historical value which they may possess.

The siege of Sevastopol was the central event of the second Russo-Turkish war, which broke out in October, 1853, by Turkey declaring war on Russia.

Napoleon III's restless diplomacy had succeeded in ranging practically the whole of Europe against Nicolas I of Russia (1825-56) and fanned the insignificant spark of

a local dispute into a European conflagration. He induced the British Government to take up arms in the active defence of Turkey, in spite of Austria's attempt to reach a peaceful solution by the help of a European Conference, and stiffened the Sultan's resistance to any verdict of Europe by the Anglo-French alliance concluded for his support. The first part of the campaign was fought with varying success during the winter and spring, 1853-4, in the Danube principalities and culminated in the siege of Silistria by the Russians. The loss of the command of the Black Sea by the Turks through the destruction of their fleet at Sinope by the Russian squadron under Admiral Nakhimov, was only restored by the entry of the allied squadron into the Euxine and the occupation of the port of Varna; and on 22 June, 1854, the Russians were obliged to raise the siege of Silistria under Austria's threat against their flank and rear and retired from the Dobrudja into Bessarabia.

The result of the "Danube campaign" might have satisfied Turkey's sense of pride, had it not been for Napoleon's ambition, who urged the British government to further action. Since July, the French commander, Marshal St Arnaud, and Lord Raglan, commanding the British forces, had received orders to pursue the campaign by undertaking operations against Sevastopol.

The preparations for the expedition across the Black Sea were accordingly made during the summer at Varna. Much difficulty and delay was caused by a violent epidemic of cholera which began in the French Army and gradually spread to the English force and even the fleets. At last, on 8 September the Allies embarked: 24,000 French infantry, 22,000 British infantry and 1000 cavalry and 5000-6000 Turks. On approaching the shores of the Crimean peninsula, surveys were undertaken to decide upon the place of landing, and after considering the possibility of disembarking to the south of the fortress, they decided upon a place named "The Old Fort," at some distance north of Sevastopol. The landing took place on 17 September. The Russian fleet had retired to Sevastopol and