

B/N - SEACOLE, Mary

NOTES ON MRS. MARY SEACOLE, by J. V. Webb.

London Gazette, 28.10.1856 (p. 3526). Declaration of bankruptcy in the case of "Mrs. Mary Seacole and Thomas Day, of 1, Tavistock St., Covent Garden, and of 17, Ratcliff Terrace, Goswell Rd., late of Springhill and Balaklava, both in the Crimea." They are described as "Provision Merchants, Traders, Dealers and Chapmen"

London Gazette, 9. 1. 1857 (p. 133) Report of Public Sitting for prosecution of the petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy.

London Gazette 6. 2. 1857 (p.459). Seacole & Day granted a 1st. Class certificate (of discharge ?)

Their coffee-house in Tavistock St was pulled down some years ago, as part of a re-building programme, and the whole of Ratcliff Terrace has disappeared under a huge housing scheme. This area was heavily damaged during the war, and the Terrace may have been blitzed.

The "Times", 5. 7. 1856 (p. 10)"Mrs. Seacole, proprietress of the provision store in the Crimea, intends setting up a similar establishment at Aldershatt. Her fame in this particular department of business is so well known among all military men that success in her new speculation is almost assured".

The "Times", 24. 11. 1856 (p. 8). A letter announces Mrs. Seacole's bankruptcy and suggests donations

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The "Times", 29. 11. 1856 (p. 12). A letter from Lord Rokeby thanks the paper for publishing his letter, and quotes a letter from Mrs. Seacole (still at 1 Tavistock St) thanking him for his kindness

The "Times" 25. 11. 1856 (p. 6). A letter from Lord Rokeby suggests that subscriptions be sent to Messrs. Cox's, of Craig Court. (These were bankers and Army Agents)

The "Times" 28. 11. 1856 (p. 8). A letter from "Anon" includes the passage that Mrs Seacole "was under fire several times, and rendered considerable assistance on the memorable 8th of September" (This was the final assault on the Redan, with heavy casualties)

The "Times" 27. 7. 1857 (p. 8). A long description appears of a benefit concert for Mrs Seacole, held at the "Royal Surrey Gardens", a pleasure garden on the south side of the Thames. The performers included Sims Reeves, and Jullien's Orchestra, both famous names of the time. Such was the enthusiasm of the public that although the admission charge was five times the normal, all tickets were sold, and many persons could not gain admission.

The "Times" 28. 7. 1857. (p. 12) A half-column report on the second night's performance (at three times the normal charge) records another sell-out, and mentions that the Commander-in-Chief (the Duke of Cambridge) headed the list of patrons. It also states that nine regimental bands were present, and that the "vocal and instrumental force was little less than one thousand."

The "Times" 30. 7. 1857. A report of the last night's concert states that Mrs Seacole was the guest of honour, and at the end of the concert made a speech of thanks, including the hope that she could go to India to help the soldiers there.