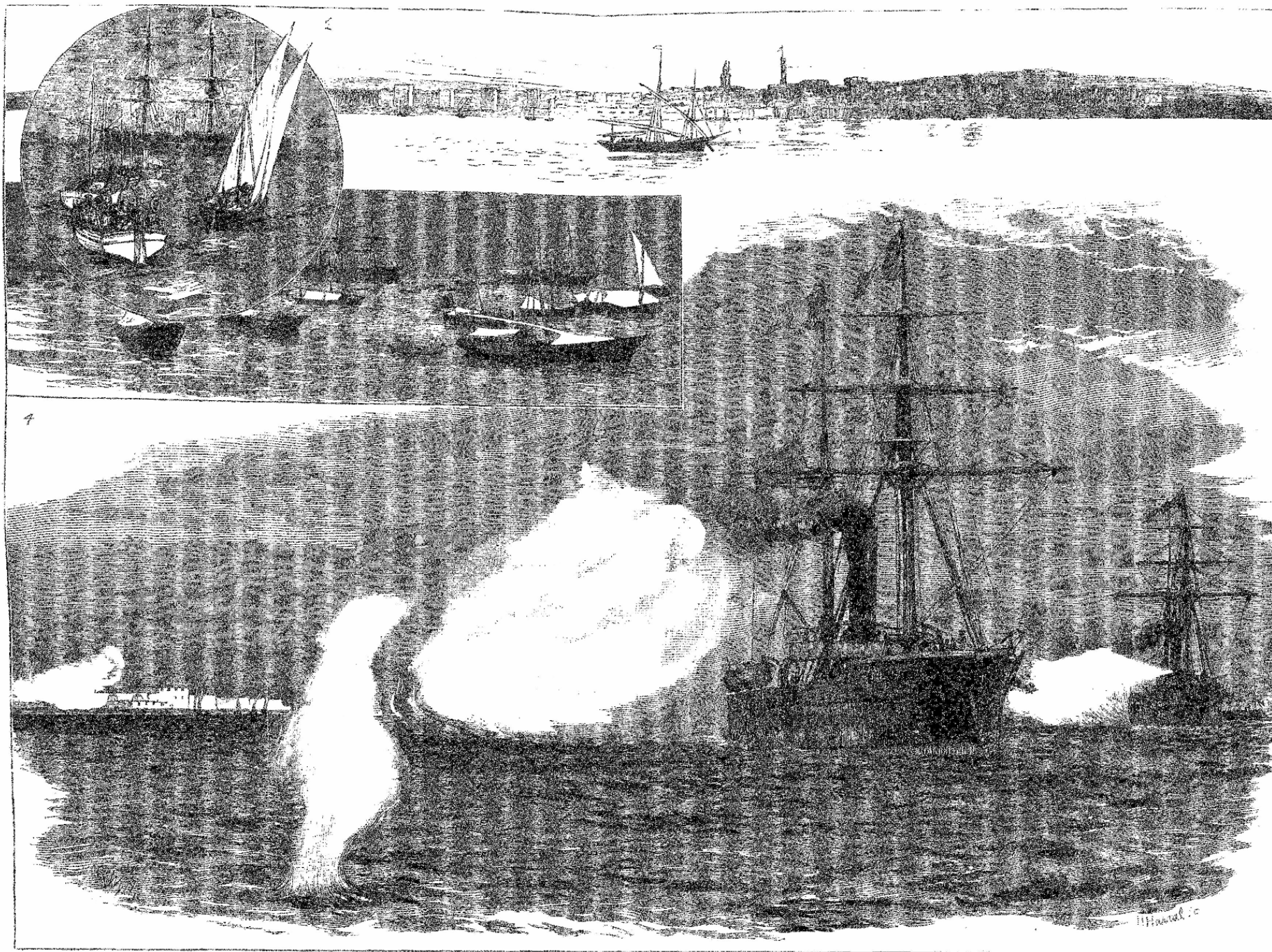


THE BOMBARDMENT OF SFAX

JUST as the French were rejoicing over their easy triumph in Tunis, and the soldiers were marching through the streets of Marseilles after their return journey, the Arabs of Sfax, one of the largest and best fortified towns of the Regency, suddenly plucking up spirit, rose in insurrection, and compelled the French Consul and the other Europeans to fly to the ships in the harbour for refuge. The insurgents bade defiance to both the French authorities and the Bey, and seizing the forts, placed the town in a state of defence. As the French did not possess a sufficient force to attempt a landing, the vessels for some time contented themselves with bombarding the forts, with but little result. In a very short time, however, General Logerot arrived with reinforcements, and early on Saturday morning, after a heavy bombardment of twenty-four hours, a landing was effected, and the town occupied, the French losing eight killed and about fifty wounded. The Arabs offered a most energetic resistance for two hours, but were at length overpowered. Colonel Jamais was at once placed in command of the town, and ordered the immediate disarmament of the natives and the payment of a war indemnity of 60,000*l.* He also requires the inhabitants to furnish all transport animals, and holds them responsible for all damage to telegraph lines. The town had been pillaged before the entry of the French, and many houses were injured by the bombardment. Our engravings are from sketches before the capitulation by our artist, who writes:—"One of them represents the French ironclad, *La Reine Blanche*, leaving Goletta for Sfax, and another, Sfax itself from the anchorage, and the fleet of small craft in which some six hundred refugees, chiefly British subjects (Maltese, &c.) are installed. H.M.S. *Monarch* has been supplying them with food. Sfax is a walled town, with a mixed population, and the insurgents who now hold it are composed of Moors, Arabs, and rebel Tunisians, in all about 15,000 fighting men. All the foreigners have left, and are either afloat or have gone to Malta. The native women and children are encamped a few miles outside the walls, and we hear that they are detained to resist the landing of the French troops. There are now here two French ironclads, one gunboat, and three merchant steamers, containing about 2,000 fighting men. It is expected that the French vessels will move in shore so as to cover the landing of the troops. One sketch represents the French gunboat attacking the fort after the refusal of the French terms on July 5. The vessels engaged the fort for one and a half hours, coming uninjured out of the conflict themselves, while the fort was breached in several places."

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"Shore Battery"

"Chacal"

"Pique"

1. The town of Sfax from the Anchorage. – 2. Tunisian Troops Embarking at Golette for Sfax on Board the "Reine Blanche." – 3. Fleet of Small Vessels Containing about 500 or 600 Refugees Lying Off Sfax. – 4. The French Gunboats Bombarding the Fort, Sfax.

THE FRENCH OCCUPATION OF TUNIS – THE BOMBARDMENT OF SFAX