

esting tournaments. The sport seems to be growing more fashionable, and with a certain set of young society men rather takes the place which billiards formerly occupied. It furnishes excellent training for eye and nerves, and requires, because of its demand for a steady nerve, almost as regular a life as that of an athlete. In that respect it is undoubtedly an excellent sport. When the weight of the pistols, which are held steadily at arm's length, is considered, it will be seen that it furnishes no small amount of physical exercise.

Gossip from Europe.

(From the Volunteer Record.—By a Volunteer Abroad.)

The Empress of Germany is to have a company of body-guards, specially attached to her person. The soldiers selected for the service are 24 in number, and the very tallest men to be found in the Prussian army, under the command of a lieutenant and two sergeants. They are to wear the uniform of the giant's from all nations who once formed the body-guard of Frederick the Great, viz., red coats, white breeches and red spatterdashes, with the three-cornered cocked-hats. This old-fashioned attire was ordered by the Emperor.

On a pair of relay horses, in a cab, or by foot, as you have already mentioned, the Paris Exhibition has assured individual visitors from foreign parts, but the various modes of locomotion in long journeying remained to be completed by a cycling feat. A barber of Montluçon, a town you also had occasion to refer to in the past (2nd March) as possessing the fullest-bearded man in all France, made a bet he would reach Paris in two days on a tricycle. The distance as the crow flies is just 205 miles, and the tonsorial artist, leaving Montluçon at 2 o'clock on Monday morning, won the wager by wheeling at full speed through the Versailles Gate into Paris at 10 o'clock on Tuesday night. Including rests, this would give a sustained average of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour.

Amongst other strange incidents in connection with the mixture of all nations at present in Paris, you are invited to swallow the report current about the youngest son of King Oscar of Sweden. The Prince Eugene, who has studied painting in all styles for the last two years in Paris, is about to marry. The object of his choice is a rich young Haytian Princess, fair in form and face, so far as her anatomical proportions are concerned, but otherwise as black as a crow. The intended act of miscegenation, if true, would imply that the Prince means to stick to his colours and chromatic tastes.

An immense gathering of discourses of sweet sounds, and producers of other resonant notes from brass, wooden and other wind instruments, came off at the Tuileries Gardens and other parts of Paris on Sunday and Monday last. President Carnot in person distributed the prizes, 36 in number, to the winning bands, and the occasion was made the excuse for almost a State ceremonial, as various high civil and military dignitaries, as well as the civic authorities, head and tail, were in attendance on the Father of the Nation, as M. Carnot has been already styled in print. There were 20,600 executants on big drum, little drum, fife, horn or bagpipes, who joined in the contest, which was carried on in different parts of the capital. Musicians from Belgium, Switzerland, and Spain responded to the challenge to play, but neither England, Germany nor Italy would take part in the brazen clamour, in which of course, a French band from Narbonne was allowed to have played the loudest and best—on their own trumpet. On the same days 5,000 gymnasts, of all ages and sizes, belonging to the various athletic and military drill associations throughout the country, went through all their tricks and movements at the Tuileries before the President and the public. Prizes likewise awaited the best contortionists, the Paris Club, "Pro Patria," securing the award of honour. The competition was very interesting, and excited much enthusiasm, especially the performance of about a hundred little orphan-home girls, between the ages of 10 and 14, who went through a kind of musical position drill, under the orders of a tiny orphan in petticoats, momentarily promoted from their own ranks.

The 250 engineers—civil and uncivil (?)—invited from Great Britain to view the material marvels of their profession, produced by their French colleagues at the Exhibition and elsewhere, are having rare times of it. The profuse hospitality and generous attentions lavished upon them by their hosts, both official and in private, have been of such an extended nature that the recipients would be extraordinarily ungrateful should they ever forget it. M. Eiffel conducted the whole party to the top of the tower he has built, and in his own behalf gave them a sumptuous breakfast on the first platform. Other engineers of renown—amongst them Decanville, of the miniature railway system, and Poppr, of the ingenious compressed air apparatus—have, in turn, welcomed the fortunate visitors, and feasted and escorted them everywhere about. The railway companies have given them free trips in the country to outlying factories and machinery works, and they have found opened house wherever they went. It makes one almost

sigh with regret that he was not bred an engineer of some kind or other, or at least in the possession of any sort of credential to describe himself as "sich!" and be received in France in the same manner, as the party designated as *MM. les ingénieurs Anglais*, some of whom, your correspondent can aver, know as much about steam engine intricacies as he himself does, and that is very little!

In the days of old, when France and England were in hostile variance, and the natives of either country called the others hard names, there was one term in particular, used by our soldiers and sailors in speaking of Frenchmen, better and more politely expressed at present by the word "sanguinary." It was certainly an adjective of much force, and it is a question if its application may not yet be sustained, to judge by recent evidences in proof that gory instincts survive strongly still in the French nature.

It was casually noted in a preceding number that bull-fighting had been imported to Paris to add to the attractions of the Exhibition time, but it is fair to add, that the Prefect of Police had previously informed the Spanish speculators that he placed his veto upon the actual slaughter of the bovine victim in the performances. At the first representation, however, given at the Plaza de Toros, established at Grenelle, at which the old ex-Queen Isabella Segunda assisted, as well as an immense crowd, the injunction was disobeyed. Excited by the plaudits of the assemblage, and probably carried away by the *certamines gaudia* of the moment, the "prima spada" killed the animal in the orthodox Madrid fashion, although the poor beast was nearly harmless, with its horns securely tipped by wooden globes, and, it is said, slightly ham-strung as well.

For the next ten minutes after this brutal dispatch, the scene was barely describable, as the whole mass assembled to witness the exploits in the ring, as if frenzied by the sight of blood, rose at once to their feet, yelled and shouted with fury, men and women alike, whilst an unintermittent shower of hats, bonnets, umbrellas, parasols, oranges, bags of fruit, bon-bons and cakes, and even opera-glasses came flying towards the "spada," and his prostrate victim, as tokens to the skill and murderous address of the former. The Prefect of Police has, in consequence of this contempt of his orders, temporarily stopped all bull-baiting of any kind in Paris, but the same form of sport will be doubtless renewed under more stringent regulations.

Spite of all rumours to the contrary spread abroad, that the Russian War Office had resolved upon retaining the old-fashioned single-fire Berdan rifle as the standard infantry arm for the national forces, more prudent decisions now appear to have actuated the generals of the Czar. According to the *Grajdanine* of St. Petersburg, the Russian army will shortly be provided with new small-bore repeating rifles ordered in France, and the *Echo de Paris* now confirms the news with the following instructive comments: The Lebel rifle was adopted for the French line regiments of foot in October, 1886, by the Superior Council of War. In the course of 1887 an artillery captain named Pralon, submitted a model rifle of his invention with a 7, as against the 8-millimetre Lebel bore. (As an interruption, it may be mentioned that 25 French millimetres are equivalent to one inch English.) The locking adjustment to the chamber of the Pralon rifle was the same as employed for the huge Bange guns, and this mechanical disposition, whilst adding to the penetrating force of the steel-coated projectiles, increased the range to a maximum exceeding 6,500 feet. Like the Lebel, the Pralon arm is charged with the slow-burning smokeless powder discovered by the military engineer, Captain Vieille. General Ferron, at that time Minister of War, esteemed the invention of great value, and after witnessing some experiments at Bourges, when ammunition waggons on the German model were blown up at 6,000 feet distant away, by the Pralon bullets, decorated the inventor. In many respects the Lebel rifle, then in course of hurried manufacture, was deemed much inferior to the new arm, but the change of armament was not found possible upon financial grounds, and the inventor, although repaid for his trouble and outlay, had to rest content with compliments and the Cross of the Legion of Honour. The *Echo de Paris* finally asserts that Russia has got hold of this valuable patent, which was relinquished by the French Government solely because of the pre-existence of the less useful Lebel rifle. —

Special Announcement.

We have made arrangements with Dr. B. J. Kendall Co., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases," which will enable all our subscribers to obtain a copy of that valuable work *free* by sending their address (enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same) to DR. B. J. KENDALL CO., ENOSBURGH FALLS, N.Y. This book is now recognized as standard authority upon all diseases of the horse, as its phenomenal sale attests, over four million copies having been sold in the past ten years, a sale never before reached by any publication in the same period of time. We feel confident that our patrons will appreciate the work, and be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of obtaining a valuable book. It is necessary that you mention this paper in sending for the "Treatise." This offer will remain open for only a short time.