

The increase of the Russian Black Sea fleet is steadily, but gradually, going on. During last year three ironclads and some gunboats have been added to these waters, and now the new Minister of Marine has ordered three more ironclads to be commenced without delay, and they are to be ready in four years. Each ironclad is to be of about 11,000 tons burden, with engines of 12,000 horse power, and carrying six heavy guns. The speed of these new ironclads is to be greatly superior to any ironclad now in South Russia.

An interesting trial with patrol dogs took place in Berlin the other day, which was attended by a number of officers who had come to watch the safety and reliability of the conveyance of messages by dogs. The trials were made with six dogs, but besides these there were also two cyclists engaged, for the purpose of ascertaining whether messages could be conveyed quicker by dogs or by cyclists. The latter were started first and two minutes after the dogs were sent on their way, who, however, were the first to reach their destination.

The religious denominations among the non-commissioned officers and men of the British Army are divided as follows:—Church of England, 68,266; Roman Catholics, 16,221; other denominations, 14,089. Of men six feet and upwards the Household Cavalry have 56 per cent., the Footguards 9 per cent., Cavalry 2 per cent., Artillery 2 per cent., and infantry 0.9 per cent. In chest measurement, of men 40 inches and over, the Household Cavalry have 14 per cent., the Artillery 6 per cent., the Cavalry 4 per cent., and the Infantry $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

A London correspondent of the New York *Times* writes: "The treatment of the volunteer force by the War Office and the Army management has been for years the most remarkable of all the grotesque anomalies in the English way of doing things, and a very deep feeling on the subject has spread from among the volunteers themselves to the general public. Lord Mayor Whitehead has started, by stirring articles in the *Contemporary Review*, a national subscription for the equipment of volunteers, and the money is flowing in by thousands already."

Acting upon the recommendation of the Commanding General of the army, the U. S. Ordnance Department has made arrangements for the purchase of 1000 of Col. Merriam's equipments, or knapsacks for foot troops, which will be distributed among the troops of the Department of the Platte for experiment. They will be delivered in season for service during the projected summer manoeuvres of the troops of that department. Eventually, if the experiment proves as successful as predicted, the Merriam knapsack will be the standard for field service for the entire army.

The *Home Journal* says: "Admiral Porter lately held a state dinner in Washington, and Ah Sin, a Chinese servant was assigned to duty in attendance at the door. In his country a visitor of rank is indicated by the size of the card, and a huge yellow one means the presence of a prince. The small bits of pasteboard received but scant courtesy from Ah Sin, but when the gas collector presented his bill the celestial's demeanor underwent a change. The long yellow slip captured Ah Sin, and with profound salaams he bowed the astonished gasman into the presence of the amazed family and irate head of the Navy."

"When I was in Berlin last summer," writes the London correspondent of the N. Y. *Times*, "A field officer gave me a small bottle of powder which was being tried in the German army during long marches or prolonged field exercises. I put it by until the weather became hot ten days ago, and my feet waxing tender after a twelve mile walk. I hunted out the bottle and shook part of the contents, about two teaspoonfuls, over my socks. I walked eight miles that day and found all the soreness had disappeared. Nor has it returned. To-day it is stated that the powder has been officially adopted in Germany and that it consists of 87 parts of pulverized soapstone, 10 parts of starch and 3 parts of salicylic acid. Its effect is to keep the feet dry, to check chafing, while any sore spots rapidly heal. This may be of interest to thousands besides soldiers." This prescription we published some time ago.

The new Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is by profession a soldier, having commenced life as an officer in the Royal Horse Guards, afterwards retiring and taking over the 1st Yorkshire Artillery. He was born in 1844 and succeeded to the earldom on the death of his uncle, the late Grand Master of the Masons of England. He married Lady Lilian Lumley, daughter of the Earl of Scarborough. Lord Zetland's family name is Dundas, and Laurence of that name, commissary-general of the army, was created a baronet in 1762, his son being raised to the peerage in 1794 under the title of Baron Dundase, of Aske. The second baron Laurence, was Vice-Admiral of the Isles of Orkney and Shetland, and was raised to the degree of earl, with the present title, in 1888. The present peer has been a frequent and able debater in the House of Lords, and is a man of independant and liberal views.

The idea that the British troops in the war of independence did not take aim, but fired from the position of "charge bayonets," is simply preposterous. At the battle of Fontenoy, in 1745, Voltaire tells that two English battalions, the Guards and Royal Scotch, met face to face a battalion of French Guards and a swiss battalion at a distance of fifty paces. The story is well known. The English colonel, Lord Charles Hay, cried out "Messieurs, tirez." They answered "We are the French Guard and never fire first." The order to fire was given by the English, and from a single discharge 399 men of the French Guard fell, of whom nineteen were officers. Of the Swiss Guard nearly an equal number fell. Assuredly these English troops took aim and fired from the shoulder. The storey of their firing from the position of "charge bayonets" may have arisen from some nervous soldier having been seen to discharge his piece in raising it to the shoulder. It was not uncommon for an engraver who did not know his business well, to invert the picture, and so to represent troops as firing from their left shoulder.

"The majority of people imagine," says the English *National Review*, "that every band accompanies its regiment wherever it goes for the purpose of keeping up the good spirits of the soldiers, of supplying tolerable harmony for the better digesting of the officers' dinners, and in the case of actual conflict to inspire the men with enthusiasm and incite them to acts of heroism compared with which Tyrtæus—with its flutes and verses inflaming the ardor of the Spartans, so that they cut in pieces the whole army of the hitherto unconquerable Messinians—is quite out-rivalled. Nothing of the sort. Our fine regimental bands are not taken to the battlefield, and to suppose that Tommy Atkins expires to the strains of "Men of Harlech" or "Bonnie Dundee" is to perpetuate a fallacy which many an old widow with a scapegrace son could dispel. It is the trumpeters and buglers of the cavalry, and the buglers, drummers and fifers of the infantry only who go on active service in a musical capacity, and then the bandsmen and band sergeant are deputed to the ranks, their instruments being returned into stores for safe custody until the piping times of peace."

The recent naval disaster at Samoa has been a considerable blow to the ambition of the young Emperor to make Germany a leading naval power, as he has lately thrown all the enthusiasm and energy of his nature into his nautical craze. In Berlin, however, and in Germany generally, there seems to be a strong and growing doubt of the wisdom of trying to make Germany a first-class naval power. The feeling is crystallizing that she cannot hope to be that and a leading military power at the same time, and that for naval purposes the wiser policy would be an alliance with Great Britain, if it is possible. Moreover, the colonial craze is beginning to fizzle out, for even the officials are beginning to find out that German emigrants will not remain in German colonies longer than to take them to Australia or America. Military service and bureaucratic Government are not favourable to Colonial expansion. The rough and ready methods, which seem to find favour with the pioneers of German civilization in remote and savage lands, too often leads to results which are dangerous not only to themselves but to their neighbors. The Germans make excellent colonists, but not under the German flag.—*San Francisco News Letter*.

The closest parallel between European and American battles occur in the statistics of Waterloo and Gettysburg. At Waterloo the French numbered 80,000 men and 152 guns; the Allies numbered 72,000 and 186 guns. At Gettysburg, the union army numbered 82,000 men and 300 guns; the confederates 70,000 and 250 guns. At Waterloo, Wellington's army lost 23,185; at Gettysburg, Meade's army lost 23,003. The loss of the French at Waterloo has never been officially announced but it has been estimated at 26,300; the confederate loss at Gettysburg as officially reported by the confederate surgeon general, was 20,448, to which must be added 7,077 wounded and unwounded prisoners whose names were omitted from his lists, but appear on the records at Washington. In short, the battles of Waterloo and Gettysburg were fought with from 70,000 to 82,000 men on each side, and the combatants lost about 23,000 each. In the battle of Gravelotte (Franco-Prussian war) the Germans lost a total of 20,577 out of 146,000 troops engaged. This was the heaviest loss the Germans sustained in any battle. At Gettysburg Meade lost more men with half the number engaged. The aggregate per centages of loss compare as follows: In the Franco-Prussian war that of the Germans was 3.1; in the Crimean the Allies lost 3.2; in the war of 1886 the Austrian loss was 2.6 per cent. In the American civil war the union loss was 4.7 per cent, and that of the confederates 9 per cent. The total loss of the union armies was 110,070 killed or mortally wounded, and 475,176 wounded; total, 385,245, exclusive of the missing in action, whose number has not yet been officially stated. Of the men killed, 67,058 died on the field and 43,102 of their wounds. But, after all, the havoc caused by disease was much greater than that of confederate bullets. The deaths by disease numbered 199,720, and these do not include deaths in confederate prisons, which reached 24,866.