

**GENERAL ORDERS.**—The third issue of the new series of General Orders has been issued. No. 21 authorizes the substitution of a blue patrol jacket for infantry officers, instead of the double-breasted blue frock now worn. No. 22 has reference to the clothing of the band of the Royal Engineers. No. 23 to the regulations for the recruiting service. No. 24 to musketry, No. 25 to the hours of attendance at gymnasia. No. 26 to the casting of troop horses, which in the ensuing year must not exceed 10 per cent. No. 27 to stores on board ship; and No. 28 to the weekly fuel returns.

**TURRETS AND BROADSIDE COMBINED.**—Staff Captain William Forbes, R. N., has suggested a plan for a combination of the two rival species of armament, which seems to us to possess much merit, although our confidence in the turret ship of Capt. Coles still remains unshaken. The plan of Capt. Forbes consists of two batteries, in form approaching a broad-ended ellipse, containing eight guns or less, which, placed as he would place them, have a very wide command. A more particular account of this plan will be found in the 'Engineer' of March 29. Captain Forbes' design has gained the approval of the Controller's Office, which has adopted it, in its own peculiarly pleasant, free, and easy manner.

**MONITORS FOR THE DEFENCE OF BOMBAY HARBOR.**—Orders have been given for the construction of two monitors, to be stationed in Bombay harbor. These vessels will not draw more than 15 feet of water, and will have a speed of 11 knots an hour, which, it is calculated, will be enough to make them a match for the fastest man-of-war that may come a long voyage round the Cape or China to attack us. They will be built to carry three days' coal, so that they may be ready at any time to go on an expedition against any cruisers that come near the coast without venturing to attempt the entrance of the harbor. The armament of the monitors will consist of 600-pounder Armstrong guns, and their armor will be impenetrable to the fire of 300-pounders.—[Homeward Mail.

**SIR J. PAKINGTON'S CLAUSE.**—The following is a copy of the new clause which Sir John Pakington proposed to insert in the Mutiny Bill, instead of clause 22: "Every soldier shall upon enlistment be placed in the first class of the army, and no soldier in such class, in time of peace, be sentenced to the corporal punishment of flogging; every soldier in the first class shall, for the commission of certain offences, to be specified from time to time in the articles of war, be degraded to the second class of the army, and every soldier in the second class shall be liable to be sentenced by court-martial to corporal punishment not exceeding fifty lashes for the following offences, viz., mutiny, aggravated insubordination, or disgraceful conduct of an indecent kind; every soldier, when serving with a military force in the field or on board ship, shall be liable to a like punishment by court-martial for any of the offences before enumerated, or for desertion, drunkenness on duty or on the line of march, misbehaviour, or neglect of duty." The above has already undergone considerable modification, and will, in all probability, be further changed.

**NEUMEYER'S INEXPLOSIVE GUNPOWDER.**—The gunpowder brought forward under this name does, beyond all doubt, possess peculiar qualities, the value of which, unless some drawback yet unforeseen be discovered, is incalculable. The patentee states in his prospectus "that this powder is composed of the same materials as ordinary gunpowder, viz: saltpetre, carbon, and sulphur, without the addition of any other ingredient, and that when in contact with the air, or in a loose state, it burns, but will not explode; but when hermetically confined in a gun, cannon, mortar, or mine, it explodes with the same effect as ordinary gunpowder, producing a less amount of smoke, which is light, disperses easily, and is quite inoffensive. Moreover, that it does not attract more moisture from the atmosphere than ordinary gunpowder, and does not require any coating or varnish of graphite in its manufacture. That after having been wet and dried it loses none of its explosive qualities, and that the recoil of a firearm charged with it is less than that of the same arm charged with ordinary powder. And lastly, that it is cheaper than ordinary gunpowder, and presents greater safety in handling, removing, or conveyance." The experiments which have been made with this powder confirm the pretensions of the inventor, and as the very large majority of these experiments have been made by persons who proposed to avail themselves of it if the result proved satisfactory, there can be little doubt that it is worthy of the consideration of the Government.

**FLOGGING IN THE ARMY.**—Sir J. Pakington moved the omission of Clause 22, which gives power to inflict the punishment of flogging, and to substitute for it a clause enacting that every soldier on enlistment shall be placed in the first class, and be degraded to the second class on the commission of certain offences; that corporal punishment shall not be inflicted on soldiers of the first class, and on the second class only to not exceeding fifty lashes for mutiny, aggravated insubordination, or disgraceful conduct of an indecent kind, but rendering every soldier serving in the field or on board ship liable to this punishment. He said this was a concession to the opinion of many members of the House, as it confined the punishment of flogging to three offences. Mr. Otway moved an amendment, which would have the effect of prohibiting the infliction of flogging during the time of peace, which, he observed, would be carrying out the decision of the House when he brought the subject forward a short time ago. Until they raised the profession of arms in the eyes of the public, so that it would not be considered a disgrace to belong to the army, recruiting would never be placed on a satisfactory footing. Col. North opposed the amendment. Mr. Headlam said the Mutiny Act gave great powers, but his experience was that they were used with great discretion. Soldiers of the first class, who constituted nine-tenths of the Army, could not be flogged even for mutiny, while those of the second class could be flogged for very light offences. He thought that the punishment should be retained only for mutiny and insubordination with violence, and that it should be applied to all who were guilty of those offences. Mr. Horsman contended that corporal punishment was against the spirit of the age, and that it could not be

maintained. Major Jervis was strongly opposed to flogging, and said it was only kept up to keep the blackguards in the army, and save the expense of getting respectable recruits in their stead. Mr. Mowbray replied to the criticisms of Mr. Horsman. The Marquis of Hartington remarked that as practically it was proposed to retain the punishment for only one-tenth of the army, the soldiers of the second class bearing that proportion to the whole, it seemed hardly worth while to retain the punishment. At the same time, if they were to take a division on the clause, he should vote for it. Gen. Peel expressed his concurrence in the views of Mr. Headlam, that for mutiny and insubordination with violence soldiers of both the first and second class should be subject to this punishment. On a division the clause was carried by 225 against 131. Mr. Otway said he would not trouble the House to divide on his amendment, but if he were in the House next year he would bring forward the question again. Some discussion then took place as to the wording of the clause, and Sir G. Grey moved to omit the words which exempt soldiers of the first class from corporal punishment, and rendering them liable to it for mutiny and insubordination, but his amendment was negatived; and after some further discussion the chairman was ordered to report progress.

**PRESENT STRENGTH OF THE ARMY.**—A writer in 'Blackwood's Magazine' says: "Our army of defence consists at this moment of 150,000 volunteers, partly infantry, partly artillery; of 14,000 or 15,000 yeomanry cavalry, of 80,000 militia, which the act of 1851 enables us to increase, if necessary, to 120,000; and of 12,000 to 14,000 enrolled pensioners. This looks well on paper. It seems to show that we are in a condition, should the need arise, to place 300,000 men under arms—of which, after providing garrisons for our fortresses and arsenals and dockyards, probably 200,000 or thereabouts would be available for the field. But can we trust to appearances? Scarcely. Take first the volunteers, and consider the nature of the engagement into which they have entered, the conditions and occupations in life of a vast majority of the men, and the relations in which they stand toward their officers, and their officers toward them. Volunteers may be said to enlist for a fortnight and no more. Every one of them, by giving a fortnight's notice, is free to lay down his arms; and if he lay them down without giving the notice required by law, it is hard to say how he can be compelled to take them up again." He then proceeds to argue that parliament, in order to make them effective, must pass a bill putting the volunteers, equally with the militia, under the military act, and withdraw from individuals the privilege of resignation at a fortnight's notice. He is perfectly satisfied with the cavalry branch of the militia, and remarks: "They are to us far more than the Cossacks can ever become to Russia, for they consist of men, intelligent, as well as hardy and brave; and have, perhaps, the very best seats on the very best description of horses that were ever liable to be used for war purposes. All that we venture to suggest concerning these corps is, that as much as possible they be kept at full strength, and that more pains be taken to drill them to the requirements of irregular rather than of regular warfare."