

PALL MALL. PROTESTANTISM.

The *Broad Arrow* under the above heading tells the following good story:—

"Once upon a time, not very long ago, there lived a private soldier who belonged to the Rifle Brigade. It was his misfortune to have been born an Irishman and a Papist, and nobody having taken the trouble to teach him better, he lived and died (last year) in lamentable heresy. Of course this private was necessarily a very wicked man. Indeed, so sensible was he himself of the fact, that in the fulness of his belief in the doctrines of the Church to which he belonged, he made a will, leaving to the Roman Catholic chaplain of the station at which his battalion happened to be stationed, the whole of his estate, in order that as much money as possible might be laid out in masses for the repose of his soul. It seemed that the soldier had neither relations nor friends, and he was therefore all the more anxious thus to dispose of his property, lest his country should step in and claim his estate for its own, which, in the event of his dying intestate, would have been the "usual course." The will was carefully drawn up and properly executed; so it happened that when the soldier died his commanding officer had no course before him but to sell the man's effects, make up his accounts, and hand the balance over to the Roman Catholic chaplain as desired. Here the matter for a while rested, and as the sum thus paid was something over £25, it is only fair to hope that the soldier's soul may have profited by the expenditure. In course of time, however, the War Office in its audit of the regimental accounts fell upon the entry of the bequest in the pay list. The authorities were horrified at a large sum of money being disposed of in such a manner, and they called their solicitor to their aid. The learned functionary at once ruled that the soldier's bequest was invalid. He showed how the act of leaving money to be spent in masses for the dead was the self-same act as leaving money to be spent in "superstitious usages." The authorities upon this took the matter up, and desired the commanding officer who had authorized the payment of the £25 to the priest to call upon his Reverence to refund the sum thus erroneously issued to him. With this demand, the masses having been said and done with, the priest refused to comply, and so the commanding officer reported to the War Office. Nothing daunted, however, the authorities determined to persevere in their attempt to recover their lost treasure: They therefore once more addressed the commanding officer, and politely explained to him the law of the land regarding the case at issue, requested that he himself without delay would make good the £25 which his ignorance of the meaning of the term "superstitious usages" had been the means of losing to the State. On this the commanding officer abused the authorities, spread the story of his grievance far and wide amongst his friends, and paid up."

The disarmament movement in Prussia and Saxony is said to give great satisfaction to the British government. Following the motion made in the parliament of Prussia, by Herr Voichow, the Prussian progressist, thirteen Saxon deputies have laid down a plan which is described as similar to Voichow's, but more precise in its form. They request the government to use its influence with the Northern Confederation to obtain a reduction of military expenses, and to work with a view to general disarmament.

TREATMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.

Under this heading, a correspondent of the *Toronto Telegraph* thus speaks of the dissatisfaction said to exist among the Volunteers in various sections of the Province at the present time.

"The dissatisfaction, as you say, is widespread and intense, and more particularly is this the case among the best officers. I can call to mind now some six or eight officers commanding corps, whose resignations are either in, or about to be sent in, exclusive of the numbers who have resigned already. One great cause for this, and the most serious, is the constant appointment of ex-regulars, as you state, into all the best posts. Out of the nine highest appointments, eight were ex-regulars, and the ninth was neither a volunteer, nor a regular, but a civilian. Again, the staff is excessive. The deputy adjutant generals are wanted just about as much as a fifth wheel is wanted to a waggon. But the old brigade majors were many of them Volunteer officers, and to supersede them, deputy adjutant generals were gazetted, and now the staff, being too great, it is said, the volunteers must suffer as usual, and the brigade majors, although first appointed, will be the first struck off, while the others will be retained. When we consider that, with the old brigade majors, there was not one-tenth of the dissatisfaction that there is now with deputy adjutant-generals, district quartermasters, inspectors of drill sheds, superintendents of military schools, medical directors, &c., &c., I think the sooner the country saves the expense of the superfluities, the better. Your remarks on the manning of the gunboat with field artillery and infantry, are very deserved. The treatment of Major McMaster and his splendid corps by the department, lost the country their services. Captain McCallum and his naval company resigned *en masse* from much the the same cause, and the government have to render the Dominion ridiculous in the eyes of every one, by manning a gunboat with horse artillery; and so it goes on—even the Fenians must have contempt for us and our misr anagement."

THE COLONIAL QUESTION.—The *Melbourne Age* laments the awkward predicament in which New Zealand is placed—namely, that as a mere colony, she cannot raise a war loan as if she were an independent country, and her request that the parent State should endorse a bill for her, has been harshly refused. "It is plain from all this, that the connection between the colonies and the empire at large, calls for thorough revision at an early date." The *Morning Star* acknowledges that the proposition of an Imperial Confederation, composed of Great Britain and the Colonies, appears to it worthy of earnest and candid consideration.

"A Federal Congress, composed of the representatives of each and all the constitutional elements of the Union, would assume the control and management of its intercourse and relations with foreign Powers, while the protection and defence of the whole Confederation and its parts would be secured by federal armaments, raised and supported by federal levies and taxes. Of course, this scheme is not intended to embrace dependencies like Gibraltar and Aden, or possessions like India and Ceylon. The Federal Union would include only the mother country and her colonies properly so called, the Canadian Dominion, Australia, New Zealand and the Cape.

"In relation to one another they would be regarded as so many separate States, while, in relation to the remainder of the world, they would together constitute a single undivided empire. Their domestic business would rest wholly in their own hands, but they would jointly superintend that wider range of interests which comes under the heads of imperial and international affairs."

The terrible famine which has been raging in Algeria for the last two years has obliged the French Government to look elsewhere than in that unfortunate colony for its supplies of horses for the light cavalry. The stocks of small wiry "Arabs" which were bred in Algeria, and which did such excellent service in the Crimea, in Italy, and in Mexico, has been pretty nearly exterminated, so that for the next seven or eight years, at least, it will be impossible to obtain these valuable chargers in sufficient numbers for the service. After repeated trials it has been determined to use in their stead those solid little Hungarian horses ridden by the Ullans; and the brigade of light cavalry (5th Hussars and 12th Chasseurs), which is to hold garrison in Paris during the coming year, is entirely composed of them. The first importation of these Hungarian horses was made in 1867. They vary in price between £28 and £32. They are strong, active, and very enduring, but they caused a great deal of trouble at first when they were put on the same rations as the "Arabs." It was found that they grew thin and unfit for work; and when the allowance of oats was lessened, in the hope of setting them right again, they burst out all over into purtules and became vicious. During eighteen months all sorts of experiments were tried in the way of diet; but it was not until the present year that the veterinarians met with any success. The horses are now allowed three kilogrammes and a half of oats a day and half the ordinary rations of hay and chaff. They are taken out as often as possible into the open air and kept in stables thoroughly ventilated, heat being unhealthy for them. On this treatment they thrive very well; but it is doubtful whether they will ever acclimatize themselves so perfectly to the French climate as Arab horses, and the general opinion of French cavalry officers concerning them is that they will never be of very great use.

A "Canadian Volunteer," writing to the *Leader* from Haldimand county, calls the attention of the authorities to a proposition for assisting Volunteers whose term of service has expired to emigrate to Red River. He says:—

"Would it not be advisable for our government to offer special inducements to our Volunteers who have completed their term, and can show a certificate from their commanding officer, who wish to settle in that country? We would then have a class of men on whom the country could rely in case of need, both in a civil and military point of view. I venture to assert that if inducements worthy of notice were offered, thousands of the old Volunteers of Canada would willingly avail themselves of the opportunity in the spring. I could name at least one hundred in this section of the country alone who will most likely leave for other parts unless something is done."

The British, 64 gun frigate, *Augusta*, sunk in the Delaware below Fort Mifflin, in 1777, has just been raised in a good state of preservation.