

tions. The Duke of Mecklenburg, at the head of his staff and of a battalion of infantry, proceeded immediately to the citadel, where the troops forming the garrison were drawn up in the court-yard. Gen. Ternin then advanced and presented the Duke with the keys of the fortress. The officers of the garrison and the Gardes Mobiles were allowed to go free after giving their parole, but the troops of the line were marched out of the town under escort, *en route* for Spandau and Ehrenbreitstein. The Mobiles then left the citadel, but as the last of them defiled through the gateway a tremendous explosion took place. The air was literally darkened with *débris*, and a thick shower of shells, cartridge, stones and masonry fell all around. The powder-magazine, situated close to the court-yard of the citadel, had, whether by accident or design, exploded, creating fearful destruction. At the noise of the explosion the troops occupying the town poured into the citadel, where a strange and sad sight awaited them. On every side, amidst the ruins of the magazine, lay the mangled bodies of their comrades and of French Mobiles. Tattered uniforms, shattered guns, shells, mangled remains lay strewn over the court-yard, that now presented a scene of the direst destruction. It was found on examination that one hundred Mobiles and fifty Jagers were killed by the explosion, while four hundred more, including the Duke of Mecklenburg and the commandant of the garrison, were more or less severely wounded.

Nor were the destructive effects of the explosion confined to the citadel alone. Throughout the whole of the town more or less injury was done to life and property. In the immediate neighbourhood of the citadel, several houses were completely destroyed, while very many lost their roofs or were otherwise injured. No less than one hundred of the citizens were killed or wounded by the falling ruins.

Notwithstanding the strict enquiry instituted by the Prussian authorities into the cause of the catastrophe, it still remains doubtful whether it was the result of a premeditated plot, or of pure accident. Circumstances rather point to the former as the most probable. Setting aside the suspicious coincidence that the explosion occurred at the exact moment when the last of the French troops were leaving the citadel, there remains another fact that makes the affair appear to have been the result of a pre-conceived arrangement. Shortly before the capitulation the keys of the magazine had been entrusted to an artilleryman, named Henriot, a man who had hitherto distinguished himself by his uniform good conduct and steadiness, and who had received the cross of the Legion of Honour for service in the Crimea. Lately, however, since the outbreak of the war, Henriot's character had considerably changed. His mild disposition seemed to have been entirely lost. He became headstrong and violent, and attracted notice by his intense Germanophobia—venting his dislike in threats which, when now recalled, point to him as the suspected author of the catastrophe. The suspicion is heightened by the fact that after the explosion he was nowhere to be found. It is in any case to be regretted, whether the explosion of the powder-magazine at Laon were the effect of accident or of design, that the French press should have allowed itself to treat the matter as it has, styling as an act of devoted bravery and self-sacrificing patriotism, what could only be looked upon as a piece of unparalleled treachery, contrary to all the rules of civilised warfare and repugnant to the feelings of humanity.

BREAKING UP SHELLS AT ST. HELEN'S.

In this sketch, shewing the manner in which the otherwise destructive shell is rendered fit only for old iron, the reader will perceive the artillery at work on St. Helen's Island destroying some three hundred thousand shells! The *modus operandi* is simple. A steel wedge is inserted in the fuse hole of the shell and struck smartly with a sledge hammer, when, after three or four blows, the shell opens and splits into several pieces. These are gathered up and disposed of as old metal. It may be presumed they were not worth carrying across the Atlantic, or the British authorities would certainly have taken them home instead of ordering their being knocked into "smithereens" in Canada.

BREAKING TRUNNIONS OFF OLD GUNS AT ST. HELEN'S

In addition to the destruction of shells there were some four or five hundred old guns rendered unserviceable by smashing off the trunnions with a 68-pounder shot. This is effected by a single blow. The guns on the Island were mostly 24-pounders, a calibre which modern progress in the art of destruction has rendered almost obsolete. When new, they cost £100 sterling; but they have been sold at an average of about \$50 each to an enterprising American, who received them as fast as they were rendered unserviceable, and doubtless took the first opportunity of turning them into stove metal, or some other equally practical purpose. It may be noted that a large quantity of the military stores, including ordnance, were entirely antiquated, and would have been utterly unfit for service at the present day. What was really good was either transferred to England, lodged in Quebec for Imperial account, or handed over to Canada. The useless trash only has reverted to other purposes for which it may still be made serviceable.

THE FASHION PLATE.

EVENING CAPS.

No. 1.—Black tulle cap with lace trimming. On the front of the foundation, which should be of black tulle, is a strip of lace two inches and a half wide, arranged in folds, with a sprig of leaves and berries, and black velvet bows. The back is formed of a three-cornered piece of tulle, edged with lace. Two corners, forming long ends, fall one on either side of the head, while the third falls, *en fanchon*, over the back of the head.

No. 2.—Cap of black figured tulle. The foundation should be of black net or muslin, covered with a long and narrow *écharpe* of black figured tulle, which falls on either side of the head, fastening on the left side as shown in the cut. Behind a *fanchon* of figured tulle, and in front an arrangement of black ribbon in folds, and a red rose with buds and flowers.

MORNING CAPS.

No. 3.—Net morning cap with lace trimming. The foundation is of double net. From this depends a *fanchon* of net, with lace insertion and edging, falling in folds over the back of the head. Above this, and reaching half-way down the

back of the head, is another of the same pattern, which is attached to the *écharpe* in front.

No. 4.—Cap of black figured tulle with velvet ribbon. In front is a coronet-shaped arrangement of black lace and narrow velvet bows; at the back a rounded *fanchon* of black figured tulle, trimmed with a strip of narrow black velvet and lace edging; and on the top of the head a rosette of narrow velvet ribbon. The lappets correspond exactly with the *fanchon*.

PANIERES.

No. 5.—Panier of black Grosgrain with velvet trimmings, for out-door wear.

No. 6.—Panier of brown grenadine, with brown velvet and brown fringe trimming.

WINTER BONNET.

No. 7.—Velvet winter bonnet with flowers and lace trimming. The bonnet shape should be covered with black velvet, with a black velvet *ruche* and lace trimming around the front edge, as shown in the engraving. Within the shape, above the head, is a black velvet puffing. The bonnet is confined at the throat by a black rep bow, and lappets of the same falling over the chignon. A sprig of red roses, trailing over the right side of the head, completes the garniture.

PELERINE.

No. 8.—Bachelik pelerine of black cashmere.

FICHU.

No. 9.—Fichu of figured tulle, with capote. This fichu is intended for evening wear, being especially suited for the theatre, the opera, or concerts. The capote, arranged upon the head as shown in the illustration, has an exceedingly graceful effect. The material is black figured tulle, with lace trimmings and black ribbons.

KID GLOVES.

A correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* says: I hope that some of your readers availed themselves of an intimation contained in a recent letter, that, owing to the disturbance to French industry, the price of kid gloves would probably advance. On the 8th ladies' gloves with one button were advanced one dollar per dozen, and on the 19th, another dollar; and so in proportion for other styles. The largest manufacturer for this country is Alexandre, who supplies one house in New York with between sixty and seventy thousand dozen pairs of kid gloves per annum. As his principal factory for cutting is in Paris, his shipments have stopped, and his house states that the resumption will depend on the contingencies of the war.

Mr. Muller, who stamps his given name of Alexandre upon the gloves, when first known to Mr. Stewart was in humble circumstances, needing capital to enlarge his industry; but his merit being discovered, the want was supplied, and an enormous establishment is the result. Mr. Muller owns an hotel in Paris for a winter residence, and possesses La Grange, with its sixty bedrooms and fifteen hundred acres of land, distinguished in former years as the home of Lafayette. His hospitality corresponds with these important dwellings. He manufactures his own champagne, claret, and brandy, each of a fine quality.

On a visit to me some years ago he gave me the history of this manufacture. The opinion was then quite common that rat skins were used, which he disposed of very summarily. Besides other objections, said he, it is enough to mention that they would be much too short for the hand. In order to purchase kid skins he sends out his agents as early as February to Italy, and they follow the mountain ranges, keeping pace with the opening of spring, until they reach to the plains of the Baltic. Fields which will carry sheep are not used for the goat in flocks. The goat is driven up to nearly the snow line of mountains to feed on the tender branches of shrubs and trees, and they are tended and milked by a class which is not seen in this country.

In walking up the Alps I have found these interesting flocks. The horns of the animal supply handles for knives, its hair is used for cloth, its milk for cheese, its flesh for food—that of the young kid being excellent—and the skin is displayed on fair hands in all civilized countries. It will be years before this entire industry will be introduced into the United States. I should not be surprised if Prussia, availing herself of the opportunity which the disturbed industry of France offers, should become distinguished in this manufacture.

The compensation for sewing is too small to enlist the regular and permanent industry of women, and it is resorted to somewhat as knitting by hand is among us, at intervals in ordinary labor. The movement of the needle is guided by the notches of a steel cramp held by the sewer, who presently arrives at the experience which permits the work to be done while conversation is engaging part of the attention, and indeed while the eye is directed to a different quarter. It is owing to this facility that a slight reward for the labour is exacted. The sewers are distributed all over France, and receive the material, cut out with precision, and put up in bundles of a dozen pairs.

In order to conduct the distribution of the gloves here with advantage, their form, colour, and shade are fixed upon here. Colours which were in demand a year ago are rejected now, and others have taken their place. The closest attention to the probable variations in the public taste must be observed. You would be surprised to see the sample-book shades furnished for the purpose of preparing orders. They represent every tint which our knowledge of nature and art supplies.

No one is competent to say when this branch of industry in Paris will be fully resumed. The vicissitudes of war will not reach it to the extent of damaging the consumer, so far as the manufacture of Alexandre is concerned, for his gloves are not used at home. It may therefore be rapidly restored on the cessation of hostilities. English gloves have not advanced.

The chair in which Napoleon sat while arranging (or rather assenting to) the terms of capitulation with King William at Sedan is likely to become a historical relic. He had no sooner risen from it than a Berlin police-officer, on duty at the Prussian head-quarters, laid hands upon it, at the same time giving the servant who had charge of the room a twenty franc piece. It may yet sell for its weight in gold, as it is probably the most interesting Sedan chair in existence.

VARIETIES.

The French Crown jewels still remain in the galleries of the Louvre

Weep for love, but never for anger; a cold rain will never bring flowers

When you are angry don't write. Words when spoken are air, but when written are things.

Hair by hair, heads get bald. Straw by straw, the thatch goes off the cottage, and drop by drop the rain comes in the chamber.

The day of death is scarcely more momentous than every day. Both alike close another door on the past, and open a new one for the future.

Mrs. Lincoln, widow of the late President, has been in Dundee, on a visit to Mr. Smith, the American Consul, and pastor to the late President.

Professor Oliver Wendell Holmes is about to issue a new volume of Essays, in the old and attractive vein of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table."

The citizens of New Albany, Indiana, are frequently "Knocked out of time" by audacious pigeons roosting on the hands of the clock.

There are rumours of the invention of a new style of hair-pin which "screws into the head" and so makes the chignon perfectly immovable.

The use of impressed stamps on newspapers has been discontinued in England, the use of the new halfpenny stamp being now enforced by law.

Recalling a pleasant day spent with some of the choicest spirits of the literary world, Carlyle said: "We agreed about everything except opinions."

It is said that the American sculptress, Vinnie Beam, is "on her last bust" before leaving Rome. Let us hope that Vinnie is now permanently reformed.

A Nottingham firm have brought out a new glove with a pocket on the inside of the palm, to suit the habit indulged in by the fair sex of carrying money in that position.

When "Buccleuch and Queensberry" (the Duke) wrote from Dalkeith to order wire fencing, the manufacturer addressed his unrecognised Grace as "Messrs. Buccleuch and Queensberry, Dalkeith."

According to the extracts from the papers found at the Tuileries, 26,642 persons have been arrested in France for political offences since December 2, 1851, and 14,118 have been transported, exiled, or detained in prison.

The present census will show that the United States has fifteen cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants. There are but two countries that exceed this—the East Indies with twenty-one cities and Great Britain with sixteen.

Look most to your spending. No matter what comes in, if more goes out you will always be poor. The art is not in making money, but in keeping it; little expenses, like little mice in a barn, when they are many, make great waste.

The boys and girls of England have contributed, to the number of 1,700, to a monument to the memory of Daniel Defoe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe." The memorial has been erected over the lately discovered grave of the author in Bunhill Fields, in London.

Our comic contemporary *Fun* is answerable for this:—"An American paper relates this interesting anecdote:—'An artist painted a cannon so naturally the other day, that when he finished the touch-hole it went off. Sorry to say it was taken for the rent by the broker.' Of course, in that case, the artist must have been satisfied. No one could say the execution was not perfect.

Lothair has been translated into Dutch by Mr. A. M. Verster. Translations have also recently been made in Holland of "Robinson Crusoe," "Pendennis," Garibaldi's "Rule of the Monk," "Faith Gartney's Girlhood," "Midshipman Easy," the "Faces in the Fire," "Light through the Gloom," and some less known English tales.

One of the census enumerators in Providence, R. I., put down in his list twins opposite the names of two children, and against the first he designated Providence as the birthplace. The officials in Washington sent the list back to have the deficiency accounted for. What they wanted to know was where the other twin was born.

Dr. O. Rapin, of Grandson, in Switzerland, says that he has found that the nausea and vomiting produced by swinging and sea sickness can be arrested by applying to the epigastrium a layer of wadding dipped in collodion. It should extend from the xiphoid cartilage to the umbilicus, and be left until it falls off. If the adhesion be perfect, the application should be renewed. Several persons, he says, have tried this plan with benefit. The explanation which he gives of it is, that the action of the peripheral nerves is interrupted, just in the same way as the pain of calculi in the bile-passages or ureters is sometimes mitigated by the application of castor oil and collodion.

The literature of Advertisements grows and grows. Moses & Son, the London merchant "tailors," keep a poet, whose merit may be seen from the following "missing stanza from 'Don Juan':"—

Oh, he was nobly clad, past calculation;
Perfect he was, if one can perfect be;
He'd had the very choicest education,
And look'd, when dress'd for Court, quite exquisitely.
He was a model of a well-dressed nation,
And many from him pattern took; and why?
Because, as well my errand muse supposes,
He bought his coat and pantaloons of Moses!

A common house fly almost invariably rests with its head downward, and however it may alight, works its way round until this direction is assumed. The biting flies, on the contrary, as universally rest with the head pointing upward, acting in this precisely like the equally bloodthirsty mosquito. The brother of an eminent Russian entomologist, now residing in the United States, observed a peasant in his own country killing some of the flies on a wall of his hut without disturbing others, who, on being questioned, gave as a reason that those with the heads up were "biters," and the others were not. A careful examination of the facts by the entomologist himself proved the accuracy of the generalization thus made by an ignorant but observant man.