

## RUSSIA AND THE KIRGHIZ.

The *Times of India* says it is in a position to state that intelligence has reached the Government of India that the whole of the Kirghiz tribes located south and south-west of Orenburg have risen against the Russians, and have succeeded in isolating from each other, and from every other source of relief, the quadrilateral of Russian military stations in the country to the east and south-east of the Sea of Aral, the stations referred to being named Fort Karabuta, Fort Orenburg (not the city of that name), Fort Araisk, and Fort Embansk.

All communication (adds the *Times of India*) between Orenburg and Tashkend, and the other recent Central Asian acquisitions of Russia, has thus been completely cut off. The Russian military force in the vicinage of the quadrilateral does not exceed two thousand men, while the aggregate number of Russian troops scattered along the immense stretch of territory from Orenburg to Tashkend falls far short of any estimate that has been formed of its strength either in India or in England. Great exertions were being made to push forward reinforcements from the older Russian provinces; but, on the other hand, it is equally indubitable that all the Turcoman tribes north of the Hindoo-Koosh are girding up their loins for a simultaneous assault on the Muscovite invaders of their wild country. It may be, indeed, that the Green standard of the Faithful in British Hazara, Afghanistan, and Persia has already been unfurled, mutual jealousy put aside for a time, in the face of the common enemy. This was to be looked for, and had been foretold, but it has come to pass sooner than any one expected. Those who have been accustomed to trace distinct and impartial indications of the actual position of the scanty Russian garrisons in Central Asia will not be surprised to hear that the Czar and his Ministers at St. Petersburg regard as no trifle, but as cause for the gravest apprehension, the rising of the Kirghiz and the threatened *jihad* by the Turkomans and all the other Uzbek tribes. The accounts received from Europe have now been confirmed by letters direct from Meshed and from Bokhara. The position of the Russians in Central Asia is not unlike that of the British in Afghanistan, when the Afghans rose against them, and poor old worn out Elphinstone was about to commence that fatal retreat through the Passes, of which but one man (Dr. Bryden) of his unfortunate force escaped to tell the tale.

The annexation meeting in Quebec, got up by the Fenians, was held on a Sunday in order that there might be a large attendance. O'Farrell, formerly a member of the Canadian Parliament, but expelled for his villainous conduct at an election, was the moving spirit on the occasion. It will be remembered that he took a very active part in the defence of Whalen, the murderer of D'Arcy McGee. O'Farrell is an exceedingly ignorant man, knows little of law, but possesses a peculiar sort of cunning and sharpness. He induced John Hillyard Cameron, by some means, by what we cannot say, to get him admitted as a member of the Law Society of Ontario without undergoing any real examination. When in Parliament, he sat next to the then sitting member for East Brant. O'Farrell thought that the *per diem* allowance to members was small. He asked the member for East Brant to move that the indemnity to members be raised from six to ten dollars a day, saying that he would second the motion. The western member declined on the ground that it would ruin him with

his constituents. "But how will your constituents know anything about it?" inquired O'Farrell. "Why," replied the member for Brant, "they will see it in the newspapers." "H—l," exclaimed O'Farrell, "what an unfortunate man you are. My constituents never read a newspaper.—the fact is, there is not one of them that knows Parliament is now in session." We give the story as we had it from the then sitting member for Brant, merely omitting some of the expletives and embellishments which adorned O'Farrell's colloquy.—*Hamilton Times*.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Two hundred Martini-Henry rifles are to be issued to the troops for trial, 50 of which are to be sent to Canada.

General Codrington is said to have breakfasted at St. Cloud, and to have found the brevet of grand officer of the Legion of Honour in his napkin.

The London correspondent of the *Independence Belye* says that more than 600 English volunteers intend to be present at the ensuing rifle contest at Liege.

The recent visit of the Prince Imperial of France to the Military camp at Chalons caused an outlay of \$80,000 for powder, illuminations, and a little lunch.

It is believed that the wreck of Her Majesty's ship *Thunder* has been discovered some two miles inland on Tiger Island, in the Bay of Bengal. The *Thunder* was lost in the cyclone of 1867.

The uniform of the Native Infantry of India is to be subjected to another change. The clothing due in 1870-71 is to be issued in the form of Zouave tunics, with sloshed sleeves and pyjamas. This seems an improvement.

On the 24th of August, on the Western Heights at Dover, Mrs. Gordon, in the absence of the Duchess of Argyll, and accompanied by the Archbishop of Canterbury presented new colors to the 91st Regiment (Argyleshire Highlanders), who returned last year from 15 years' foreign service.

Cerberus, 4, double screw armor plated turret ship, built for the defence of Melbourne, has again floated in No. 4 dock in Chatham Dockyard, in order to have some further alterations made in her balance rudder, and have bulwarks put round her, necessary for her making the voyage to Australia. She will be masted and rigged for the voyage by the dockyard hands.

The *Ireport Independent* speaks of "a charming young lady in that city who has in rehearsal the following costume. We may not have copied the prescription verbatim, but have, we flatter ourselves, done ample justice to the subject. The dress is of mauve, point-de-sore-ye, with a long George Francis Train, trimmed around the bottom with pink-eye potatoes, beaded with a cross-cut saw, and surmounted with a stand up collar and a cigar! won't that be gay!"

The British Government has adopted for the use of its infantry the so-called Martini-Henry breech-loading rifle. In the experiments at Wimbledon which resulted in its adoption, it was found that it could be made to fire thirty shots in three minutes, and that its accuracy was all that could be desired. Various other guns were tried at the same time, among others the French Chassepot, which could not be made to fire more than twenty-three shots in three minutes. Hence it was rejected as inferior.

We understand that the manufacture of breech-loading cartridges designed specially to withstand atmospheric influences, such as have given rise to the complaints of the ammunition in India, is about to commence, and that for the future the brass case will be protected internally by a flexible varnish and paper coating, while the bullets will be varnished to enable them to resist corrosion.

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT.—The *London Morning Post* says—"The consolidation and development of Canada are at hand. Immigration is increasing, government is active, and the relations with the U. S. are in a fair way of improving. People and money are the great desiderata. Let Canada show that these can safely and profitably be sent there and the old country will be found supporting and invigorating the new in a better manner than supplying her with inadequate garrisons."

AN EX-CONFEDERATE RAM.—The *Cork Herald* says:—"We understand that it is the intention of the official authorities to have Her Majesty's ship *Scorpion*, now lying in this port, immediately dismantled. It appears that on a recent trip to sea she proved herself a most dangerous craft, in consequence of her extraordinary low freeboard. Many times she was almost submerged in the sea, and she occasioned such panic to her crew that they have protested against proceeding again to sea in her. The *Scorpion* was originally built for the Confederate States; but, in order to avert another 'Alabama difficulty,' she was purchased by the English Government out of the builder's hands, together with her consort, the *Wyrern*, an equally disreputable sea-going vessel."

The old-fashioned shrapnel-shell which in its day was considered a most effective projectile, does not come up to the murderous requirements of modern warfare; and, since the introduction of rifled ordnance, many substitutes have been proposed for it, the English Government having especially stimulated the efforts of inventors. The desired end seems now to have been attained in a shrapnel-shell invented by Colonel Baxter, and which has recently been tested at Dartmoor. In this shell, which is cylindrical, the charge is placed in the back end, and the head being secured by weak rivets only, is so arranged as to be easily blown off. By this arrangement, the small balls with which it is filled are thrown directly forward with increased velocity while undue dispersion is avoided, and the great objection to a central bursting charge is overcome.

A prominent American journal thus refers to the coming elections:—"The annual American farce of electing public servants is about to be endured. The shuffle and hustle—the dealing and teaching—and lying and deception—the buying and exchanging—the treating and lounging antecedent to primary elections and preparatory to our annual elections we are now undergoing. As a job of rotten meanness we have no knowledge of anything equalling our political engineering. From the earliest efforts of canvassing to the latest act of Legislatures and Congresses, the public are treated with an unending succession of wanton neglect and dishonest dealing and criminal mismanagement. Could the occupant of our Legislatures and Congress be weighed in a just moral balance against the rest of our States prison criminals, the balance would select the robbers of our governments as the most culpable criminals of the age." Who wants to be annexed?