

Ivan the Terrible tried, and tried in vain, to establish commercial relations with the territory. Peter the Great made a similar attempt in 1702, and succeeded. In 1842 the Czar Nicholas made a treaty with the Khivans, which they learned to condemn before 1860, and hence Russia is justified in bringing them to order. Her only object is to unfurl the flag of civilisation in Central Asia; she has no afterthoughts. Russia never has. Later information is to the effect that the Russian force which is to be sent to Khiva consists of only 7,000 men, and that they will be mostly taken from the troops stationed in Turkestan and Orenburg. Regarding the geography of Central Asia, the Berlin correspondent of the *Times* writes under date February 19:—"The geographical information about the course of the Amou, supplied by the Duke of Argyll in a recent sitting of the Lords, is at variance with the Russian maps. According to these, only the southern headwater is called Amou, the northern branch going under the name of Sarchab, Sarab, or Birtagul. Now, as it is the northern branch which flows by Vakhán, and which is to be understood as forming the north-eastern boundary of the intermediary zone, it may be as well to call attention to the different name given it by the other contracting party. This is perhaps rendered all the more advisable from another circumstance. In its lower course the northern branch traverses a territory, which, though it does not belong to Badakshan nor to any other of the States mentioned in Lord Granville's note, yet, as it lies on the eastern bank of the boundary river, is to be regarded as neutralised. This territory forms part of Khuttelan, a region consisting of a number of diminutive Khanates, bounded by Hissar on the west and the Bolor Dagh on the east. As appears from this, Khuttelan, according to the Russians, includes Badakshan itself."

A portion of the English press takes a view of the Central Asian Question which is not particularly reassuring. They consider that trouble is not ended, but only postponed. Further, the difficulty of guarding the neutral zone agreed upon is very great, and the duty is fraught with serious future complications. The Paris *Debats* refers to the subject also. "We are bound to consider," the writer says, "what will be the practical consequences of setting up this neutral territory, occupied as it will be by semi-barbarous tribes, between the possessions of the two Empires. Russia undertakes not to outstep the boundary assigned by her. Good! But if she is attacked by Khiva, Bokhara, Badakshan, or Wakhan, in the persons of her commercial representatives—and these tribes will be more than overtempted to do so because they will feel assured of impunity—what must infallibly take place? Russia will not put up with such aggressions, and if she is forbidden to repress them herself she will assuredly make England responsible for the damage done. England, in fact, will have to maintain order in the intermediate zone, from which she has insisted upon excluding the northern Power. This will be a task by no means easy of accomplishment, and one cannot help feeling that she has assumed a very heavy responsibility and a very onerous duty. It is very possible that, instead of having simplified the nature of the relations between England and Russia, Lord Granville has rendered them much more complicated, and increased those very occasions of conflict between the two Empires which recent negotiations professed to provide against. In any event the Central Asia question is

not terminated, as the English newspapers themselves are obliged to admit; it has merely entered upon a new phase, which, there is every reason to fear, may prove as critical as the previous one." All of which may be true enough, but surely the present settlement is a definite gain for the present. What if Lord Granville had not acted as he did? There must still have been complications, and worse than those the *Debats* suggests. And if no other advantage had been gained by the negotiations than placing Great Britain in its proper light before the military authorities, and showing that the nation has lost none of its courage or self-respect, that alone would be something.

Judgment has been rendered in the Memphis El Paso Railroad Company. The defendants are pronounced guilty of swindling and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Gen. Fremont is condemned to five years' imprisonment. The other defendants who were present were arrested to day as they were leaving the court.

A Chinaman was summoned as a witness in New York the other day, and to ascertain his views on the nature of an oath, the judge asked him what would be his punishment if he should swear to lies. "I shall never return to China, but always remain in New York," was the reply, and he was at once sworn.

In the year 1752 people went to bed, as usual, on the 2nd of September, but they did not get out of it till the 14th of the same month. How was that? This statement is often given out to young folks as a puzzle. The answer is that at that time an Act of Parliament was passed, to correct the calendar, which was then known to be eleven days wrong. A sheet almanac, now preserved in the Winchester Museum, records those eleven days by their absence from its list.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHARACTER.—The power of positive ideas, and the power of positive affirmation and promulgation of them move the world. Breath is wasted in nothing more lavishly than in negations and denials. It is not necessary for truth to worry itself, even if a lie can run a league while it is putting on its boots. Let it run and get out of breath, and get out of the way. A man who spends his days in arresting and knocking down lies and liars, will have no time left for speaking the truth. There is nothing more damaging to man's reputation than his admission that it needs defending when attacked. Great sensitiveness to an assault, on the part of any cause, is an unmistakable sign of weakness. A strong man at a strong cause need only to live an affirmative life, devoting no attention whatever to enemies, to win their way, and to trample beneath their feet all the obstacles that malice, or jealousy or selfishness throws before them. The man who can say strongly and earnestly, "I believe," has not only a vital and valuable possession, but he has a permanent source of inspiration within himself, and a permanent influence over others.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday, the 23rd Inst.—

ALMONTE, Ont.—Major James D. Gemmill	\$1.00
Capt. McDougall	1.00
RICHMOND, Ont.—Capt. Thos. Good, Jr.	1.00
NORTH BAY, Ont.—F. Macnaghten	2.00
STRATFORD, Ont.—Lieut. James Robb	2.00
Capt. Jas. C. McPherson	2.00
QUEBEC.—Major J. F. Turnbull	6.00
WATERLOO, Que.—Capt. Geo. S. Cold	2.00

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 28th March, 1873.

GENERAL ORDERS (6).

MILITIA STAFF.

To be Deputy Adjutant General for Military District No. 11, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Militia from 21st March, 1873.

George Frederick Houghton, Esquire, formerly of Her Majesty's Regular Army.

Memo.—The Head Quarters of this officer will be at Victoria, B.C.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

Ensign Joseph Healey, M.S., No. 3 Company, 47th Battalion, from 21st February, 1873.

Ensign Edward G. Green, M.S., 10th Battalion, from 28th February 1873.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

63rd "Halifax" Battalion of Rifles

Captain and Brevet Major William Baron Q. F. O., is hereby permitted to retire retaining the rank of major.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

Lieutenant George Angus Ross, M.S., No. 4 Company, 75th Battalion, from 21st Feb. 1873.

2nd Lieutenant Donald Robb, M.S. 1st "Halifax," Brigade G. A., from 21st Feb. 1873.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General,

P. ROBERTSON-ROSS, Colonel,

Commanding the Militia of the Dominion
and Adjutant-General.