

MISCELLANEOUS.

Desertions from the Pontifical Army continue, but are not numerous.

The Royal Horse Artillery takes precedence of every other corps in the British Army.

The *Hellenic Independence* states that the number of Cretans who have taken refuge in Greece is 70,000.

A Bill abolishing flogging in the army, has recently passed the British House of Commons.

The base of the Abyssinian expedition has been established at Senafo, which place is 365 miles from Magdala.

The Admiralty have given orders for the construction, at Chatham of another powerful armour clad war ship of the *Hercules* class.

The Pope has accepted the offer of three squadrons of Hungarians made to His Holiness by the Primate and Clergy of Hungary.

We understand that the civil appointment accepted at Constantinople by Captain the Hon. A. Hobart, R. N., is Inspector of Naval Schools.

The Navy estimates for 1868-9 have been issued, and they amount to £11,177,260—being an increase on the previous year of £201,037.

One hundred pikes were found by the Police on Tuesday under the floor of the Roman Catholic chapel of Kiltelly, county of Limerick.

The Admiralty have ordered 300 old 8-inch guns, of 65 cwt., to be immediately converted into 64-pounder Pellissier rifled guns, for the use of the navy.

We hear that an active system of a rattening is going on at the Foreign Office, the diplomatic service being called upon to declare that they are in favour of agencies.

THE GREAT VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT EASTER.—It is rumored, says a Hampshire paper, that the coming review, will be held on Portsdown Hill, and not, as formerly, at Brighton.

The Canadian Volunteers, who arrived at Rome on the 10th. were received on the same day by the Pope who expressed his satisfaction at their devotion and gave them his benediction.

Ex-Governor Eyre is one of the committee lately appointed to consider the working of courts martial. John Stuart Mill and other of his prosecutors are very much disquieted in consequence.

A sergeant in the 1st Battalion of the 9th Foot has been sentenced by court-martial at Pembroke to five years' penal servitude, and to be branded with the letters B. C., for insubordination and an avowal of Femanism.

Earl Fortescue has threatened to withdraw his support from the Devon County Volunteers Association if the extravagance of holding field days is not discontinued. During eight years the Association has spent £2,000 in rifle prize meetings, and £1000 in brigade field days.

DUEL IN PARIS.—A duel took place on Monday between two South Americans, M. de Lajara, an attaché of the Peruvian Legation, and M. Calvo, the son of the Paraguayan Envoy. M. de Lajara was wounded in the arm.

The cost of the British Army in India, for the year 1867, was \$65,000,000, showing a net increase over the previous year over a million and a half, which is to be accounted for, in a large part, by the increased pay to private soldiers.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY COURTS-MARTIAL.—The *Gazette* nominates Royal Commissioners for inquiring into the constitution and practice of courts-martial, and the present system of punishment for military offences.

THE ELEPHANT BRIGADE WITH THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—It is some time since we have heard anything of Sir R. Napier's heavy brigade of elephants in Abyssinia. The correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says that a great many more of those huge beasts have arrived from India, and that much is expected from the moral effect they will produce upon the Abyssinians, who must naturally feel great respect for a people able to tame elephants and to make them work. The Correspondent of the *Telegraph* hopes that the elephants' feet will not suffer from the sharp block of stones that cover the Abyssinian roads, and that proper and sufficient food may be obtainable for them. He says that if an elephant cuts his feet, or does not approve of the quality or the quantity of his food, the animal simply strikes work, and declines to make himself useful till his feet are healed and his meals appropriate and regular. In India the feet of hunting elephants, which have to pass over rocky places, are usually coated with pitch to protect them from injury, but this expedient has not yet been adopted in Abyssinia. The *Times* correspondence from Abyssinia makes no mention of the elephant brigade.

WILLIAM IV'S HABIT OF SWEARING.—In her "Recollections," the Hon. Amelia Murray relates the following anecdote of the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV.):—"The Princes frequently visited their sisters at my mother's: and enjoyed being received into what, for the time, was a family circle. My youngest brother was then a child. The Duke of Clarence came to spend a few days. It was too much the fashion then for gentlemen to use language which would not now be tolerated in any society. My mother asked as a favor of the Duke that he would avoid making use of some expletives, which her little boy would certainly copy, and think himself justified after such an example, in making use of. The Duke took this hint most amiably; and, before leaving Weymouth, he said: 'Lady George have I not been very careful? I am sure your boy has not learned any naughty words from me.' 'I do feel very grateful, sir,' was her reply; 'but if your Royal Highness could refrain for a week, why not give up a bad habit altogether?' I have understood that Queen Adelaide, after her marriage, induced King William to relinquish this practice; and that in the latter days of the Sailor Monarch's life he was never known to utter an oath."

THE WAR OFFICE.—The *Echoes* from the *Clubs* understands that the scheme for the new central department, as prepared by Sir Henry Storks and General Belfour, has been forwarded for the approval of the Treasury. The Controller-in-Chief at the War Office, and his assistant, have completed their tour of inspection round the department in Pall Mall, and there is every reason to believe that they will be prepared with a plan for reorganising the War Office by the first of April.

TORPEDOS AT TOULON.—A Toulon letter says:—"The attention of the war Department appears to be seriously directed to the subject of torpedos, and a school for the theoretical and practical study of their manufacture and use has been founded on board the gunboat *Louis XIV*. This class is placed under the direction of Captain Lefort, and is intended to form a staff of instructors who will be afterwards charged to propagate, throughout the navy, the knowledge of those terrible instruments of destruction. As the apprentice gunners and sailing masters, as well as a portion of the chief engineers, will attend the lessons to be given by Captain Lefort, and experiments will take place in the anchorage off the Isles of Hyeres; the Minister of Marine has ordered three tons of gunpowder to be placed at the disposal of the school, and in order to further improve the manufacture, a superior officer is to be sent to Vienna to study the electrical matches, which may be usefully employed to render the explosion more rapid, and protect the incendiary mechanism from deterioration."

PADDY'S DELICACY.—A Southern Journal, during the late "onpleasantness," told the following:—"The wounds inflicted upon the enemy are nearly always on the head and breast, the remainder generally in the rear. Frequently the Irish are in the habit of visiting the prisoners, but oftener from curiosity than sympathy. An incident is told of an encounter between several of them and an Irishman. It had become a habit with the fair ones to open conversation with the very natural inquiry, 'Where are you wounded?' and accordingly when a party of three or four the other day approached the cell, they launched out in the usual way. Paddy made believe that he didn't hear distinctly and replied, 'Pretty well, I thank yez.' 'Where are you wounded?' again fired away one of the ladies. 'Faith, I am not badly hurt, at all. I'll be travelling to Richmond in a wake,' replied Pat, with a peculiarly distressing look, as if he was in a tight place. Thinking that he was deaf, one of the ladies in the back ground put her mouth down to his ear and shouted again, 'we want to know where you are hurt.' Pat, evidently finding that if the bombardment continued much longer he would have to strike his flag anyhow, concluded to do so at once, and, accordingly, with a face as rosy as a boiled lobster, and with an angry kind of energy, he replied:—"Sure leddies it isn't safe that I am; but, since you are determined to know where I have been wounded, it's on my sate. The bullet entered behind my breeches. Please do excuse me feelings and ax me no more questions." I leave you to imagine the blushing consternation of the inquisitors and sudden locomotion of the crinoline out of the front door."