

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The different batteries of the Halifax Garrison Artillery are performing voluntary drill every evening.

The Toronto Garrison Artillery has challenged No. 2 Company of the Queen's Own to a rifle match.

By the death of Admiral Seymour, the present House of Commons has lost its eighth member since the opening of the session.

Count Bismarck's two sons, whose recent excursion to England caused the report that they were about to enter the University of Oxford, are going into the army.

WAR OFFICE, Pall Mall, Aug. 3.—Rifle Brigade—Lieut. his Royal Highness Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, K.G., K.P., from the Royal Artillery, to be Lieut.

The seamanship displayed by Captain C. H. May, of H. M. S. *Northumberland*, in charge of the Bermuda Dock convoy, has been described as in every respect perfect. He anchored the *Northumberland* in such close proximity to the *Warrior* (the relieving ship) in Porto Santo Bay, that there was not the least difficulty in "turning" over the cable to the old *Warrior*, which was all completed in less than two hours.

GENERAL BRAGG IN LONDON, ONT.—General Bragg, well-known as one of the prominent commanders in the recent Southern rebellion, is now sojourning in London, and is quartered at the Tecumseth House, with his family. He is a tall, wiry, elderly gentleman, of very pleasing appearance, and about sixty years of age. He expresses a very favorable opinion of Canada, and more especially of this section. He further says that, if Canadians know when they are well off, they will drop talking of annexation. His opinion of the ultimate issue of the payment of the United States national debt is by no means flattering.—*Prototype*.

The *Revenge*, screw line-of-battle ship, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral George Greville Wellesley, C. B., sailed from Spithead on the 22nd ult., for Halifax, Nova Scotia. The fine old liner left Spithead under all plain sail to royals set, and took the Needless passage. In passing Osborne the ship saluted the Royal Standard floating on the Palace tower with 21 guns. Rear-Admiral Wellesley succeeds Admiral Sir George Rodney Mundy, K.C.B., in the command of Her Majesty's ships in the West Indies and North America, and with his officers and crew will turn over from the *Revenge* to the armour-plated wooden frigate *Royal Alfred*, now doing duty as the flagship on the station. Admiral Mundy and his officers return to England in the *Revenge*.

The flying squadron, under command of Rear Admiral G. Phipps Hornby, comprising Her Majesty's ships *Liverpool* (flagship), *Liffey*, *Endymion*, *Scylla*, and *Bristol*, which left Plymouth Sound soon after daylight on the morning of the 19th of June under sail with light airs from the N. W., continued to make fair passage towards Madeira with the wind from N. W. to N. E., until the 26th of June, when it shifted round to the westward, and they did not reach that island until the evening of the 1st of July. The passage was made entirely under sail, and the fine weather which prevailed afforded every facility for the daily exercise of sail and gun drill. The squadron, including the *Barrosa*, which had just arrived, left on the evening of the 2nd July for Bahia, South America.

An order received at Chatham Dockyard from the Admiralty, directs the powerful armor-clad turret ship "Cerberus" to proceed in getting ready for commission, as she is required to be despatched to Melbourne for the protection of the Australian colonies. The "Cerberus" will accordingly be removed into one of the vacant docks at Chatham where the work of preparing for her sea will be carried on with all despatch. The cost of fitting out the "Cerberus" will be defrayed by the Australian Government. Two other powerful ironclad turret ships, the "Abyssinia" and the "Magdala," are also being under construction for the defence of Bombay, the "Abyssinia" being under construction at the establishment of Messrs. Dudgeon, Poplar, and the "Magdala," at the Thames Iron Shipbuilding Company's Works at Blackwall.

The Elcho Challenge Shield was shot for on July 14, at ranges of 800, 600, and 1,000 yards. This year the shield has fallen to Scotland, the representatives of that kingdom having scored 1,419 points, as against 1,090 made on behalf of Ireland, 1,081 by the marksmen of England. The Irish International Challenge Trophy was carried off by Sergeant Kirk, of the 1st York. The Chancellor's Challenge Plate was contended for by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and was won by the latter by 397 to 356. The Prince Albert Prize, valued at £100, and the prize of £25 given by the Northern Indian Rifle Association, to be competed for by the two best shots in each of the Elcho Shield Events, were also competed for. A number of Belgian riflemen competed for the prizes given by the Anglo-Belgian Prize Fund.

A well informed New York paper's Havana correspondent estimates the present royal army at 38,000 soldiers and 38,000 parish volunteers; and the rebels, under Céspedes, at 20,000—only 6,000 of whom are properly armed. The rest carry lances or poignards fixed on poles. The rebels, it is said, have lost only 10,000, about half as many as the royalists, who have succumbed to the climate and its diseases in greater ratio than the insurgents. Céspedes, who is constantly receiving small reinforcements of volunteers and supplies of arms, lives in the hope of wearing out the enemy, with an unhealthy climate as his strongest ally. His policy is the Fabian one of standing on the defensive and awaiting his opportunity, varied by a system of guerilla warfare, in which his ill-armed bands have a more equal chance than in regular combats with Spain's trained soldiers. The war, hitherto, has been costly and destructive to both combatants.

The introduction of a saw-backed sword bayonet has been recommended by the late special Committee on Breech-loading Small Arms, of which Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher was chairman. The object is to furnish the soldier with an implement that may be equally serviceable as a tool and a weapon of war, but we cannot help thinking that the principle of utility has here been allowed to overrule every other consideration. It may not in reality be much more pleasant for a man to have a bayonet of the plain old fashion through his breast than one with a saw back, but the impression made on the minds of ordinary people by the proposal to use a serrated weapon is simply one of horror as a thing unspeakably horrible. Are ideas and feelings, or even sentiments, dictated by humanity, utterly unworthy of consideration? Wopu, this question to Colonel Fletcher, who is himself a most humane man, and a good type of the English gentleman.—*Broad Arrow*.

Some recent experiments made at the Woolwich Arsenal, near London, encourage the hope that gun cotton can be successfully used as a most destructive agent. A palisade was built of oak timbers a foot thick, firmly fixed in the ground, and supported in the rear by strong trusses. Discs of gun cotton were placed along the face of the palisade about a foot above the ground, and were fired by a battery in the usual way. The effect may be described as wonderful. The palisade was literally blown away amid a deafening report, as if the massive timbers offered no more resistance on one side of the gun-cotton than the atmosphere on the other. The discs require no fixing, merely laying them on is sufficient. Solid blocks of iron and stone can be shivered into fragments by firing a disc laid on the top. In future sieges, if some desperate fellow can but get to the gate or a thin part of the walls, and hang on a few discs of gun cotton, a breach can be made by firing with a galvanic current from a long distance.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: However great may be the late triumphs achieved by the Prussian army, it seems, nevertheless to be the most unpopular service in Europe. The domineering of the officers, the poverty of the soldier, and the strictness of the discipline render life to many almost intolerable. To prove this, it is necessary only to state that according to German statistics, there were in 1868 no less than 134 suicides in the army of North Germany. The total number of deaths amounted to 1,344. This frightful proportion is four times greater than that which exists in the armies of the Confederation. We find that in the army of North Germany there is one suicide for every 2,333 soldiers; in Denmark, one for every 3,000; in Saxony, one for 5,000; in Baden, one for every 9,000; in Wurtemberg the proportion is the same as in Norway—one for every 9,784; in France there is one suicide for every 10,000; in Sweden, one in every 15,000; in Bavaria it is the same as in Sweden; and in Belgium there is one in every 17,000. It may also be remarked that between 1849 and 1852 the proportion of suicides in the Prussian army was only one to every 9,000 soldiers.

THE BORDER EDITOR.—The editor of the *Owykeo Avalanche*, by way of describing his agreeable vocation, as conductor of a frontier paper, makes the following interesting reflections:—"Oh, the felicity of editing a paper!—Charming, agreeable, in a homely, fascinating, attractive occupation, but so difficult to appreciate. How nicely and smoothly one gets along without an 'pleasantness!' For instance, in a recent issue we referred directly to a ruffian known as Captain Prescott, and incidentally to a guerilla named Al. Page. We did them justice to ourselves and the community at large. The other day, while quietly seated in our sanctum, taxing our brain for material, in response to the everlasting cry of the 'devil,' the two above named villains, one of them armed with a hatchet, and the other with a bowie-knife of large dimensions, made a violent attack upon our person. The only alternative was to fight or die. We accordingly seized a large knife, about two feet long, used for cutting paper, and had our assailants pretty freely. They sued for mercy. We spared their worthless lives, and told them to dust, and they got up and dusted. We would take this occasion to state that if they or anyone else attack us with the intention of doing us bodily harm, we will shoot them dead in their tracks, or cut their throat from ear to ear."