

FENIANS PARDONED.—The pressure of the Irish party has been too great on President Grant, and to his disgrace and to the disgrace of the American Government, he has yielded and granted an unconditional pardon to the Fenian prisoners. The trial of these men was conducted in a fair and unobjectionable manner, the arguments of the U.S. Attorney were well put and to the point, the charge of the presiding Judge was strongly against the prisoners, and his course throughout was highly creditable to the bench. It is therefore much to be regretted that the President did not allow the law to take its course, for his own sake and for the credit of the country he represents. It is perfect balderdash to say the ends of justice have been satisfied by the short term which these cut-throats have been imprisoned, and none knows this better than President Grant. If he had frankly acknowledged that he was unable to resist the pressure brought upon him by the Irish section of his party, he would at least have had the credit of having spoken his honest sentiments. The fall elections are coming on, and the contest in New York State is expected to be a very close one. The Fenian party generally acts with the Democrats, but the Republican leaders in New York thought the pardon of O'Neil and his compatriots would be a good card to play, and they have by petition and otherwise compelled the President to yield to their demands. What a humiliating spectacle for the President of a great nation! Justice is mocked, the relations of amity with other nations foully broken, the lowest passions of the lowest and most degraded people pandered to, and the nation disgraced—all for the sake of obtaining a few votes and strengthening a political party. It is the genius of American institutions, however, and however disgraceful it may appear to other nationalities, it is we confess, no more than was to be expected.—*Belleville Intelligencer*.

The rifle practice day at Clifton, New Jersey, passed off with the best success in all that respects weather, management, and attendance. Six hundred competitors is both a comforting promise for the future, and an earnest of the real appreciation which this movement meets with. The marksmanship was not good, far from it, but it was plenty good enough to start from; and we need only to have, for a few years, the experience and drill which public competition brings with it, to see the practice improve very much. It is a pity that something of the kind is not instituted in the Regular Army. The distance which separates contending forces nowadays is so great that a trained eye is an absolutely necessary adjunct to the "arms of precision" in which nations put their trust. The need of an infantry school for rifle practice is as great as the necessity of training the raw recruit in the manual of arms. More than anything else, modern military history enforces the lesson that the soldier should be made an efficient combatant in all circumstances, and whether under the eye of his commander, or abandoned to his own resources. Only training and the self confidence it gives can produce the modern warrior.—*Army and Navy Journal* (U.S.).

A letter has been published detailing a conversation said to have been held with General Von Moltke last March, in which he said that with French geological maps he could go anywhere in France. The truth of

the remark is the best evidence in favor of the reality of the conversation. The town slip maps of France, from which Professor Fuchs of the *Ecoles des Mines*, in Paris, is now making up a new geological chart of that country, are perfect. They show every road, every hill, hamlet, farm and house; and with them in his hand Von Moltke or any other man of good common sense can find his way about France, as easily as he can find his way about New York with a map of that city. The stories of German generals going about disguised as beggars selling matches and exploring French territory meanwhile, must be very well pickled with salt before they are taken; especially so since the fort of Vincennes, where this particular occurrence is said to have taken place, is open in time of peace to any stranger who asks to go in, and when he is in, there is nothing to see but a fort untenable before modern arms.

The Russian problem remains undecided. The Czar has certainly dined M. Thiers, but then he sent the Cross of St. George to the Crown Prince of Saxony for his bravery exhibited in fighting the French. On one hand the great eastern empire is said to be preparing for war, and to have withdrawn her representative from Constantinople. On the other all this is denied, and she is declared to be for "peace and justice." Whatever Russia is doing or leaving undone, it is certain that Turkey is alarmed and bestirring herself for defence; and probably with reason. The relations of Russia and Prussia are excellent, and the friendship existing between the monarchs of the two countries is one of the few personal ties that in this day of impersonal government would probably bear political fruit. The very strength of this amity is partly due to the firm character of political relations between the countries. Prussian ambition seems to be honestly confined to the single purpose of uniting all German speaking people in one government. Russian ambition is to strengthen the internal bonds of what promises to be the most massive empire in the world, and also to extend its bounds over Constantinople, the seat of power on the Black Sea. These aims are not antagonistic, and the two monarchs may not only keep up their friendship, but bequeath it to their successors for generations to come. The power of Russia in the Black Sea was by no means stamped out by the Crimean war. Restrained from keeping a navy afloat there, she built a fleet of merchant vessels which could serve for war purposes, and Russians have had great faith in its powers. Whether the Czar keeps a monitor in those waters for a pleasure yacht we have not heard.

The Italians are gradually attaining the long desired objects of national ambition. Victor Emmanuel has issued a decree annexing the Roman Provinces to his Kingdom, the laws of which are now to be observed from Sicily to Piedmont. He has also proclaimed an amnesty. The late Papal provinces are to be governed by General La Marmora. The territorial independence and spiritual authority of the Pope are to be provided for as soon as possible by the Legislature, and His Holiness will preserve the inviolability of his personal prerogative as a Sovereign, and his dignity as head of the Church. The feeling in Italy is not altogether unanimous with respect to the future of Pio Nino; and his enemies in Florence are stated by a despatch to an American paper, to demand that he be stripped of everything, and sent with his priests, cardinals, and nuns to Asia or Africa. It is not

probable, however, that such extreme measures will be resorted to; on the contrary, there is every likelihood that the Pope will be permitted to peacefully end his days in the Eternal City. The Italian Government have, it is said, requested other catholic powers to contribute to the fund for the Pope's support.

NOTE FROM MARSHAL McMAHON.

It will be seen by the following note, addressed to the *Organe* of Namur by Marshal McMahon, now residing at Pouru aux Bois, near Bouillon, that he repudiates all responsibility for the Sedan disaster.

"Marshal McMahon was wounded on the 1st of September, at six in the morning, at the very commencement of the last battle, in which he held no command. It was by order of the Minister of War, Comte de Palikao, and of the Committee of Defence, that he executed the march which proved so fatal to the arms of France. This is what infallibly happens when people take upon them to direct the movements of distant armies from the closet. In these circumstances one can draw up a general plan, but one cannot descend to details; and this is what General Cousin de Montauban forgot. Marshal McMahon's intention was to fall back on Paris, after having reorganized the army so unfortunately undone at Sedan. He was not permitted to accomplish his wise project. As soon as the state of his health will permit, Marshal McMahon will not fail to publish proofs that he cannot be considered responsible for the immense disaster at Sedan. Between a victorious army and the frontier of a neutral nation there was no escape if an accident occurred."

ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH COUNT BISMARCK.—The *Times*, correspondent reports another interview with Bismarck at Meaux, on the 18th in the course of which the latter said: "In this war we are influenced by no motive of aggrandizement whatever. We have no purpose in view but our own security; consequently we must provide for the next war, which is sure to come. France is now without allies but may soon succeed in procuring them, and is sure to commence another war under better auspices. That is why we demand these fortresses. But the present government in Paris dare not agree to the cession of such territory, nor probably will the next government; but our purpose is fixed, and if necessary, we are ready to stay all winter at Paris." I said:—"The general impression was that France was too much weakened to begin another war for many years." "That is not the case," answered Bismarck. "France is a very wealthy country, and will remain so after the war. Within five years she will have so recovered as to be able to recommence hostilities. For that reason we must have those fortresses; but as the government at Paris is not disposed to deliver them up, and probably has no command over them, peace is not very near and we must wait until we can reduce them." "Then the question of peace," I said, "reduces itself to one for the possession of Metz and Strassburg," and he answered, "Yes, that is it precisely."

Mr. Villiers, formerly riding master of the Hussars, and who joined the Manitoba expedition as Quartermaster of the Quebec Battalion, has been appointed Chief of Police for Red River; and Mr. Plainvil, of the same battalion, is Mr. Villiers' deputy. The force under their charge will, it is said, be thirty men.