

The *Mail's* issue of Thursday, 25th inst., reported the military popularity contest to stand as follows for the leaders: Regiments—13th Battalion, 56,220; Queen's Own Rifles, 52,515; 10th Royal Grenadiers, 35,452. Officers—Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, Guelph, 16,864; Major Delamere, Q.O.R., 16,473; Lt.-Col. Hamilton, Q.O.R., 13,888; Capt. Manley, 10th Royal Grenadiers, 13,491; Lt.-Col. Gibson, 13th, 12,302; Lt. Col. Jones, 38th, 10,418; Lt.-Col. Todd, G. G. F. G., 10,176; Lt.-Col. O'Brien, 35th, 10,048.

The death of Count Von Moltke reduces the number of Field-Marshal of the German Army to three, viz., Count Von Blumenthal, Prince George of Saxony, and Prince Albert of Prussia. All three received their batons, in 1888, from the late Frederick, and in recognition of their distinguished military services, the first-named as chief of the staff to the Crown Prince, with whom Von Blumenthal was always an especial favourite; Prince George of Saxony for services in command of the 12th (Saxon) Army Corps in the 1870-71 war; and Prince Albert as commander of the 4th Cavalry Division on the same occasion. The remaining marshals of the European armies are few in number. In France, the survivors of a rank which both Napoleons knew so well how to bestow, are Marshals Canrobert and MacMahon, Duke of Magenta, both octogenarians, but, by all accounts, carrying their years and honours well. In Russia, the marshalate appears for the time being to have become extinct by the death of the Grand Duke Nicholas, who was well entitled to an honour very grudgingly bestowed by the Romanoffs, seeing that he had held the chief command of the Russian armies in the last war with Turkey. In other continental armies the rank seems almost unknown, if we except the Muchirs of Turkey and the Captains-General of Spain, an honour enjoyed by five soldiers of note in the Carlist wars, viz., Vezuela, Conde de Chesto; Pavia y Lacey, Marquis de Novaliches; José Gutierrez de la Concha, Marquis de Habana; Martinez de Campos, and Jovellar y Solar. Marshal Concha is, like Von Blumenthal, in his 91st year, and as the last surviving soldier of note who fought in the Carlist War of fifty-five years ago, has outlived all his contemporaries.

The Italians have been having successful trials of the first of the revolving turrets ordered for coast defence. Armstrong supplies the turrets, Krupp the guns, and Gruson the mounts. Each has two 40cm. 15 74-inch guns, firing 2,084 lb. projectiles, with 662½ lbs. of prismatic powder, manufactured at Fossano.

THE REVELRY OF THE DYING.

The following poem was written by an Irish officer, Lieut. Arthur ———, in the English service, while on duty in a city in East India in which the plague was doing its terrible work. The inhabitants, particularly the foreign residents, were dying every day by hundreds, when twenty officers of the English Army, without the shadow of a hope of ever seeing their country or friends, formed a club and sought to drown their senses in the wine cup, and by jest and song to divert their thoughts from the terrible and irrevocable fate which each one knew awaited him. The author of this poem died almost before the echoes of "Hurrah for the next that dies" had ceased to reverberate, and in less than a week every member of the club had crossed the "sable shore":

We meet 'neath the sounding rafters,
And the walls around are bare;
As they echo our peals of laughter,
It seems that the dead are there.
But stand by your glasses steady,
We drink to our comrades' eyes;
Quaff a cup to the dead already,
And hurrah for the next that dies.

Not here in the goblets flowing,
Not here in the vintage sweet;
'Tis as cold as our hearts are glowing,
And as dark as the doom we must meet.
But stand to your glasses steady,
And soon shall our pulses rise;
A cup to the dead already—
Hurrah for the next that dies.

Not a sigh for the lot that darkles,
Not a fear for the friends that sink;
We'll fall 'mid the wine cup's sparkles,
As mute as the wine we drink.
So stand to your glasses steady,
'Tis this that the respite buys:
A cup to the dead already—
Hurrah for the next that dies.

Time was when we frowned on others,
We thought we were wiser then;
Ha! Ha! let them think of their mothers,
Who expect to see them again.
No! stand to your glasses steady!
The thoughtless are here the wise;
A cup to the dead already—
Hurrah for the next that dies.

—Army and Navy Journal.

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