

The news from the Soudan, and from East Africa generally, reveals a very unsatisfactory state of things. It is plain that the dervishes are moving again for some purpose or other, and, although at present there has not been any serious fighting, what has happened is quite sufficient to keep the Egyptian Government in a state of perturbation. The latest news throws great doubt upon the rumors to which currency was given some days ago, to the effect that the Maudi had been defeated and killed. It is now clear that the dervishes have practically annihilated the army of King John of Abyssinia, killing the King himself, and this could scarcely have happened if the Mahdi had been dead and his forces dispersed.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

On the left-hand corner of the membership certificate of the Society of the Cincinnati, issued in 1785, is represented a strong-armed man, bearing in one hand a Union flag, and in the other a naked sword. Beneath his feet are British flags, a broken spear, shield and chain. Hovering by his side is the eagle, the U. S. national emblem, from whose talons the lightning of destruction is flashing upon the British lion, and Britannia, with the crown falling from her head, is hastening to make her escape in a boat to the fleet. The Union flag of this certificate is composed of 13 alternate red and white stripes and a white union, in which is painted the present arms of the United States adopted in 1782. A flag of this kind may have been in use in the Army earlier.

The *Alta California* does not think that the United States need trouble themselves about the Esquimalt forts, for, says our contemporary, "we have prompt railway communication with the Sound ports, both from the east by the Northern Pacific, and from the south and east by the California and Oregon. We could promptly supply a Sound fleet and fill Washington Territory with a land force that could cut the Canadian Pacific and isolate British Columbia while the great guns at Esquimalt would be as powerless against us as they would be against the moon. We need not shiver in our boots until we have outbuilt Esquimalt. Those works may forcibly defend Great Britain against a European enemy, but they need not disquiet us.

A company has been formed in England, of which Admiral Sir Henry Keppel is chairman, to explore the hulk of the French man-of-war *Orient*, which was sunk in Aboukir Bay in 1798 by Nelson. Lieut. Ponsonby, R.N., who has been employed in the Egyptian Coastguard, has reported the results of his examination of the wreckage in the bay by means of divers. He has laid down the positions of the *Orient* and four other vessels, and as it is generally believed that Napoleon, when at Malta, previous to sailing for Egypt, shipped on board the *Orient* specie to the value of \$3,000,000, besides two immense silver gates, the spoil of a raid upon a Roman Catholic church in Valetta, and an immense quantity of other unenumerated valuables, it is plain that an effort to recover so rich a prize is worth undertaking. A number of articles of all kinds have been recovered already, but there have not been the necessary appliances for undertaking the work in a practical manner. Besides which, the ships are completely covered with a hard coating of deposit from the Nile, and the decks and sides required to be broken in with dynamite cartridges.

The *Vulcan* was launched at Portsmouth, May 18. The same day at Trieste was launched an armored cruiser of 3,800 tons displacement, intended as the *Ersatz*, or substitute, for the obsolete Austrian wooden central battery battleship *Lissa*, built at Trieste in 1869. She will carry two 9.27 in. 14½ ton Krupps, and six 5.87 in. 4 ton Krupps. The side armour is very limited, and the chief protection is furnished by a steel deck. The total cost is \$760,000, exclusive of armament. Another cruiser, intended to replace the obsolete wooden ironclad *Kaiser*, is also being built. She will be of 4,200 tons displacement. Baron Sterneck, the chief of the Austrian Navy, has been violently attacked for his determination to replace 10,810 tons of ironclads by only 8,000 tons of what is practically protected shipping; and there is an outcry for more battleships, in which however, the Baron is profoundly a non-believer.

"H. F.," writing from Amiens to the *New York Times*, says: "Here waiting on the platform of the station are some two score soldiers of the 101st Regiment of the line. It is five years since I first saw the French soldier, and he has during the interval gained nothing except the liberty to wear his beard instead of shaving, if he likes, and the knowledge that all the regimental bands in the army now play the "Marseillaise" in the same key and pitch. These have not helped him to look smarter or brighter. He is the same slouchy, sleepy-looking little creature that he was, with the skirts of his heavy gray-blue overcoat thrown back so that he may thrust his hands to the very bottom of his trousers pockets. He obviously jokes with his non-commissioned superiors, and they say that he dislikes most of his commissioned masters. If I were a French private I am sure I should do the same, for these gentry in the frogged black jackets and tight, gold-ribbed red breeches are, as a rule, very disagreeable-looking young gentlemen. They were not so formerly. Even old Republicans confess that the relations between officers and men

were much better—that is, thinking of the regiment as a family and a unit—in the old days, while the Napoleonic traditions still was stronger in men's minds. I fancy the relation between the generals themselves is better now, on the other hand, than it was then, and that the upper organization of the army is much stronger than it was in 1870, or than people generally think."

The fourth annual meeting of the Association for the Employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers was held at the offices of the Association, at 12 Buckingham street, Strand, London, on the 27th May. It appears from the annual report that the Association was established in 1885, and that its main object is to find employment for warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and young soldiers returning to civil life, and to the army reserve, after a few years' service in the ranks. For this purpose a central office was established in London, and there are also twenty branch offices in some of the principal towns of the United Kingdom. Four of these latter have been opened during the last year. The names of men desirous of obtaining employment are registered, and their characters and qualifications carefully enquired into. Every effort is made to publish the aim and objects of the Association to employers. This is done partly by advertisements, and partly by personal visits. It may also be noticed that only men of good character are registered, and that no fees are charged to the men or to those to whom they are recommended for employment. Several employers of labor have expressed great satisfaction with the men sent to them, and have notified their intention of applying for others as vacancies occur in their establishments. As to results, it appears that during the twelve months ended 31st of March last, 796 men were registered in London alone, of whom 368 obtained situations, or about one per diem. At the various offices of the Association 3,598 applications were registered during the year, and 1,289 men, on reverting to civil life, were provided with situations through the medium of the Association, and the committee are making every effort to extend the sphere of its influence. With regard to the situations obtained for these men, it is interesting to note that they include the police, foremen of works, clerks, indoor servants, coachmen, grooms, employment on railways, and other miscellaneous work, so that the Association offers a considerable selection for the employers of labor. The committee quote from the last annual report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting, who says: "The question of the civil employment of army reserve men and discharged soldiers necessarily forms an important factor in connection with army recruiting, and there is good reason to believe that, if well conducted men had a better assured prospect of obtaining employment on return to civil life, a healthy stimulus would in time be imparted to recruiting, and that men of a better class would be thereby induced to join the ranks."

In his address before the Iron and Steel Institute, London, May 8th, the President, Sir James Kitson, said: "The days of the giant hammers are numbered, and the Titan you see illustrated on the walls, whose blow disturbs a whole district, will be supplanted by the silent, slow working, but irresistible press. The 4,000 ton press of John Brown & Co., made by Tannett, Walker & Co., the president had seen working upon an ingot, the original size of which was 52 in. in diameter at the bottom and 46 in. at the top. The weight was about 34 tons. This was in four heats reduced to 29 in. in diameter for a gun tube 28 ft. long. Cammell & Co. have a 5,000 ton press made by Davy Bros., of Sheffield. The name of Haswell, of Vienna, the address mentioned as a pioneer in this field, while Sir Henry Bessemer obtained a patent for an invention in the same direction so long ago as 1856, a drawing being shown in that year at Sir Henry's experimental works at St. Paneras, for the hydraulic pressure of steel in its fluid and solid state; while in 1869 the same talented inventor was granted a further patent for casting under pressure. Sir Henry Bessemer's inventions," continued Sir James, "cover a large field, and are the fruit of more than 60 years of mental activity." In view of this prophecy it is interesting to put on record this list given of the heaviest steam hammers in Europe.—England, one 30 ton at Elswick; one 35 ton at Woolwich Arsenal. Germany, one 50 ton at Krupp's. Russia, two 50 ton. France, four 20 ton., three 25 ton., one 35 ton, two 40 ton, one 50 ton, one 80 ton, two 100 ton.

Special Announcement.

We have made arrangements with Dr. B. J. Kendall Co., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases," which will enable all our subscribers to obtain a copy of that valuable work free by sending their address (enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same) to DR. B. J. KENDALL CO., ENOSBURGH FALLS, VT. This book is now recognized as standard authority upon all diseases of the horse, as its phenomenal sale attests, over four million copies having been sold in the past ten years, a sale never before reached by any publication in the same period of time. We feel confident that our patrons will appreciate the work, and be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of obtaining a valuable book. It is necessary that you mention this paper in sending for the "Treatise." This offer will remain open for only a short time.