

MISCELLANEOUS.

LORD NAPIER OF MAGDALA.—It is reported in the Calcutta papers of the 5th ult., that it is likely his Excellency Lord Napier of Magdala, will return to Europe in about three months' time, for the purpose of taking up some commensurate command at home.

There is now very little doubt that Dover will be selected as the *locale* for the grand annual Volunteer Easter Review, and if so, it is reported, the Volunteers will be supported in their display by the Yeomanry of Kent, the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, under Colonel Commandant the Earl of Mountcharles, and the West Kent Queen's Own, under Lieutenant Colonel Commandant the Earl of Darnley, in addition to the whole garrison.

A NEW MODE OF DRESSING WOUNDS.—In Belgium, a new mode of dressing wounds has been adopted. A sheet of lead one fifteenth of an inch in thickness is applied to the seat of injury, and made to assume its shape by pressure. By means of strips of adhesive plaster, the lead is secured in, and a current of fresh water is poured over the surface of the flesh once or twice a day.—*Medical Record.*

ENGLISH SPIRIT.—Active service for her sons is essential to a nation's healthful existence. Without her great naval and military worthies England would have long since ceased to exist as a first class power. It is the Arctic Expedition—to the difficult and hazardous exploration by sea and land—to the work of surveyors and engineers to the frontier wars and negotiation—that the preservation of that spirit is due which has produced and will produce, the men capable of saving their country when the hour of trial comes. To England therefore, an Abyssinian expedition was an unmixed good. Active work in the field, where alone self-reliance, experience, presence of mind, resource, and efficiency can be acquired, was furnished to her officers in both services; while some much-needed self-respect was restored to the nation itself. The cause of quarrel was absolutely just, and comparatively little suffering or misery was brought upon the invaded country.—*A History of the Abyssinian Expedition.* By Clements R. Markham, F. S. A.

A BEAUTIFUL INCIDENT.—A naval officer being at sea in a dreadful storm, his wife, who was sitting in the cabin near him, and filled with alarm for the safety of the vessel, was so surprised at his composure and serenity that she cried out—

"My dear, are you not afraid? How is it possible you can be so calm in such a dreadful storm?"

He arose from his chair, supporting himself by a pillar of the bed place, drew his sword, and pointing to the breast of his wife exclaimed, "Are you not afraid of that sword?"

She instantly answered, "No."

"Why?" said the officer.

"Because," rejoined the lady, "I know that it is in the hands of my husband, and he loves me too well to hurt me."

"Then," said he, "remember I know in whom I believe, and that he holds the winds in His fists, and the waters in the hollow of His hand."

Louis Napoleon is said to have communicated to intimate friends his adherence to a bill to be introduced in the House concerning retrenchment in the Imperial household, and a reduction in the number of military commanders.

It having seemed an important question with the physicians of Paris how far they were at liberty to divulge information obtained from patients, when required to do so by officers of law, they submitted the matter to the lawyers of the city and have received for answer that "the obligatory revelation of a medical secret does not exist in French legislation."

In consequence of the coming reductions in the staff but few appointments will be vacant during this year and the next. The principal cutting down will be in Canada. The effect of the reductions in the army medical staff will be so large that no fresh admissions to the service are likely to take place for a year, if not a longer time.

The Secretary for War has decided, with the concurrence of the Duke of Cambridge, that, except in cases of emergency, staff officers will not be allowed leave, with pay, until they have served ten months, actual service being required before they are allowed leave for four months, and thirty months' actual service for six months' leave. Leave will in no case exceed one-sixth of the term of service.

A new mode of steering ships, by the pressure of the water in which the vessel floats, has been invented by Lieut. Inglefield of the British navy. The apparatus is, of course, below the water line, and it can be controlled from any part of the vessel. The captain, sitting in the cabin of the largest iron-clad, with a compass beside him, can steer her with his thumb and finger.

OCEAN STEAMBOAT RACE.—The *New York Herald* says that the ocean steamers "City of Paris" of the Inman line, and the "Russia" of the Cunard line, left New York Wednesday at the same time, and that there is considerable money pending on the result of their speed across the Atlantic, as great rivalry exists between the different English steamship companies to secure the subsidy, which the Cunard line has hitherto obtained for transporting the English mails to this country. The "City of Paris" beat the "Cuba" some time ago, but the "Russia" is regarded as the fastest Cunarder, as the "City of Paris" is the fastest boat on the Inman line.

Patterns of the dress pouch belt and sword belt for medical officers of the army have now been sealed, and are deposited at the Horse Guards for general information and guidance. The belts will be worn according to gradation of rank as follows:—For medical officers ranking with brigadiers and major generals four rows of gold embroidery $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide on black morocco shoulder belt, gilt chased buckle and slide, but no breast ornament. Pouch of black morocco leather, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep, and pointed with three rows of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch gold embroidery, gilt chased V. R., and crown ornament. Sword belt, black morocco leather with three rows of gold embroidery $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide on the waist belt, and three rows $3\text{--}16\frac{1}{2}$ inch on the slings; gilt chased clasp with silver lion and crown. For officers ranking under Brigadiers:—three rows of gold embroidery on the pouch belt, and two on the pouch and sword belt as above described.

This is the way they opened the Bosnian Parliament the other day. The Pasha of the province arose and said:—"May the Lord, the Lord of the Worlds, forever sustain and keep the life-giving shadow of his Majesty the Sultan over his people. Amen." Whereupon, the assembled members—seventeen Turks, three Orthodox and three Catholic Christians, and one Jew—here, and at a given sign, thrice said "amen."

In a general order on the results of musketry instruction in the army for the year 1863-8, the Duke of Cambridge says that while it is gratifying to him to find that the shooting of the several corps as a whole has considerably improved, it still appears that sufficient care is not bestowed in executing the independent practice. In many instances the average is "bad," and in the majority of cases is below the standard indicating good firing. In 29th and 69th Regiments, which have made the lowest averages, the time taken 1 min. 58 sec. and 1 min. 49 sec. respectively, leads to the inference that the practice was hurried over, and that more attention had been paid to celerity than to accuracy. The results of the mounted practice in the cavalry and of the skirmishing in the infantry are, on the whole, good. The number of non-exercised men, as shown in many of the returns and in the confidential reports of general officers commanding districts, is excessive. It should never at the utmost exceed 5 per cent. of the strength. The best shooting company is D company, 1st battalion 21st Fusiliers, with the hitherto unattained score of 172.56. The best shot is Sergeant C. Rogers, 62nd Regiment, who made 67, 68, and 60 points in the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st classes respectively.

VALUABLE RECORDS.—The *Star* says that Mr. Orridge, late chairman of the Library Committee, has made some perfectly astounding discoveries in regard to the quantities of valuable records that are lying neglected in out-of-the-way corners of the various offices of the London Corporation. In the City Solicitor's Office, he says, in a letter recently addressed to the Common Council, "there are voluminous records that have never been examined or indexed"—"the Comptroller's muniment room has no light in it, and in broad daylight he is compelled to send his clerks there with a lantern; it is choke full, and looking for a deed there is like looking for a needle in a haystack." It is as bad in the other offices; there exists in the Chamberlain's department a room full of all sorts of papers tumbled together in the wildest confusion half forgotten, altogether neglected. They have lain in that upper chamber over eighty years, since they were pitched there to save them from a fire. There are valuable historical documents in the town clerk's office the proper study of which would throw sharp side-lights on every part of our history, from the Tudor time to the Protectorate and William the Third's days. Six hundred and sixty-two letters of this collection alone refer exclusively to the Elizabethan era, and are faithful copies of originals by the Queen, Burghley, Bacon, Cecil,—in short, most of the statesmen and courtiers of the time. What a treasure would these be—not to historians alone, but to gentlemen in search of topics for the magazines—if they were brought within the general reach.—*Liverpool Post.*