

made, their Lordships approved of the ship on the responsibility of Messrs. Laird and Captain Coles, and the Chief Constructor was so informed. Their Lordships were quite aware that the Controller of the Navy did not approve of the design of the *Captain*, and accepted it with a full knowledge thereof. The Controller of the Navy never supposed that the *Captain* would be in danger of capsizing. His objections to her were on the ground of want of seaworthiness. Was not pushed to this point. It was inconceivable that, having any such fear, he should have any responsibility.

The examination was then concluded by a question from the President: I gather from a thousand sources of information, and partly from the summary, that the construction of this ship was forced upon the Admiralty by what is called the public opinion, in the periodical papers of the day and in the Houses of Parliament.

The Court then adjourned.

(To be continued.)

The Radicals have succeeded in making some important innovations in English constitutional usages, before the advent of John Bright and the Manchester school of political philosophers the sound maxim that the majority rules was regarded as the key-stone of constitutionalism; the following will show the effect of the doctrines of the new school:—

“In London, Manchester and other English cities, voting by ballot in the election of School Boards has been introduced, but in a different system from that in vogue in America. Every ratepayer, without distinction of sex, was allowed to cast as many votes as there were members to be elected in his or her district, giving one for each candidate, or uniting them all in a “plumper” for one aspirant. This is called cumulative voting, and an elector living in a district where there were five members to be chosen could vote for the five candidates on his favourite ticket, or throw five votes in favor of a single one. In Manchester, where fifteen members were to be chosen, and where there were only about seven thousand Catholic voters, the latter so combined and plumped their votes that they elected two candidates with the highest vote of the day, giving Canon Toole, a Catholic priest, 54,560 votes, while the highest Protestant vote was but 35,410. Many women voted at these elections, and several women were among the successful candidates, both in London and Manchester.

The vote by ballot is one of the institutions advocated by the party of which the late President of the Board of Trade is the representative man, and if managed in the manner set forth its result would be government by *cliques*, *rings* and *scamps*. Such are the beauties of the ballot and other innovations.

In consequence of the strong recommendation of Earl Spencer, the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Government have decided that the Irish Militia shall be called out for training next year.

H. R. H. Prince Arthur, Lieutenant Rifle Brigade, will leave duty at Woolwich, on the 20th inst. on leave of absence for three weeks, during which time he will remain with Her Majesty the Queen.

THE FRENCH ARMY.

WHAT IT HAS COST AND LOST.

The manner in which France has been deprived of her regular army, by losses in battle and by capture, is astounding. She commenced the war with 430,000 regular troops. This is what has become of them—

Captured at Weissenburg	1,000
Captured at Woerth	6,000
Captured at Spichenen	2,500
Captured at Saargemund, Haguenau and Litchenberg	1,377
Captured at Vionville	2,000
Captured at Gravelotte	3,000
Captured at Vitry	850
Captured at Beaumont	2,856
Captured at Sedan	84,450
Captured at Laon	2,080
Captured at Toul	2,240
Captured at Strasbourg	15,347
Captured at Scholestadt, &c.	5,000
Captured at Metz	155,000

Total.....285,700

The losses by death in action, and in hospital by wounds and sickness, have been 81,300 men. There remains consequently of the 430,000 only 63,000 men, and of these 50,000 are in Paris and others are with Gen. Aurelles on the Loire. Besides this loss in men, France has had taken from her since the war began more than 3,500 cannon and 35,000 horse. In the loss of men are not included the National Guards and Gardes Mobiles taken prisoners at various places, nor the garrison of Metz, but simply the soldiers of the regular army. The *Pays* sums up the money loss of France from the beginning of the war until this time as follows:—War armaments from 1868 to 1870, £40,000,000; fortifications destroyed which will have to be rebuilt, £60,000,000; losses of muskets, cannons and other war material destroyed or captured, £60,000,000; destruction of buildings and fields by both sides £80,000,000; total or partial ruin of manufacturers and other proprietors, £40,000,000; war indemnity to Germany, £100,000,000; losses in consequence of the influence of these disasters, £80,000,000; total, £460,000,000.

A RAT STORY.—Our Grennock correspondent narrates the following:—A few weeks ago the ship *Bannockburn* arrived at Grennock from Quebec with a cargo of timber. As usual, all the bonded stores were put into the store room in the cabin, and sealed up by the Customs' authorities. Since that time parties visiting the cabin have occasionally been startled by extraordinary noises inside the store room, but owing to the Customs' seal being affixed to the door, no access was obtained till yesterday, when an application was made by the owners to have all the bonded articles removed to the Queen's warehouse. Amongst the stores was an American flour barrel, containing several pounds weight of coffee beans saturated with blood, and on further investigation being made, the cabin floor where the barrel stood was found to be in a similar condition, while inside the barrel about two dozen heads and tails of rats were found. No other portion of the bodies or entrails of the brutes could be seen. How the vermin met their deaths and their bodies should have been consumed (bones and all) their heads and tails being left behind, must, we fear, remain a mystery. The surmise, however, is that the rats having got into the barrel amongst the beans were unable to get out again, and hunger and thirst overpowering any sense of respect even rats

may entertain for brother rats under more favorable circumstances, they had devoured one another, leaving only, like little Bo-Peep, “their tails behind them.” The question naturally arises—What became of the last rat, how did it manage to escape, or what was its fate? It is to be feared this question will never be answered satisfactorily, the heads and tails being all that are left as evidence that such a terrible tragedy had been enacted in the barrel. It should be stated that there was neither cat nor dog on board the ship, and no animal likely to prove a deadly onomy to the rats could have got into the state room.—*Glasgow Herald*.

Speaking of British interests in China the *Star of India* says:—“It is essential, if we are to preserve our position in the East, that an enlightened policy should be conjoined with vigorous management; the China of to-day is not the China of 1860, and it has contrived to arm itself in a formidable manner. If China does not make up its mind to fight with us at present, and we with it, we shall require, our contemporary thinks, 50,000 troops at the least to bring it to reason, and to accomplish anything effectual. This may seem an unnecessarily large force, but if it took 30,000 troops to force China to grant our demands in 1860 when it had not 100 men armed with European small arms, and the only cannon it had worth anything were those taken from our gunboats lost at the mouth of the Peiho, what will it be 1871 when we have to meet Krupp's guns, and large bodies of troops drilled in the European fashion and armed with breech loaders?” If this necessity exists on the part of Great Britain, as the *Star of India* asserts that it does, what is the duty of the United States in the matter? That the Burlingame Mission has ceased to exert any influence, if it ever had any, is evident. That treaties with China for the protection of foreign residents need force to make them respected seems equally plain. Here then, is an opportunity for a “vigorous policy” of the United States if one is needed. Can Gen. Butler fail to see this?

RECRUITING.—Orders have been received at Woolwich to suspend recruiting for drivers in the Royal Artillery, who, since the reduction of the standard, have been coming in at the rate of nearly fifty a day, a circumstance beyond all precedent. Numbers of young men, however, daily offer themselves at the recruiting depots, and those of the requisite height are readily accepted by the sergeants from various regiments who have fallen back upon Woolwich since it has become the rendezvous for recruits, while lads of suitable size and strength are readily induced to offer themselves for the Royal Navy, and are seldom rejected by the shipping authorities at the dockyard. In connection with recruiting may be mentioned a system of fraud which has been discovered to have been perpetuated under the Army Reserve Act. Two men are in custody at Woolwich who are proved to have personated discharged soldiers, and enlisted in the Army Reserve, not only at Woolwich, but at Deptford and probably other stations in various names, drawing bounty and pay at the rate of fourpence per day for several months past. The defect which facilitates this species of fraud is the want of an efficient check or communication between the different stations, such as the publication of the names of men enlisting would ensure. At present it is feared that many men are on the reserve roll in two or three places.