

RESULTS OF WAR.

In the course of the international conference which has just terminated at Paris relative to certain proposed modifications of the treaty of Geneva of 1864, for ameliorating the condition of the sick and wounded in time of war, a letter was read by the delegate from the Austrian Minister of War, which contained the following statement. At the date of the letter, August 14th, 1867, there remained 84 Austrian officers and 12,277 soldiers who were engaged in the war of 1866, of whose fate nothing whatever was known. They simply appear in the official document of the army as 'disparus.' For a long time the families and relatives of this large number of men were kept in anxious uncertainty as to whether they were prisoners of war in Prussia, wounded and in Prussian hospitals, or had been killed on the field of battle. They only know now that they are dead, because they have never been able to obtain any tidings of them. Many of them have been drowned; but the probability is that the greater number of them were shot and buried without any record being taken of their regiments or names. The object of the letter from the Austrian Minister of War was to bring before the conference the subject; to consider if some international plan might not be adopted for identifying all soldiers dying in time of war, and ensuring that in no case should any officer or soldier be buried without note being taken of his name, so that it might afterwards be communicated to the proper authorities of the country to which he belonged. It did not appear whether the 84 officers mentioned by the Austrian Minister of War included non-commissioned officers, or referred only to commissioned officers. Under any circumstances, what an incalculable amount of misery is indicated by the figures and facts above named.—*British Medical Journal*.

ABYSSINIA AND ITS ARMY.

Abyssinia is situated in Eastern Africa, between lat. 8.30 and 15.40 N. and long. 35 and 42 E., comprising an area of 282,000 square miles, with a population of about 3,500,000. The Red Sea forms her Eastern boundary. The coast is a desert for 90 miles, and is intensely hot and unhealthy; in the interior there is a mountain range, full of difficult passes, where the climate is quite temperate.

In 1863, an Egyptian army of 10,000 or 12,000 men was collected at Khartoum, at the junction of the Blue and White Nile, and attempted the invasion of Abyssinia from that point, but abandoned the attempt before reaching Gondar, the capital. This route is therefore pronounced impracticable.

There remains, then, the alternative of an approach from the Red Sea, landing at Tajura for Massowah, when the army will have before them at the outset a broad parching desert, which has been described by travellers as a perfect valley of death. The army of King Theodore numbered last year about 50,000 men, many of whom were armed with muskets. Making every allowance for the superior bravery, discipline and equipment of the British troops, and for the exaggerated reports of the strength and efficiency of the Abyssinian army, it must still be admitted that the invaders will have a very difficult task before them.

AN INCIDENT IN THE INDIAN WAR.

Since the prevailing Indian troubles in the States commenced an Indian camp was captured, together with a number of prisoners, including squaws and some half a dozen white captives, boys and girls, from five to twelve years of age. Word was sent throughout the country, inviting those who had lost children to come to the camp and identify, if possible their children, as none of them could give any account who their parents were, or where they were taken from, so young were they when taken captive by the Indians. Numbers went to the camp—many more than there were children—and of course many returned with heavy hearts at being unable to find their lost ones.

Among the number who went hundreds of miles to the camp was a mother who lost two children—a boy and a girl, one three and the other five years of age—years ago. Efforts were made to persuade her not to go, and so long a time had elapsed it was certain she could not identify her children, even if they stood before her. But she could not rest, she must go, and go she did. On arriving at the encampment, she found the captives ranged in a line for inspection. She looked at them first from a distance, her anxious heart throbbing in her bosom. But she did not see her children, at least she saw nothing in the group that bore the slightest resemblance to her baby boy and girl as they looked when playing about her door step. She drew nearer and peered deep into the eyes of each, who only returned her look with a stony gaze, yet an anxious one—they, too, hoping to see something in her that would tell them she was their mother. She looked long and steadily at them, at her heart began to sink and grow heavy in her bosom. At last with tears and sighs she withdrew and when some paces on she stopped and turned about quickly, as apparently a thought had occurred to her. Drying her eyes, she broke forth in a sweet hymn she had wont to sing to her children as a lullaby. Scarcely a line had been uttered when two of the captives, a boy and a girl rushed from the line, exclaimed, "Mamma, mamma!" The mother went home perfectly satisfied that she had found her long lost children.

AN ASSASSIN IN PRISON.

The assassin Berezowski, who attempted to kill the Czar, was taken to Toulon on the 11th instance to serve out his sentence. A letter writer says:

As soon as he entered the precincts of the bagnio, the gray and yellow dress of a cellular prisoner was taken off, and the red jacket and green cap worn by those condemned for life was put on. The unfortunate young man was then taken to the prison forge—his feet were already swollen and painful from the long march he had just come off. A heavy chain was fastened to his leg by a massive ring. He did not appear to suffer during the operation, and quickly rose from the recumbent position in which it is always performed, taking up the chain in his hand, which otherwise drags on the ground. The head was shaved, as is the custom, in squares, that is, one square perfectly bare and on the next the hair is left about an inch long. In spite of this disfiguring process and the green cap, it was remarked that young Berezowski had a certain look of distinction, and even a gentle intelligent expression of countenance. One of the

jailors who was not aware that his fingers had been injured, asked him what was the matter with his hand. "It was the pistol," he replied; "I was cured in three weeks by the application of cold water." While his ten companions were having their irons riveted on, Berezowski remained quietly in a corner of the forge, and spoke to no one. He will not be chained to another convict, as is usually the case, but will remain in one of the convict's rooms chained to a triangle of iron, which is fastened to the camp bed of the prisoner, and through which a bar is slipped, thus preventing their moving beyond the length of their chain. In a month unless the wretched young man first turns mad, he is sure to be sent to New Caledonia.

WORKING MEN AND WAR.

France and Prussia, the class which lives by its labor, comprising probably some four fifths of each nation, held out their hands to each other, and declared that they for their parts declined to quarrel, and looked with abhorrence upon the bloodshed to which they have been committed. By protests and declarations of every kind they proclaimed that the avowed cause of war, the possession of territory was no reason for it in their eyes. They declared that labor was of no country: that so long as they were protected in the peaceful possession of the fruits of their toil, and allowed to perform their part in utilizing and interchanging the products of the earth, for the general good, they cared not whether they were called Frenchmen or Russians, and that to fight in such a quarrel was to fight for an empty name. It might be for the benefit of their rulers, who derived honor and advantage from such distinctions, to maintain them at the cost of unutterable misery to the world, to them it was not. For themselves they wanted no wars, and if they had liberty in any true sense of the word, war would long ago have been a thing of the past.—*Lord Hobart, in Macmillan's Magazine for September*.

EFFECTS OF INCREASED PAY IN THE ARMY.

The *United Service Gazette* gives a proof of the results of extra pay in the army: "Last year there seemed every probability that the 2d battalion of the 15th regiment would shortly cease to be reckoned as one of the efficient corps of her Majesty's service, so numerous were the men whose first period of service was about to lapse. The battalion was raised in 1858, and a large proportion of its present strength are therefore entitled this year to their discharge. The late increase of pay has, however, induced a considerable number of them to continue their services, and upwards of 100 men had re-engaged within a few days of our last advices. They each received £5 bounty, and £2 if they preferred it, in lieu of a furlough to England.

THE BRITISH ARMY.—The entire effective strength of the regular army, last year, was 208,590 men, of which 54,386 were in the British Isles, and 124,204 serving in the outlying portions of the Empire.

THE MILITIA.—The authorities of the War Office have issued an order for an increase of 2d per day to the pay of all ranks of the militia.