

# THE ANGLO-SAXON

Vol. XIII., No. 11.

OTTAWA, AUGUST, 1899.

\$1.00 per year.

## WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

At a meeting of the Glasgow University Court on the 13th July, Principal Story presiding, a petition for leave to retire from the chair of Natural Philosophy was presented from Lord Kelvin. The Court granted the leave, and accepted Lord Kelvin's resignation with deep regret. A remit was made to the principal to prepare a minute to be signed by all the members of the Court, expressing their sense of the great loss the University is now to sustain. Lord Kelvin has occupied the chair for 53 years.

**OFFICERS FROM THE RANKS.**—According to a return just laid upon the table of the House of Commons, the number of army commissions granted from the ranks from 1885 to 1898, inclusive, was 343 second lieutenants, 597 quarter-masters, and 56 riding masters—total, 995. The highest number of commissions from the ranks granted in any one year was in 1885, when the total reached 101. In 1895 the aggregate was 99, and in 1894, 82. The number of commissions granted during the same period, exclusive of those from the ranks, amounted to 8,584, the total being made up of 921 cavalry, 1,249 Royal Artillery, 576 Royal Engineers, and 5,838 infantry. The percentage of commissions from the ranks (excluding quarter-masters and riding masters) to those granted from other sources was 4 per cent. for the whole period (1885-98); the highest percentage in any single year being 65 per cent. in 1888.

**RACE TRIAL OF THE SHAMROCK.**—The first racing trial of Sir Thomas Lipton's American cup challenger took place on a course inside the Isle of Wight. Her opponent was the Prince of Wales's famous old cutter Britannia, which still holds the record for prize winning amongst the first-class yachts. The course laid for them was from Ryde Pier round the Nab lightship to the Solent Bank buoy and back to Cowes, finishing between the Royal Yacht Squadron Castle and the easternmost fairway buoy. In an east-south-east wind the

course gave the yachts a fair turn to windward, a long run, and a short trial along the wind. In beating and reaching the challenger showed herself infinitely superior to the older cutter, and going down the wind even with a small top sail she easily outran Britannia and won by over 13 min.

The second trial of the Shamrock took place the following day her opponent again being the Prince of Wales's cutter Britannia. His Royal Highness sailed on the Britannia, and Sir Thomas Lipton and Mr. Peter Donaldson were among the party on board the Shamrock. The course started from off the royal yacht Squadron Castle at Cowes and went round the Solent Bank buoy and the Nab lightship finishing off Portsmouth Spit. Owing to the lightness of the wind in the early part of the race the yachts took almost five hours to cover two-thirds of this course, and the trial was then abandoned as his Royal Highness had to fulfil an engagement ashore. When the match was stopped the challenger was leading by about 15 minutes.

**SALE OF PRESENTATION SWORDS.**—The five following lots were sold by order of a descendant of Admiral Lord Collingwood, in whose family they have remained to the present time:—An oval silver soup-tureen, cover, liner, and stand with chased band of honeysuckle and twisted surpentine handles, by Paul Storr, 24 oz., with presentation inscription to Lord Collingwood from his townsmen, etc., at Newcastle, dated October 21, 1808—£112 3s.; the sword presented to Admiral Lord Collingwood by the City of London in 1805, with inscription set in brilliants, "England expects every man to do his duty"—£240; and the sword presented to Lord Collingwood by the city of Liverpool—£160 and two swords captured by Lord Collingwood at Trafalgar, that of Admiral Villeneuve, Commander-in-Chief of the combined fleets of France and Spain, October 21, 1805—£63; and that of Don Baltazar Hidalgo Cisveros, the Spanish Rear-Admiral, Oct. 21, 1805—£26 5s. The sale also included the following:—The sword of Admiral Viscount Nelson, used when a mate, 260 guineas; a sword handle of Indian agate of remarkable purity, inlaid with five large old oriental brilliants, formerly the property of Tippoo Sahib, and taken at the fall of Seringapatam—£260.

**EXPLORATION IN CENTRAL ASIA.**—Captain Deasy, travelling in Eastern Turkestan, arrived at Polu, on the northern slopes of the Kuen Lun Mountains at the beginning of June. He encountered much opposition from the Chinese Ambans of Khotan and Kiria, who refused to acknowledge the