

# FOREIGN NAVAL AND MILITARY ITEMS.

A detachment of Russian soldiers near Tashkend having been overpowered by the inhabitants of the district, a body of Russian troops was sent from Samarcand, and it is said "the mutineers were massacred by thousands."

Besides the three turret-ships for the German navy, two of which are to be built at the Stetten Company Vulcan Works, seven corvettes are to be constructed at the royal dockyard of Dantzig.

Some arithmetician discovers that the French war indemnity of \$1,000,000,000 would in five-dollar gold pieces cover more than nineteen acres of ground used as paving. It would take one man 222 years to count them, at the rate of 100 a minute for twelve hours a day.

As the notorious Pearl Rock, within a few miles of Gibraltar, on which the *Agincourt* struck, has in times past been fatal to numberless British vessels, including several of war, Captain J. B. Ward, R. N., proposes to make it a British possession at once, and erect on it a lighthouse.

From India comes the story of a British sea captain who deliberately steamed away from a number of human beings who were struggling for life in mid-ocean, leaving them to their fate. These poor wretches were the survivors of a native crew, some of whom had been in the water upwards of thirty-six days.

The French Minister of War is making arrangements in reference to 214 cadres of battalions of chasseurs a pied, and 114 cadres of cavalry regiments, in view of the reorganization of the army. The army is to be raised to an effective of 320,000 with MacMahon as commander-in-chief.

Mr. E. J. Reed, C. B., late chief Constructor of the British Navy, has written a letter to the *Times* in which he neither admits nor denies the report that he has accepted services under the German Government, but complains that the report of which this was part was "unauthorized by him, and in some respects erroneous, and that his recent visit to Russia was purely a complimentary one, and had nothing to do with business engagements."

The British turret frigate *Devastation* was formally launched at Portsmouth dockyard on Wednesday July 12. The *Devastation* is the first of her class afloat, as a sea-going monitor, carrying 35 ton guns, and clothed with thickness of 14, 12 and 10-inch armor, and is therefore, looked upon in England as a triumph of the turret over the broadside principle of carrying guns of exceptionally large calibre at sea.

A regiment dear to the heart of "Caledonia stern and wild" is the "Scotch Grays," so called because it was raised in Scotland, and its men are mounted on gray horses. A short time since this splendid corps returned from Ireland to Edinburgh, and en route passed through Linlithgow, where resided a veteran retired officer of the Grays with his two daughters, widows of officers in the same corps. When the colonel of the regiment came to learn this, he halted a detachment in front of one of these ladies' houses, ordered the band to play a favorite air, and accompanied by several officers, called to pay his respects to his venerable brother in arms of '83, and his daughters—an act worthy of "an officer and a gentleman."

About 300 torpedoes are said to be now sunk at the Black Sea, mouth of the Bosphorus, and the strait is believed to be impassable by a hostile fleet.

The *Lincoln*, a roomy ship of 1000 tons burthen, sailed from the Arsenal to day for Halifax, Nova Scotia with a large cargo of guns and ammunition for the defence of the colony and the North American station. The *Lord Panmure*, War Department vessel, Capt. Spriddle, sailed on Monday with a miscellaneous armament for the forts on the River Severn, which are at present occupying considerable attention.

**LEATHER GUNS.**—The Cuban rebels are said to have resorted to the use of leather guns, a species of artillery used by Gustavus Adolphus and other European commanders in times near and remote. The leather while wet is tightly wound round a wooden core or mould, in successive jackets, the under one being allowed to dry before the next is put on. A close and tight coil of good rope or cord completes the tube, the breech being made of hard wood, lined with tin. Such guns will fire some twenty rounds before giving away. The advantages they present are cheapness and easiness of construction, and portability, as a couple of them, with a four inch bore, can be carried by one man. They are usually fired from the ground or from a cart.

**INEXTINGUISHABLE STORM AND DANGER SIGNAL.**—An Englishman named Nathaniel Holmes has patented an "inextinguishable storm and danger signal light," which was first exhibited at the President's meeting of the Royal Society of London, on the 22nd of April, when it attracted great attention. *Nature* gives the following account of it and its uses: The peculiarities of the signal light are that it is self-igniting when placed in the water or thrown on the seas. Contact with water being the only means of igniting the lamp, it is inextinguishable when once ignited; neither wind nor storm has any effect upon the flame. The light is of intense brilliancy, and of great duration and can be seen for a great distance in the open air. Photographs may be taken by the light of this new signal. Experiments were tried on the evening of the 25th April, at 10 o'clock, in the presence of some scientific gentlemen to determine its brilliancy as a signal. A lamp was placed in a bucket of water on the top of Primrose Hill, and the light was so intense that after the signal had been burning for twenty minutes small newspaper print could be distinctly read at a distance of seventy feet, notwithstanding that the night was thick and foggy. This new signal light will burn for over forty minutes. In construction the lamp is exceedingly simple, and so contrived that when once burnt the whole may be thrown away. The chemical preparation contained in the lamp is a solid hard substance free from danger; not affected by heat, and so non-explosive; and the signal is comparatively inexpensive. Its application for marine signals are numerous. In cases of shipwrecks a few lamps thrown on the sea would illuminate the entire scene, and enable assistance to be promptly and efficiently rendered. For rocket line apparatus it is equally valuable, as bursting into a flame on falling into the sea, it would indicate the position of the rocket-line. In connection with life-buoys, it would be a mark to the drowning sailor. In life boat services it would be a signal to the vessel in distress, the brilliant light would greatly assist in the rescue. In cases of salvage, ships signals, and harbor warnings

the duration of the light renders this new invention of great value. As a railway signal, to be used by the guards and station porters in cases of accident it will be equally available, and will be of great utility.

**RAILWAY BLESSINGS.**—In the course of some remarks in Mr. H. V. Poor's *Railway Manual* for 1871-2, reference is made to the wonderful effect of railways upon agricultural products, by making markets possible which could not be otherwise reached. For example:—The cost of transporting a ton of Indian corn or wheat over ordinary highways will equal twenty cents per mile, and at such a rate the former will bear transportation only 125 miles to market, where its value is seventy five cents per bushel; the latter only 260 miles, where its value is \$1 50 per bushel. With such highways only the most valuable of our cereals will have a commercial value outside of circles having radii of 125 and 250 miles respectively. Upon railroads, the cost of transporting those articles equals only one and one quarter cents per ton per mile. With these works consequently, the areas within which corn and wheat will have a commercial value will be drawn upon the radii of 1,600 and 3,200 miles respectively. The area of a circle having a radius of 125 miles, is 49,087 square miles; that of a circle drawn on a radius of 1,600 miles, is 160 times greater, 8,042,406 square miles.

**THE ROCK OF CASHEL.**—A mixed committee of Protestant and Roman Catholic gentlemen has been formed in Ireland, for the purpose of purchasing from the Irish Church Commissioners, and securing from further decay, the well known "Rock of Cashel," with the ultimate view of restoring the now roofless Cathedral of St. Patrick's for public worship, and preserving King Cormac's Chapel. The "Rock of Cashel" is rich in historical associations. Upon its summit the ancient Kings of Munster had their palace, and were solemnly crowned. It is an old tradition that the king of that region was baptized upon the rock by the hands of St. Patrick. Cormac McCarthy, King of Desmond, crowned it with the beautiful Norman Church which still bears his name, and Donald O'Brien King of Limerick, added the fabric of the old cathedral, within the walls of which was celebrated the Synod of Cashel in A. D. 1172, just 800 years ago.

**TREATY OF WASHINGTON.**—Notification is made in the *Gazette* that under the 12th and five next following articles of the treaty, Henry Howard Esq, Third Secretary to Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service, and now employed in Her Majesty's Legation in the United States, has been appointed agent for Her Majesty's Government, and is authorized to receive at Washington any claims, of persons subjects to her Majesty coming within the provisions of these articles, and all persons having such claims are requested to forward them to Henry Howard, Esq, Her Majesty's Legation Washington, together with the requisite documentary evidence or information in support of the same.

A *Pekin*, newspaper of extraordinary size is published weekly on silk. It is said to have been published more than a thousand years ago. In 1827 a public officer caused false intelligence to be inserted in this for which he was put to death.

The Tyne and Paris crews are quietly practising on the Kennebecasis River for the forthcoming race.