

European armies should give up the use of shells, and confine them solely to siege operations, and it is said Napoleon is quite willing to assent to the arrangement. This reminds one of the rule by which school-boys agree that they won't hit below the third button of the waistcoat. Why do not the Emperors advance a little farther in the same wise direction, and say that they won't fight at all?

**THE ENGINEER** says that it is reported that the snider rifle enlarges at the breech by constant wear, so that gas escapes. The cause is the want of the breech being fastened down, and the use of a cheaper cartridge with a weaker base. **THE MECHANICS' MAGAZINE** says further: "Owing to some accidents at practice, it is reported that the Snider cartridges are in a state of non-user. Whether the whole are to be condemned or not does not appear, but orders have been issued to suspend the further firing. The declaration of Sir John Pakington that no pains would be spared to provide the British soldier with the best possible cartridge, does not seem to have borne fruit as yet."

**A HARD HIT AT AMERICAN WOMEN.**—Among Leon Gazlan's posthumous papers was found an essay on the characteristics of women, which will not add to his popularity among American ladies. "Just read the outrageous paragraph:—'A French woman will love her husband if he is either witty or chivalrous; a German woman if he is constant or faithful; a Dutch woman if he does not disturb her ease and comfort too much; a Spanish woman if he wreaks terrible vengeance on those who are under his displeasure; an Italian woman if he is dreamy and poetical; a Danish if he thinks that her native country is the brightest and happiest country on earth; a Russian woman if he despises all Westerners as miserable barbarians; an English woman if he succeeds in ingratiating himself with the royal court and the aristocracy; an American woman if he has plenty of money.'

**A FENIAN LAW SUIT.**—The New York Tribune of Saturday has the following:—

General O'Neill, who is President of one of the "wings" of the Fenian Brotherhood, had a criminal information filed yesterday against Michael Scanlan and Dr. David Bell, editor of *The Irish Republic*, 'for provoking him to commit a breach of the peace,' by publishing a statement in a letter written and signed by Captain William H. Grace, of the National Hotel, Washington. The statement in question is to the following effect, viz:—

"Every Irishman here in Washington only knows too well, to his sorrow and humiliation, the brazen assumption of O'Neill, and the capital he endeavoured to make out of the Ridgeway affair. He came here and started in the 'claim' business; but was not long in operation before he was suspended by the War and Treasury Departments for presenting before them unjust and dishonest claims, and his name was posted up in each Department as one forbidden to transact any business with the Government."

Messrs. Scanlan and Bell were arrested in their office at twelve o'clock, noon. They proceeded with their counsel to the Police Court. O'Neill also appeared with his counsel. The defendants were held in \$1,000 bail each for their appearance July 10. The New York Sun says it is rumored that the

examination of this case will bring to light portions of the history of the invasion of Canada not heretofore made public, but which a large number of persons are likely to be deeply interested in.

**DISARMING OF LICHTENSTEIN.**—The sovereign Prince of Lichtenstein has decided on disbanding his army. In the old Germanic Confederation he was bound to keep together a body of 90 men as a contingent, which was a heavy charge on his treasury. At present he is determined to be freed from it, and so he disarms.

**THE WAR IN PARAGUAY.**—Private despatches from Paraguay report further battles. A few encounters have taken place, in which the Brazilian forces were successful. Nevertheless, Lopez remained at the head of a powerful army, and was determined to stand his ground. He was strongly entrenched and well provisioned. The Brazilians were contemplating an attack on Humaita.

**TREATMENT OF THE TROOPS FROM ABYSSINIA.**—"An Officer in the Reserve Force" expresses his hope that the gratitude of the country towards the troops returning from Abyssinia will be displayed by deeds as well as by words, and will not be limited to complimentary speeches and votes of thanks in the Lords and Commons. "It would go far to popularize the service, and would facilitate the work of the recruiting sergeant," were Sir John Pakington enabled to announce that each regiment on its arrival would be at once sent to some favorite quarters, and not relegated for the winter season to the bleak hill sides of Shorncliffe or Aldershot, and that as many furloughs as possible would be granted to the men.

**MAJOR SIR WALTER SCOTT.**—The *Athenaeum* of May 16 mentions a report that Sir Walter Scott's eldest son "made a sort of merit of the fact that he had never read a line of his father's novels." This is incredible. Major Scott was reputed to be an intelligent man, proud of his father's fame and worth. Lockhart used to say that Major Scott wrote letters almost worthy of his father's pen. When in India with his regiment in 1843, Major Scott, hearing that a Highland battalion was to pass about fifty miles from his station (Bangalore), rode that distance one day and back the next, merely to hear the *skirl* of the pipes! No doubt there would be a jolly mess for his reception besides, but in the incident (which we give as the authority of a private letter of Mr. Lockhart's) we seem to have a touch of the first Sir Walter.—*Inverness Courier*.

**THE MAGNESIUM LIGHT IN ABYSSINIA.**—King Theodore, it is stated, advised his captains to attack the British by night, but they declined, and descended to their deaths by daylight. Had they obeyed, they would have had a new proof of the power which science can bring to bear in aid of slaughter. Sir Robert Napier had with him an apparatus for employing the magnesium light on a grand scale. At a distance of 500 yards a bewildering blaze of light would have been thrown into the eyes of the Abyssinians, and the British, themselves in impenetrable shadow, would have shot down their lustrious enemies at leisure and ease. The poor Abyssinians would have been helpless as herrings with the electric ray streaming on the shore. It is hardly war such a contest; but it is better that civilization should be armed than that barbarism should be.—*Spectator*.

**THE NEW ART OF WAR.**—"The Zouaves and Grenadiers of the Guard," says the 'Moniteur,' "have lately made some very curious experiments on the practising ground at the camp of Chalons. The idea was entertained that in certain cases it might be useful to cover a line of battle by temporary defences, and the soldiers were furnished with shovels and pickaxes, which they carried on their knapsacks. On arriving at the position selected, the battalions were deployed, a rapid reconnoitring by the staff determined the most favorable sight for digging a trench. The troops, protected by sharpshooters, moved to the spot, and laying down their arms, set to work, the skirmishers laying down in front, and firing to restrain the enemy. In eight minutes five battalions were protected by cutting of one metro 50c. (about five feet), presenting a sufficient screen to shelter them perfectly. The following is the mode of proceeding:—The Battalion, being in place, the men acting as pioneers—one half of the effective—laid down their knapsacks; one man took a pickaxe, and the next a shovel, each two having a metro to dig. The pair work side by side, and when all have finished the cutting an earth-defence is complete, and the troops descend into the hollow which has been made."

**MEGANTIC VOLUNTEERS.**—The annual inspection of the 55th Battalion of Megantic Infantry took place at the Corners, Township of Inverness, on Dominion Day. The band of the Royal Artillery went up from Quebec, to enliven the proceedings, by the kind permission of Col. Chandler. A large number of people from all parts of the county—amongst whom were not a few of the fair sex—were in attendance, and seemed to take great interest in the proceedings. Precisely at noon the batt. etc., under command of that popular and zealous officer, Lt. Col. Thomas Barvis, amounting 350 men, rank and file, marched on the parade ground, and having formed into open column, the review commenced. Various battalion and field movements were most creditably gone through, both officers and men displaying much efficiency in movement and knowledge of drill. The appearance in *physique* of the men was beyond all praise. A finer, more muscular, manly lot of fellows we have never witnessed—they are a credit to the county, and to the gallant officer who so worthily commands them. The regiment has been under canvass for the sixteen days previous to the inspection putting in the drill for 1868-9. During that time the conduct of the men has been uniformly good, and they have learnt much from their being encamped and performing all the ordinary duties of a soldier. We are sorry, however, to be obliged to state that the Militia Department grossly neglected to provide for the comfort of the men while in the tents. Many things were wanting, but especially blankets and overcoats. Notwithstanding all the remonstrances and entreaties of the commanding officer, not a blanket or overcoat was served out to the men, and they were compelled to sleep on the damp grass, in a rough field, many of them with nothing on but a flannel shirt, and one of those Military school tunics. Were it not that the men were strong, hearty fellows, and the weather warm and fine, the consequences might have been serious. Major Grant and Adjutant Monizambert, of the Quebec Garrison Artillery of Quebec, accompanied the band to Inverness and were present at the review.—*Quebec Chronicle*.