

FOREIGN MILITARY ITEMS.

Reports from Constantinople state that the British captives in Abyssinia had gained their freedom proves to be without foundation.

Sir Henry Bulwer is engaged on a work containing his reminiscences of the diplomatic world with which he was long connected. Prince Talleyrand and Lord Palmerston will figure largely in this book.

The Summit railway tunnel through the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California, is finished. In New Zealand a tunnel, more than a mile and a half long, has just been completed through an extinct volcano.

The Sublime Porte again indicates to the European Powers that it cannot admit of any intervention in the Island of Candia, and therefore absolutely declines to adopt the project for a joint commission of enquiry.

A private letter from a Sergeant in the 42d Highlanders, stationed in India gives an account of the outbreak of cholera in that regiment, from which in 11 days 63 of the men and two of the soldiers' wives were cut off by that dire disease.

Delegates to the Peace Congress continue to arrive from all parts of Europe. Garibaldi arrived at Geneva on the 9th. His reception was most enthusiastic. In a brief speech he declared his purpose to move on Rome, and that the plan of action would soon be brought out and carried into effect.

STILL IN MOURNING.—Although it is more than five years since the death of Prince Albert, the mourning seal in black wax continues to be affixed to all the official letters of the government in its several departments, nor does there appear any probability of a return to the red official seal.

GENEVA, Sep. 9.—Delegates to the Peace Congress are arriving from all parts of Europe. Garibaldi has arrived in this city. His reception was most enthusiastic. In a brief speech, he declared his purpose to move on Rome was unalterable, and that the plan of action, though deferred, would soon be carried into effect.

HEAD CENTRE STEPHENS.—Head centre Stephens is living in Paris poor and despised. There seems to be no doubt that he was in the pay of the English Government all the time. He is afraid to go to Australia, or any place where the Irish abound, lest he should meet with personal chastisement. He is writing a book.

The speech by the Grand Duke of Baden, at the opening of the Diet, Duke of Baden, at the opening of the Diet, in which he advocated an alliance with the North German Confederation, gives rise again to feelings of uneasiness in political circles. Fears are entertained that the recent complications will be revived and that questions may arise which will disturb the tranquility of Europe.

MARRIED SOLDIERS.—A order from the British War Office has been recently issued limiting the number of soldiers who are to receive permission to marry to seven per cent of the whole establishment of a corps, and further requiring that no man shall obtain such permission who is not in possession of a good conduct badge. At the same time, the privileges of married soldiers are greatly increased.

Experiments made at Posen with the Chassepot and the Needle gun give the following results:—The needle gun fired eight shots in one minute, striking the target eight times. The Chassepot fired ten shots and was loaded the eleventh time within the minute; it also struck the target eight times. During a half-minute trial the needle gun fired three times and the Chassepot five.

The Lords of the Admiralty have invited the principal shipbuilding firms in the United Kingdom to send in their tenders for the construction of an armor plated iron ship of about 2300 tons. This vessel is to be supplied with twin screws, and her bottom is to be sheathed with wood, which is to be coppered.

A Florence letter of the 6th in the *Siecle* says: "The desertions from the Pontifical army continue. Two Prussian gunners, fugitives from that corps, arrived here yesterday. If serious events should break out in the patrimony of St. Peter, no one knows to what point the government could count on the fidelity of the native troops."

THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF JAPAN.—The Tycoon of Japan, who is childless, has decided, in accord with the chief Daimios, that his younger brother, Prince Min Bon Taiou, now in Paris, shall be declared his legal successor. In order that this heir to the Japanese throne should receive an education suitable to his high position, the Tycoon has requested the Emperor Napoleon to appoint a governor for him, whose duty will be to direct his studies during the four years which the prince is to pass in France. The Emperor, acceding to that desire, has appointed Lieut. Colonel Vilette, of the Staff, Aide-de-Camp to the Minister of War, to be governor of the Prince.

THE EXPEDITION TO ABYSSINIA.—No fewer than fifteen screw steamers have been placed under government survey in Liverpool for the transport of troops to Abyssinia. Of the fifteen steamers five it is said have been accepted by the government. The following are the names of the vessels chartered and under survey: City of Dublin, Bosphorus, City of Anchester, France, The Queen, England, Helvetia, Hector, Carolina, Pacific, Lybia, Peruvian, Golden Fleece, Mauritius, and California. All these vessels, especially those belonging to the National Steamship Company, have a splendid carrying capacity for troops, the ventilation and room being far superior to any transport in the government service. The vessels after survey will go round to some of the government ports for material.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.—We understand that the 63d (West Suffolk) Regiment, which has been quartered in Glasgow for the last eleven months, holds itself in readiness to proceed to Ireland. It is but right to say that, as far as we can gather, the conduct of the soldiers outside the barracks has been most exemplary during their stay in the city, and their good behavior inside their own quarters is borne out by the fact that at present there is not a single soldier in confinement. We should also make mention of the extreme courtesy shown by the commander of the regiment and the other officers in granting the services of their excellent instrumental band on all public occasions. The 63d Regiment is to be succeeded by the 25th Regiment (Scottish Borderers), which comes direct from Canada. —*Glasgow Herald*.

NAPOLEON AS A GUN INVENTOR.—The *Echoes from the Clubs* says: The Emperor Napoleon, well known to be a first rate artilleryist, has invented a new field gun. Its power is so great that a single discharge is expected to destroy a battalion. Workmen are busily engaged in manufacturing this weapon. They are locked up day and night, and never allowed to leave the premises, where of his Majesty himself keeps the key, and the secret is not to be divulged until European applications render prompt action necessary.

THE PROPOSED NEW WAR KIT AND ACCOUNTMENTS.—As the results of the trials of the new system of carrying the knapsack and accoutrements are pronounced to be eminently satisfactory, it may be of use to state the principal features of the change which it is to be hoped, will be universally introduced into the Army without delay. The committee appointed to inquire into the effects of the present system of accoutrements on the health of the infantry soldier state in their second report that recent campaigns, especially the Bohemian and Italian of 1866, show that it is of the utmost possible importance to husband in every way the marching power and endurance of the soldier, whilst the introduction of the breech-loading system compels the soldier to carry an increase in the amount of ammunition, in consequence of the greater rapidity of the fire which takes place. The latter necessity of course must involve an increase of the weight already carried unless some special counteracting provision be made. The committee set to work to reduce the weight of the carrying apparatus (knapsack) as much as possible, and to distribute the weight absolutely required to be carried in such a way as to give the muscles of the chest and all the shoulder full and free play. The weight that a soldier is compelled to carry, irrespective of the carrying apparatus, the rifle, the oversack for provisions, water bottle, and blanket, varies from 20lb. to 33lb., and is made up as follows:—The kit (whose contents differ from those of the old one, by the omission of trowsers and bucking), 6lb to 7lb; the great coat, 6lb; ammunition, 90 rounds (the fullest amount required) 9lb to 10lb; the canteen, 1½lb; the bayonet, 1lb; making a total of from 22lb to 24lb. On ordinary occasions less ammunition might be carried. The weight of the carrying apparatus has been reduced from 10lb 2oz to 3oz. Now as to the mode in which the kit is recommended to be carried the old knapsack is discarded, and in place of a bag is introduced; this is placed low down, and suspended from a leather yoke, similar in principle to the valve proposed some time ago by Sir T. Trowbridge. The weight of the kit bag is distributed in three directions—(1) the yoke, by means of straps passing before and behind to studs on the (2) to the large bone connecting the two hips; and (3) to the belt, by means of additional straps. The weight of the ammunition is also distributed. The committee have recommended the use of two long and narrow pouches, each capable of holding thirty rounds, and made of soft leather. In time of peace only would be worn, exactly in front of the waist belt, and suspended from the yoke. In time of war two would be worn, and, in addition, two small pouches in the kit-bag for ten rounds each have been made, and these might be filled, and ten more loose rounds would be contained in a little bag worn on the right side. The great coat is worn on the back, and strapped to the yoke. The new carrying apparatus, at all events, is about 6lb lighter