

Telegraphic communication is now established between Winnipeg, Pelly and Battle River, over 500 miles.

No less than 14 000 rockets were taken out with the Serapis for pyrotechnic purposes during the stay of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in India; but the fleet said to have nearly exhausted its store, and several thousands more have been manufactured in the Royal Laboratory, and will be transmitted to Bombay with all despatch. None of the rockets issued from the Government works were for display on shore, which were chiefly arranged by private manufacturers from England.

Broad Arrow, Jan. 15, mentions a curious fact about the new Russian iron-clads called *Popovkas*, referring to the volume of *Punch* for 1847-48, page 233. It there finds pictured a small fleet of such circular ships cruising in the Channel, and in the letterpress this form of ship is recommended (ironically, no doubt) to the consideration of the Admiralty as an improvement on the form of ships the government were then building. Now in its old age the Admiralty is taking *Punch's* advice.

The war in the Malay peninsula between the British and some of the native chiefs came to a practical termination on March 20, by the surrender of the Rajah Ismail at Penang. By what circumstances the surrender was brought about is not yet known, but it is thought that he must have been blockaded. The direct object of the British in their military operations in Perak has been to punish the natives for murdering Mr Birch, the English Resident, and three out of his nine murderers are now in custody, besides Datu Sagor, the chief who was present when the murder was committed. In the war, Sir William Jervois has been assisted by the good will and co-operation of many of the Malay chiefs, who have not sympathized with the Rajah Ismail and his party.

An official testing of the merits of the "Makaroff" safety mat for stopping leaks in vessels took place on the 13th inst., at Keyham. This new contrivance was sent down to Devonport by the Admiralty a short time since to be reported upon. The trial came off at the inner caisson, at the entrance to the south basin, and at low water the water was allowed to flow out of the lock, the outer caisson being raised for that purpose. In the inner caisson about twelve feet down is a sluice, about eighteen inches square, that passes through the caisson, and at that aperture the mat was tried. Some pigs of ballast, with blocks attached, were lowered to the bottom close to the caisson, and through those blocks ropes were rove, and made fast to the two lower corners of the mat to haul it down over the aperture. The valve of the sluice was then opened full; but from the great rush of water through, the men failed in hauling the mat over the aperture. The valve was then half closed, and the mat secured over the hole. The leak was not then fully stopped; but the leakage was not more than a ship's pumps could have cleared. This test could hardly, however, be said to be fair, for in a ship the ropes attached to the lower end could have been passed under the bottom and up the opposite side of the vessel, and the mat brought opposite the hole before it was hauled close to the side; but on the other hand, in an actual collision, there would be no valve, to have reduced the inrush of water. The mat appeared to be too stiff, as when it was over

the aperture and confined there by the pressure of water, its edges were forced off from the side of the caisson, and such a defect in an actual case of necessity with a ship passing through the water would be likely to spoil, all, for the water would get between the ship and the mat, and the mat would be soon lost.

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