

paratively late use.* On the whole, at the present moment the artillery is on a low footing; and, with more attention to the practical instruction of the men, which will no doubt come by and by, there is every reason to hope this arm will not be found wanting on any future occasion. The promotion in the artillery, as a rule, goes by seniority, but the power of selection has been authorized by the late warrant, and in the promotion of three officers to the rank of major-general in the late war, over the heads of a great number of their seniors, has been acted upon. In cases of manifest superiority in abilities or conduct in the field or on active service, this innovation, and, in a great degree, break of faith, in the artillery would perhaps be received in a fair and tolerant spirit; but there is a general misgiving that selections will not be made with impartiality or justice, or on sufficient grounds; and Sir H. Ross, the adjutant-general of artillery, much to his credit, gave his strenuous opposition to it in the first instance. It will be most unjust to officers who have served faithfully wherever they have been ordered, and who have performed their duties for the last half-century to the satisfaction at all times of their superiors, to pass them over in the ordinary promotion of the regiment—to deny them almost the only prize it offers, the command of a battalion, to which they have all their lives been accustomed to look forward to, for the sake of some one else who has nothing more to show except that he has served before the enemy, and as a popular man has been repeatedly mentioned by "Our Own Correspondent." Sentiment is so rife in modern days that a few weeks' service in the Crimea, especially if with the good fortune of having been wounded, is apt to do more for an officer than twice as many campaigns might have done in the days of the Peninsula. The officer in the field has many opportunities of getting on, and by all means, when there is anything to be done, let the most active, the most energetic, and the most promising be selected. Let him be promoted in all ranks according to his deserts, but there is still no reason why he should supersede another in command like that of a battalion, the duties of which are nominal, and which has always been looked upon as a reward for any man living long enough to attain it, and whose services show no venish, though they may, from no fault or failing on his part, have nothing brilliant to set them off. No paragraph in a newspaper, no county dinner, no presentation sword—nothing beyond the simple fact, that he has evaded nothing, and that he has done his duty when and wherever he has been ordered.

For some time past, the promotion in the artillery has been extremely rapid, arising from the very low establishment of the arm a few years ago and repeated augmentations since. There is every indication that this promotion has reached its culminating point; and in a few years more, if some plan to give an outlet is not thought of meanwhile, the state of the corps will revert to what it was about five and twenty years ago, and the subalterns will be about the age that the majority of the field officers are at the present moment. How long the high rate paid by their friends for the

* This commendation is only meant to apply to the number of guns as compared with the state of things before the war. In the range and calibre of its field guns England is inferior to any other country in Europe, if not in the world. The mass of our guns are 6 and 9-pounders; we have only one battery of 18-pounder guns that can throw larger solid shot.

education of the cadets at the academy will continue under slow promotion remains to be seen. It will be interesting also, under an altered state of things, to watch the effect it may have on the class of officers entering the corps. If the advocates for purchase can tide over their present difficulties, they will by and by have the slow effects of seniority promotion in the artillery to point at, and with the impossibility of anything but a wholesale system of selection to remedy it. Now is the moment to take this subject into consideration. There are means of preventing what must evidently be the state of things before long, but they entail large and comprehensive changes, affecting the constitution of the army generally, and that must be more shaken than it is at the present moment before it would be of any use to moot them. Hitherto if the artillery has not fought under the cold shade of anti-torcery, it has had to contend with the still colder one of neglect, or rather of indifference; and the ignorance displayed regarding it by the general and other higher officers of the army is perhaps as strong an instance as can be adduced of our military deficiencies, and how little the military art as a whole is studied in England. In the history of the corps there is, with much glory, a considerable alloy of humiliation. In none of our wars has an army of England, or even a division or a brigade of such an army, fallen to the guidance of an artillery officer; and amongst the long list of peerages given for military services at different times, no selection has ever been made from the ranks of the corps. While no other portion of the army has contributed more to the glory and greatness of England, it stands alone in paucity of its rewards. In every other country in the world, whether Christian or Mohammedan, whether civilised or barbarous, the artillery takes the highest place, and the officers belonging to it have repeatedly proved themselves equal to the most important commands, and to the guidance of the largest armies. This great French Emperor was himself an artillery officer. While this is the case abroad, the officer of that arm at home, the only one who with the sister corps of the engineers until lately received a military education, is, when he attains high rank and might give the country the benefit of that education, placed upon the shelf. This custom prevails, and, absurd as it may be, seems inseparable from the nature of our military institutions. These are based on money, and the extraordinary notion attached to it that what is called a stake in the country is the best test of an officer, and most likely to produce in the end the most talented general. It is a question whether the artillery officer whose mind is not trained to the expectation of high command is not thus deteriorated in his fitness for the discharge of the higher duties of his own profession. His ambition is apt to be narrowed by it to the attainment of an appointment in the horse brigade, or, disgusted with military duties generally which can lead to nothing, he seeks, with an avidity painful to witness, after some semi-civil and stationary office connected with the corps at Woolwich. With a stagnation of promotion commenced and likely to continue, and with all high commands in the army in the hands of the cavalry and the line, while the few appointments of his own arm seem to be held for life, the prospects of the artillery officer in England at the present moment are not of the most brilliant description; and if this part of the service is to hold the same important place it has proved itself worthy of having hither-

to, though in its rewards it has not obtained it, the subject should be one of anxious consideration to the authorities. By strictly limiting the time of holding the staff and other appointments connected with the corps, some stimulant, however slight, might be given to zeal and ability.

ERUPTION OF THE VOLCANO OF FUEGO IN GUATEMALA.

An eye-witness of the eruption of the Volcano of Fuego, thus describes the event:

ESQUINTLA, Feb. 18, 1857.

At 7½ o'clock on the morning of the 16th we arrived at Amatitlan, and left there at 6 for Patzún. As soon as we had crossed the end of the hill on the right* that forms the dividing ridge, the Volcano of Fuego presented itself to our view, and over the most southerly point arose a perpendicular column of smoke in the form of a plume of feathers. One part of it was jet black, and another the most resplendent white, owing to the reflection of the sun's rays. At intervals loud reports, as of cannons were distinctly heard. The column of smoke increased every moment, and remained perpendicular for over twenty minutes, until a gentle wind from the north gradually altered its form, and blew the smoke to the south.

As the wind increased the smoke that issued from the crater spread horizontally in a southerly direction. The loud reports at this time (11 o'clock) were more rumbling. At 1½ we arrived at Esquintla. The rumbling noise increased, as did also the quantity of smoke vomited out. When it became dusk in the evening no fire was seen, but early on the morning of the 17th it becomes visible.

At daylight on the 17th, the quantity of smoke was perceived to be much more than on the previous day, sometimes rising a little above the crater, but never perpendicularly, having always an inclination to the south.

At 8 a.m. the rumbling sounds became more continuous and the loud reports much stronger and more frequent, and this continued throughout the day. At midnight the fire was distinctly visible, and bright flashes, accompanied by much smoke, were seen. A torrent of lava of most brilliant color was seen running down the slope of the hill, and the crater then appeared to throw out showers of sparks and flame in all directions. These sparks were probably large masses of red hot stones, which bounded down the sides of the mountain with great velocity.

Suddenly the current of lava appeared to cease and the aperture from which it flowed (on the south side) to close, so that by 8 o'clock the eruption had lost much of its force, but the reports and rumbling sounds continued with even more severity.

At 9 o'clock the lava broke out with a great explosion at a spot some distance from the first one, from which an immense stream of lava flowed in two channels toward the north, presenting a most sublime and impressive scene. This continued until after 10 o'clock.

On the afternoon of the 18th the atmosphere was filled with so dense a smoke that the top of the volcano was not visible; the explosion and rumbling continued, but not so violently as on the previous day. Our accounts only come down to this date.—*Panama Star and Herald.*

TITLES OF ENGLISH KINGS.—The first "King's speech" ever delivered was by Henry I. in 1107. Exactly a century later, King John first assumed the royal "We." It had never before been employed in England. The same monarch has the credit of having been the first English king who claimed for England the sovereignty of the seas. "Grace" and "my Liege" were the ordinary titles by which our Henry IV. was addressed.—"Excellent Grace" was given to Henry VI., who was not the one, nor yet had the other. Edward IV. was "Most High and Mighty Prince." Henry VII. was the first English "Highness." Henry VIII. was the first complimented by the title of "Majesty;" and James I. prefixed to the last title "Sacred and Most Excellent."—*Archives Retired from Business.*