

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12.

CALENDAR—JUNE 1878.

THURSDAY, 13—Octave. Dr. Esmonde hung in Dublin, 1798. FRIDAY, 14—U. S. Flag adopted. SATURDAY, 15—S.S. Vitus, Modestus and Crescentia. SUNDAY, 16—Trinity Sunday. MONDAY, 17—St. Barnabas. Battle of Bunker Hill. TUESDAY, 18—U. S. declared war against England. WEDNESDAY, 19—Henry VIII. Crowned King of England.

POLITICS IN CANADA.

With the closing scene of the House of Commons—fresh in our memories—with a Speaker electing himself in our Local Legislature by his own casting vote, and an M.P.P., it is alleged, drugged and kidnapped in order to keep him out of the way, we have no reason to congratulate ourselves upon the state of politics in Canada. The report we publish of the kidnapping of Mr. Peltier is, if true, a startling evidence of the luxury of honorable dealings in political affairs. Sheridan once said that "conscience has no more to do with gallantry than it has with politics," and some of our Canadian politicians are furnishing us with evidences of the truth of the remark.

PARTY PROCESSIONS.

The Star is bidding for the support of the Orangemen. Having lost the good will of one section of the people, it is trying to make up for it by courting the assistance of another. It openly champions the cause of the Orangemen, and thinks that they alone should not be singled out for legislative restrictions. It says that all party processions, religious and otherwise, should be embraced in the proposed Party Processions Act, which it is hoped the Holy Administration will pass. We fall to see how "religious" processions can be included in the word "party," and an attempt to do so would be a gross breach of administrative justice. If religious processions are to cease, they should cease by the voluntary abandonment of them by the people, and not by Act of Parliament. Some people may say that the Orange processions are religious, being founded on the "Word of God," but experience has taught us that Orange processions cause more strife and ill-feeling than brotherly love. However, the Star is bidding for their support.

SOCIALISM.

When Voltaire startled mankind with his creed of individualism, he planted the seeds of social chaos in the void he made in men's hearts, when they blasphemously heard "there is no God but man." It was no new idea, indeed, that individualism of Voltaire's, for it existed in many forms for ages before his time, and it has, in some form or other, convulsed Europe for many a decade. Louis Philippe fled from it, Louisbourg rose against the Austrians, Sicily rebelled, Austria was torn with agitators, and the King of Prussia accepted the situation, and was weak enough to wear the colors of the Socialists of his day. At last the Commune opened the eyes of a surprised world, and it was then seen by men who would not believe before, that Socialism was the enemy of order and the antagonist of constituted society. From Europe it is not to be wondered that Socialism should travel to America, and threaten there to establish its ideal republic. From the United States we hear that the well-disposed citizens are arming against the threatened outbreak of the Socialists. In Europe society is honey-combed with socialistic ideas, and thus far, Canada appears to be safe from the contagion. Let us hope it will continue so.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

An effort is being made to re-organize the 4th Battalion of Volunteers in the 6th Military District. It is not to be a new corps, but a transfer of the headquarters of inefficient independent companies to Montreal. We are all aware that the Government is sternly opposed to any increase of the Volunteer Militia, but it cannot be opposed to a measure which will make an efficient battalion from inefficient independent companies. Besides, the 6th Military District is not fairly treated in the number of men now allowed to it in the Active Militia. It has far below its quota, and there is neither a piece of artillery nor a cavalry horse in the district. On active service it is expected that each district would turn out an efficient brigade, or perhaps division, but in the case of the 6th District this would be impossible. The fact that the district is treated thus makes people say that it is because it is the Catholic and French-Canadian district, a statement we would be very slow to credit. However, the Government can do some good to the service, and stop unpleasant rumors, by granting permission to have the headquarters of the companies we refer to transferred to Montreal. The General has reported against independent companies, and this is a favorable opportunity of carrying his ideas into effect.

THE TWELFTH OF JULY.

We publish a letter which appeared in this morning's Herald, and signed by "David Grant, County Master, and Abraham Mackey, District Master," of the Orange Order in this locality. The letter is a compromise. It declares that the Orangemen have resolved to walk, but that they will, on certain conditions, abstain from inviting "certain persons from a distance," to take part in their demonstration; that is, if they are "protected" by the authorities. They declare, that if so protected, they will not carry arms. Why should they? In the event of being "protected" there would be no necessity to go armed. Besides, men cannot openly defy the law. But the authorities cannot protect the Orangemen. It is an illegal society, as anyone who reads the Act passed during the time Sir John Colborne was in office can plainly see. The Act itself was passed in 1839, and it was consolidated in 1860. We have the opinions of some of the leading lawyers in the Province for saying that that Act, clearly and unmistakably, makes Orangism an illegal society. The Freemasons are specially mentioned as not coming under the provisions of the Act, but all other secret societies, where oaths are administered, or where there are different branches or lodges, are plainly marked out, and it makes them all illegal, and the members of them guilty of a misdemeanor. In face of that Act the authorities cannot protect the Orangemen. It is true that no body of men, not legally constituted for the purpose and acting under magisterial control, has the right to interfere with even an illegal procession; but it is equally true that such procession cannot be protected, unless the authorities choose to set the laws of the Province at open defiance. Again, the letter blandly expresses a desire to see all processions done away with. Do Messrs. Grant and Mackey mean all processions in Canada, or only in the Province of Quebec? The doing away with all processions within the limits of the Dominion is a fairly debatable question; but the doing away with all processions within the Province of Quebec alone would be a great injustice. We wish both Orangemen and Catholic Union could be induced to loyally act within the provisions of the law, and at least abstain from carrying deadly weapons. All good citizens should support the authorities in their efforts to enforce the Blake Act, and then if there is disturbance on the 12th, it will not do very much harm if the question is fought out in true Irish fashion with the traditional shillegh, and we may be all the best of friends for it too.

OUR VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

Canada has about 40,000 apparently efficient volunteers. In physique, in battalion drill, in discipline, and in love of country, these 40,000 men are equal to a similar number of militia in any country in the world. To all outward appearances, they could hold their own if subjected to the rude test of war. They are hardy and patriotic, and they have outlived a period of unpopularity, and are now looked upon with favor by the country at large. No one doubts their fidelity, no one questions their courage; but with all that we question their efficiency. Passing in review order before a saluting point, wheeling "like a gate," skirmishing "like a ladder," or standing "like a wall," no more prove the complete efficiency of a battalion than firing at a target is a proof that the target will be hit. Let us take the review that took place on May 24th in Montreal. It was, on the whole, a display of which Canadians might well be proud. Perhaps we have no right to expect much better, and, no doubt, the gallant soldier who commands the volunteer militia had to make great efforts to secure the outward semblance of efficiency which that review displayed. But still the troops were not efficient. And why? Because there was an absence of even an attempt at organization, such as troops in the field require. There was not an ammunition wagon—except those attached to the field-pieces—on the ground: there was not a pack-horse, to supply ammunition to the troops, to be seen: there was not a commissariat man attached to any of the corps: there was no evidence of a medical staff or ambulance men in the entire line: and very few, if any, of the four thousand men who looked so well and marched so steadily past the saluting point, knew anything of internal economy, or could relieve a guard or pitch a tent, if required to do so. No doubt people will say, "Very true, but those duties and this knowledge would be acquired in a short time in real warfare." This is true and it is not true—besides no man is really efficient unless he is acquainted with the duties which would fall to his lot if called out for active service. A sergeant who could not relieve a guard could scarcely be considered "efficient," and an officer who knows nothing of the routine of the orderly-room is not likely to be regarded as "promising." Besides, there is no branch of the service so difficult to manage, or so hard to learn, as the commissariat, and we can never look upon the volunteer militia as efficient, until some effort is made to supply us with a staff whose duties it shall be to study the art of obtaining and distributing supplies. If we are to have a thoroughly efficient force, this is a necessity: if we are to be satisfied with an apparently efficient force, then we can go on as we have been going—come day, go day: God send Sunday,—until the sudden thunder-clap of war finds us unprepared, and, consequently, partly demoralized. No man who has ever gone through a campaign but knows that nothing destroys the esprit of a corps more than a disorganized commissariat. It paralyzes the Generals, incapacitates the men, and it causes more casualties than the bullets of the enemy. In our Canadian battalions, our quartermasters and our quartermasters' ser-

gents are, if they exist at all, simply sinecures. They take no special pains to learn their duties, nor are there any opportunities of doing so afforded them. We know that it is the custom to make little of this branch of the service, but food, at the right time, and in the right place, is just as necessary as rifles, and a hundred times harder to obtain. If any of our readers have ever seen, and no doubt many have, an efficiency army corps, with its pontoon bridges, ambulances, pack-mules, its commissariat, and all the necessary adjuncts to a corps prepared for active service, they will realize the difference between the efficiency of a Canadian volunteer battalion and a battalion of men prepared in every detail to take the field. And instead of being reduced, as some people may fancy, the impedimenta of a modern army corps, is vastly greater than it was before the days of arms of precision. Then large masses of troops concentrated together more closely in action than they do at present, and the baggage train generally kept together. Now the troops are scattered, ammunition is quickly expended and the necessity for keeping the supplies for a battalion, near the battalion itself, is more difficult than ever. More ammunition is required and consequently more horses. Not only should each battalion, but we think that each company, as in Germany, should have a baggage supply of its own. We grant that it would be a waste of money to supply these waggons in time of peace, but we would like to see the men whose duty it would be to look after the supplies—the quartermasters and the quartermaster's sergeants, taught something of their duties. The Engineers might too be furnished with a pontoon or two, and at our next review some effort should be made to muster a commissariat and a hospital staff. Ordinary waggons could be covered for the occasion, the troops could be supplied with rations on the ground, and thus they would learn something of the duties which would be required of them in the event of active employment. Meanwhile there is nothing to prevent the commanders of battalions having their men instructed in guard mounting, and the officers and the non-commissioned officers in the theory of internal economy. We hope our Volunteer Militia will accept this criticism in the spirit in which it is tendered—for the good of the service—and that we shall hear no more of the whispered calumnies, or the mischievous intonations which sometime since nearly caused a rupture in a certain corps. We are the friend of the Volunteer Militia; we take a hearty interest in its welfare, and we shall forward its interest in every way in our power—if we are allowed.

ORANGEISM.

There was an Orange concert in Montreal on Wednesday evening. The platform was crowded with L. O. E.'s and O. Y. B.'s, and as we read in Job, "Satan came also," for Chiniquy the moral was there. Mr. D. Grant, County Master of the Orange Order, clothed in the brilliant-colored robes and crimson hat appertaining to his office, was in the chair. Mr. Grant is not an orator, nor is the Orange order particular as to its leaders. It does not pretend to be aristocratic; in fact, it is decidedly plebeian in its tastes. Anyone will answer for a "Grand" or a "Past Grand," and so Mr. D. Grant occupied the chair. His speech reads pretty well, but it was odiously delivered. He assured his audience that it was the "weak-kneed Protestants" who were to blame for the position the Order held in Montreal, and he piously told his readers that "Orangeism is founded upon the Word of God." No doubt of it. We have always known that Orangeism was founded "on the Word of God." Nay, more, we can give the text. Orangeism is founded on the 68th Psalm, 24th verse, which says:—"That thy feet may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies, and that the tongues of thy dogs may be red through the same." Of course, people will doubt this, but it was believed in by Daniel O'Connell, who obtained the pass-words from an informer. The "Word of God" answers the purpose of the devil, for Mormonism is founded upon its interpretation, and there is no reason why the "Word of God" should not answer Orangeism as well. But let us follow Mr. Grant. He said that the Orangemen were tolerant, and in proof of this referred to Mr. Kirwan's visit to Kingston, and that Mr. Kirwan was disappointed in finding the Orangemen so tolerant. Now, about this visit to Kingston, let us tell something that has not been hitherto made public. Mr. Kirwan was invited to lecture at Kingston, and he selected for his subject "Irish Soldiers in Foreign Lands." It is a neutral subject, and one to which no one can take exception. The same lecture was given in Montreal, and the Witness wrote of it as "impartial." If Mr. Kirwan went to Kingston to lecture upon "Orangeism," there would be some reason to threaten disturbance, but even upon such a subject as "Irish Soldiers in Foreign Lands" the Young Britons threatened to interfere. When Mr. Kirwan heard that his presence in Kingston was likely to cause a row, he wrote to the Mayor, expressing his willingness to abandon his visit rather than be the cause of riot or bloodshed. Mr. Kirwan preferred to have the imputation of a "coward" flung at him rather than be the cause of trouble. This the Mayor of Kingston can prove. Now, let the Orangemen from Ontario act in a similar spirit of citizenship. Mr. Kirwan was giving no earthly cause for disturbance. He did not go to defy the Orangemen. He did not go to insult or to annoy them, and he was courteously treated by the Orange leaders. But the Ontario Orangemen are coming here to defy and to insult the Catholics, and they would prove that they were acting more in harmony with the Word of God if they remain away. After Mr. Grant we had Chiniquy and Beau-

dry, who bellowed abuse as usual. One phrase of Chiniquy's deserves notice. He said something about Equal Rights being written in "letters of blood." Will some one, anyone, tell us of a single measure—one single measure—or half a measure, or one idea, that was ever put forward to grant Catholics "Equal Rights," and which the Orangemen did not oppose? But the Orangemen, "with devotion's visage and pious action, sugar o'er the devil himself," and talk of Equal Rights! To quote Catholic authority against them would be useless, but here is what Protestants said of them. Lord Gosford, the Governor of Armagh, an anti-Catholic nobleman, spoke of the outrages of Orangemen thus:—

"Resolved, That it appears to this meeting that the county of Armagh is, at this moment, in a state of uncommon disorder; that the Roman Catholic inhabitants are grievously oppressed by lawless persons unknown, who attack and plunder their houses by night, and threaten them with instant destruction unless they abandon, immediately, their lands and habitations."

This was the first of six resolutions proposed by Lord Gosford, whilst governor of the county, to a general meeting of magistrates, for the purpose, as the third of those resolutions expresses, of stopping the progress of the persecution then carrying on by an ungodderable mob against the Roman Catholic inhabitants of that county. On that occasion the noble Lord spoke a written address to the meeting, in which he told them that he was as true a Protestant as any in that place, and that from holding the situation he did in the county, he was called upon, and would declare his sentiments without fear and without disguise. That meeting consisted of the whole body of the magistracy of the county of Armagh, and being convened for the purpose I have mentioned—to concert measures to check the disgraceful enormities that were likely to reduce it to the deepest distress—his Lordship's words to them on that occasion are the most unimpeachable evidence that can be resorted to of the nature, spirit, and extent of Orangeism at that time, when only the first quarterly return of the success of that dangerous society was made. In part of his address his Lordship said:—

"It is no secret that a persecution, accompanied with all the circumstances of atrocious cruelty which have in all ages distinguished that calamity, is now raging in this county. Neither age nor sex, nor even acknowledged innocence, as to any guilt in the late disturbances, is sufficient to excite mercy or afford protection. The only crime which the wretched objects of this ruthless persecution are charged with, is a crime indeed of easy proof: It is simply a profession of the Roman Catholic faith, or an intimate connection with a person professing that faith. A lawless banditti have constituted themselves judges of this new species of delinquency, and the sentence they have pronounced is equally concise and terrible! It is nothing less than a confiscation of all property, and an immediate banishment. It would be extremely painful, and surely unnecessary, to detail the horrors that attend the execution of so rude and tremendous a proscription. A proscription that certainly exceeds, in the comparative number of those it consigns to ruin and misery, every example that ancient and modern history can supply: for where have we heard, or in what story of human cruelties have we read of more than half the inhabitants of a populous country deprived at one blow of the means, as well as of the fruits of their industry, and driven, in the midst of an inclement season, to seek a shelter for themselves and their helpless families, where chance may guide them? This is no exaggerated picture of the horrid scenes now acting in this country. Yet surely it is sufficient to awaken sentiments of indignation and compassion in the coldest bosoms. These horrors are now acting with impunity. The spirit of impartial justice (without which law is nothing better than an instrument of tyranny) has for a time disappeared in the county, and the supineness of the magistracy of Armagh is become a common topic of conversation in every corner of the kingdom."

Such is the account given by a peer of the realm, the governor of a county, and a loyal Protestant, of Orange cruelty!!!

Henry Grattan, speaking in the Irish House of Commons, in 1796, condemned the "Orangemen or Protestant Boys" of his time as "a banditti of murderers, committing massacre in the name of God, and exercising despotic power in the name of Liberty;" who, in the perpetration of their outrages, "had met with impunity, success and triumph. They had triumphed over the law, they had triumphed over the magistrates, and they had triumphed over the people. There, (in Armagh) persecution, rebellion, insurrection, robbery, devastation and extermination had been victorious."

The whole history of Orangeism in Ireland justifies this emphatic censure of the institution.

The Rt. Hon. George Ponsonby, in the same place, adopting the language of Lord Gosford, denounced the enormities of the Orangemen in Armagh, as having "exceeded that which ever disgraced any country." The reprobation—just as it then was—would be even more applicable to the entire history of Orange enormities in Ireland.

Arthur O'Connor, himself a Protestant, in his examination before the Secret Committee of the Irish House of Commons, August 16th, 1798, in response to a question put by Lord Castlereagh, explicitly charged the Irish Government with persistently laboring to foster and extend the Orange Institution, with the express purpose of dividing the people of Ireland, by inciting them to hostile collision about religious differences, so as to make the work of destroying the Irish Parliament all the more easy and certain. He positively stated that it had come to his knowledge that considerable sums of money had been expended, in the interest and with the approbation of the Irish Government, in endeavoring to extend the Orange system, and that the oath of extermination was administered. He further declared it impossible, from what he knew of the facts of the case, to exculpate the Irish Government "from being the parent and protector of these sworn extirpators," whose fanaticism would not permit them to see that they were enlisted under the banners of religion to fight for political usurpation.

Eminent Englishmen, as well as Irishmen have, in later times, notably so in 1848-9, and on even more positive evidence, arraigned the Anglo-Irish Government on substantially the same charges. And these are the men who talk about "equal rights!"

OUR PARIS LETTER.

THE PROGRESS OF THE EXHIBITION—WANDERINGS AMONG THE EXHIBITS OF FISHES—INSECTS AND TUNISIANS—THE PARIS—DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT.

(FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.)

HOTEL DU LOUVRE, PARIS, May 22, 1878.

We are not far from the leafy month of June, and the Exhibition will not be completed before the close of May. Yesterday an immense train of exhibits for the French groups entered the building, and the last may find themselves first. England, the most advanced, has yet to complete her colonial trophy. The Canadian section, very rich, will soon be ready. New Zealand is conspicuous by her absence, and the Cape of Good Hope just puts in an appearance—chiefly in wool, ostrich feathers, and diamonds. Australia is nearly settled down to business, and is fully represented, not only by natural products, but by manufactures of a really high order. Each colony has its separate court, and, as the Turk perhaps, likes to have no rival near its throne. It is fair to say that the Queensland section looks remarkably bright and fair; the walls are covered with excellent local colored photos, whose effect is heightened by their brilliant, but not garish, coating of eucalyptus oil. Some molair, a good twelve inches long, is very much admired, also, specimens of dark malachite, that Russia has nothing to match. By more careful cultivation of her tobacco, Queensland could become a famous "weed" producing soil. America is actively fixing herself up; the visitor is struck by these facts connected with the States: the smallness of the section, the quantity of chirographical instruments, and the abundance of patent medicines. Are people ever ill, or always sick, in the Far West? Her machinery, agricultural especially, is excellent, and so is that from England. Ploughshares are polished like rifle barrels. The jurors must be Solomon to award the medals to these competitors.

The continued absence of catalogues renders all comparative study impossible. However, this does not prevent the building from being visited by 40,000 to 100,000 persons daily—a mere overture of the coming crowds. In the way of receipts it will prove a veritable Big Bonanza. Visitors still indulge in wanderings, rather than special inspections; they want to take the whole idea in before looking up details. Yet not a general excursion you make but you discover something new, and re-visiting of the old is equivalent to an original peep. The aquarium, a subterranean marvel, is far from affording a miraculous draught of fishes; quite a legion of eels, pike, crabs, carp, &c., are in depot, to be sent adrift when the water ceases to be troubled. The underground alleys, when choked full of visitors, become as oppressive as a mine before an explosion; in July next the water in the tanks must be raised to such a temperature that the fish may be cooked, if not in their own juice, at least in their own element. The Trocadero is still closed; persons sensitive to suffocation will avoid it, as immense stoves are employed day and night to dry the walls for coloring. The big organ will give its first blow on the 15th of June. On passing the hall appropriated to useful and destructive insects, a notice prays the visitor to draw the guardian's attention to any exhibits desiring to indulge in French leave. As the Shah is to open his own pavilion, pass to that of the Bey of Tunis, whose kingdom cannot be so savage, to judge by the specimens of artistic industry in sword blades and hammer cloths. But a Tunisian passes most of his life in the saddle, and his most trusty companion is a sword with a razor edge, that would make the mouth of a Bedouin water. The Tunisians have an almanac, some very nice jewellery, and fair pottery; they exhibit a curious candle with five tubes, which is a candle not to shed light—for Tunisian castles resemble that owned by Cæsar Borgia—but to protect against the Evil Eye; just as Italians wear a bit of coral on their watch chains. There is a mosaic table in marble, dating from the foundation of Carthage. Perhaps Queen Dido drank palm wine on it, or cut up the bull's hide into strips to measure the site for the city. There is a man with a necklace of human teeth, said to be a dentist, that produces the same effect on clients as laughing gas. Tunis is evidently behind in musical instruments; crockery-ware does duty for drums, and hollow vessels with skin cords for banjos. The music, however, has a different kind of weirdness from the Tziganes, and the perfumed coffee, served with a "divine hookah," is the real moka.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the American section yesterday. They were shown all the points of interest by Governor McCormack, and frequently expressed their pleasure at what they saw. Tiffany's exhibit particularly attracted their attention, and the Princess of Wales was so well pleased with the goods that she invested the sum of 3,500 francs. The Prince was particularly well satisfied with the American representation on account of the general usefulness of the goods displayed. The Exposition is well attended, daily, but it covers so much space that a crowd doesn't make much show. Sunday, of course, is the great day. On that day, however, the English exhibit, which is one of the features of the Exposition, is all covered up. The Prince of Wales has been very favorably received by the French, and they have changed the name of one of their running races to the "Prince de Galles" in his honor. The Paris Figaro had a paragraph the other day to the effect that the Prince wrote home to the Queen, asking if he could go to the races on Sunday, and saying that, as he was in another country, it wouldn't make any difference. "The Queen answered," "no," by telegraph. I guess if the Prince of Wales should attend a race on Sunday it would raise a big row in England. The number of Americans in Paris is steadily increasing, but they don't stay long as a general thing, preferring to take a little trip and come back to see the Exposition when it is finished. Those who do stay, who are not millionaires, won't be able to get out of the city unless the prices are lowered.

THE SHARK. AN OFFICER from Trinity College Museum, Dublin, arrived in Kinsale to take charge of the skin of this monster, which had been purchased for the museum. The diameter of the back bone was found to be eight inches. The fish was a male shark, of the "basking" species.

OUR MILITARY COLUMN.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES.

THE INQUIRY INTO THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.

Under the presidency of the Under-Secretary for War (Lord Bury), the committee appointed by the Secretary of State for War to inquire into the condition and requirements of the Volunteer force, with a view to placing it in a thoroughly effective condition, has made considerable progress in its investigations at the War Office, and is still endeavoring in the most exhaustive manner to ascertain, not only the generally needed requirements, but also, by means of placing itself in communication with the commanding officers of corps in all parts of the kingdom, a mass of miscellaneous information which will guide it. Considering that at the date of the last return the enrolled strength of the force consisted of 629 Light Horse, 35,433 Artillery, 7,900 Engineers, 144 Mounted Rifles, 147,296 Rifles (total, 191,462), and has since then considerably increased in numbers, it will be seen that the task is by no means a light one, the more especially as there are many corps in various parts of the country who are less fortunate in the vital matters of head-quarters, rifle ranges, &c., than others, owing to local support, in some cases liberally extended, being in others totally absent.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ACTIVE SERVICE.

The Secretary of War recently received a deputation asking the Government's sanction to the proposed scheme for the formation of a Volunteer Brigade for active service. Lieut. Colonel Raines, who spoke on behalf of the deputation, said he believed 18,000 men could be easily raised. Colonel Stanley, while recognizing the feeling of patriotism by which the deputation had been prompted, pointed out the difficulties attending the carrying out of the proposal, and regretted he could not give a more definite reply.

THE WAR AT THE CAPE.

The war at the Cape still draws its heavy length along. General Theisler is reported, it is true, to have fully succeeded in his expedition against the Amantolas, and Sir T. Shepstone sends more cheering accounts from Transvaal; but the campaign is plainly far from over.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

Colonel Stanley, who is a younger brother of Lord Derby, is thirty-seven years of age. He was educated at Eton, and was for some time in the Grenadier Guards. From August to December, 1863, he was a Lord of the Admiralty; from February, 1874, to August, 1877, Financial Secretary at the War Office; and he then succeeded Mr. W. H. Smith, as Secretary to the Treasury. Colonel Stanley entered the House of Commons, as one of the members for Preston, in 1855, and has sat for North Lancashire since December, 1868.

THE RESERVES AND THE POOR RATES.

An increasing number of the wives and children of the Army Reserve men have had to apply for parish relief, consequent on the men being summoned to the colours. The subject has been introduced into the House of Commons, and it was stated that in future the payment of the Government allowance would be in advance. The Poor Rates, however, will really bear the additional burden, and thus the calling out of the Reserves involves indirectly a war-tax on the ratepayers part of the community.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN TROOPS.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's answer is that the native Indian troops of her Majesty are not and never have been reckoned within the Mutiny Act. The bringing of the native troops to Malta does not include them in the Mutiny Act, nor ought they to be so included. Driven into action by this piece of information, the Marquis of Hartington at last gave notice of his intention to move that no forces may be raised or kept by the Crown in time of peace, without the consent of Parliament, in any part of the dominions of the Crown, except only such forces as may be actually serving within her Majesty's Indian possessions.—Standard (Conservative.)

Surely the essence of the offence against Constitutional principles consists in the fact that the new troops are called from a separate force, and are not included in the Mutiny Act. That Act would not have the slightest value nor meaning if the Government could at any moment arbitrarily defy its limitation by summoning to European service any number of thousands of men from a force beyond its control. The Mutiny Act is intended to secure to the House of Commons a check over the undue extension of the army. We should like to know what becomes of that check if the Ministry may call into European service an unlimited number of soldiers beyond and outside the vote which Parliament thought it proper to sanction.—Daily News (Liberal.)

CAVALRY BOOTS.

The Army and Navy Gazette states that, as a result of the recent most interesting lecture by Lieutenant Graves, 20th Hussars, at the United Royal Service Institution, it is probable that the question of cavalry boots will be taken into serious consideration, with the view to the present "Wellington" being discarded.

WAR PREPARATIONS.

A general stoppage of the leaves usually granted to officers has taken place at Aldershot, an intimation being given that officers are to consider themselves as awaiting orders for foreign service. Although the work of preparation has lost its novelty, there is little apparent decrease in the activity which has prevailed in the Government works at Woolwich for some time past. The chieftainship is at the present time devoted to the question of transport; and an order which Colonel Fraser, the superintendent of the Laboratory, has received for 13,000 biscuit casks is taxing the utmost energies of his department. These casks are made to contain 48 lbs. each, and are intended to be carried on pack-saddles. No less than 1,500 tons of preserved meat have been brought from America.

BREACHLOADERS & TACTICS.

At the United Service Institution Colonel Olive has delivered a second lecture upon the influence of breachloading arms upon tactics. He advocated the employment of pack mules for the supply of ammunition in the field. The discussion which followed turned, however, chiefly, on the special point of the first lecture, the relative value of large and small companies. Sir Garnet Wolseley, who presided, said the balance of opinion agreed with his own, and was in favour of small companies; and he showed that the large company system in Prussia arose before the breachloader was invented, and was due to the large number of men provided by conscription, and the small number of officers.

MOBILISATION OF THE FIRST ARMY CORPS.

The first step towards the mobilisation of the First Army Corps has already been taken by the removal of the King's Dragoon Guards from Manchester to Aldershot, and arrangements are being made by which the remainder of the regiments included in the Army Corps may be brought together under Sir Thomas Steele's command by the first week in June.