

HISTORICAL FACTS.

(For the use of the Colwell-Hatchney Schools.)

History, in many cases, will have to be re-written. For example there *never was* a Pope called Violinello.

The Duke of Wellington always took a box of sugar plums with him to battle to encourage the troops. His celebrated expression was "Up Guards, and eat 'em."

The well known magnificent Czar of Russia, was always fond in winter time of sitting with his feet in the fender, Hence his laughter loving subjects called him Peter the Grete. If he caught anybody saying this he at once sent him to Siberia.

The above will raise the question, where is Siberia? The best maps will reply the trouble of a search.

Mr. Potter, President of the G. T. Company, and Mr. Brydges were recently invited, by the leading citizens of Portland, to a public dinner, as mark of appreciation of the services of the Railway to that city, and of the estimation in which those two gentlemen are held. Both, however, for want of time were compelled to decline, with hearty thanks. The last part of Mr. Brydges' letter runs thus:—

"It will, I am sure, be of interest to the people of Portland to know from Mr. Potter's letter that large additions are to be made immediately to the rolling stock of the Grand Trunk Railway; and I have every reason to hope that in addition to the increased freight which will enable us to carry to and from your city early next year, we shall be enabled to carry out a design, now in contemplation, of putting on the road a through train of palace cars from Portland to Detroit—running through to Sarnia without change of carriage, and connecting at that place with a similar train of the Michigan Central Railway and its connections to Chicago and San Francisco.

"The rapidly improving condition of our railway will enable this train to run at a considerable increase of speed beyond that which is at present attained, and we trust that the increase of these efforts to supply the wants of the travelling community will not fail to be appreciated by the people of your city and State, but will tend also to add to the revenue prosperity of this Company.

LOSSES IN BATTLE.—The Prussian journals in commenting upon the number of killed wounded, and missing, at the battle of Koniggratz, gives the proportion of loss at the principal battles that have been fought in Europe during the last one hundred and fifty years. At Koniggratz the Prussians lost in killed, wounded, and missing, 359 officers, and 8,794 men, and the Austrians, 1,147 officers and 30,224 men. The proportion of losses to the total force engaged on each side was one in twenty-three for the Prussians, and one in seven for the Austrians, and for both armies one in eleven. In the battle of Malplaquet, fought in 1809, the proportion of losses to the forces engaged was one in five; at Rossbach, fought in 1757, one in twenty-five; at Leuthen, fought in 1758, one in eleven; at Zorndroff, in 1758, three in eight. During the wars of Napoleon I., the losses at Austerlitz and at Eylau, were one in four; at Wagram one in eight; at Borodino and at Waterloo one in three, and at Leipsic, one in five. At Solferino, during the Italian war of 1859, the losses were one in eight. The total number of troops engaged at Leipsic was 400,000, at Koniggratz 430,000, and at Wagram 320,000. At Leipsic the number of men lost was 90,000, at Borodino 74,000, and Waterloo 61,000.

A correspondent at St. Petersburg, writing on the 18th ult., says:—After endless delays and mistakes, the final preparations have at length been made for providing the whole of the Russian army with breech loaders. Hitherto the only regiments which have been armed with the new weapon are those of the Grenadiers and the Guards, the other corps only having a few served out to them for practice. The officials on the Warsaw railway have now been instructed to pass without question all the rifles as fast as they come in from Prussia, so that there may be no further delay in the matter. The number of rifles expected from Prussia is 500,000, and it is stated that the troops have now thoroughly learned, though not without great difficulty, the use of the new weapon. Every effort is also being made to render the army efficient in other respects. Both officers and soldiers are constantly employed in making trenches and other field fortification work; and a nocturnal sham fight is often got up, at which the troops are attacked while in the trenches by a supposed enemy. This sort of exercise has wonderfully improved the intelligence of the Russian soldier, who is now a far different being from what he was in the Crimea. Late inspections both in the kingdom of Poland and the empire, have produced results which have filled with surprise the Russian generals of the old school, hitherto accustomed to look upon the soldier as a mindless machine.

What are we to think of this threatened insurrection? If it were attempted it must end in one of three things: England would be compelled to give up Ireland, or she would voluntarily surrender it, or the Fenian and their friends would be beaten. Now, which is the most probable result of the three? Almost any moderately well informed person is competent to form an opinion on this point. England has not been at war for some years and her fleet is considered to be in a fair condition. But in our opinion it is sheer folly to discuss this side of the question. What we would ask is whether it would not be well to wait to see what the British Government really intends to do! We have never been among Mr. Gladstone's blind idolaters, but surely we have a right to give him credit for sincerity, and for a desire to do his work like a statesman. He has solemnly undertaken to redress Irish grievances, and as an earnest of his purpose he began by abolishing the Protestant State Church. He is at this moment engaged with his colleagues in the settlement of a comprehensive scheme for doing full and complete justice to Irish tenant and farmers. Is it worth while waiting for this scheme or not? The governments of the world generally appear to think that it is. Almost all nations unite in recommending the Irish people to assist Mr. Gladstone by at least postponing the threatened breach of the public peace. They have not so very long to wait. They will know what Mr. Gladstone has to propose before the end of March. Wrongs which have endured for seven hundred years may exist three months longer without hurting anybody very much. All true friends of Ireland must hope that the "great rising" now promised will not come off. If it does—we doubt whether poor Ireland will get much by it.—*N. Y. Times.*

It is reported that Major General Mc Murdo, commanding a brigade in Dublin, will shortly proceed to command a division in India, in the Bengal Presidency, *vice* Major General O'Grady Haby, C.B., &c.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS.

Ottawa, 17th December, 1869.

GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 1.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

13th Battalion of Infantry, Hamilton.

No. 4 Company.

To be Ensign provisionally:

Robert Knight Hope, Gentleman, *vice* George Hope, whose resignation is heretofore accepted.

The following Officers, non-commissioned Officers, Gunners, Privates, of Volunteer Militia, and others have been granted certificates by the commandant of the School of Gunnery at Toronto:

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATES.

Captain Thomas Robinson Jackson, 33rd Battalion Volunteer Militia.

Lieut. James Bradley, St. Catharines Garrison Battery.

Trumpet Major Luke Jas. Fontaine Martin, Grand Trunk Artillery.

Gunner Byron Hutchison, Iroquois Garrison Battery.

Private Frank Michell, 2nd Battalion Volunteer Militia.

Mr. George Thomas Haig, of Hamilton, Ontario.

SECOND CLASS CERTIFICATES.

Gunner Winfield Moran, Trenton Garrison Battery.

do John Donaldson, Collingwood Battery

do William Henry McCordick, St. Catharines Garrison Battery.

do Charles Burnside Murray Elder, Toronto Garrison Battery.

Private Andrew Ginty Campbell, 31st Battalion Volunteer Militia.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Provisional Battalion of Rimouski.

No. 1 Company, Rimouski.

To be Ensign:

Charles Lepore, Gentleman, M. S., *vice* Martin, *in* the limits.

Gaspé Infantry Company.

To be Ensign:

William Wakoham, Gentleman, M. S.

Headquarters of the undermentioned Battalions will be as follows, *viz.*: