

simplicity. "I described the operation. The General considered a minute or so; then he said, "Well, it is neat, but I should not like to have to teach it to recruits raised in a hurry for immediate service. I said, "Some of your movements are very complicated, or rather perhaps the definitions of them want clearness. You also want an uniform system more logically constructed, so to speak." "We have perhaps stuck a little too closely to French ideas and method," he said "and your drill book is admirably arranged; its method is perhaps better than any of ours have been, but we have a new one coming out."

In the same State in which I met this officer, they are paying much attention to military studies in private scholastic institutions. Not one, but several colleges and academies of high standing, are conducted on military principles, and military studies constitute a large portion of their curriculum. The military spirit of that State would tell in the event of war, perceptibly on that portion of the Dominion contiguous to it.

I notice with pleasure (Vol. Rev. of 20th inst.) the replies to Colonel Strange's Examination papers. In reference to the importance justly attached to the great lines of invasion in the East, events are in progress which will in a very few years bring into prominence the vulnerability of the frontier west of Manitoba. Whenever the Northern Pacific shall be completed, and it will not be very long, in spite of Jay Cooke's failure, it will be but a short time further before that line, and the Union and Central Pacific Roads will be united at least, three points, besides the line of the Missouri River. There is already progress made from Omaha towards Yankton in Dakota, and there cannot fail to ensue extension from Yankton to Fargo, or some other point on the Northern. Even as it is, troops could be thrown in close proximity to the frontier from Chicago, and even from Burlington or Ottumwa to the West of Chicago.

In the Far West San Francisco is approaching connection with Portland and Puget Sound by rail. There is country east of the Rockies, within American Territory, as well as within our own boundaries, calculated to draw settlement freely. The population of California is over 750,000. Of San Francisco alone more than 150,000. The town of Portland, Oregon, alone contains about 13,000 inhabitants, more than the white population of British Columbia. Washington Territory is not a wilderness. Indeed its towns are more numerous and more lively than those of British Columbia. Both California and Oregon swarm with Irish. The whole force of those States and Territories might thus be easily poured upon some point on our more westerly frontier.

The new Territory of Montana is so enthusiastically spoken of by those who have visited it, that it has already begun to at-

tract considerable numbers of those bold and free (if sometimes a little lawless) spirits who fixed a congenial home on the broad prairie and in the fastnesses of the Rockies and the Sierras.

So soon as flourishing settlements are developed in that future State, Utah will push through the Rocky Mountains at some convenient gorge, and a third great connecting link will be accomplished.

The Northern, Union and Central, and ultimately even the Southern Pacific will form a triple base of operations extending the whole breadth of the continent parallel to the frontier, which we, at best, and with an infinitely smaller and more sparse population, must depend upon our one line when we get it!

If the construction of that line be delayed, I for one, believe it will be fatal to the idea of the Dominion. No time should be lost by us in pushing settlement and military protection into the Saskatchewan country far enough to confront the main settlements of Montana. As it is impossible to kick England into a war with the States, any strong settlement of Americans which might establish itself within our Territory from Montana, Idaho or Washington, might cause the gravest complications. If the present Government desire to play into hands of the Americans, they can do so by raising obstacles to the national railway.

Let it be remembered also that British Columbians detest Canada only a degree less than the idea of American domination, and with all the vigor of a small, isolated, and exclusive community.

Verb. sap: I know whereof I speak!

"FRANK-TREUR."

THE ROYAL WEDDING.

THE GREEK CHURCH CEREMONY AT PRINCE ALFRED'S MARRIAGE.

The marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh with the Grand Duchess Maria gives an interest to the details of the marriage ceremonial as arranged in the Russian-Greek Church. The Greek Church makes one book of the four Gospels, leaving out the Epistles; and a copy of this, very richly bound, is placed on the altar. The bride and bridegroom kneel before it with lighted tapers in their hands, and the priest asks, "A—B—, hast thou a good and unrestrained will, and firm intention to take to wife this woman, Y—Z—?" The bridegroom replies, "I have, most reverend sir." The priest again asks, "Hast thou not promised any other women?" the answer being, "I have not promised another." These questions are also put to the bride, and then the benediction is given. This is followed by the Ectenia, and a number of prayers are said; then two crowns are brought on a tray and the priest takes one, and making the sign of the cross with it over the head of the bridegroom, says, "The servant of God, A—B—, is crowned for the handmaid of God, Y—Z—, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." It

is kissed by the bridegroom, and is then placed on his head, or is held over him during the ceremony. The same takes place with the bride and the other crown. These crowns have no relation to the rank of the couple, but are used at the marriage of a peasant as well as that of a prince. On the crown of the bridegroom there is the figure of Christ, and on that of the bride is the Virgin. A benediction is given—"O Lord our God! Crown them in like manner with glory and honour;" and then follows the "Prokimeon"—"Thou hast put crowns of precious stones upon their heads; they asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest them a long life; for Thou shalt give them the blessing of eternal life; Thou shalt make them glad with joy of Thy countenance." Then comes the "Epistle of the Office," Eph., v. 20, 33, and the Gospel, which is the 2d chapter of St. John's, relating to the Marriage in Cana, ending with the 11th verse; the Gospel is preceded and followed by the anthem, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord, Glory be to Thee."—The "Common Cup," containing wine, is now given by the priest to the bride and bridegroom, who each drink out of it three times in remembrance of the marriage in Cana. Up to this point in the ceremony the marriage might still be broken off should either of the parties change their minds at the last moment; but what now follows makes the marriage indissoluble.

The priest covers his right hand with his vestment, and on it the bride and bridegroom place their right hand, and they are led slowly round the altar. The altar has no rerodos; it is simply like a small pedestal standing on the floor. This is repeated three times. This practice of circumambulating is a very ancient rite. In the marriage rite of the Russian-Greek Church this part of the ceremony is explained to mean that the man and wife are to walk together through life with the Divine Presence along with them to guide and protect: the mystical three times being symbolical of the Holy Trinity. During this part of the ceremony the choir are singing, "Exult, O Isaiah, for a Virgin hath conceived and brought forth a Son, Emanuel. God, and Man; the East is his name; Him do we magnify, and call the Virgin blessed." As the two are now one—inseparably bound in the ties of holy matrimony—the priest takes off the bridegroom's crown, saying, "Be thou exalted O Bridegroom, like unto Abraham and blessed like unto Isaac, and multiplied like unto Jacob. Walk in peace, and do all according to the Commands of God." Taking the bride's crown he says—"And thou, O Bride, be thou exalted like unto Sara, and rejoice like unto Rebecca, and multiply like unto Rachel; rejoice with thy husband, and keep the ways of the law; and the blessing of God be with thee." At night when the couple go to their own house, the priest also goes to bless it; and they pray to the shrine which is in every Russian household—this is a picture of one of the Saints, with a lamp hanging in front of it, towards which they perform their devotions, and always cross themselves before and after meal. A ceremony with bread and salt is also gone through, when the newly-married pair enter their future home for the first time, as husband and wife.—*London Telegraph.*

The Carlists threaten to open the bombardment of Bilbao to day. The city has two months provisions. General Marony is receiving reinforcements, and will advance to its relief.