

The British Navy.

While our own naval system has made no sensible progress in fifty years, that of England has undergone an almost radical reformation. In its present state and management it is doubtless the most complete and efficient of any in the world. Not only are the ships greater in number and larger in size, than those of any other nation, but they are better manned. A large proportion of them are both provided with steam and sails, while they almost infinitely vary in size. They are adapted for almost every conceivable species of navigation—to navigate the stormiest seas and shallowest rivers. Many of these ships are expressly built for certain exigencies and certain services.

A large number of ships are constantly in course of construction. The great shipyards of England are in a state of perpetual activity. The vessels of war now in course of construction in the single yard of Chatham measure in the aggregate 20,000 tons. One of the London papers states that "The Fenown, a 91 gun screw steamer of 3,317 tons was to be launched on the 28th of March, and another large screw steamer is to be immediately laid down on the same slip. There are several vessels in a forward state, intended to be launched in the course of the year, among which are the screw steamer corvettes Raccoon and Charryba, each of 21 guns. The building and repair of ships is constantly going on at the other public yards, in addition to the labor of putting ships not required for the present use in a state of preservation."

The improvement in the character of the seamen is said to be no less marked.—While fifty years ago it was necessary to resort to impressment to man ships of war, at present the supply exceeds the demand. As an illustration of this the Lord of the Admiralty a short time since in the House of Commons, in moving the supplies for the different branches of the naval service, stated that the number of seamen to be employed for the ensuing year had not been reduced quite to the intended extent, owing to the reluctance of the sailors, most of whom were continuance men, to quit the service.

Some conception of the magnitude of the British Navy may be obtained from the following figures:

The number of men provided for in the naval service for the ensuing year by the estimates just submitted to Parliament is 53,700 seamen, of whom 23,000, including 8,000 apprentices are sailors on board "Her Majesty's fleet," 15,000 are marines, and 2,700 are coast-guard men. On the occasion of reporting this estimate to the House of Commons, Sir Charles Wood stated that out of the 33,000 sailors now employed in the navy, as many as 25,000 are men engaged for ten years, and he added that when a ship was paid off a few days before, the entire crew of which were serving on these terms, "not a single man was included to leave."

We wish we could say as much for our own Navy. But unfortunately it possesses all the faults of the British, with hardly any of its excellencies. It is feeble, indifferent, aristocratic. Its ships are in many instances unseaworthy, its officers cocksnobs, and its seamen brutes. It affords no incentive to noble action, it holds out no promise of promotion, it makes no distinction between the generous son of man and the besotted brute. Our whole naval system is an outrage upon our Republican institutions.—*Daily Herald.*

INDIA.

BOMBAY, March 5.—The Madras Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures was opened by Lord Harris on the 8th of February.—The Governor General of the French settlements in India was present on the occasion. From Pegu, so long tranquil, we hear of a commotion, to which the imposing appellation of rebellion is affixed. A robber chief, by name of Min Loung, of the Kareen tribe, had got together a party of desperados to the number of several hundreds, at the head of whom he infested a whole district, robbing and murdering travellers, and rendering life and property generally insecure. His culminating offence was the torture and murder of a party of seven native merchants, followed by the burning of a village. A detachment, consisting of three companies of Her Majesty's 35th and a company of the 48th Native Infantry were sent to capture or exterminate him. The robber was found to have stockaded himself in a jungle. An attack by the troops took place, and according to one account, Min Loung was driven from his lair, while another report avers that the assailants were repulsed. At any rate, it appears certain that whatever may have been the loss among his men, the chief himself was not taken or otherwise disposed of. The 35th had two sergeants, the 48th two privates, shot dead, and in each detachment there was a considerable number of wounded.

FEB. 23.—In addition to the expenditure in the Persian Gulf, we are now it appears to commence the system of subsidizing Afghanistan. The Atmeer of Cabul, at his recent interview with Sir John Lawrence, demanded money but refused troops. He was, indeed, in terror lest the latter should be sent against his will. The government of India assented to his demand, and is to pay him a stipulated sum per month. The *Friend of India* says a lakh (10,000) a month, but that figure must be taken with a mark. They require in return permission to send three officers to Candahar, which, after a short fight, was granted, and the Atmeer left Peshawar in a most sulky humor. The money, whatever its amount, is to be employed in the defence of Candahar, and, if possible, the recapture of Herat. It is more than doubtful whether it will be so expended. We have had a very disagreeable business at Barrackpore. The cartridges for the new Enfield rifle are greased at one end to make them slip easily into the barrel. The government ordered mutton fat for the purpose. Some contractors, to save a few shillings, gave pigs' fat and bullocks' fat instead. The seapoys found this out, and there was an immediate explosion of caste feeling. Government, they said, was going to make them Christians. They held, it is said, nocturnal meetings, and discussed wild plans for seizing the Fort and Treasury of Calcutta. The Government instantly directed the fat to be withdrawn, and grease to be substituted. Then they got a new fancy. The paper, they said, had animal fat in it. I dare say this is true, the paper being made in England and sized with animal size; but the regular Hindoo theory is, that what they do not know cannot hurt your caste. Still there was a very high degree of feeling, and the Brigadier at last addressed the men, told them Government had no notion of making them Christians, and pledged his word that there was no such design. The men were again quieted, but they soon got a new catchet. The news, they said, had reached their homes, and they would be turned out of caste before they could explain.—

This is nonsense, and Government stands prepared on the first overt refusal to do duty to use force. I believe the excitement will pass away without the occurrence of so frightful a necessity.—*Times' Correspondent.*

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* publishes the following interesting details of the military organization of the Chinese:

"The military forces of China are estimated at more than 800,000 men. In their army rank is hereditary. A soldier enrolls himself in the service only when his son is in a position to replace him; if he has no son of his own, he is at liberty to adopt one. It is allowable to enter the service at as early an age as 15. Gunpowder has been in use among the Chinese from time immemorial; nevertheless the Chinese artillery is far from being as perfect as that of Europe.—The balls originally used by the Chinese artillerymen were made of clay, dried and hardened.

"In times of peace the soldiers are dispersed over the whole empire, and, in addition to their pay, they are at liberty to cultivate the portions of land that are allotted to them. They are generally employed by the State in public works, or making roads, and in repairing the banks of rivers. Their arms consist of sabres, swords, pikes, muskets, bows and arrows. The Russian traveller Timbowski, who visited a large portion of the Chinese empire, states that the soldiers are clothed the same as the other inhabitants, with the exception of the tunic, which they wear over all, and which is always of the same colour as that of the flag under which they serve—that is to say, yellow, red, or blue, with or without border. In times of war they receive helmets of iron, cuirasses that are quilted and padded, and shields of bamboo wicker work.

"From the very commencement of a campaign, the Chinese endeavor to get possession of the hostile commanders, either by force or by stratagem. On this, the author of a treatise translated by Amiot, recommends that the drums and cymbals should be confided to the most valiant warriors that can be found,—for the drums and the cymbals," says he, "have to speak to the ears, the flags and the standards to the eyes, recompenses and punishments to the hearts."

ORDNANCE LANDS.—TENANTS ON THE RYKOWN ESTATE in the City of Ottawa, and on the CANAL LANDS, now the Property of the Provincial Government, are hereby notified to pay all rents and arrears due to the undersigned, at the ORDNANCE LANDS OFFICE, in this City, between the 1st and the 15th days of MAY next, ensuing.

Legal proceedings will be taken against defaulters without fail; arrears of rent and commutation money will be received at this office, every lawful day, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 3 P. M.

WILLIAM F. COFFIN,
Ordinance Land Agent.

City of Ottawa, 3rd April, 1857

CHARLETON COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—This SCHOOL will be continued until further notice, under the Superintendence of Mr. ROSS.

The following are the terms of Tuition:—The usual branches of an English Education (including Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography and History). One Pound per quarter. Book keeping, Mathematics, Latin, Greek and French (when taught in connection with the foregoing), each Five Shillings additional per quarter.

School Fees payable quarterly in advance.

By order of the Board of Grammar School Trustees

THOMAS WARDOPE,

Secretary.

Ottawa, 9th April, 1857.