



# The Volunteer Review

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### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Conservative party in the House of Commons intend to bring in resolutions having for their object the abrogation of the three new rules of International law, propounded for the benefit of the Yankees in the Washington Treaty. These people had done their duty by the Empire, such a piece of imbecility would never have been enacted.

The series of frauds or forgeries by which the Bank of England has been victimized, to the amount of £100 000 sterling, displays the most consummate patience and ingenuity, and must have been the work of a comparatively large number of persons. The forged bills on different firms had to be carefully prepared, each house or firm using a different paper, and water marks for its acceptances, all of which had to be initiated, and the negotiator must have been in possession of considerable funds, as he made very large deposits and did large business with the West-end branch of the Bank. It is a curious commentary on the ingenuity of dishonesty to know that the discovery of the frauds was due, not to wrong or over dating, but to the absence of dates on two of the acceptances.

Judge Facher has granted an order appointing N. James Jun., receiver of all the property of Bidwell, one of the Bank of England forgers.

In political matters the Gladstone *replac*rage is able to carry on the business of the country, divisions being unfavourable as regards a display of strength, while it is conceded on all hands, that at the general elections the Conservatives will gain at least fifty additional seats. Social difficulties growing out of the commercial and manufacturing monopolies beset the grand old kingdom. The farm labourers, the most abused class in the Empire, can bear the difficulties under which they labour, no longer. With wages at the same rate that they were one hundred years ago, and with cost of living advanced at least 100 per cent. the problem of life must be a hard one to solve

for those poor people, and it is hardly possible to think calmly over what the rascality of the Monopolists and their tools the Whig Radicals have doomed the bone and sinew of old England to undergo—that the price of labour at Manchester according to Mr. Gladstone should be kept down.

The Austrian Ambassador, Count Bernostoff, died in London on the 26th.

France, with its non-descript Government has paid already three and one-half milliards of francs for the war indemnity. As long as Thiers lives matters will probably progress favourably, but after him will it be the deluge or the Bourbon, it is evident either alternative must be encountered, and if such a thing as a clear headed statesman could be found amongst the French Generals, no difficulty would be met with in the effort to give France a stable government. It never can be that of the lax constitutional pattern which the late Emperor Louis Napoleon attempted. The great French danger is the press, and it must be kept under efficient control. Moreover, Paris must be taught that she is not the whole of France, and her dangerous classes, the *outriers* should be scattered in every direction. At present, the heavy hand of the German is on them, and they are kept under; but if the reorganization of the army has not been properly carried out, the day of German evacuation of French soil will be a woeful one for its people. Let us hope that Marshal Mac-Machon has imbibed the lesson taught by the late disasters, that the most dangerous enemies of the state are its insubordinate soldiery, and that the new French army will be able and capable of retrieving the disasters which culminated at Sedan.

Disaster, threatening and fierce, appears to be rapidly appearing on the theatre of Spanish affairs. At Madrid the troops are in a state of insubordination and disorganization fearful to contemplate. The only change for the unhappy country seems to be in the direction of a restoration of the Bourbons in the person of the Carlist, or Alphonist pretender. A levy *en masse* of the people of Catalonia and neighboring provinces is quite

probable, the object being to fight the Carlist guerillas who are devastating those districts and suspending whatever business the unhappy country possesses. The Cortes have abolished slavery in the Island of Porto Rica, and passed a resolution to sustain the integrity of the Spanish dominions, and involuntarily afterwards voted its own dissolution.

The *Imparcial* announces that Don Carlos has abdicated his claims to the Spanish Throne in favor of his son under the regency of Don Alphonse.

Gen. Caberar has been appointed to the supreme command of the Carlist forces in Spain.

The Portuguese Government has asked the Cortes to rectify the concession for laying a submarine cable between Lisbon and the United States touching at the Azores.

The Prussians celebrated the birth day of the Kaiser on the 22nd by a magnificent demonstration at Berlin.

His Holiness the Pope has appointed the following Bishops for the United States, where their services are very much needed, as between Mormonism, Spiritualism, Woman's rights, fifteenth amendments the Tammany rings, Congressional purity, the heathen Chinese and other reputable institutions, the morals of our neighbors are in a very poor state indeed: The Bishops elect are the very Revd. A. Corrigan, for the diocese of Newark, and the Revd. M. Gross for the diocese of Savannah.

The Grand Vizier has been obliged to send a sharp note to the authorities at Belgrave, relative to the tribute due from Wallachia to Turkey.

The Khiva expedition has already marched and the advance has been struggling through the snows on the steppes of Central Asia for more than a month. What is to come of it is a question of time, but if those fanatical tribes on the borders of Afghanistan would only combine, there would be small chance indeed, of any of the Czar's soldiers ever seeing Russia again. It is intended to turn the whole Cossack force of over 200,000 irregular horse into mounted riflemen—in other words into bad and inefficient infantry.