

FOREIGN MILITARY ITEMS.

THE Berlin journals say that the Prussian Government has resolved on trying a certain number of the Gatling guns. The same weapon has been tried at Liege, Franco, but with what result is not announced.

THE fortresses of the Rhine are connected by a system of telegraphs, so that immediate communication can be had with Berlin, or with the commander-in-chief of the Prussian Army. The fortress of Mayence has just been added to this chain.

THE CHASSEPOT RIFLE.—The *Charivari* says there is a talk in Rome of canonising a new saint—Chassepot Va. Chassepot, *en attendant* his canonisation, is now at Lyons superintending the manufacture of 100,000 of his rifles, for which the Government has lately given orders.

NEW ARMS AT THE MENTANA ENGAGEMENT.—The *Presse* says that the French detachment which took part in the engagement of Mentana brought into play the small portable canon, sometime since spoken of, which committed great havoc, for the Chassepot shooting commenced when the troops were 1000 metres distant.

MAZZINI AND THE FRENCH EMPEROR.—Mazzini is said to be secretly circulating a letter to the people of France, accusing Napoleon III. of being the author of all the ills which afflict Europe, and recommending his removal. The French police keep a strict look out to stop the circulation of this document.

THE BODY OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.—Letters from Vienna state that Admiral Togohtoff has not intended of leaving Mexico without having obtained the body of the Emperor Maximilian. They add that the Austrian Envoy has recently been provided with the full powers necessary for the accomplishment of his mission, and that he has not gone to Havannah, as erroneously announced.

A LINE OF BATTLE SHIP FOR VICTORIA.—The colony of Victoria, away down at the antipodes, has just indulged in a luxury, for the only purpose, that we can discern, of spending its spare cash. A year ago it had a large surplus, and hit on the ingenious idea of investing it in a line of battle ship, intended to protect the Victorian coast, but against whom we fail to discern. The *Nelson*, the vessel purchased, is now on its passage to the colony, and takes out a large quantity of surplus stores and ammunition, in order that the happy Victorians may indulge in the further luxury of lazing away to their hearts' content. Their governmental securities were recently quoted in the London market at 112½ to 113½. We hope that they will keep up, despite the *Nelson* and the ammunition.

ROMANCE OF MENOTTI GARIBALDI.—Menotti Garibaldi—the hero of the hour—has had as romantic a birth as could be desired. He was born 16th Sept., 1840, at a miserable shanty situated on the Pampas of La Plata, when his father and his mother too, battled for the Republic of Rio Grande. Garibaldi had gone during the morning to a neighbouring town to purchase clothes for the mother and the expected little stranger

On his return he heard the new-born's voice, and kissing his young wife, took the babe in his arms. "What shall we call him?" said the mother, "Menotti," replied the father; "better the name of a martyr to liberty than a saint's." Menotti was born with a scar on his head, caused by his mother, while pregnant, having been thrown from her horse, after fighting her way, revolver in hand, when surrounded by enemies. Surbrised almost a few days after her accouchement by an attack from the enemy, she wrapped Menotti in his father's cloak, and, but half-dressed herself, jumped into the saddle, strapping the child across it, and galloped to the forest, pursued by the enemy, to meet her husband and his companions in arms. Since then Menotti has shared the reward his father holds out to his followers—hunger, thirst, want and marching night and day. He is always calm and smiling, he is of the middle height, large shoulders, full of courage and boldness—a stoical soul in an iron body.—*London Court Journal*.

DEATH OF AN ITALIAN HERO.—The death of Henry Cairoli at the head of his little band of 70 volunteers is one of the noblest episodes of military heroism on record. Armed with revolvers, these resolute men had formed the design of forcing their way to the very walls of Rome, and of bringing succor to the insurgents within. But on their arrival at the appointed place they found that all was over, and that a considerable body of Papal troops had been sent to meet them. Preferring death to flight, they took up their position at San Giuliano, and there sustained the attack of two entire companies of Zouaves and Antibeans. The odds were four against one, and numbers of course prevailed. At the end of the struggle but few of the 70 remained alive. Of the two brothers Cairoli, one was killed, and the other, already a cripple from the hurts received in the war against Austria was once more dreadfully wounded, and according to our latest accounts lies in imminent danger. One by one, a noble hearted mother has seen her children perish in the battles of their country, and one by one she has sent them forth to do their duty. This time perhaps her cup of affliction will be filled to the brim. Her hope hangs upon a thread. A letter from her instinct motherly tenderness, tempered with a stern devotion to the sacred cause to which she has sacrificed all that she held dear upon earth, has been published by the newspapers, and will be read by few, I think, with dry eyes.—*Florence Letter*.

RESULTS OF THE ITALIAN INSURRECTION.—The *Economist* declares that "the Pope and the secular power alone have gained anything by what has happened—and they are undoubtedly more secure than they have been for many years. Rome has not risen. The Antibes Legion, though it has proved itself to be really 'the vanguard of the French army,' has shown immense enthusiasm and valour. The Pope has stood firm. Franco is pledged anew, and pledged more awkwardly than ever to support him. The Italians have crossed the frontier, and obtained *plebiscites* in their own favour, only to cross back again and disavow all intention to accept the *plebiscites* so obtained. The Archbishop of Westminster may fairly appeal to the *orgs* which Providence seems in all these disastrous circumstances to have cast over the Holy See. As he looks at things, he

cannot well doubt that his prayers have been heard. At least, if they had been, the chapter of events could scarcely have been more favourable to the successor of Peter. As we view things, these disasters are the natural results of rashness, weakness, stratagem, and imbecility. But the result cannot be doubted. Every one concerned in the recent events has lost power, or freedom, or prestige, except the Pope, who has gained much. The temporal power cannot last long. But it takes out a new—we trust a very short—lease of life, from the *fiasco* of 1867."

RIFLE LOADING EXTRAORDINARY.—The official report of the examination of the arms collected on the battle-field of Gettysburg, which we presume may be accepted as literally accurate, affords us such a curious insight into the condition of mind of even veteran and very gallant soldiers in a hot action, that we think the following extract is well worth reprinting:—"Of the whole number of arms received (29,574) we found at least 24,000 loaded. About one half of them contained two loads each, one fourth from three to ten loads each, and the balance one load each. In many of these guns from two to six balls have been found with only one charge of powder. In some the balls have been found at the bottom of the bore with the charge of powder on the top of the ball. Twenty-two balls and sixty-two buck shot, with a corresponding quantity of powder all mixed up together, were found in one percussion smooth-bore musket. In many of the smooth-bore guns, model of 1842, of rebel make, we have found a wad of loose paper between the powder and the ball, the ball having been put into the gun naked. About six thousand of the arms were found loaded with Johnson and Dow's cartridges, many of these cartridges were about half way down the barrels of the guns, and in many cases the ball end of the cartridge had been put into the gun first. These cartridges were found mostly in the Enfield rifle musket." When we are told officially that at least 12,000 men fought at Gettysburg, who, not knowing or caring whether their muskets had gone off, rammed home a second charge, and that at least half these men went on ramming home charges, for the most part topsy-turvy, until they were shot down or could ram no longer, we are better able to appreciate the value of an arm with which such overloading could not occur.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH ARMIES AND NAVIES.—At the re-opening of the sittings for the Cour des Comptes, Count Cassabina read a report, in which he compared the public expenditure of Great Britain in 1863 with that of France. Taking the army alone, England paid for her army of 145,000 men and 14,000 horses, exclusive of pensions, 336,050,000 francs. France paid for her army of 400,000 men and 85,000 horses, a sum of 376,587,000 francs; hence, if the English army were as numerous as the French one, it would cost above 1,000,000,000 francs. The British navy cost in 1863, deducting pensions, 234,050,000 francs; the French navy 122,589,000 francs. The pay of the British sailor varies between 292 and 438 francs a year. The equipment of an English sailor costs 103 francs, and that of a French 179 francs 50 cents. The rations of an English sailor costs 452 francs per annum, and those of a French one only 354 francs