

more than a child, humbled the Turks in the flower of his youth, and, at the early age of thirty three, departed this life with a reputation second to that of no other captain of his day."

After his death he was compared with many of his countrymen to Germanicus, by others to the conqueror of Jerusalem; but the rude soldiery, knew nothing of the past, declared that there was but one warrior whose image was worthy of a place beside that of their deceased general, and that warrior his own father, the renowned Emperor Charles the Fifth.

FOXHALL A. PARKER.

The London correspondent of the *New York Times* says: A translation has just appeared of Haacklander's *Military Life in Prussia in Time of Peace*. It is, indeed, a delightful book, full of humour and poetry; full of amusing sketches of character, of capital stories of camp and barrack life: full, also, of information, given, as it were, from within, as to the everyday existence of Prussian officers, soldiers and volunteers. Of books about the late war there is still no end, or rather there is a beginning again. Their authors doubtless hope that, after a certain reaction, the interest in the subject is now reviving. In connection with the events of 1870-71, a work by Mr Sutherland Edwards is announced under the title of "Manners and Customs of Invading Armies, Notes on the German Occupation of France, the Relations between Invaders and Invaded, and the Modern Usages of War." It professes to give information in regard to requisitions, contributions, and forced labor, the levying of fines, the taking of hostages, the general repression of illegitimate warfare, and the bombardment of fortified towns. The appendix reproduces the "Instructions for the Government of the Armies of the United States in the Field," drawn up by Prof Lieber, submitted to and approved by a committee of officers, and mentioned by President Lincoln.

The steamer *Great Republic* brings to San Francisco the following intelligence from China: The steamer *Zeipka* brought to Hong Kong the news of the seizure of the German vessels *Maria Louise* and *Gazelle*, by a Spanish man-of-war off Sooloo. The vessels were brought to Manilla. The crew of the *Gazelle* were liberated. The Captain and supercargo of the *Maria Louise* managed to escape, and the Spaniards declare that they will be treated as spies if caught outside the respective consulates. The supercargo claims the protection of the British consul, and the captain that of Germany. The latter states that the vessels were sixteen miles off Sooloo when captured, and that according to law the blockade extends only nine miles; and further that the Spanish authorities had not declared any blockade.

M. M. Gambetta and Jules Favre appeared as witnesses, Nov. 21, in the Bazaine trial. There was a crowded audience, and the testimony was listened to with the deepest attention. M. Favre gave an account of his interviews with Bismarck, and declared that the latter told him that he had reason to believe that Marshal Bazaine would not recognize the government of September. The statement caused a profound sensation in the court.

The French Assembly has, by a majority of sixty six, voted to maintain McMahon as president of the Republic for seven years.

#### PURCHASE AND ITS DEFENDERS.

The opening of the Royal Commission to inquire into the alleged hardships which the abolition of the Purchase system has inflicted on certain classes of officers, has been seized by the defenders of the old *regime* as an opportunity for abusing Mr. Cardwell's great Military Reform Bill, and declaring it not only bad in principle, but even less equitable in practice. And there can be no doubt that the dissatisfaction which has for some time prevailed in the Service, has given a colourable support to those who believed in the Purchase system. But it is not because Mr. Cardwell has failed to please everybody that his measure is a bad one, or because the arrangement of the details of his Bill has been somewhat faulty, that he is to admit that he did wrong in disturbing the old system.

On the contrary, the more the question is ventilated the less excusable the purchase system becomes, and the wonder is that anything so thoroughly bad could have thriven and prospered for so long. Yet, just at the present time, there is undoubtedly a reaction in the public mind. The disturbed state of the Army has put the tax payer out of conceit with the grand scheme which he paid so dearly to introduce, and this feeling of dissatisfaction is of course encouraged by the supporters of the exploded system. We cannot suppose that the public is actually regretting the abolition of Purchase, but there is just now a disposition to accuse the authorities of having acted with harshness and injustice in attaining an end which it is pretended was not, perhaps, so very desirable after all. Most of all our contemporaries have recently referred to the subject, and the prevailing tone of their remarks has been to regret that any one should have suffered by the inauguration of the new *regime*. That the inauguration of the new *regime* was both a moral and military necessity, however, has not been a point dwelt upon, and it is therefore, more with the object of holding this in view than from any desire to interfere in the deliberations of Lord Justice James and his fellow commissioners, that we recur to what should be, but seemingly is not yet, an exhausted and threadbare topic.

The history of the Purchase system is in itself the best justification of its abolition. It was introduced two hundred years ago, in an age when the country was only just emerging from civil war, and was in a thoroughly disorganized condition. A number of country regiments had been raised by country gentlemen, and the control of these the Crown was anxious to acquire. The raising of these regiments had, however, cost their proprietors considerable sums of money, and it became necessary, in depriving the proprietors of their property, to compensate them for the outlay they had incurred. The Government of the day was too poor however, to buy out these vested interests, and it therefore came about that the Crown nominated to these regiments none but officers who were prepared to pay for their commissions a sum of money to go towards the reimbursement of the private individuals who had originally raised the corps. The inconvenience of the arrangement soon, however, declared itself. The Crown felt itself fettered in the nomination of its officers, an attempt was made in the reign of Queen Anne to abolish Purchase altogether by the expenditure of a certain amount of money, but this money the country was unwilling to provide, and thus the first attempt to get rid of the system fell through.

But that the system was anything but a bad one was never allowed. Not only was the Purchase system strictly confined to the Army, remaining unknown in the Navy, and actually made illegal and criminal in the Civil Service, but its introduction into the Service was itself only partial. In the Ordnance Corps, the Artillery and Engineers, in the Marines, the Militia, and the departmental corps, the system is unknown, and it has always been strictly prohibited in Staff appointments. These, we believe, not even the most devoted adherents of the old *regime* would venture to propose as objects of legalized sale. Their importance is so great that Staff appointments, being matters of purchase or sale to any bidder, would be preposterous, and no attempt has ever been made to extend the Purchase system in this direction. There has always been moreover a yet further limitation to Purchase. Even in Purchase corps the officers charged with the care of the health of the men—the surgeon and assistant-surgeon; with the care of the stores—the quartermaster; and with the care of the public moneys—paymaster; have not been allowed to buy or sell these posts of trust and responsibility. In fact, the Purchase system was introduced owing to circumstances over which the Government of the day had no control, was sought to be abolished in the earliest days of existence, and only survived annihilation for the want of the pecuniary means to get rid of it. It was, however, strictly kept within the limits first laid down, and its mischievous effects were confined within the narrowest possible compass.

Remembering the circumstances under which the Purchase system was introduced, it is scarcely possible to be patient with those of its defenders who extol its virtues, and refer to it as a time honoured system, introduced after a deliberate and most mature consideration. Probably none had a greater aversion to the system than those who were responsible for its existence, and none would have hailed its extinction with more delight. There is no doubt that in getting rid of the Purchase system Mr. Cardwell acted hastily. He felt it should be done away with, and in his desire to do what was right he omitted to give sufficient consideration to ways and means. So many interests were involved that it was necessary to act with the greatest caution, and Mr Cardwell's legislation on this point was undoubtedly a little headlong. But the Commission which is now sitting will, we trust, lead to the removal of all the hardships which the abolition of Purchase has inflicted. If the country of to-day is not more generous than it was in Queen Ann's time, it is at least richer, and it is not likely to act within justice. We may, therefore, look forward to an equitable settlement of the points which the commissioners have before them. But we protest against the absurdity of those who would with the public to believe that because a Royal Commission has been necessary Mr. Cardwell's measure was a bad one, or because particular interests have been effected adversely the general interest has not been immeasurably benefited by the extinction of a dishonest and mischievous system.

An order has been received at the Portsmouth; England, dockyard from the Admiralty directing shipwrights' and other apprentices to attend school during the afternoons of certain days of the week, as the engineer students do now. The order will doubtless prove of great benefit to the lads who are effected by it.