

has numerous Military schools for officers and non-commissioned officers. The principal of them is the General School of War. Officers of the army are admitted into it after competition; they study for three years, and are afterwards employed in the General Staff. The other schools are—one for Artillery and Engineers, five for Cadets, eighteen for Infantry and Cavalry, nine for Brigades of Artillery, and one for non-commissioned officers.

CYPHERS.—*The Practice among Diplomats of Communicating by Cyphers.*—Decent Roman letters could be read, or Greek or Arabic characters. It is not enough that communications are conveyed by special messengers, and delivered hand to hand, the entire verbiage of the instructions and documents must be written in cypher, and the cypher be continually changed. This might be useful to puzzle the post-offices in which there is an establishment for the dishonest purpose of opening letters, reading, copying, and re-sealing them, when there is any suspicion about their contents—steam being used for wafers, dry heat for wax, the impression of the seal being first taken by a peculiar process. Nothing is thought of the delay of a single post should it occur, which it does not, unless there is pressure upon the *employes* at the moment. Those to whom letters are addressed little think their epistles are read, and, perhaps copied for the police. Letters in cypher render the delay greater in private correspondence, but decipherers are kept to read them. The Foreign office documents are sent by messengers in England, so called; or in France and Germany by couriers, besides being in cypher. Expresses are called *estafettes* on the Continent when thus despatched. The use of the cypher amidst scenes of warfare is obvious—but we must not dilate. Referring to the Foreign office. Upon the departure of an Ambassador he takes from the office, for the purpose of mystification and secret correspondence, three documents. One of these is divided into columns, marked with the letters of the alphabet adopted, and the syllables, words, or phrases most likely to be used in the course of the negotiation with which he is to be entrusted. To these are also affixed the names of the sovereigns, kings, or republics, and principal ministers of each. The last or third column contains the secret correspondence of the Foreign office, designating the numbers of the cyphers or characters used, by being attached to each letter, word, or phrase, as their signification. Cyphers sometimes stand for letters, words, or whole phrases; the key being in the hands of the corresponding parties. Tables of nouns, verbs, and phrases with their initial letters, are prepared for the correspondent, different numbers being employed to designate the same word, in order, in case of accident, that it may be more difficult to decipher the document. No ordinary letters are used, for fear they should aid in deciphering. The words are distinguished by a point in order that they may be distinguished by their terminations. The decipherer shows in one column all the numbers of which the deciphering cypher is composed in their natural order. The next column contains the word, phrase, or letter designated. When a despatch has to be deciphered, the signification of the first number is sought, and the word it means written over it, the figures being set wide apart. The figures may refer as well to corresponding cyphers. So far everything appears simple and honest enough; but the words of diplomatists

are used to conceal their thoughts, so their cyphers are not only used to conceal their words, but to betray those who pry into their secrets. If an *employe* be tempted, yet honest, he mentions the reward he has been offered to furnish the key. He is directed to take the bribe for useful intelligence, and to proceed as usual. The corrupter is then made the victim of his attempt to corrupt. The Minister writes, suppose to an Ambassador, the reverse of his real meaning, and of what he would communicate. He then affixes a sign or character to the despatch, which sign is always privately arranged before the departure of the Ambassador. This, called the "annulling," or "negative" sign, not only annuls all in the despatch as it stands, but indicates that it must be understood in an opposite sense. Sometimes a partially false key is sent, which causes the corrupter to run into all kinds of error. The true despatch, in such cases, is always sent by a special messenger, or in some indirect manner. There are upon record, in some Cabinets, details of various modes of diplomatic cheating in this way which would half fill a volume. Sometimes Ambassadors are despatched from hence, all with different cyphers. Among themselves, the correspondence is carried on by what is diplomatically denominated a "cypher bannel," arranged on the same plan as the office cyphers, but with totally different characters. This secret correspondence not only serves in overreaching another, but a latent mode of conveying at times very mischievous communication to dally with or delay, or conclude negotiations, as it may happen, when the negotiating parties are not all well informed, or some intervening point gives one party an advantage.

INDIA.—BOMBAY, DEC. 3rd.—We have not yet had time to relieve tidings of the expedition which sailed on the 11th ult. for the Persian Gulf. A strong reserve force of six or seven thousand men is said to be at present organizing in the Presidency, this being, we should suppose, intended to meet a possible contingency which will, we trust, never arrive. We continue nearly as much in the dark as ever in reference to the affairs of Herat, as well as those of Afghanistan generally. An army of 5,000 men has for some time past been advancing by the hills of Kohat in the direction of Cabul, so quietly that we hardly knew anything of the proceedings till a letter from an officer with the force made us aware that they had got within fifty miles of the capital of the Ameer, without knowing the object or the destination of their despatch. Sir John Lawrence was about to proceed to meet Dost Mahomed in person. The old chief is said meanwhile to be finessing—keeping up correspondence with both parties, to claim the friendship of that one which remains master of the field. A *deputation* has meanwhile been sent from Sind to the Kahn or Khedat, and our present proceedings seem something like a parody on those of 1838—to so little purpose would the history of the past twenty years appear to have been written.

THE IRON DUKE AT COURT.—One of his unexpected pleasures.—It was at an Investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Queen was on her throne—the Prince Consort stood beside her; the great officers of state were ranged around. The Knights in their gorgeous robes, had retired from the Throne-room; and again the mirrored doors swung open wide, and the heralds, of cloth of gold, entered, *tooting* with all humility as they escorted old General after General up

to the foot of her Majesty. *Foebly* did those venerable old warriors advance, and slowly and awkwardly did they retire, each man treading upon his long robes, or slipping and tripping upon the smooth Indian matting, as he backed out of the presence. Their retreat was not much accelerated, when out spake the Iron Duke as he sat near the throne, "*How badly her Majesty's Generals walk backwards!*" Perhaps no other man in the realm could have made such an observation at such a time, and have been rewarded, as that good old man was, with his Sovereign's smile. At a "Drawing-room" at St. James's Palace, while every one in Queen Anne's room was on tip-toe, the words, *the Duke! the Duke!* passed like a watch-word from lip to lip, sinking into whispers as the great Chief slowly approached. He walked like a man in a dream, wrapped up in the glories of the past; a quiet, yet triumphant smile lighted up his countenance as his eye rested upon the medals upon the breasts of some old warriors leaning against the rails. He looked round from face to face for a second, recognised an officer of rank, upon whose breast several medals and decorations glittered. "*Is Lord de Roos here?*" inquired the Duke, somewhat abruptly. "*I have not seen him, sir,*" responded the old Militaire. Some one volunteered to look for the nobleman who was wanted, but the Duke slowly walked away, and entered the Ambassador's room, where he was addressed by a diplomatist wearing the gold-embroidered coat of the civil service. The Duke seemed to listen attentively to the communications of the Minister of State; a cloud passed over his brow as he raised up his eyes, and contemplated the upper part of the tall windows, through which a beam of summer sun streamed into the room, and threw a sort of halo around that venerable head, and in a sad and solemn tone he uttered these momentous words—"a war with Russia! If we have a war with Russia, God knows where it will end!" Then, after a pause, he repeated, "God knows where!" The Duke looked like some prophetic seer pronouncing the doom and destiny of nations.

THE INDIAN REGIMENTS.—In consequence of the large number of troops who were required in the Crimea during the late war the authorities at the War-office were unable to complete the Regiments serving in India to their proper establishment, but the Duke of Cambridge has now given directions for the whole of the Regiments on the Indian establishment to be raised to their war strength as early as possible. With this view volunteering has been commenced from all those Regiments on the home station which are above the prescribed establishment, and recruiting is also proceeding vigorously, it being the intention of the authorities to have the Indian Regiments completed before the season for the embarkation of draughts from this country arrives. Upwards of 600 volunteers have arrived at the Provisional Battalion, Chatham, for the purpose of joining the various Indian Depots of that Garrison, the whole of whom will undergo a course of instruction in the use of the Enfield rifle.

The Governor of Nova Scotia, at the opening of the Legislature yesterday, intimated that an opposition company will apply for a charter to lay a submarine telegraph from Ireland to Nova Scotia. The Hon. Mr. Johnson moved a vote of want of confidence in the government, after which the house adjourned.