at pleasure any soldier who did not please him (take the occurrences of the early part of 1857 to wit) the consequence was that the "Service" was rendered execrable, and so far from the men feeling it a punishment to be thus "cast adrift," they were rejoined

to get away.

It is very questionable even in a financial point of view, as to whether the State gain ed one single shilling by this Short Service Act (which, by the way, was unquestion ably against the interests of the soldiers), as may be judged by the immense sums paid afterwards to the men to retain their services on the breaking out of the 1857 war in China, and subsequently the Indian Mutiny. It was a penny-wise and pound foolish piece of business all through the piece.

It may be remembered that similar sacrifices had to be made to obtain men during

the Crimean war.
Under the 'old Act,' men who had serv. ed and become entitled to pensions, returned to their homes contented, and on pen sion days "shouldered their crutches," and described to the lads how "battles were won." The idea that only one in twenty lives to enjoy a hard earned pittance never seem ed to enter the heads of the youths; it was sufficient for them to know that one existedamongst their number.

Now it is quite the reverse; the discharge of short service soldiers sends them to their villages with anything but happy prospects

before them in many cases.

Can it therefore be wondered at that young men with martial spirit (and I hope that our young Britons have quite enough of this material in them, to give them a relish under suitable circumstances for the ups and downs" of a soldier's life), fight shy of the recruiting sergeant.

Then by way of finishing up what "Cob-den's Act" had begun, the late Secretary of State's attempt to "Prussianise" this country has try has pretty nearly brought matters to a

Crisis.

The proposal to get men to serve for a short period, such as for six years, and at a when a man has to "cut out" his Caraer, is simply folly, and the consequence is that good men will not enlist, and bad ones desert from one corps in one part of the country, to enlist in another in other part.

Conscription has some show of fairness about it, as it affects everyone; the recent Enlistment Act has none. The recruiter, be he ever such a genius, cannot at the present day change the minds of young men ("charm he never so wisely"), as of old.

Lord Cardwell has done more to render the arms unpopular, I believe, than any of his predecessors; in fact, at this moment it can hardly be said that the army is a profession, but a tax on a certain class.

He has deprived the deserving non com. missioned officers of many privileges which they enjoyed before, such as adjutancies of Militia and Volunteer corps (which, by the way, were about the only commissions worth

accepting).

A promise was made that a certain num. ber of commissions would fall to their share. on the abolition of the purchase system; but the absurdity of this concession is apparent, unless his fordship can show how an officer married or single can subsist, and keep his position creditably on 5s. 3d. per diem, the salary of a dock labourer, and not hearly as remunerative as that of a staff

I have served nearly thirty years in the singing, army, and passed through all the grades up misery.

to my present rank, that of a full blown lieutenant, but I would advise any young man to make the army his last resource, if he wishes to make a position, under present conditions

This advice is the result of thirty years' experience, gained is nearly every part of

the world.

If better pay and pension, and also better prospects were held out, a better class of men would be obtained, and the cost to the country would be the same in the end. A certificate, "as of days of yore," of character should be required from the aspirant for military glory, and every man should be made to feel that he was serving in an honourable position, to be dismissed from which would be a bona fide loss and dis-We would then be able to refuse grace. those waifs of society which the recruiting sergeant is glad to get in any way he can.
Mr. Hardy has it in his power to establish

a proper sorce for the service of the country; and if he would improve the position of the soldiers hundreds would flock to the

standard.

A clear comprehensive scheme might be drawn up, and published in the different local papers, that all might be made known and not retort to the miserable circulars at present in use, which the "recruiter" feels ashamed to read to young men, as it only produces mirth at his expense.

RECRUITER.

Dreadful Picture of the Persian Famine.

Statistics will show far more forcibly than could any exercise of the imagination how bitter were the sufferings of the Persians, while the lord of all that fair land of Ivan was spending untold gold in his visit to Europe. Hardly had Dr. Bellew and his English fellow travellers who have told the story left Afghanistan than the signs of the long three years of famine were seen on every hand. Everywhere was deserted houses upon which the curse had laid its malignant hand, The green and beautifully foliated trees, the vineyards and or chards, stood in stark contrast to the misery that reigned around. The highroads were insecure, for the Turcomans had everywhere resumed their old habits of plundering robbing and murdering. Mes child, out of a population of 45,000, had lost 20,00 inhabitants, who, without offering the slightest resistance, had been marched off to slavery to Khiva and Bokhara, or had perished of hunger. In such numbers did the starving wretches allow themselves to be led to chains for the sake of food, that the gates of the city had to be locked to keep any inhabitants in the city. We give a few of the most fearful examples of misery. Only families remain in Mahiabad. Out of 400 in Ghibk, only 250 inhabi tants are left. In Kum numbers of families strayed away to look for food where indeed none was to be had. The survivors were too feeble to bury the dead, who exposed, added pestilence to the famine. In Damghan, a telegraphic station east of Te heran, only 200 families remains out of 1,000, and in Teheran itself 200 persons perished weekly of starvation and typhus. The District of Turbert Hardari lost 20,000; the Dis trict of Selzwar, 24,000; of Nischapur, at least 20,000; Hamadan lost between 25,000 and 50,000; and in Kermanscha alone 15,000 perished of hunger. On the whole journey from the frontiers of Afghanistan to the Persian capital, Dr. Bellew saw not one child; all were dead. Nowhere was there music. singing, or joy. All was sorrow, death, and

A London correspondent of one of the Provincial papers says :- The Times is quietly and silently working out another great newspaper reform. Composing machines are taking the place of compositors, and each daily issue is being printed from new Instead of distributing the types used. say, to-day, so that the composing machines may set them up for to-morrow's paper, they are thrown into the melting pot and recast, and transferred to the composing machine. Thus there is no loss of time compared with the old method of hand distribution. Another news office has also a machine for writing manifolds, and it can accomplish this at the rate of eighty words per minute. So far as the Times is concerned, this is not strictly correct. The true state of things is, that the Patent Type Founding Company have furnished the proprietors of the *Times* with their Patent Type Casting Machine, which we hear gives them the greatest satisfaction. But rapid as these machines are, every practical man will at once understand that it would require a considerable number of them to supply a 'new dress" for the paper every morning. will neither assert or deny that this is the ultimate object which the managers have in view; but our readers will not fail to recollect that as far back as July last we gave them to understand that a new era in print ing was drawing. It was our intention to have given full details of the proposed scheme in our August number, and in fact we had an article in type for that purpose, but owing to a strong desire expressed by the parties interested, it was omitted.

St. Louis, Mo., 5th.—Late advices from Fort Sil, Indian Territory, are that a band of Cheyenne Indians recently attacked a Mexican supply train on the border of New Mexico, and killed all the train men, num-bering fifteen or sixteen, and got away with the train, from which it is supposed they obtained arms, ammunition and supplies for a protracted raid. Other bands have been stealing horses from Texas; and it is believed that they have succeeded in recrossing Red River with three or four hundred animals. Still other bands under "Howling Wolf" and "Yellow Horse" are raiding round, and at last accounts were moving toward Red River. General Miles has left Cheyenne Agency in pursuit of

The Chicago Tribune says, that in that city the severe cold of the present winier has frozen the ground to the depth of nearly seven feet. In many places the water-mains are completely frozen up, necessitating the inauguration of the old system of water-wag gons for supplying the citizens. The water-waggons are very largely patronized in some portions of the South and West Divisions, and will probably be continued until March, as it will take to that time for the watermains to thaw out.

The British steamer George Batters, for Gibraltar, is supposed to have been lest with twenty one persons on board.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscriptions to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 20th inst. :-

Belleville, O-Major P. H. Hambly toJan. 75 \$!.00 Colborne, Ont-Lt. A. Campbell, to Jan. 75 2.00 Coboung, O-Lt Col. D'A. E. Boulton, to Jan 76 6.00 - Major Chas Gifford, to April '75 4.00

Griersville,-Capt. John Perrett, to Jan 75 0.50 Port Towan, O-Lt. Col. S. P. Mabee, to Jan 76 Port Hope, 0- " R. W. Smart, to 1875