

Monday, receiving stores and preparing for their annual practice. The whole of the above material was moved under the superintendence of Adjutant J. C. Doshon.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

REMARKABLE PRESENCE OF MIND.—A lady named McCosh, living in Moore, one day last week went out into the field to speak to her husband, who was engaged in duties pertaining to his farm. When within a few rods of him, she stepped with her naked foot upon the head of a large rattlesnake, which instantly coiled itself three or four times round from under her foot. She, however, with a presence of mind remarkable in a female, pressed her foot firmly on the head of the venomous reptile, at the same time calling to her husband, who came and pinned the serpent to the earth with a pitchfork. The snake was an unusually large one, and had ten rattles. Mrs. McCosh's ankle has swelled considerably from the effects of its tight clasp; otherwise she is uninjured.—*Sarnia Observer*.

FOREIGN MILITARY ITEMS.

The Belgians and company drank 5000 bottles of champagne at Miss Coutts' sparkling entertainment.

A subscription to erect a statue to the Emperor Maximilian, has been spontaneously organized at Trieste.

It was given in evidence at one of the London police courts the other day, that more than 200 card-sharps attended the Wimbledon review.

SEIZURE OF ARMS IN ITALY.—The government has, says a Venice telegram of the 25th, seized a great quantity of arms, principally consisting of revolvers and poignards, at the different Garibaldian agencies, established here and at Padua, Vicenza, Treviso, and Udine, for recruiting volunteers for the Roman expedition. At Ravenna the authorities have seized a convoy of arms coming from Brescia, and also a chest containing 20,000 francs.

PROMOTION FROM THE RANKS.—The following extract from Battalion Orders, which is so highly creditable to all parties concerned, is consolatory, as showing that promotion from the ranks is not entirely abolished from the British army: "Extract from Battalion Orders, dated Shorncliffe, July 20, 1867—Sergeant Major Talbot, of the battalion, having this day been promoted to an ensigncy, without purchase, in the 2d West India Regiment, Colonel Fraser gladly avails himself of the opportunity thus afforded of publicly expressing to him his opinion of the highly satisfactory manner in which, for the last four years, he has performed the responsible duties of Sergeant-Major, and which has led to his obtaining his promotion. Colonel Fraser trusts that the example set by Ensign Talbot, of sobriety, straightforward conduct, constant and zealous attention to his duties, respectful attention to his superiors, kind and courteous manners to his equals and inferiors, may be followed by other non-commissioned officers in the battalion, and in time lead to equally well-deserved promotion."—*United Service Gazette*.

OUR TROOPS AND THE FEVER AT THE MAURITIUS.—The frightful virulence and mortality

of the fever which has prevailed since January in the Mauritius give additional interest to the following particulars of the sufferings of the 2d battalion of the 13th regiment. This battalion arrived at Queenstown from the Mauritius on July 22d, 1867, after a voyage of forty-five days. There were only 4 officers and 36 men out of the entire regiment unaffected by fever when the regiment embarked on the 8th of June last. About 26,000 deaths have taken place among the civil population since the first appearance of the disease in the island. The health of the troops has much improved during the voyage, but from the appearance of the men it will be some time before they can be effective for any service. They are to be landed and lodged in a well situated fort at Portland, and we understand the troops will have no duty. On the recommendation of the Director General, the steamer and the battalion have been specially inspected by an officer from the sanitary branch of the Medical Department, who has made several judicious suggestions on the subject.—*The Lancet*.

LATEST NEWS.

The great parliamentary work of the session is at last over. Last Monday the Lords unanimously accepted the Commons' views of the amendments, and the Reform Bill received the Royal assent on Thursday. In the House of Lords, Lord Derby stated that the compromise was only come to for the sake of peace, and that the Government were by no means convinced by the arguments used in the Lower House.

In the House of Commons the estimates have been disposed of, a long discussion on the affairs of India has been held, and there has been a severe fight on the Parks Regulations Bill. On Tuesday, as the House had gone into Committee, Mr. P. A. Taylor moved that the Chairman should have the chair, with the avowed intention of adopting every method of delay of which the forms of the House permitted, with a view to impeding the progress of the bill. In the course of his speech, Mr. Taylor made some very uncalled-for observations as to a supposed wish or intention on the part of Lord Elcho, who supported the bill, to employ the Volunteers, if necessary, in maintaining order in the parks. We have shewn in another column the injustice of the imputation thus cast upon the Colonel of the London Scottish. Mr. Neate joined with Lord Elcho in supporting the bill, which was opposed by a large number of the Liberal members. Ultimately Mr. Taylor succeeded in his dilatory tactics, and on Thursday the bill was withdrawn.

The victorious party in Mexico are carrying matters with a high hand. All the property of Imperialists is, we are told, to be confiscated, and General Escobedo offers himself as a candidate for the presidency, promising to exterminate all foreigners or to drive them out of the country. Lopez, the betrayer of Maximilian, has been arrested to answer for crimes alleged to have been committed by him as an Imperialist officer. It is regarded as certain that the body of the ex-Emperor has at length been given up to the Prussian Minister.

The Bill for the Traffic Regulation of the Metropolis has been read a second time, on the understanding that the Home Secretary would agree that some of the clauses, which it is alleged would suppress rather than

regulate traffic, should be modified in committee. The Appropriation Bill was read a third time and passed on Wednesday.

Mr. Gladstone has announced that next session he will bring in a bill for the abolition of compulsory payment of church rates.

In the House of Lords, Lord Shrewsbury made, the other night, an earnest appeal to the Government to interfere to stop the "persecution" which was being inflicted on Governor Eyre. The Duke of Buckingham pointed out that, as two civil actions were still pending against Governor Eyre, it would not be right for the Government to take any steps in the matter.

The Ministerial whitebait dinner took place on Wednesday, and it is supposed that Parliament will be prorogued by Commission in the early part of next week.

A terrible railway accident has occurred in Ireland, near Bray. From the first telegram, which reached here on Friday afternoon last week, it was supposed that a whole train had fallen over a cliff into the sea, and it was said that the whole of the passengers, with one exception, had been killed. The accident, though fearful enough, did not turn out so bad as this. The engine went off the rails, and fell over the embankment on the land side, dragging one or two carriages with it. One man was killed on the spot and three deaths have since ensued. Many passengers were also seriously injured. Several Fenians have been convicted at the Kerry assizes, and sentenced to terms of penal servitude.

Rattazzi's Church Property Appropriation Bill seems at last to have some chance of becoming law in Italy, where, however, things are in a very unsettled state. Garibaldi is said to be bent upon making a raid on Rome, despite the advice even of the more prudent of his own party. The Government of the Kingdom of Italy seems generally unpopular, and the taxes are still unusually high. Cholera appears to be very bad in many parts. In Palermo it is said that the deaths amount to 1,000 per diem. The Dowager Queen of Naples, the widow of Ferdinand II., has just died at Rome.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE CAPITATION GRANT.

In the House of Commons on the 15th of August, Mr. Schreiber, asked the Secretary of State for War whether any portion of the Capitation Grant was at present paid to volunteers on account for the current year; and, if not, whether, in his opinion, it would be practicable for the future to make payable yearly upon the 1st of June a portion of the said grant, not exceeding one half of the amount earned by each corps of volunteers for the year ending the 30th of November last preceding.

Sir J. Pakington: In answer to the first part of the question of the hon. member, I have to say that no part of the capitation grant is now paid during the current year. With reference to the latter part of the question, I am in hopes that the course he has suggested may be rendered unnecessary by the altered mode of payment. There can be no doubt that there has been great and, in some cases, vexatious delay as regards these payments. I heard it suggested in this House that payments have been delayed two years and even longer. By the new mode of payment the efficient who are reported in December will be paid for as soon as the Estimates for the following spring are voted. The utmost delay, therefore, which can take place will be six months.