

KING FRITZ.

(FOUND AMONG THE PAPERS OF THE LATE W. M. THACKERAY.)

King Fritz at his palace of Berlin
I saw at a royal carouse,
In a periwig powdered and curling
He sat with his hat on his brows.
The handsome young princes were present,
Uncovered they stood in the hall;
And oh! it was wholesome and pleasant
To see how he treated them all!

Reclined on the softest of cushions,
His Majesty sits to his meats,
The princes, like loyal young Prussians,
Have never a back to their seats.
Off salmon and venison and pheasants
He dines like a monarch august;
His sons, if they eat in his presence,
Put up with a bone or a crust.

He quaffs his bold bumpers of Rhenish,
It can't be too good or too dear;
The princes are made to replenish
Their cups with the smallest of beer.
And if ever, by words or grimaces,
Their highnesses dare to complain,
The King flings a dish in their faces,
Or batters their bones with his cane.

'Tis thus that the chief of our nation
The minds of his children improves;
And teaches polite education
By boxing the ears that he loves.
I warrant they vex him but seldom,
And so if we dealt with our sons,
If we'd teach 'em good manners at once,
We'd teach 'em good manners at once.

FOR EVERYBODY.

Naval Sharpshooters.

The German marine force includes a body of naval sharpshooters, all of whom are picked marksmen. The chief of the Admiralty has ordered these men to be regularly practised in firing with their improved needle rifles at objects on the land or floating in the water while the vessel is in motion, the men being placed on the masts or at other convenient points.

Worth Knowing.

A correspondent writes to the *Scientific American* that the worst toothache, or neuralgia coming from the teeth, may be speedily and delightfully ended by the application of a small bit of clean cotton saturated in a strong solution of ammonia to the defective tooth. Sometimes the late sufferer is prompted to momentary nervous laughter by the application, but the pain has disappeared.

Condensed Coffee.

A Frenchman roasts coffee, grinds it to flour, moistens it slightly, mixes it in twice its weight of powdered white sugar, and then presses it into tablets. One of these tablets can be dissolved at any time in hot or cold water, making at once the very perfection of coffee; and it is claimed that a pound of the berry will go much further by this than by any other preparation of the beverage.

Not Any German, Thank-You.

The boy who swallowed the fork, about whose fate there is much curiosity, is dying. The French surgeons endeavour to blister a hole in his stomach to extract the foreign body. Eminent foreign surgeons make pilgrimages to see the patient; even a German has arrived and offered to operate; rumour asserts since the Teuton appeared the lad has become worse. He says the Germans have extricated enough from France already.

Patents Of Nobility.

It may not be generally known that an ordinary peer receives his patent of nobility in a circular box of black tin, while members of the Royal Family are handed theirs in a silver box. That of the new Duke is richly embossed, and has appended to it a pair of silver tassels as fine as silk. It will be sealed with green sealing-wax, with which, by the impression of the Great Seal, the ribbon will be incorporated, and to this the parchment containing the Prince's titles will be appended.

An Imperial Joke.

The English Metropolis has been in an ecstasy over a little joke attributed to the Russian Emperor. The talk of his English entertainers fell, of course, upon the rather worn-out and farcical topic of invading London, when the gentleman alluded to saw the merits of the subject, and remarked, "London is so immense that I believe any small invading army landing at the East-end of your capital would lose its way, and at the close of a week or ten days the soldiers would be taken up by the police at the West-end for begging."

Brevities.

The British volunteers are about to assume the national red coat.—The period of the Directorate is the rage in Paris just now, and everything relating to the Republic, from memoirs of '93 to *merveilleuse* bouquets, is *à la mode*.—The last new thing in dry goods stores in Paris is a billiard room for husbands and brothers to beguile the time while their fair companions are making their purchases. A good lunch and glass of wine are also provided gratis.—The Zurich Cremation Society intends offering a prize for the best method of cremation—only those which have been actually proved to be considered.

King Coffee's Uncle In Liverpool.

In the "strangers' book" at the Liverpool Exchange News-room was recently inscribed the name of "J. Ossoo Anshah, Coomassie." The gentleman in question is nephew to Sal Quamina, the former King of Ashantee, and predecessor of King Coffee Calcutti, of whom Prince Anshah is uncle. The prince, who is married to a native Christian, and was at Cape

Coast Castle when the late war broke out, but had to remove to Sierra Leone in fear for his life, has, it is stated, come to England to endeavour to get compensation from the Government for the destruction of his property. He was British envoy at Coomassie for some time, and suffered captivity there in consequence.

"On A Change Tout Cela."

A correspondent writing from Havre says that since the German war the *mœurs* of both the officers and the men of the French army have undergone a great change. "One of the officers, with broken voice, described how the old soldiers had been mowed down during the late war, and how disasters had thickened upon his country. 'We are wiser now,' he said, 'you never see our officers at the cafés, nor our men in the streets. We are working from morning to night to become efficient; our discipline is of the strictest.' An English resident afterwards told me this was strictly true, and that the troops throughout France are working with a quiet determination, never before known, to acquire perfection."

A Novel Dining Table.

A dining-table, which far surpasses in ingenuity of mechanism the celebrated table used by Louis XV for his little tête-à-tête dinners *au naturel*, is in use in one of the palaces of the Emperor of Russia. The table is circular, and is placed on a weighted platform. At the touch of a signal, like a rub of Aladdin's lamp, down goes the table through the floor, and a new table, loaded with fresh dishes and supplies, rises in its place. But this is not all; each plate stands on a weighted disc, the table-cloth being cut with circular openings, one for each plate. If a guest desires a change of plate he touches a signal at his side, when his plate disappears, and another rises. These mechanical dining-tables render the presence of servants quite superfluous.

Awful Blunders.

A recent issue of the *London Times* contains a curious misprint. After stating, in the Parliamentary report, that various votes were agreed to, it says: "The Chairman was then ordered to 'repeat prayers.' It should have been 'report progress.' But this is nothing compared to the awful slip made about the same time by another English daily in reporting the reception of the Czar at the Guildhall. Instead of printing 'His Majesty then rose and replied in English,' the compositor dropped the three first letters, 'rep.' How it came to pass has not transpired, but there has been thunder going on at the office, the paper being, to give it its due, extremely courteous and correct in the conduct of its language at all times.

An Obliging Couple.

The ex-Chief of Police in Terre Haute, Iowa, was recently married under rather unusual circumstances. His son, a little fellow less than a dozen years old, suggested to him the desirability of a change in the domestic arrangements, and having evidently given the matter considerable thought suggested the lady whom he would accept as a step-mother. Prompt in all his movements the ex-Chief sought the lady, told her of what his son had suggested, and intimated his desire to gratify his son's wish in the matter. The lady heard with respect, then awakened her little daughter, before whom she laid the whole subject, received the daughter's consent to the arrangement, and then gave her own. The wedding took place the next day. The *Terre Haute Gazette* gives the statement and is responsible for its truth.

The Force Producing Value Of Foods.

In a recently published Treatise on Foods and Dietetics, the author, Dr. Parry, gives some curious tables showing the force producing value of various foods. From them we learn that, in order to raise the body of a person weighing 10 stone to the height of 10,000 feet, the quantity required to be consumed in the system would be one and a third pounds of isinglass, costing 11. 2s., or twelve pounds of cabbage, costing 1s.; six bottles and three quarters of Guinness's stout, costing 5s. 7d., or nine bottles of Bass's pale ale, costing 7s. 6d. In this case, the experimenter might find a difficulty in consuming the whole of the cheapest article of diet if he selected cabbage, and a great incapacity for raising himself at all if he selected stout or pale ale. Fortunately, however, he might qualify himself for the same work by consuming one and a third pounds of oat meal at the cost of 3½d.

Severities Of Prussian Discipline.

Prussian discipline deals hardly with those Germans who flinch under its yoke. A Saxon officer, a Hanoverian by birth, who had served King George until the time of his dethronement, and when expatriated sought refuge under the Saxon banner, has been recently cashiered for refusing to drink the Emperor William's health on a public occasion. A Bavarian corporal of the reserve has now been dealt out even more rigorous punishment for a lesser offence. Regarding the war medal of 1870-71 as a badge of servitude to Prussia, he has declined to wear it, and for this offence he has been sentenced to degradation and a year's imprisonment. Against this sentence the corporal has appealed, on the ground that he cannot be compelled to wear decorations; but opinion in Germany seems to doubt whether his suit will be successful.

A Runaway Wife's Farewell.

A letter from Madame Georges Lambert to her husband, a retired grocer, finds its way into the columns of a daily Paris paper. It is as follows:—"My husband—In looking over an old almanack I came upon this passage, 'Ill-favoured by nature, he who is born in the month of August will be badly built, of hideous ugliness, and devoid of all wit or intelligence. He will be utterly null, and will succeed in nothing; he will be enticed into taking shares in all kinds of spurious speculations, and he will be much given to dominoes and fishing for gudgeons, he will subscribe to the *Constitutionnel*, he will be a corporal of the National Guard, and will pass his evenings at the Odéon.' My husband—You first saw the light in August, and you were born to justify all these predictions; you will therefore understand why I have run away from you. I have been carried off by my lover. Amuse yourself by yourself, if you can; and if you can't, at least let me alone.—Your spouse, Pulcherie."

Tea In Sicily.

We learn from the Italian papers that the attempts made last year in Italy, without success, to grow the tea-plant, are being renewed in the southern districts of Sicily. It is hoped that this attempt will prove successful, as special pains have been taken to procure seeds and plants from the best sources direct from Japan. Last year's failure is not unreasonably referred to the fact that the entire stock of seeds and plants had been injured by immersion in seawater through the shipwreck of the cargo.

The Temperance Cause In Cleveland.

Speaking of the crusade in Cleveland, O., a correspondent writes:—"The churches are in perpetual sessions in the height of the crusade, the women deploy, rally by fours, and march to the dram-shops like the flock of Peter the Hermit, backed by one of the leading daily papers here. Over three hundred indictments have been found by the Grand Jury for selling spirits by the dram, and all will be pressed for trial. Not a drink can be obtained at any hotel or saloon in Cleveland other than native wine, ale, beer, and cider, and the liquor-sellers are demoralized, many of them have gone out of the business, and the strife has extended to politics. Where else could such a society be found in the midst of this speculative and pecuniary century to initiate and support a radical social movement with the enthusiasm of Whitfield and rely upon respectable womankind to mount guard upon it?"

Londoners In Luck.

"Baron" Grant, who has recently beautified the ugly eyesore known as Leicester Square and presented the same to the city of London, has made a further bid for popularity. He is now endeavouring to obtain the countenance of the Prince of Wales to the project of purchasing, decorating, and throwing open to the public all the square gardens—84 in number—in the metropolis. He believes that by so doing he will not only make these gardens—in many cases languishing—more healthy and more ornamental, but by allowing the public to traverse them, increase the facilities of that open air exercise which the Londoner has in many cases but little opportunity of indulging in, thus expanding "the lungs of London." He counts on the support of the medical profession. He may also count upon the sturdy opposition of the aristocratic dwellers in such squares.

The Power Of Dynamite.

Judging from some recent experiments recently made near Maidenhead, dynamite is not such a dangerous monster as it has been depicted. It is alleged that it will only explode in two ways, one being by concussion between iron and iron, the other by the detonation of a cap. To test this assertion Mr. Downie, the experimentalist, rolled up some of the brown, earthy-looking powder in a piece of paper, laid it on the stump of a tree, and then struck it with a sledge hammer. The spectators naturally felt nervous, being by no means sure that they would not be blown skyhigh, but the only effect was that the cartridge was flattened into a cake. Applied, however, in the proper manner, the power of this explosive was shown to be enormous. Huge tree stumps and boulders were torn up and rent asunder, while some dynamite cartridges connected with a fuse having been sunk to the bottom of a pond, the water was sent flying over the tops of the loftiest trees adjacent.

A New Rifle.

A gunmaker of Limoges has submitted to the military commission at Vincennes a rifle of a very novel construction. It is thus described in a Paris Journal, *La Liberté*. The new gun presents nothing remarkable exteriorly, but the lock is so arranged that the breech is opened by cocking the piece, and the charge being introduced, the breech is closed and the gun fired by touching the trigger. The cartridge consists of a hollow leaden cone filled with powder and closed at the base by means of a piece of cork. At the moment the cartridge is introduced into the breech the powder escapes by a small hole in the cork, and an imperceptible ball of fulminating powder which forms the priming takes its proper position. The triple action of cocking, loading, and firing is thus effected simultaneously, so that a man with very little experience can fire twenty rounds a minute. The cartridges are stored in an iron tube, which is placed parallel with the barrel, and contains thirty balls, so that the piece may be fired as many times almost without any interval, and without removing the stock from the shoulder, as there is nothing to be done but to cock and pull the trigger. There may be occasions when such rapid firing may be of use, but it is pretty generally admitted that soldiers with the present arms fire away most of their ammunition uselessly.

The Armies Of European Nations.

A German paper publishes a statement concerning the increase that has taken place in the armies of Europe since 1859. The forces of Austria have, it says, increased by 222,580, and amount at present to 856,980 men; Russia has augmented her armies, which now number 1,519,810 men, by 295,660; Italy counts 287,550 more soldiers than in 1859, and her present aggregate military strength is 605,200 men; the German Empire can summon to the field 1,261,160 men, an increase of 424,360 since the abolition of the old Federal Constitution. The French army, 977,660 strong, is greater by 337,100 than that maintained by Louis Napoleon, and under the new army organisation is steadily increasing. Great Britain, including volunteers, has added 233,020 to the total of her land forces, which now include 478,820 men. The Swedish army of 204,510 has been augmented by 69,601; the Belgian army of 93,590, by 13,340; and the Dutch army of 64,320, by 5,770 men. Denmark alone has diminished her war power, her present army of 48,700 being less by 3,850 men than in 1859. These figures bring out the startling conclusions that the additions to these armies during the last fifteen years amount to no less than 1,899,990 men, and that the number of soldiers of all descriptions at present at the disposal of the different Governments of Europe shows a grand total of 6,110,690. In the Austrian army, to every 1,000 combatant foot soldiers there are 103 cavalry and four field guns; in the European army of Russia, 178 cavalry and four guns; in the army of Asia, 910 horsemen and three guns; in the Italian army, 57 cavalry and three guns; in the German, 117 cavalry and three guns; in the French, 119 and five guns; in the English, 132 and four guns.