

of 500 lbs. of nitro-gelatine was fired, so as to strike the surface of the water 2,100 yards from the gun; the result was equally satisfactory. The shell exploded on coming in contact with the water, sending a column of water high into the air. The explosion was felt a distance of 30 miles. The force projecting the shells is compressed air, which is obtained from a power house-situated at a point a mile from the scene of the experiments and concealed below ground. The air is transmitted through pipes, and will carry a shell containing 100 lbs. of nitro-gelatine a distance of three miles; a very accurate aim can be obtained. Five shells fired on Saturday in quick succession dropped on a sandbank inside a parallelogram seven yards long by 5 ft. broad. The gun was fired and loaded at intervals of only 10 seconds: the gun became colder instead of hotter by the rapidity of the fire owing to the vacuum formed in the barrel. The gun need not be sighted, but in a measure finds its own range automatically—that is, the entire surface of New York bay is divided into imaginary squares; to each square a different elevation corresponds, which elevation can be given by touching an electrical button with a number corresponding to the square to be covered. The effect of the bursting of a shell alongside a ship is as disastrous as when it is imbedded in her hull. The Government is so well satisfied with the result of Saturday's experiments, that it has declared its intention of having these guns mounted at various points along the coast.—*Naval and Military Record.*

"Hands Off."

Music on the march to battle has from time immemorial stirred the savage and civilised man to deeds of valour, but patriotic songs in time of feverish excitement may do irreparable harm. Remembering Moltke's maxim, that it is the fury of the populace and not the wisdom of kings that causes war, if trouble is to be averted a new song of the "Don't want to fight but by Jingo if we do" type is not wanted. But whether we want it or not, it has come. People went to Daly's Theatre on Saturday night fully aware that a new patriotic song was to be introduced into the "Artists Model," and we have no doubt that many went fully intent upon improving the occasion by a patriotic demonstration. Everybody in the theatre were on tiptoe of expectation until the song written by Mr. H. Hamilton and set to music by Mr. F. Rosso was sung by Mr. Haydon Coffin. Then full vent was given to the pent-up feelings of the audience, and a scene of the wildest excitement followed. As the first chorus with its stirring and martial air ended, the pit and gallery rose to their feet and simply yelled with delight. The song is entitled "Hands off," and to give it greater effect it is introduced in the yeoman's dance scene. Here is the first verse—

England to arms. The need is nigh
The danger at your gate.
In long array your foes ally
A league of greed and hate.
Not ours the crime of war accurst;
But once let war begin,
They'll have to kill the lion first
Who'd wear the lion's skin.

The chorus evoked louder and louder cheering each time it was rendered:—

Hands off each of you,
Hands off all!
Boers boast and Deutchers brag,
Britons hear the call
Back to back the world around
Answer with a will,
England for her own, my boys,
'Tis Rule Britannia still.

The chorus ended the yeomen drew their sabres, an incident which stirred the audience the more, and made them frantic in their cheering. A dramatic scene followed the rendering of the last verse. As the yeomen once more drew their swords a Union Jack was unfurled in the pit. Men waved their hats, women shook their handkerchiefs and shout-

ed themselves hoarse. The scene was wild and exciting. It seemed as though the cheering would never cease, and a considerable time elapsed before the performance could be resumed. When the curtain fell at night the orchestra struck up "God Save the Queen," and again there was an outburst of feeling. We have given the chorus as it was sung, but the original verse was altered by the Lord Chamberlain. In the original "Hands off" "Germany" was written instead of "each of you," and the second line read "Kruger boasts and Kaiser brags," instead of "Boers boast and Deutchers brag."—*Naval and Military Record.*

Fortune Favors the Brave.

Here is a tale which shews that a British naval captain in full dress is invested with a dignity which no mundane terror can ruffle. During the bombardment of Rio de Janeiro this ideal was splendidly upheld by Capt. Metcalfe Lang, now of H.M.S. Devastation. His story, told before Mr. Justice Matthews, in a commercial case this week, is worth quoting:—"On one occasion when I was on shore I was nearly hit. I had gone to see the Minister of Marine on duty. After I came out I found that the position of my boat had been changed. While I was waiting for her to come up some bullets whistled close by me and struck a plate two or three feet away. The Government troops in the arsenal were lying flat on their stomachs, but I, being in full uniform, with my cocked hat, sword and epaulettes, did not think it would be dignified for a British officer to follow their example—(laughter)—so I stood where I was. The shots in this case came from the rebels." Mr. Bucknel, counsel: "You upheld the honour of England by declining to prostrate yourself before the rebel artillery?" Witness: "I endeavoured to do so." Fortune favours the brave; but the fact that the gallant officer was not hit does not take away from his credit for imperturbability.

Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Col. James H. Reynolds, M.B., V.C., one of the heroes of Rookes Drift, has retired from the Imperial service on retired pay.

Colonel E. G. Fenn, having completed his period of service in command of the Regimental District at Halifax, is succeeded by Colonel A. G. Spencer, from command of the West India Depot. Colonel Spencer commanded a battalion of the Essex Regiment, and has been at Jamaica for more than two years. In the West Indian command he is succeeded by Colonel G. W. Vernon, lately commanding a battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

The second Chitral Honours *Gazette* was published on Tuesday night. The first batch of rewards—those of Colonel Kelly and his brave band of heroes and the gallant garrison of Chitral Fort—were announced five months ago. The officers whose names were included in Tuesday's *Gazette* are those who accompanied Major General Sir Robert Low with the relieving force from India. To begin with, Sir Robert Low himself is made a G.C.B. and Colonel Bardon Blood, Royal Engineers, a K. C. B. There are seventeen appointments to Companionship of the Bath, and sixteen to the Distinguished Service Order. Three lieutenant-colonels obtain the brevet-colonels, rank and seven captains obtain their brevet-majorities. The list of honours is therefore a fairly long one, but few will say that it is too lengthy, having regard to the credit which the Chitral campaign undoubtedly reflected on British arms in India. It was a military enterprise of the first order, not so much by reason of the actual fighting

—that was insignificant—but on account of the promptitude with which all acted who were interested in effecting the relief of those shut up in Chitral. From first to last the Chitral campaign was admirably planned and executed, and no one will grudge the principal actors any of the rewards which have come to them.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

According to "Tid-Bits," the proprietor of a menagerie relates that one of the lions once had a thorn taken out of his paw by a French Lieutenant in Algeria. The lion afterwards ran over the list of officers belonging to the regiment of his benefactor, and out gratitude devoured all of superior grade to the Lieutenant, who thereby found himself promoted to the rank of colonel. If the gentleman owning the animal will apply to the officers of our navy below the "hump" he can obtain his own price for it.

If Congress can do nothing more for the army it should at least increase the artillery, and give to the infantry the three-battalion organization. Aside from the imperative necessity for more artillery troops, the position of our artillery officers was and is discouraging. Promotion is slower in that arm than in any other and how slow that is shown by two letters from artillery officers published on another page. The Cumming bill gives to artillery officers the equivalent of the promotion created by the addition of four regiments to the artillery. The objection made to the bill by artillery officers is because the equivalent of a fifth regiment is to be officered by cavalry officers who, because of their rapid promotion, will rank artillery officers of longer service. This is undoubtedly an unfortunate feature in the bill and should be remedied by adding to the cavalry arm. Congress and the President have united in what is in effect a declaration of war against the nation of all others the most effective for war against the United States: it proposes to invade Turkey, to roil the Spaniards by recognizing the Cuban belligerency, or otherwise giving encouragement to the insurgents. Yet it hesitates about increasing our army, which is much less in number than a single English Army Corps. The situation would be amusing if not humiliating.—*Army and Navy Journal, New York.*

The next war will probably take place in South America. From information that has reached London, it is evident that Chili and the Argentine Republic will be engaged in a life or death struggle before many months have elapsed, and perhaps Brazil will be also involved in the conflict. What the trouble is about is difficult to understand, but the South American Republics are not over particular about a *casus belli*. Any trifle will serve as a pretext for war, which is not infrequently a substitute for general election. In the present instance some mountainous country seems to be in dispute between Chili and Argentina, and they are preparing to decide the merits of the question by testing their naval and military strength. Brazil seems disposed to stand by Chili, and to join in the fray if she is wanted. It may not have escaped notice that British shipbuilders and the manufacturers of arms have been pretty busy lately in supplying demands of the republics named, and it is asserted that both are preparing for conflict.—*Naval and Military Record, Portsmouth.*

The latest suggestion in connection with the formation of a "corps of gentlemen" is made by Sir George Baden Pow-