

twenty-five per cent. The other, which is due to a country gentleman named Borst, also gets rid of some of the movements, and nearly doubles the rapidity of fire, raising it to fourteen or fifteen shots per minute. The latter invention moreover fills up the hollow chamber behind the charge, diminishes the escape of gas, and increases the force of the explosion.

THE MARTINI GUN.—This breechloader, of which so much has been said lately, is thus described in the report of the Woolwich committee:—"The rifle is closed by a breech-block, which falls and rises on a hinge, and is worked by a lever in rear of the trigger-guard. The method of opening and closing the breech is similar to that of the Peabody. The breechblock contains a spiral spring and piston for striking the cartridge. The action of opening the breech throws out the cartridge by means of a lever extractor, and at the same time cocks the rifle. The ordinary lock is entirely dispensed with. The gun is placed at half-cock, or rather, in a position of safety, by pushing forward the lever rather slowly so as not to throw out the cartridge, and pulling the trigger while the breech is partially open. Another slow motion of the lever re-cocks the piece. This rifle can be adapted either to the copper-rim cartridge or to central fire."

THE NEW DRESS FOR INFANTRY OFFICERS.—The Queen having been pleased to approve of certain changes in the full dress of officers of infantry of the Line, patterns have been duly sealed and deposited at the Horse Guards for general information and guidance.

The alterations are as follows:

Tunic.—Skirt, behind plain, like the Royal Artillery. Collar, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high; field officers to have a tracing braid in eyes instead of bottom row of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch lace (Appendix.) Double square gold cord on shoulders. Cuffs, pointed with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch lace and tracing-braid for different ranks, as per drawing.

Dress sash.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide; three stripes of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch gold, and two between of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch crimson silk; gold and crimson flat tassels.

Dress trousers.—To have a strip of gold and crimson lace down each outward seam $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide—crimson in centre $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide.

Dress sword belt.—Gold, with crimson stripe in centre, of the same lace as on trousers, with carriages of similar lace as, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide.

The dress sash, trousers, and sword belt are only to be worn at levees, balls, &c., and their provision is optional with officers: they can be obtained from respectable West end tradesmen at the following prices: Dress gold and crimson sash, £4 10s.; dress gold and crimson sword belt, £2 10s.; gold and crimson stripes for trousers, £1 10s.

The present tunic can readily be altered to the new pattern at a trifling expense, and a new tunic costs somewhat less than that now in use; officers will, however, be permitted to wear out their tunics without alteration should they prefer to do so.

A DANGEROUS COUNTERFEIT ON THE GORE BANK.—The quiet villany of the exhibition week is commencing to develop itself, and this morning a stupendous fraud has been brought to light, which has undoubtedly entailed great loss in the aggregate upon the city, and our paper of this evening will doubtless bring the unwelcome intelligence to many of its readers, that a portion of the

good, substantial paper currency in their tills or pockets, is worthless. The counterfeiters have been at work, and during the fair week have been busy in shoving off counterfeit \$4 notes on the Gore Bank, of such perfect imitation of the genuine, that only the most critical eye will be enabled to discriminate. This is the first counterfeit that has ever appeared on the Gore Bank, and it really seems to be the most artistic piece of villany ever executed. By careful comparison of the counterfeit and genuine, under the scrutiny of a magnifying glass, no flaw can be detected which would be sufficient to guide the ordinary eye; the vignette, figures, lettering and fine ornamental work are perfect, while the paper is also of excellent quality. A description of the counterfeit is therefore entirely useless. The only imperfection that the villains have left is a very simple one, which might have easily been avoided, and consists in the difference in the style of figures by which the counterfeits are numbered, in the manner of letter-press or stamp printing, after the engraved note is supposed to have been signed by the officers of the bank. This seems to be the test by which our tradesmen and others will be able to discriminate. The \$5 notes of the Gore Bank are all of the same date and year of issue, and the counterfeits will be found to correspond. It is impossible to estimate to what extent the fraud had been carried, but it is safe to presume that the counterfeit issue has been circulated in all directions.—*Hamilton Times*.

SERIOUS TROUBLE WITH THE INDIANS.—We learn by telegraphic accounts of a determined stand being made by the Indians of the Plains against the United States troops. It is mentioned incidentally that the only defences of the latter were low breastworks of sand scraped up with their hands in the heat of the engagement. The circumstance is likely to bring into notice the recent American invention of a novel bayonet, short and broad, and in shape almost like a trowel, and intended to be used mainly for throwing up improvised breastworks in cases similar to that alluded to. It is meant to be used almost altogether as a side-arm, and will be confessedly of little value in a charge. But then the inventor points out the warfare of his country is seldom conducted with cold steel, urging that Confederate soldiers almost invariably threw away their bayonets in action, and that the Northern troops were only compelled by severe punishment to retain theirs. He estimates that less than 500 wounds were inflicted by this weapon in the whole course of the late war. It will be a curious innovation of strategy if we find the most formidable of offensive weapons converted to the purpose of self-defence. In the same connection we may mention that it is understood that Lieutenant General Sherman has determined to issue arms and ammunition to the citizens along the frontier, for their protection against the further depredations of the savages. This looks very like the commencement of a war of extermination.

A HUGE BIRD.—James Henry, of Mound City, Illinois, on Sunday week, shot a new and comparatively unknown bird, on the Kentucky shore opposite that city, which is thus described by the *Cario Democrat*:—"It is larger than the ostrich, and 104 pounds. The body of this wonderful bird is covered with snow white down, and its head is of a fiery red. The wings of deep black measure 15 feet from tip to tip, and the bill of a yel-

low color, 24 inches. Its legs are slender and sinewy, pea green in color, and measure 48 inches in length. One of the feet resembles that of a duck and the other that of a turkey. Mr Henry shot at the distance of one hundred yards from the topmost branch of a dead tree, where it was perched, preying upon a full-sized sheep that it had carried from the ground. This strange species of bird, which is said to have existed extensively during the days of the mastodon, is almost entirely extinct—the last one having been seen in the State of New York during the year 1812. Potter has it on exhibition in his office at Mound City. Its flight across the town and river was witnessed by hundreds of citizens.

FRIDAY'S N. Y. Express, commenting upon Spanish affairs, and conjecturing as to the regime most likely of adoption in the Peninsula, contains the following candid admission:—

"The United States certainly present nothing to encourage any people to embrace our form of government. On the contrary, our rule for the last past eight years is sufficiently miserable, destructive and oppressive, to sicken the whole world of what are termed 'freedom,' and 'self-government.'"

Gen. Sherman having written to Gen. Grant that he should take no active part in his support, because, in his judgment, "an officer of the army, sworn to obey the laws and serve every administration, has no business to become a partisan." Grant replies to Sherman, agreeing with him entirely on the ground that "officers should not make themselves obnoxious to any party likely to come into power." This is not quite so elevated a view of military honor and duty, perhaps, as might be desired in a Commander-in-Chief.

On the question of peace or war in Europe the *Daily News* declares the evidence is conclusive, is too various in its sources and too concordant in its substance to be open to doubt, that the French people, whatever their sensitiveness as to the aggrandizement of Prussia, do not desire war, and are indisposed to it. They expect it, not from the policy or intention of the Emperor, but from his want of policy and purpose. He is apparently drifting; and vessels seldom drift into a safe port. The apprehension of evil, if not worse in itself, is often less easily borne than the reality. If you wish for peace, do not talk about war, is the advice which the French people will do well to heed. So long as the military preparations of France remain on their present footing the conclusion is inevitable that, if the Emperor of the French does not actually intend war, he is yet not resolute to maintain peace. This indecision on his part, as M. Guizot has insisted, is the cause of the evil. If peace is to be preserved, or to be believed in, the Government, M. Guizot declares, must put its military forces on a footing of peace. The *Times* approves M. Guizot's remarks. With peaceful prospects, he thinks, armaments should be reduced to a peace footing. He points to disarmament as the only measure calculated to allay misgiving. The aged statesman and historian has not been by any means the first to arrive at that conclusion. Let us hope that the authority of his voice may work that impression which the utterance of public opinion under any other form has failed to produce.