

by the "Hotspur" is a 40-pounder Armstrong; this will be placed aft. It is intended to give her two masts (of iron) and she will be barque rigged.

A sea captain trading regularly to the African coast, was invited to meet a committee of a society for the evangelization of Africa. Among numerous questions touching the religion of the African races, he was asked, "Do the subjects of King Dahomey keep Sunday?" "Keep Sunday!" he replied; "yes, and every other darned thing they can lay their hands on."

The editor of the Cynthiana (Ky.) News, in an appeal to his subscribers, who are in arrears, to pay up, says: "We hope they will settle without delay. Not that we need the money—oh no! Our ink is given to us, we steal our paper, and we win our printers wages at seven up. So it costs us nothing to carry on business. Nevertheless, as a matter of accommodation, and to ease their consciences we will take what they owe us, if they will send it in immediately."

On the 4th inst., at Portsmouth in the presence of nearly all the troops in the garrison, Lieutenant General Sir George Buller presented the Victoria Cross to Drummer Wagner, of the 33rd Regiment, one of the two men who are accredited as being the first in the city of Magdala. The other man, Private James Bergin, is at present in India, having volunteered to join another regiment proceeding thither from Abyssinia. He will receive his decoration in India.

THE DEATH OF THE CZAR NICHOLAS.

All night long the Imperial family and the two physicians, Mandt and Karel, watched anxiously in the adjoining room, without daring—so despotic was the Emperor's word—to open, or even to knock at his bedroom door. About two o'clock, Mandt, hearing a faint moan, ventured to scratch at the door; but even that displeased the Emperor, and it remained closed. He called Mandt in the morning, and said, "I think you were right; I believe I am a dead man." "Oh, sire, I only said that to dissuade your majesty from such imprudence." "Look me in the face and tell me it is possible to hope." "I think so, sire." "I tell you I am a dead man. Come, do your business and sound me; I should like science to confirm my own conviction." Mandt did as he was ordered, and shook his head. "Well?" "Sire!" "Mandt, your are troubled, your hand is shaking; you see I am braver than you. Come, pass sentence on me quickly, for I must finish my business in this world, and there is a great deal to do." "Your majesty is more alarmed than is necessary. There is nothing to despair of yet; and with God's—" Nicholas fixed his eyes full upon the physician, and Mandt could not meet them. "Mandt, you know I am not easy to deceive. Come, the truth, and the whole truth. Do you think Nicholas does not know how to die?" "Sire, in forty-eight hours you will be either dead or saved." "Mandt, I thank you," said the Emperor, with the utmost calmness. "Now, farewell: let my family come to me." "Mandt, let us embrace, old friend. We shall probably never see one another again on earth. You have been an honest and faithful servant; I shall recom-

mend you to my son." "What, sire—not see you again! On the contrary, I hope, and my utmost care—" "Ah, henceforward your care will be useless. There is nothing left for me but to call the priest, to see my Ministers, and make my peace with God. Human skill can do no more, and I would rather try nothing." "Sire, I rebel!" exclaimed the poor physician; "I have no right to give you up like this, and it is my duty not to do so." "Will you guarantee my cure?" The physician bent down his head; he could not reply. "Farewell, my friend." "Sire, God is great, and for the sake of Russia, which He defends. He may yet work a miracle." "It is because I know that God defends Russia that I neither hope nor wish to be cured. Mandt, send my family to me; I assure you that I have no time to lose." The Emperor's family remained with him at least three hours, leaving the room, after taking leave of him, one by one. One by one his grandchildren, sons, and brothers, came out, the hereditary grand duke the last, with his face bathed in tears. Another hour's agonizing suspense passed, during which there was a total silence in the imperial chamber. Then a noise was heard in the corridor, and a courier from Sebastopol was announced. The general aide-de-camp thought himself justified in knocking at the Emperor's door. Then came a faint murmured reply, "What am I wanted for? Let me be left in peace." "Sire, a courier from Sebastopol." "Let him speak to my son; I have nothing more to do with that." Then came the Metropolitan Nicanor and his clergy, in procession, to bring the dying Emperor the last consolations of religion; and after these appeared the ministers of state, with Count Orloff at their head. At ten o'clock at night the Emperor sent for the officers of his household. His grand, immovable face, now ashy pale, bore the impress of approaching death. Stretched upon that poor camp-bed, he bade them all farewell, and even while dismissing them with kind words, he was interrupted by the death rattle, and his agony had begun. He signed to the attendants to leave the room, and they never saw him again alive. The next day, February 18th, 1855, the grand chamberlain went into the Emperor's room, and on coming out, announced that Nicholas Paulowitch was dead.—The Month.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

31st day of October, 1868.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

ON the recommendation of the Honorable the Acting Minister of Inland Revenue, and under the authority given and conferred by the Act 31st Vic. Cap. 8, intitled: "An Act respecting the Inland Revenue,"— His Excellency has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that in addition to the Ports mentioned in the 19th clause of the Order in Council of 27th April, 1868, as the Ports from which goods subject to duties of Excise shall be exported in Bond, the following Ports shall be, and they are hereby constituted Ports for the above mentioned purpose, namely: The Port of Pictou, Nova Scotia; Chatham, Newcastle, and Fredericton, New Brunswick. Wm. H. LEE, Clerk Privy Council.

The Merchants' Protective Union

MERCANTILE REFERENCE REGISTER.

THE Merchants' Protective Union, organized to promote and protect trade, by enabling its subscribers to attain facility and safety in the granting of credits, and the recovery of claims at all points, have to announce that they will, in September, 1868, published in one large quarto volume, "The Merchants' Protective Union Mercantile Reference Register," containing among other things, the names, nature of business, amount of capital, financial standing, and rating as to credit, of over 400,000 of the principal merchants, traders, bankers, manufacturers and public companies, in more than 30,000 of the cities, towns, villages and settlements throughout the United States, their territories, and the British Provinces of North America, and embracing the most important information attainable and necessary to enable the merchant to ascertain at a glance the Capital, Charter, and Degree of Credit of such of his customers as are deemed worthy of any gradation of credit, also a "Newspaper Directory," containing the title, character, price, and place of publications, with full particulars relative to each journal, being a complete guide to the press of every county in the United States. The reports and information will be confined to those deemed worthy of some line of credit; and as the same will be based, so far as practicable, upon the written statements of the parties themselves, revised and corrected by well-known and reliable legal correspondents, whose character will prove a guarantee of the correctness of the information furnished by them, it is believed that the reports will prove more truthful and complete and therefore, superior to, and of much greater value than any previously issued. By the aid of the "Mercantile Reference Register," business men will be able to ascertain, at a glance, the capital and gradation of credit, as compared with financial work, of nearly every merchant, trader, and banker, within the above named territorial limits. On or about the first of each month, subscribers will also receive the "Monthly Chronicle," containing, among other things, a record of such important changes in the name and condition of firms throughout the country as may occur subsequent to the publication of each half yearly volume of the "Mercantile Reference Register." Price of the "Merchants' Union Mercantile Reference Register," \$50, for which it will be forwarded to any address in the United States, transportation paid. Holders of five \$10 shares of the Capital Stock, in addition to participating in the profits, will receive one copy of the "Mercantile Reference Register" free of charge; holders of ten shares will be entitled to two copies, and no more than ten shares of the Capital Stock will be allotted to any one applicant. All remittances, orders, or communications relative to the book should be addressed to the Merchants' Protective Union, in the American Exchange Bank Building, No. 138 Broadway [Box 2,566,] New-York. August 19th 1868.

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