

young people would have the certain effect of appreciably lowering (for a time at least) the price of manual labour, and so giving a lively impulse to production in all its forms.

M. Legoyt calls attention to the advantage which a country gains by cherishing the habit and the taste for work in a considerable number of adults whom garrison life now condemns to idleness and its deadly consequences, and, moreover, to the love of order, to the public morality, to the maintenance of family ties, which the absence of five or six years from the domestic hearth of these youthful recruits more or less completely violates. Charming! put, Monsieur!

A NEW TERRIFIC FRENCH IMPLEMENT OF WAR.

The Mitrailleuse says a Paris correspondent of the *Missouri Republican*, is a new ball syringe," in the shape of a small cannon. It is served by five men. The breech end of the barrel is a small moveable, square box. It contains thirty-seven common infantry cartridges, arranged like cigars in a bundle. As soon as it is attached to the breech of a cannon the mitrailleuse is loaded. A man sitting on the carriage fires it by turning a crank. The sound produced by the discharge makes the impression of a platoon fire. The crank is turned once more and the cartridge box removes itself from the cannon, a man to the right takes it, removes from it the "cigar box;" the man to the left put a new one in and bring it again to its place; two other men constantly move to and fro bringing ammunition. The same crank moves the cannon, in every desired direction. As common infantry cartridges are used, the secret is only in the mode of firing. At the last performance, the Mitrailleuse discharged four hundred and forty-two balls in one minute. It was therefore loaded and fired twelve times in one minute. The Austrian Secretary of War who was present at the experiment, declared its part to be equal to a volley of a battalion of six hundred men. All the balls were fired into a surface of 12 feet square to a distance of six hundred yards. The Hungarian officers who were present at the experiments hurried when they saw the terrible effects of the new machine. "The very devil," they said, could not have invented anything more terrible. It may mow down a battalion in three minutes, and if two hostile armies, use this offspring of hell, they may annihilate one another with the celerity of lightning. If mankind wishes to exterminate itself, La Mitrailleuse will do the job for it."

THE DUKE OF KENT.

To the Editor of the Daily News

SIR:—It may not be out of place at this moment, whilst a Prince of the blood royal of England is amongst us, to give publicity to a document which commemorates the benevolent character of his ancestor the Duke of Kent.

Commentary would almost shade such noble generosity and kindness of heart which shine forth so conspicuously throughout the composition. I proceed, therefore, briefly to relate the circumstances which gave origin to the following address, and which were communicated to your correspondent by one who had good opportunities of knowing what took place at that time:

A mutiny of an alarming character was organized at Quebec and prevailed among the troops in that garrison, headed by a soldier named Draper. The object was to take the life of the Duke. It was discovered

in time—Draper was tried by Court Martial, condemned and sentenced to be shot.

The whole garrison was ordered out to witness the execution of the sentence, and the cortege attended by the usual solemnities, was conducted to the Plains of Abraham, near Quebec. Draper, suitably habited for the occasion, was placed in position so as to drop into his coffin on being shot; but at the critical moment when the order to fire was about to be given, instead, the Duke magnanimously came forward and read out the following address.

Quebec, 9th April, 1793.

"DRAPER,

"You have now reached the awful moment when a few seconds would have carried you into the immediate presence of the Supreme Being. You must be conscious of the enormity of your guilt, and that you have not the least right to expect mercy. I, as your commanding officer, am entirely precluded from making any application whatsoever in your favour, there being from the various circumstances of the case, no one opening that could justify me in that situation to take such a step. However, as the son of your sovereign, whose greatest prerogative is the dispensation of mercy, I feel myself fortunately enabled to do that, which, as your colonel, the indispensable laws of military discipline render it impossible for me even to think of. In this situation, therefore, I have presumed to apply to the King's representative here for your pardon, and I am now happy to be authorized to inform you that my intercession has been successful. Major-General Clarke in consequence of my warm prayers and entreaties on this subject has had the goodness, by his acquiescence with my wishes, to enable me to prove both to you and to the public at large that, although your atrocious machinations were chiefly directed against my person, I am nevertheless the first to forgive you myself, and to obtain for you his Majesty's mercy. May you only take warning by this awful scene and so conduct yourself, that by the remainder of your life you may atone for your past crimes, and that I may not hereafter have occasion to repent having now been your advocate."

This address was afterwards handed by the Duke to one of his staff in attendance, and was found amongst the papers of the latter by his nearest relative. A.

A CLEVER SERGEANT.—The first instance of a non-commissioned officer having succeeded in obtaining a Royal exhibition scholarship has just occurred at Chatham, a notification having been received from the Science and Art Department that Sergeant John Suadin, of the Royal Engineers, had been successful in obtaining a Royal exhibition to the Royal College of Science, Dublin, which entitles him to £50 per annum for three years, and free admission to the college classes. At the recent competitive examination held at Chatham, Sergeant Suadin was awarded the gold medal for extraordinary proficiency in the advanced stage of applied mechanics, in addition to which he was placed in the first class for inorganic chemistry, at the same time taking honours in the examinations in practical, plane, and solid geometry, and acoustics, light, and heat. He was also placed in the first class for elementary mathematics and theoretical mechanics and metallurgy. Sergeant Suadin also succeeded in obtaining one of the Whitworth scholarships, but was unable to take it, as he was four months over the prescribed age. He has been about eight years

in the corps of Royal Engineers, and has prosecuted his studies during the leisure he was able to snatch from military duty.

The news from New Zealand contained in the letter of the *Times'* correspondent at Wellington, is of a more pacific character than that received of late. Dr. Featherston had been to Melbourne, taking with him the Act of Assembly making provision for the payment of the 18th Regiment, and had succeeded in inducing General Chute to refrain from carrying out the instructions received from home, and to assume the responsibility of permitting the troops to remain until further reference to England. The General, the writer believes, "has saved the colony from a great peril, for at no period were our colonial forces in a more disorganized, mutinous state than they were on the eve of our being left to thorough and unmitigated self reliance." Dr. Featherston and the Hon. Mr. Dillon Bell were to leave the colony at the end of October for London, with instructions to ask the Home Government that two regiments may be placed in the colony on such terms as that Government may deem it reasonable to demand. They would also be instructed to conclude arrangements for organizing an additional force of disciplined men for service in the colony for a period of three years. The limit of this force is to be a money one, £70,000 a year. Meanwhile the force now in the colony was being remodelled after the fashion of the Irish constabulary by Mr. St. John Brannigan, formerly an officer of repute in the Melbourne troopers. It is proposed to remedy the loss of the Panama service by assisting in opening up a line from San Francisco, and the Assembly had authorized the expenditure of £20,000 a year for this purpose. In the event of the colonial Government receiving any suitable offer for carrying out this service their contribution towards the Suez line will be discontinued.

The London *Beeline* states that a petition to the Queen is in course of signature, praying her Majesty to see that measures are taken without delay to enable the large number of persons at present out of employ, and willing to work, to go to those portions of Majesty's dominions where their labor is required, and where they may prosper and increase the prosperity of the whole empire. The petitioners also declare that they have heard "with alarm and indignation" that her Majesty has been advised to consent to give up the colonies, "containing millions of unoccupied land, which might be employed profitably, both to the colonies and ourselves as a field for emigration;" and, in order to discourage and defeat all such projects for disunion, they humbly pray that England and her colonies and dependencies may be incorporated by name into one British empire, and that proclamation be made that her Majesty is Sovereign thereof, in like manner as she has been proclaimed Queen of India. The petitioners also asked her Majesty to assemble her Parliament without delay, that they may inquire into the causes of the present distress, and seek a remedy.

A preliminary meeting was held at the Manchester Town Hall yesterday to consider a proposal to raise a fund for a memorial of the late Earl of Derby, and it was decided to present a requisition to the High Sheriff of Lancashire asking him to convene a county meeting to resolve upon the best method of promoting the object.