

MISCELLANEOUS.

The new full dress for infantry officers—gold and red sash, &c.—is pronounced a "decided success."

The British forces are now armed with the snider breech loaders, all the muzzle loaders having been re-called.

The anniversary of the battle of Balaklava was celebrated at Willis' Rooms, London, by a large number of officers who were in the battle.

Spain is said to contain 800 convents, with 15,000 nuns. There are 55 bishops, 2,500 canons and abbots, 1,800 secular priests, and 24,000 vicars.

We have to record the death of Gen. Sir Thomas Monteth Douglas, B.C.B., formerly of the Bengal Infantry, who died a few days ago at Stonebyres, Lanarkshire.

Turkey is not going to be left behind in the matter of re-arming her troops. 10,000 Remington guns have just been bought in this country for the Sultan.

The Madrid correspondent of the *Independence* mentions that on the eve of the battle of Alcolea Marshal Serrano gave up his bed to a wounded man, and slept on the framework of a cannon, observing that there were others who would have a far worse night.

We are given to understand that the Secretary of State at War is about to contract for 300 iron shields. The principal manufacturers are to be called upon to tender competitively, and with the understanding that each firm shall supply its own form of construction.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

A new needie-gun, invented by Herr Werter, of Nuremberg, has just been tried at Pesh. The weight is but eight pounds and a half. The powder charge is a half-gramme less than that of the Prussian guns. It was fired twenty times in one minute, and the number can be increased.

The king of Prussia aims to sustain the paternal relation toward his army. Recently at an early review on the banks of the Rhine he saluted each passing regiment with a loud "Good morning, my children." The soldiers replied with equal heartiness "Good morning, father," which seemed to please the old monarch greatly.

The following incident of the Spanish revolution is told:—One of the revolutionary banners hoisted in Madrid was displayed from the mansion belonging to the Countess Montijo, the mother of the Empress of France. The explanation is very simple: the countess was in the country, and the revolutionary Junta of the quarter, having installed itself in the house, hung out its flag from the balcony.

A VETERAN.—Among the applicants for lodgings at the King William-street Station, was an aged pilgrim from Toronto, who gave the name of John Taylor, and claimed to be some months better than 93 years of age. His budget of reminiscences was seasoned with incidents of the Peninsula wars, through which he followed the banners of the Iron Duke. Such glory must be a pleasing consolation to him in his old age, as he seemed to have little else to subsist upon.—*Hampden Times*.

An armor plate has been made at Brown's Atlas Works, Sheffield, England, which was before rolling 20 feet long, 4 feet broad, and 21 inches thick, weighing 420 cwt. The final rolling reduced the thickness to 15 inches. Two hundred and fifty tons of coal were consumed and the labor of two hundred men required for its production.

A London correspondent says that another book on Napoleon is to appear from Mr. Murray's press, "Napoleon at Fontainebleau and Elba." 1814, '15, being the journal of the British Commissioner, Major-General Sir Neil Campbell, etc. As it is British, he supposes we must expect one more collection of stupid libels like those of Sir Huson Lowe, whose associate General Campbell was.

The report that the French Emperor was about to reduce his Army is confirmed by the *Patrie*. That paper states, by way of substantiating its assertion, that there are only 354,000 men under arms now; and that the policy of reduction is in perfect harmony with the Government of the Empire. Another paper says that 30,000 soldiers are about to get six months' furlough, and that leave of absence for the same period is also to be granted in the Navy.

Mr. Bentley, the London publisher, advertises Prince Salm-Salm's diary in Mexico. The title is as follows:—"The Last Days of the Emperor Maximilian. My Diary in Mexico in 1867, including the Siege of Queretaro and the Execution of the Emperor; to which are added Portraits of the Diary of my Wife, the Princess Salm-Salm. By Prince F. de Salm Salm, Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor, and Fellow-Prisoner with him at Queretaro. 2 vols with Portraits of the Emperor, Miramon and Mejia, the Prince and Princess Salm Salm. Map of Queretaro, and Sketch of the Prison and Place of Execution."

The general trial of Chassepot muskets in the presence of the King of Greece, at the Adamas camp, was a complete failure, and orders were immediately given to return those 2,000 costly arms to the stores. The *Regeneration* remarks on the subject that either the Chassepot system has only a surmised reputation; that the Greek military instructors do not know how to use those arms, or that a lot of defective muskets have been palmed on the officers delegated by the Minister of War to make the purchases. Those same parties were recently authorized to purchase 15,000 Reming rifles. They will probably not be more successful in this transaction, if, as is stated, the arms in question formed part of an order the Austrian Government had refused to accept after repeated trials.

The Spanish army is at present composed of 41 regiments of infantry (each of two battalions), 20 battalions of chasseurs, one regiment of veterans (three battalions), forming the garrison of Ceuta—altogether 68,557 men; of 80 battalions of provincial national guards, giving an effective of 67,309 men—total, 135,866; of 18 regiments of cavalry of the line, each four or five squadrons, and two squadrons of horse—altogether 13,004 men. Ten regiments of artillery—12,927 men, and two engineers) each two battalions)—4,759 men. To these troops must be added the Royal Halberdiers, the gendarmes, etc. In 1865, the entire strength of the Spanish army was estimated at 236,000 men; but there are besides numerous troops in the colonies. The term of military service is—for the cav-

alry and artillery, seven years; the infantry, eight—of which, five in the line and three in the provincial guard. Substitution for a money payment is permitted.

An English paper says: Since 1815 Great Britain has spent on her military and naval establishments and the interest of the national debt (for past wars) £2,597,000,000. In the present year the cost of the army and navy is over 28½ millions, the interest of the national debt is 26½ millions, and the outlay for fortifications over half a million, making a total of 55½ millions (irrespective of the army in India). This is at the rate of 100 guineas per minute day and night throughout the year. The total annual expenditure is nearly 70 millions; so that while, 2½d out of every shilling suffices for the civil expenses of the country, including education, the administration of justice, and the salaries of Ministers, 9½d is spent for past wars or providing against present. Here is something for the householders' Parliament to ponder. There is but one thing to be said: they manage things much worse in France.

In speaking of beards and shaving, the London *Lancet* makes the following remarks:

Nature has her own ranks, and in the matter of beards she divides her upper from her lower classes. A man with a fine beard whatever he may be, never looks a snob; while the beards of some men are so thin and poor they take away rather than add dignity to the face. Let the last continue the use of the razor by all means; but we commend the scissors to the first. Any one accustomed to travel, and particularly in the East, must have remarked the air of nobility and gravity which a fine beard gives. But we need not go as far as the East. The contrast is striking between a regiment mainly composed of bearded veterans with bronzed countenances, which mark its recent return from foreign service, and the neat, clean-shaven physiognomies of the men of another regiment. A manly dignity characterizes the former, which the latter does not possess. If beards, as a rule, add so much to the appearance of men, giving them what may be termed a fine presence, we may add that a beard serves many useful purposes as regards health. It protects the throat, mouth and delicate vocal organs from cold, and guards these and the lungs against congestion and inflammation. The rules of society are very arbitrary, and we follow them very sheepishly. When it is considered, however that we protect our bodies by artificial coverings, it appears ridiculous that we should rob ourselves of a natural protection at the cost of some pain and discomfort formally inflicted every morning. It has been sometimes urged that beards do not consort well with our method of dress, the white shirt, collar and coat; but there is no reason why we should follow the fashion of the East, or make ourselves appear like Hebrew patriarchs. The beard may be trimmed by the aid of scissors, and preserved of moderate length. The subject was lately noticed in the *Army and Navy Gazette*, and it was properly urged that men, like soldiers, who had to serve by turns in a tropical climate, and through a Canadian winter, ought to be allowed to wear beards, and maintain them of such a length as to preserve their protective influence without any sacrifice of cleanly personal appearance. If people to whom nature has given beards would only wear them, they would have fewer attacks of hoarseness, catarrh and bronchitis to complain of than at present.