

"When McGarth reigned o'er Arthur's crew,  
He said to Rumbold, 'Black my shoe,'  
And Rumbold answered, 'Ya Bob,'  
But now, returned from India's land,  
He proudly wears the same command,  
And boldly answers, 'Na Bob!'"

From Tamb's "Things not Generally Known."

**THE NAMES OF AMERICAN STATES.**—1. *Maine*, so called in 1638 from the Province of Maine in France, of which Queen Henrietta Maria was the proprietrix. 2. *New Hampshire*, bought by the Plymouth Company from Capt. Musson, received its name of "Hampshire" from that county in England, of which Capt. Musson was Governor. 3. *Vermont*, so called by its inhabitants in their declaration of Independence, Jan. 16, 1777—*Vermont, Green Hill*. 4. *Massachusetts*, from a tribe of Indians inhabiting the neighbourhood of Boston; the meaning of the word is "Blue Mountains." 5. *Rhode Island*, so named after the Island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean. 6. *Connecticut*, the Indian name of the principal river in that State. 7. *New York*, after the Duke of York and Albany, to whom the territory had been conceded. 8. *Pennsylvania*, in 1681, after Mr. Penn, the name of the Quaker who purchased it from the Indians, and *sylvania*, a wood; it was called till his death, *Sylvania*. 9. *Delaware*, in 1703, from the bay of that name, on the shores of which this State is situate, and where Lord Delaware died. 10. *Maryland*, called so by Lord Baltimore, after Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I., in the Annals of Parliament of June 30, 1682. 11. *Virginia*, so named in 1584, after Queen Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen. 12. *Carolina*, so called by the French in 1564, in honour of Charles IX. Another account says that both the Carolinas were named by the English from Carolus, Charles. 13. *Georgia*, in 1772, after George II. or George III. 14. *Alabama*, 1817, from the principal river traversing that State. *Alabama* signifies in the Indian language "Here we rest." A story is told of a tribe of Indians who fled from a relentless foe in the trackless forest of the south-west. Weary and travel-worn they reached a noble river which flowed through a beautiful country. The chief of the band stuck his tent-pole in the ground and exclaimed: "Alabama! Alabama!" ("Here we shall rest! Here we shall rest!") 15. *Mississippi*, in 1800, from its affluents and western borders. *Mississippi*, in Indian language, means a river formed of several rivers. 16. *Louisiana*, so named in honour of Louis XIV. 17. *Tennessee*, 1796. 18. *Kentucky*, 1782. 19. *Illinois*, 1809, from their principal rivers. *Illinois*, in the language of the Indians, means River of Men. 20. *Indiana*, 1802, from its American Indian population. 21. *Ohio*, 1802, from the name of its southern frontier. 22. *Missouri*, 1821, from the river. 23. *Michigan*, 1803, from the name of its lake. 24. *Arkansas*, 1819, from its principal river. 25. *Florida*, so named in 1572, by Juan Ponce de Leon, because its shores were discovered on a Palm Sunday, or "Pâques Fleuri," or "Pasqua Florida." 26. *New Jersey*, called from the island of that name in the English Channel off the North Coast of France; one of the original 13 States. 27. *District of Columbia*, from Columbus. 28. *Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin*, from their rivers.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM.**—The question of the origin of the National Anthem being raised at the period of the Queen's visit to France, and certain French papers having stated alternately that the air was composed by Haydn and by Sully in honour of Louis XIV., a Belgian correspondent replied by the following statement, which seems to me to possess sufficient interest, and to present enough appearance of probability to be repeated.—"The music," says this authority, "which bears but a slight resemblance to the air of Sully, was composed by an English musician named John Bull, (sufficiently national, this, at all events!) on the occasion of James I.'s discovery of the Gunpowder Plot. The words, written, as is stated, at the same time, seem to tend towards a confirmation of this assertion. John Bull, some years later, retired to Antwerp, where he was named organist to the cathedral, and where he died; and there, but a short time since," says this correspondent, "an examination of the archives having, under the permission of the Government, been gone through, the original manuscript of the air, with the history of the circumstances under which it was composed, was, among other documents, discovered; and there it now exists."—(M. A. P. Paris.)—See Article "John Bull."

When Mr. Macaulay, in his vivid sketch of the Battle of La Hogue, describes our victorious flotillas "insulting the hostile camp with the thundering chant of 'God Save the King,'" he states nothing which is contrary to fact, that this "would stamp the date of our national air as far back as 1693." I do not know, nor is it, I believe, now ascertainable, by whom either the air or words of our "God save the King" were originally composed or written. Dr. Arne, who, in 1745, harmonised the old melody for the theatres, assured Dr. Burney, the author of the "History of Music," that he (Arne) "had not the least knowledge nor could guess at all who was either the author or composer, but that it was a received opinion that it was written and composed for the Catholic chapel of King James II.;" and Benjamin Victor, in a letter addressed by him to David Garrick, in 1745, tells his correspondent that the exact words of the anthem chanted at the Royal Chapel for James II., when the Prince of Orange landed, in 1688, were these:—

O, Lord our God, arise,  
Confound the enemies  
Of James our King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King!

Another verse, written about the same time, and accidentally preserved in consequence of its having been graven on the drinking-glasses of some northern Jacobites of distinction, ran thus:—

God bless the Prince of Wales,  
The true-born Prince of Wales,  
Sent us by Thee!  
Grant us one favour more,  
The King for to restore,  
As thou hast done before,  
The familie!

What is more probable than that the Orange partisans who fought so hard to prevent the restoration of James II., and believed his infant son to be supposititious, should, after their victory at La Hogue, raise, in irony and insult, "a thundering chant" of the old Stuart anthem of "God Save the King?"—(B. Blundell, F. S. A., Temple, London.)

**NEGROSS.**—When God was creating Adam of the dust of this earth, the Devil also made a statue of the same soil, and when the Almighty had finished and breathed with his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul, Satan did likewise to his, but finding that the fiery flames issuing from his mouth caused the statue to become black, he, enraged at the result, struck it with his fist, and thus flattened the nose and thickened the lips of all descended from the parent stock; thousands in Africa still believe in this foolish doctrine.

**NEWS.**—This word is said to have derived its appellation from a gentleman of the name of Francis Negus, a person of considerable consequence in the reign of George I. Party spirit ran high at that period, and even intruded itself dangerously at convivial meetings. On one occasion, when Mr. Negus was present, a set of political opponents fell out over their cups, and came to hot words, when Mr. Negus interfered, by recommending the disputants in future to dilute their wine; which suggestion fortunately diverted their attention from the subject of dispute to a discussion on the merits of wine and water. The argument ended in a general resolve so to qualify their potations in future, and also to give the beverage the nickname of *Negus*, which ultimately became universally used.

**NEWS.**—If one turns up Dr. Johnson, or any other grave etymologist, the term *News* is found ascribed to the Latin *novus, new*. We cannot help admitting that this derivation is a very probable one; still he must certainly have been an ingenious and clever fellow who hit upon another way of accounting for the origin of the word, by representing it, namely, as compounded of the first letters of the cardinal points, North, East, West and South; whereby it is to be understood that *news* signifies information from all quarters. This is a good idea, and worthy of note, though it be fanciful. In Haydn occurs the following about news:—"The word news is not as many imagine derived from the adjective *new*, Latin *novus*. In former times, between the years 1595 and 1730, it was a prevalent practice to put over the periodical publications of the day, the initial letters of the cardinal points of the compass, thus N. E. W. S., importing that these papers contained intelligence from the four quarters of the globe.

**NEWSPAPERS.**—We are indebted to the Italians for the idea of newspapers. The title of the *Gazzetta* was perhaps derived from *Gazzera*, a magpie or chatterer; or more probably from a farthing coin, peculiar to the city of Venice, called *Gazetta*, which was the common price of the newspapers. Another learned etymologist is for deriving it from the Latin *Gaza*, which would colloquially lengthen into *Gazetta*, and signify a little treasury of news. The Spanish derive it indeed from the Latin *Gaza*; and likewise their *Gazetero*, and our *Gazetteer*, for a writer of the *Gazette*; and, what is peculiar to themselves, *Gazetista*, for a lover of the *Gazette*.

Newspapers then took their birth in that principal land of modern politicians, Italy, and under the government of that aristocratical republic, Venice. The first paper was a Venetian one, and only monthly; but it was the newspaper of the government only. Other governments afterwards adopted the Venetian name for it; and from one solitary government *Gazette*, we see what an inundation of newspapers has burst out upon us.

**NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.**—Nonius Marcellus refers the origin of New Year's Gifts among the Romans to Titus Tatius, king of the Sabines, who reigned at Rome conjointly with Romulus, and who, having considered as a good omen a present of some branches cut in a wood consecrated to *Strenua*, the Goddess of strength, which he received on the first day of the new year, authorized this custom afterwards, and gave to these presents the name of *Strenua*. The Romans on that day celebrated a festival in honour of Janus, and paid their respects at the same time to Juno; but they did not pass it in idleness, lest they should become indolent during the rest of the year. They sent presents to one another of figs, dates, honey, &c., to show their friends that they wished them a happy and agreeable life. Clients, or those who were under the protection of the great, carried presents of this kind to their patrons, adding to them a small piece of silver. Under Augustus, the senate, the knights, and the people, presented such gifts to him, and in his absence deposited them in the Capitol. Of the succeeding princes, some adopted this custom, and others abolished it; but it always continued among the people. The early Christians condemned it, because it appeared to be a relic of paganism, and a species of superstition; but when it began to have no other object than that of being a mark of esteem, the church ceased to disapprove of it.

**NOON.**—From the Latin *nona, s. c. hora, meal-time*: literally the ninth hour or three o'clock, and because the term was applied by succeeding nations to their dinner time, which was usually about the middle of the day, noon came to signify twelve o'clock.

THE BATTLE BEFORE METZ ON THE 14TH ULT.

The following is the account given by the correspondent of the London Standard of the battle of the 14th ult. before Metz:—At 1 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, the French army, 180,000 men strong, was encamped all around Metz. Since the day previous a battle was considered as imminent. Several attempts had been made to draw the enemy out of the woods they occupied. The Prussian army of Prince Frederick Charles, or rather the corps now united, of Field-Marshal Steinmetz, 150,000 men strong, had taken the position on the road to Boulay, at the point intersecting that to Berney. The road from Bellenoir and Borny up to the forest of that place was occupied by the Prussians, part of their divisions being concealed by the woods. Skirmishing had been going on all the morning, but it was probable that no serious engagement would take place. At 1.30 the French troops received orders to retreat from their position, to go in the direction of Verdun, it was said. At two o'clock the *avant-garde* division were crossing the Moselle on a pontoon bridge thrown across a few hours previously, and the luggage, material, and provisions of the army were crossing the other bridges in the direction of Longueville. The equipages of the Emperor had already left, and Prince Napoleon first, and half an hour after the Emperor himself was leaving Metz on horseback in the same direction. At 3 o'clock p.m., the Third Corps, De Cam, the Fourth Corps, Ladmirault, and la Garde Impériale, Bourbaki, were preparing also to leave their encampments, when suddenly the Prussians were seen to prepare for battle, some of their regiments taking positions as *tirailleurs*, some others preparing offensive movements in front of the

woods of Borny, and in the direction of Grizy and Mercy les Metz. The intention was unmistakable, I was in it, in the very heart of it. I made up my mind to remain; in fact, all retreat was impossible, and it leaves to me the advantage to give you my ocular impressions; but I am so fatigued you must excuse my style of writing. The French troops, under command of Marshal Bazaine, were composed of the Third and Fourth Corps and le Garde Impériale. They were fronting Borny, Grizy and Mercy les Metz, the Imperial Guard forming the reserve near the Fort de Quentin. At 4½ the attack commenced. A heavy fire of artillery was at once heard in every direction, the soldiers of the Prussian Landwehr leading the Prussian corps d'armée. The mitrailleuse began their deadly work on each side. For me, confusion all around—men falling in every direction, columns whirling around us, bullets whistling their work through the ranks. It is awful to be cool in the middle of such a bloody holocaust, the cries of the wounded, the imprecations of the falling soldiers, the rage of their friends—all seems fantastic and demoniacal; but no, it is not the nightmare, a friend of my infancy is close by me at the head of his battalions, the well-known Baron de Watry, commander of the Voltigeurs de la Garde; he reminds me of the danger I am incurring without reason; but his words sound like a murmur of the wind; he himself disappears in the smoke, and I concluded to look and be nearly certain that I should not come back to tell you my tale. A battery of artillery with a mitrailleuse was making fearful havoc in the Prussian ranks. I heard frantic bravos announcing its new exploits. The fire was so well directed, the precision so great, that each fire was positively mowing the Prussian ranks, who were fighting in a desperate way, their artillery replying to the other, and destroying French battalions right and left. At 7 o'clock p.m. the Prussians were making a movement of retreat. A mitrailleuse had been twice taken from the French, and although it is only one of the hundreds of incidents of the battle, I mention it as it led to an important result. For the last hour one of the greatest efforts of the French had had for object to dislodge the Prussians from the woods of Borny, their troops being protected by that natural rampart. The brave Colonel of the 4th Infantry, Second Division, in retaking the mitrailleuse, was the sudden cause of an immense body of Prussians emerging suddenly from the woods, and precipitating themselves as an infuriated torrent on the French divisions; it was only a pretext, for it was expected that the Prussians would follow the same tactics as at Forbach and Froeschwiller, which consists of keeping out of sight their masses, their best divisions, and when the result of the battle seems to be in favor of their opponent, to change defeat into victory by that powerful movement of immense bodies of troops plunging suddenly on the enemy; but this time Marshal Bazaine had prepared a match for them. The Imperial Guard, commanded by Bourbaki, had been kept in reserve; their artillery, from a strong position, began the defensive, the grenadiers advanced, and from that moment till a quarter to nine you might have thought you were in the middle of the eruption of Mont Vesuvius. Fort de Quentin sweeping with its powerful batteries the flank of the advancing columns, regiment of cavalry charging on the wings. At a quarter to 9 precisely the Prussians retreated, leaving from 23,000 to 24,000 men *hors de combat*. The French have lost close on four thousand men killed and wounded.

One hundred and forty thousand Prussians took part in the fight against 70,000 Frenchmen, positively. Owing to the Fort Quentin slaughtering the enemy, the Guard, except its artillery and a brigade of grenadiers, did not fight. They were kept in reserve to the last. During the combat, the rest of the French army was retiring on the route of Verdun, and at 9 o'clock I followed the Imperial Guard, retreating in the same direction, the day's work being over.

THE EFFECTS OF THE MITRAILLEUSE.

In a former number a description was given of the mitrailleuse, accompanied by an illustration, giving an idea of its size and general appearance. We give another illustration this week showing the deadly effects of the weapon, when employed upon a compact body of men. The troops represented in the illustration are a body of Prussian infantry, detailed to guard the approach to Saarbrück along the line of the railway on the occasion of the first attack upon the town by the French. As they advanced along the line, the French, who had placed their guns so as to sweep the railway track, opened fire. The effect was terrible. The advancing column was literally mown down as they approached, the men falling over one another in confusion. A French officer who was present says that the Prussians were literally "chopped up like straw." Helmets, shattered guns, and twigs from the neighbouring trees flew in every direction. Some of the men who had escaped the bullets of the mitrailleuses were wounded by the bayonets of their falling comrades. Five minutes after the opening of the battery, the entire detachment was demolished. The track was covered with heaps of dead, and the point reached by the first rank when the deadly fire opened was marked by a hedge of bodies, three and four deep, extending across the embankment.

A RECONNAISSANCE.

Our illustration shows a party of the 11th regiment of French dragoons making a reconnaissance in front of the main line of the army, between Forbach and Saarbrück. For the purpose of reconnoitering the dragoons have been, throughout the whole course of the war, almost invariably employed. They are admirably fitted for the work; are mounted on strong and swift horses, and are armed with the new cavalry chassapots, a most destructive weapon at a long range.

An imaginative Paris journalist tells of a recent duel between a Prussian and an American. The Prussian was the first to shoot, but missed his adversary. When the Yankee raised his pistol the other exclaimed:—"Hold on; what do you want for that shot?" The seconds looked at him with the utmost surprise at his speech, but the American replied, "How much will you give me?" "Five hundred dollars," "Nonsense," said our American, and raised his pistol; "I am a good shot—your offer is too low." "You esteem me too highly," said the Prussian, "but I will give you a thousand dollars." "All right," said the Yankee. This was the end of the duel.