

battle, Colonel Montgomery went up, saying: 'Come off, or I'll knock your brains out.' By this time Captain Macnamara had alighted, and coming up, said, 'If you do, I'll knock your brains out.' Very high and warm words arose, and the parties exchanged addresses. Colonel Montgomery rode away surrounded by about twenty gentlemen, his friends. Captain Macnamara rode after, accompanied by Captain Berry, of the navy, and went into his lodgings, at Blake's Hotel, begging he would appoint time and place. He appointed seven o'clock, on Primrosehill, near Hampstead. They were each remarkably good shots, and it was agreed they should fire at once, by signal. They fired one round. Captain Macnamara's ball entered the right side of Colonel Montgomery's chest and taking a direction towards the left, most probably went immediately through the heart. He instantly fell, but rolled over two or three times, as if in great agony, and groaned. Colonel Montgomery's ball went through Captain Macnamara, entering on the right side. Colonel Montgomery was carried into Chalk Farm, and in about five minutes expired with a gentle sigh. Colonel Montgomery was lieutenant colonel of the 9th Regiment of Foot, son of Sir Robert Montgomery, of Ireland. He was a very handsome, genteel man, about thirty eight, and had fought bravely in the service of his country. In the Dutch expedition, the Russians being put to flight, his regiment was thrown into confusion in retreating in consequence of the Russians falling back on them. At this time a drummer was killed, and Colonel Montgomery took up the drum and beat it himself to rally his men; he himself, standing alone, did rally them, and at their head rendered essential service. On several occasions in Egypt and Malta he distinguished himself by his courage and spirit. He was very inoffensive, extremely good natured, and an agreeable companion. He was honoured by the society of the Prince of Wales, with whom he lived much last summer at Brighton. The Prince of Wales was extremely affected, and shed tears when he heard of his death. Captain Macnamara was indicted for manslaughter. In addressing the jury Mr. Justice Heath said, 'As to all the evidence as to character, however high that may stand, it ought not to influence your verdict; the only province you had is to say whether the deceased did or did not fall from the hand and act of the prisoners own admission before you.' The jury withdrew, and in about twenty minutes returned a verdict of not guilty. Lords Hood, Hotham, Minto, and Nelson gave high character to Captain Macnamara, the latter saying he knew Captain Macnamara for about nine years, adding, 'As I stand here before God and my country, I never knew or heard that he even gave offence to man, woman or child.'—Correspondent.

"Another addition has been made to the new Mexican Navy by the launch of the sloop *Democrata* from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. J. and G. Rennie, at Greenwich. This ship is the sister vessel to the *Mexico*, built by the same firm, and launched a short time since. Both vessels are of similar dimensions, their length being 140 feet; breadth of beam 26 feet; and depth 15 feet 6 inches, with a mean draft of 11 feet 3 inches, and their tonnage 450 tons B.M. They are constructed on the longitudinal plan of shipbuilding, which gives increased lateral strength. The engines are horizontal, on the compound principle, and of 60-horse

power indicated. The vessels are propelled by a single three-blade screw of 10 feet 6 inches diameter and 12 feet 6 inches pitch. Their armament consists of two 6½-ton Vauvassour muzzle loading guns (firing 100 lb projectiles), placed amidships, and two 20 pounder Vauvassour breech loading guns placed fore and aft. They are schooner rigged, and are equipped in every way equal to the ships of the British Navy. The *Democrata*, as in the case of the *Mexico*, was launched with her machinery fixed on board."

The above paragraph from the *Broad Arrow* of 16th Dec., describes a class of vessel which will bear an important part in any future naval operations—her size, draught, and armament, all that can be desired has been attained, and it appears to us that this little *Hornet* is really a more dangerous antagonist than the *Decastation*.

The special correspondent of the *Times of India*, writing from Baroda on the 15th ult., says:—

"Mr. Souter returned to Baroda yesterday to pursue his inquiries into the famous poisoning case. As yet there is nothing discovered beyond what was previously known. The depositions which were taken down by Colonel Phayre are, of course, available, but it is understood that they cannot go for much as evidence. Three persons are in custody—a chowkidar, who has been twenty years in the Residency, and two hamlals. This chowkidar, it seems, has his home in the city, and often went there for the night. When he did so he generally did not return to the Residency until nine or ten o'clock, in time for breakfast. On the morning on which the poison was discovered in the glass this man was seen in the dining room at about half-past six. He was also observed to be in conversation with a sowar, who constantly goes backwards and forwards between the city and the Residency, generally as an outrider preceding the Gakwar's carriage. Almost immediately after the discovery the sowar died suddenly after having gone to dine with one of the Gakwar's coachmen. This is as far as the evidence goes at present, and it is doubtful whether it would be possible to establish such a *prima facie* case as would justify a trial. The commissioner is assisted by an experienced officer, a Brahmin chief inspector of Ahmedabad, but the fact that the city is not in British territory causes a difficulty in the pursuit of the inquiry. Besides, Mr. Souter's task is rendered more difficult by his not having been called upon till so long after the event. It was unfortunate that Colonel Phayre, the complainant, should have conducted the inquiry in his own case."

A telegram from Calcutta, dated January 11, says:—

"The commissioner of police of Bombay, who investigated the circumstances connected with the attempted poisoning of Col. Phayre, has been summoned by the Viceroy, and is expected to night. He brings the papers and depositions respecting the inquiry. Troops in Bombay have been warned to hold themselves ready to move on Baroda in case of necessity. The Gakwar's guilt is not yet proved but precautionary measures are deemed advisable."

Any later information on this important matter will be found among our "Occasional Notes."

The second edition of yesterday's *Times*

contained an important telegram from Calcutta. A proclamation issued yesterday stated that evidence had been obtained implicating the Gakwar of Baroda in the attempt to poison Colonel Phayre. It was, therefore, necessary to suspend him from his government for the purpose of a full inquiry, and for affording him the opportunity to exculpate himself. The viceroy temporarily assumes the administration of the State of Baroda, and delegates the necessary powers to a special commissioner. The government will be conducted as far as possible in accordance with the usages of the country, and the inhabitants are called upon to render obedience to the special commissioner. The native administration will be re-established in such a manner as may be determined upon after the conclusion of the inquiry. The Gakwar had arrived in the capital and was detained in the residency surgeon's house. A public inquiry will be held before a commission, under the presidency of the Chief Justice of Bengal. The native town of Baroda is occupied by sepoys. The troops of the Gakwar are quiet. Their general will be held responsible for any disturbance. Everything is quiet at Baroda. A telegram on Tuesday states that the troops in Bombay have been warned to hold themselves ready to move on Baroda in case of necessity.

The above paragraphs give the outlines of a very mysterious piece of business and show by what a tenure we hold our Indian possessions; at any moment war may again put British supremacy in India to the test of the sword.

We publish below a letter addressed to the editor of *Broad Arrow* in which paper it appeared on 16th January.

It is a short history of the way in which the British Army has been dealt with by political economists whose system appears to have been embodied in fleecing the poor for the benefit of the rich; an operation in which they do not seem to have been eminently successful.

Sir.—Recruiting for the army has for some time been a vexed question, and lately a source of uneasiness to the Government. Many and various schemes have been ventilated through military and other papers, but treat the matter in any way, my firm belief is, that the "long" (not unlimited) service system must be fallen back upon.

The unpopularity of the army may be said to have commenced in 1847, when what is termed "Golden's Act," was introduced, i.e., the Short Service Act, although it did not manifest itself for some time afterwards.

The Secretary of State for War, flushed with the press of young men to join the army (which was unquestionably caused by the Irish famine), devised the short service scheme, as a means of abolishing pensions, thus obtaining twelve years' service out of the best of a man's lifetime, and then throwing him adrift on the world to shift for himself, and commence life again.

The intelligence of the class of men from whom our recruits are obtained was not then what it is now; consequently, men joined the army as before, without giving a thought to the trap laid for them by acute financial heads.

The short service scheme was a deeper laid one than was at first apparent; it gave commanding officers the power of dismissing