

## BRITISH &amp; FOREIGN MILITARY NEWS.

The wicked attempt made by the Yankees during the war to permanently destroy Charleston harbor by blocking up the passes thereto with submerged stone laden vessels, has happily proved a failure. The action of the water has so far removed the obstructions as to permit of the entry lately of a vessel drawing eighteen and a-half feet of water.

**THE SNIDER RIFLE.**—A statement relative to the success of the Government Snider rifles in the Wimbledon meeting was promulgated yesterday at Woolwich. Out of six of the competitors, the Snider rifle with the Boxer ammunition, was first in three, and second and third in the other. Its remarkable performance at 500 yards, at which range Corporal Andrews, of the 26th Kent Rifle Volunteers, succeeded in firing 50 shots in five minutes, of which two only missed the target, and making a total of 133 points, has already been noticed in the *Times*. A report has been circulated that Andrews had continually practised the use of the Snider rifle; it is right to state that he had previously to the Wimbledon meeting, used the arm only five times—viz., three times at 200 yards and twice at 500 yards, and that he had, in these trials, fired altogether only about 300 rounds. Any handy man could obtain the same rapidity of fire with the Snider rifle in a week's or a fortnight's practice, when the number of points obtained is a mere matter of accurate shooting. It should be pointed out that the very satisfactory results of the trials of the Snider Rifle at Wimbledon are due in a great degree to the Boxer ammunition, which throughout the meeting has performed admirably, as regards accuracy, facilities of loading and extraction, and certainty of ignition.

**A RUSSIAN VISITOR.**—The *New York Commercial Advertiser* says:—"The third son of the Czar of Russia (there are five sons), the Grand Duke Alexis, Colonel in the army and an officer in the navy, is about to visit this country. He is now in the Levant, looking in upon the Greek monasteries." The *Washington Chronicle* says:—"The Grand Duke will soon proceed to Cadiz, where he will embark on board the *ALEXANDER NEVSKI* frigate, in which he will visit the West Indies, probably first going to Cuba, and thence to the United States, landing at New Orleans, and extending his trip to Mobile. He may be expected in Washington early in October, and will also visit Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. It is not yet arranged that the Grand Duke will proceed to the interior, but he will certainly proceed to Niagara, probably in company with Lord Monck, Viceroy of Canada, whose guest he will be during his visit to British North America. He is expected to reach St. Petersburg, after six months' absence, immediately before Christmas. This Prince will travel under the assumed bearing of a Russian nobleman, and be thus under a partial incognito. This will be duly respected, but the American people will not forget that during the rebellion, when others looked upon our struggle either coldly or with the hope that we should fail, the Emperor of Russia remained constant, true in peril, faithful in adversity, and loyal in his friendship from the first shot fired against Sumter to the capture of Richmond and the surrender of Lee."

**RETURN OF THE FENIAN NAVY.**—The *New York World* says:—"The Fenian bark *Plato*, after a cruise of three months, returned to New York on the 28th ultimo. She is of 500 tons burthen, and left here on the 27th of April, with a crew of forty men, an armament of two twelve pounders, and troops to the number of 250. Every man was armed with a Springfield rifle, with sufficient ammunition. The purpose of the cruise was to ascertain whether it was possible to land a large number of men on the Irish coast; it been curiously argued that if one small vessel could elude the British cruisers, so a hundred transports could. She got across the "roaring main" in twenty-three days, with only one danger, which occurred upon encountering an English man-of-war off the coast of Newfoundland. This peril she triumphantly passed by flying the American flag. She first made a landing on the Isle of Terry, the people of which did not guess her mission. Afterwards she slyly cruised along the coast, landing at several places, in each of which the officers had long talks with leading Fenians from the shore, and all of which, except one, resulted in the decision not to invade Ireland just then. The exception was off the coast of Waterford, where, after the usual council, six brave fellows left the bark to die or be captured; the latter fate did befall them shortly afterwards. Finally the arrival of the *Plato* became generally known throughout the island, and it was determined to return to the States. During the passage back, provisions run short, and the crew and passengers were obliged to depend on the chance American ships that they met for supplies. On arriving here, the arms and ammunition were disembarked and taken charge of by the Brotherhood.

**A SKILL ON THE FENIANS.**—On the first inst. a large gathering of Fenians took place in the Court House Square, Chicago. A number of bunkum resolutions were proposed, and, of course, adopted; one of which contained the following passage:—"The true people of America are Republicans by birth, and as the day we celebrate also commemorates the abolition of slavery in the United States; and as the Americans are pledged by the most solemn obligations to the holy cause of universal liberty, &c., &c." The reading of this clause was received with intense applause, and rousing cheers were given for the "glorious abolition of slavery; the ignorant Saxon-haters, little thinking that they were cheering in honor of the emancipation of the slaves in the British West Indies, one of the most noble events in the history of the world. The American emancipation act dates from January 1st, as the learned framers of the resolution state. It was something of a sell on the "byes" to have them shouting until they were hoarse, in honor of the "murderer Saxon."

Prince Alfred is not the only prince just now on his travels. The Russian Grand Duke Alexis, the Czar's youngest son, after a stay at Constantinople, left on the 26th on board the Russian steamer *Oleg* to visit the monasteries of Mount Athos, from whence he proceeds to Cadiz, where he is to embark on board the *Alexander Nevski* frigate, in which he will visit the West Indies and the United States. He will return to Russia by Constantinople. The reception of the young Prince was very cordial by the Greeks of this city.

"The Emperor Napoleon," says the 'Memorial Diplomatique,' "remained in conference with the Sultan on the day of his departure for London for three-quarters of an hour. On the previous Sunday, Napoleon III., also had held a private conversation with his august guest at Saint Cloud, which lasted several hours. Dejemil-Pacha acting as interpreter. We have reason to believe that the Emperor took advantage of the Sultan's stay at Paris to again urge the friendly counsels which M. Bourrec, on his nomination as ambassador, had been charged to carry to Constantinople, and to which he made allusion in presenting his credentials. The Sultan, through both Fuad Pacha and Dejemil Pacha, has expressed the most sincere gratitude for the friendship shown by the Emperor of the French as to the integrity and stability of the Ottoman Empire, and has promised to devote all his efforts to the amelioration of the position of his Christian subjects, as France has continually advised him, as the only efficacious means of avoiding a new crisis in the East. We may therefore expect that on his return Abdul Aziz will inaugurate a series of salutary reforms."

**HOW STONEWALL JACKSON GAINED HIS REPUTATION.**—The *New York Times* says:—"For a long time Davis and the Richmond people believed Jackson to be no better than a lunatic, and the way in which Davis first learned to appreciate what was in him was in this wise. In the spring campaign of 1862 in the valley. Jackson, after causing Fremont and Banks to retreat turned on his track, finding himself pursued by two converging columns, and withdrew up the valley. But at Cross Keys he suddenly faced about and dealt Fremont a staggering blow. Letcher (the Governor of Tennessee) received a despatch announcing this victory (he was in the habit of getting earlier intelligence of Jackson's operations than was received in the War Office in Richmond), went and read the message to Davis. The latter, however, would not believe the news, saying that it was impossible that a retreating army should have thus turned upon and beaten its pursuers. Letcher, however, insisted that it was true, as he knew his informant would not send anything that was not true, and he told Davis that he would probably find out its verity by the morrow. Now, by the next day Jackson, having disposed of Fremont, crossed the river, and Port Republic over which the other pursuing column—the column of Shields, which had been pursuing on the other side of the river. Receiving a despatch announcing this new success, Letcher again repaired to Davis's house, where he found Benjamin and Seddon and the Cabinet at dinner, and after taking a glass of wine he asked Davis—"Well, have you any confirmation of the news I showed you yesterday?" "Yes," replied Davis, "I received to-day one of Jackson's laconic despatches, saying that, 'by the blessing of God, he had beaten the enemy!' 'And now then, rejoined Letcher, 'I have another bulletin of victory to show you,' handing him the message containing the news of the success of Port Republic, of which Davis had not yet heard. 'It can't be so,' exclaimed the latter: 'it is impossible; it is unprecedented in all military history that any army in full retreat should thus turn upon and overwhelm two pursuing columns!' Nevertheless the confirmation again came to hand, and after that Jackson was no longer regarded as a lunatic."