

of the group, the island of Amboyna, where they made their headquarters, and established the chief factory. Having thus confined the cultivation of the clove-tree to one vigilantly-guarded spot, the Dutch thought themselves the sole factors for Europe of that valuable spice; and to insure that absolute monopoly of it, resorted to the most cruel and wanton tyranny. One of their selfish measures of protection was that of sending a body of soldiers every year from island to island, to cut down and destroy every oak sapling that might have sprung up since the last visitation. Lying a few leagues from the large island of Amboyna is a cluster of small but very fruitful islets, known as the Cambello Group. These, with their sparse and simple inhabitants, the Dutch had deemed beneath their notice. In the course of time, however, the natives of these Cambellos, hearing of the humanity and justice of their Dutch neighbors, began to trade with the new masters of the Amboyna, and barter their homely produce for the cloths and implements of Europe.

Observing the jealous vigilance with which the Dutch guarded the clove trees, the poor islanders, in their simplicity and confidence, declared that their isles were now full of such trees, though formerly unknown to them; that they had been in the habit of trading to Amboyna for cloves, of which they were particularly fond, till the Portuguese, fearing they might sell the quantities they obtained for their own use to other tribes, peremptorily refused to supply them with any more cloves. Thus debarred of a necessary article of food and medicine, the cunning islanders contrived to secrete a number of seed-pods, or mother cloves, and hiding them in the hollow of their bamboos, carried them away unsuspected by the exacting Portuguese. These seeds, planted in their own islands, had in a few years multiplied greatly; and now, as the narrators innocently declared, the cambello islands were full of them. The Dutch rewarded the perpetrators of this harmless fraud by instantly despatching an expedition to the Cambello Group, and destroying every clove-tree and sapling to be found on any of the islands. At the same time they made a contract with the chiefs of the other islands of the archipelago, by which they were bound to destroy every clove tree but those kept for their own consumption, and never in future to barter or sell cloves to either European or native dealers. Scarcely had the Dutch secured, as they believed, a firm possession of this invaluable colony, than their hated rivals, the English, thinking they had an equal right, if not to the island, to a share in the rich clove trade, made a settlement on the opposite side of the island to the Dutch town; and raising a fort and factory, for some few years maintained a prosperous commerce with the Mother Country. Enraged at this interference with their most lucrative trade, the Dutch was resolved to effect by treachery what they could not achieve by force—the total extirpation of their rivals from the island. For this purpose they professed the most amicable feelings towards the English, and, on the pretext of holding a national jubilee, invited the governor, officers, women and children, in fact every one in the fort and factory, to join the *fête*. Unfortunately the invitation was accepted, and the English proceeded to the Dutch settlement, where, in the midst of the feasting and hilarity, they were assailed by their treacherous hosts, and savagely murdered, without respect to age or sex. Some few men and women saved from the massacre were reserved for a lingering death of famine and torture. By this inhuman and disgraceful act, that utterly exterminated the English from the island, the Dutch secured for a time the sole monopoly of the clove trade with Europe, leaving to natives and strangers the task of proclaiming to the world the atrocities perpetrated, in the name of commerce, on an unarmed and unsuspecting community.—*The Household*.

2. THE ISLAND OF BARBADOS.

There are 106,000 square acres of land in the island. A regiment of troops are stationed here, which is sufficient to preserve perfect order among this dense population. No fences divide the estates; no animal is suffered to roam at large; every inch of ground is cultivated like a garden—everything wears an Oriental aspect; and the trees bend to the west, caused by the trade winds, which always blow from the east.—*Cor. N. Y. Sun*.

3. NATIONAL CHANGES IN HALF A CENTURY.

The "Statesman's Year Book" for 1867 draws an interesting tabular comparison between the state of Europe in 1817 and 1867. The half century has extinguished three kingdoms, one grand-duchy, eight duchies, four principalities, one electorate, and four republics. Three new kingdoms have arisen, and one kingdom has been transformed into an empire. There are now 41 states in Europe, against 59 which existed in 1817. It may be remarked that the 19 Grand Dukes and Dukes and Princes of 1867 will be much less ducal and princely than the 32 who ruled in 1817. Not less remarkable is the territorial extension of the superior states of the world.

Russia has annexed 567,364 square miles; the United States, 1,968,000; France, 4,620; Prussia, 29,781. Sardinia, expanding into Italy, has increased by 83,041. Our Indian Empire has been augmented by 451,616. The principal states that have lost territory are Turkey, Mexico, Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands. Such are the changes of half a century; how will Europe and the world look half a century hence?

4. THREE LEADING ARMIES OF THE WORLD.

The three leading armies of the world, for intelligence and destructive ability are certainly the American, French, and British. The two first resemble each other in organization and drill, while the third is very different. The French army has been taken as a model by many nations, and among others by the American; hence the resemblance. The Prussian army acquired temporary prestige by its successes in the late German war, owing to the "needle rifle," but now the other armies are on the same footing as to arms; and the Prussian army has no longer any advantage.

1. THE AMERICAN ARMY.

Is notable for intelligence and good firing. Its artillery is universally praised, and its engineers are considered skilful. Of the other arms there is not much to boast, owing to the short term of service and the laxity of discipline. The infantry is organized into battalions of 1,000 men in ten companies. This is a fault, for the battalion of 800, or less, men, organized into 8 companies is more mobile, and in column presents a less depth to the fire of artillery. The battalion of six companies is still better, for the same reasons, but the companies should be 100 men strong. The battalion is commanded by a Colonel, aided by a Lieutenant Colonel and Major.

The brigade consists generally of four battalions, and is commanded by a Brigadier-General, that grade being now called "General of Brigade" by the French, who are imitated in the same by the continental nations.

The division consists of two or three (generally three) brigades, and is led by a Major-General, who, here again, is called by the French, and their admirers "General of Division," which is more expressive.

The corps is formed by two or three divisions, and is led by a Lieutenant-General,—(by a Marshal, in the French service.)

The qualities of the American army were best shown in the late war by the passages of the Rappahannock (evincing the skill of the engineers) and the battles before Petersburg, April 2, 1865 (showing its tactics, or style of fighting.)

The strength of the U. S. regular army now is about 55,000 men. The term of service is five years.

2. THE FRENCH ARMY

is notable for its intelligence, celerity of movement, and its aptness in rallying. It is superior to the American in drill, and above all in discipline. Like the American, its two best arms are *le génie* (the engineers) and the artillery. It also excels in its light infantry, the Zouaves and *Indigènes* battalions trained in the Algerian war, being the best in the world, excepting the *Bersaglieri* of the Italian army, who are more picked men. They do every manœuvre in a trot (*pas redouble*.) The off-hand way in which they defeated the Mexicans and overran the country proves their good quality as light troops.

The line infantry is organized into regiments of three battalions. If they become much reduced the 3rd battalion fills the 1st and 2nd, until it can be organized again.

The light battalions are separate, excepting the Zouaves, because the former are detached among divisions to act as sharpshooters. There are the *Chasseurs de Vincennes*, the *Chasseurs Indigènes*, the Zouaves, etc.

The battalion consists of 800 men organized into 8 companies. It is commanded by a *Chef de Battalion*, who has the rank of Major, and he is aided by an *Adjutant-Major* with the rank of Captain. There is also an *Adjutant* with the rank of Lieutenant.

The brigade consists of six battalions, being two regiments, and is commanded by a General of brigade. In order of battle it draws up generally "*sur deux lignes*," one regiment forming the first line, and the other the second line.

The division is formed of one to three brigades, according to circumstances, being twelve to eighteen battalions, with one or two *Chasseur* battalions, and is led by a General of division.

The *Corps d'Armée* is formed of two to three divisions, and is commanded by a Marshal.

The qualities of the French army are shown in the siege of Sevastopol, (for engineering skill,) and in the battle of Magenta, for celerity of movement; finally in the battle of the Alma, for light infantry action.

The strength of the French army now, as fixed by the Military Commission, is 420,000 men, and a reserve of 400,000; and the Mo-