

on the utility of the metamorphosis is not known.

A Greenwich Hospital Pension of £150 a year for flag officers is vacant by the death of Vice-Admiral G. W. Preedy, C.B.

The National Rifle Association has a promise of relief from the pecuniary difficulties which have beset it since its removal from Wimbledon to Bisley, the War Office having purchased part of its land and made arrangements to use its ranges for the military training of the Army.

It is proposed to recognize the Ordnance Store Department into a combatant corps, commanded by officers of the Royal Artillery. This plan has worked well in India.

The Emperor of Germany, comparatively young himself, is said to be about to retire 30 Generals from active service. Several staff officers are also said to be marked for retirement, thus carrying out his policy of rejuvenating the officers' corps.

The arrival of the deputation from the 1st Royal Dragoons in Berlin was the subject of an article in the semi-official "Military Weekly" on Tuesday. In this it was said:—"By Queen Victoria's appointment, our Emperor has been made a British soldier. The bond which has for so long a series of years united the British and Prussian Armies has thus been cemented afresh, and a comradeship in arms, the firmness and fidelity of which has been tested in many campaigns, has been renewed. The fields of Malpaiquet, Dettingen, Minden, and unnumbered other contests bear witness to that union. It was last apparent in the mighty struggle which finally checked the Gallic lust of conquest on June 15, 1815, at Waterloo, as the British call it, at La Belle Alliance, as the Prussians significantly name that bloody fight. 'I wish it were night, or that the Prussians were here,' said Wellington. 'I promised Wellington, and I must keep my word,' was the remark with which Blucher animated his soldiers. Tired to death as they were, and hardly able to move along roads soddened by the rain, they arrived at last, and, fighting shoulder to shoulder with their brothers in arms, achieved the glorious result we know. The two appointments—that of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief of a Prussian and that of the Emperor as Colonel of British Regiment—are of special importance, as the Queen's appointment was the first occasion on which a regiment of Prussian Cavalry Guards had received any other Colonel-in-Chief than the head of the Prussian army, and the Emperor's was the first on which a foreign Ruler had been placed at the head of a British regiment. We esteem it an honour to see Queen Victoria take

a place in our ranks, and the distinction of welcoming the German Emperor as a British officer and comrade is equally appreciated on the other side of the water. The military papers bear eloquent witness to this, and private communications from England confirm it."

Lieut. C. Locke and Sergt. J. H. Murray, who were recently tried by court-martial at Salford in connection with the military scandal at the Bagot street Factory, were removed in custody from Salford to Great Brook street Barracks, Birmingham, and there the decision of the court was made known. It will be remembered that both defendants at the court-martial pleaded guilty to receiving bribes to the amount of £130 each; Lieut. Locke has now been cashiered, and Murray has been dismissed with ignominy from the service.

Japan is going to make a large stride in its naval preparations by building two battleships which, from the information we have received, will be somewhat similar to the "Renown," now nearly ready for launching at Pembroke. One of these vessels is to be built at Elswick, and the other by the Thames Shipbuilding Company, and both vessels are to be ready for sea by 1898. Their length will be 270ft., beam 73ft., and draught 26ft. The displacement is to be 12,250 tons. The armour belt will be 226ft. long, and from 16in. to 18in. thick. The two barbets will have 14in. armour, and the armoured deck will be 2½ in. thick. The armament will consist of four 12-in. 50-ton guns, placed in pairs in barbets forward and aft; 10 16-in. Q.F., in casemats, 14 3-pr., 10 2½-pr., and six torpedo tubes. The engines, of 14,000 h.p. are to give a speed of 18 knots. The ordinary coal capacity is to be 700 tons, though 1,100 can be carried. They will also carry two second-class torpedo boats each. Elswick will supply the armaments, and Messrs. Humphreys and Tennant the machinery.

Quite unexpected though it generally was, the appointment of Lord Wolsely as a field marshal, long before the age at which such an honour is usually conferred, meets, says the United Service Gazette, with hearty approval. It is not thought likely that he will now longer retain the command in Ireland. By many who profess to be in the know it is asserted that the Duke of Cambridge intends to resign the commander-in-chiefship of the army, and that the post will be offered to Field Marshal Lord Wolsely for the limited period of five years, at the expiration of which it is purposed that the Duke of Connaught, whose heart is so thoroughly in his profession, should assume the chief command of the army. Further, it is supposed that Lord Roberts would go to Ireland. Certainly there "dear old Bobs" would receive the warmest of welcomes.

Col. G. Paton, formerly of South Wales

Borderers (Gallant 24th), now commanding troops in Barbadoes, has been appointed to succeed Col. Slade, late Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade, as commandant of the School Musketry at Hythe.

Lieut.-Col. Blakesley, commanding the Second Brigade Division of Field Artillery, North Camp, Aldershot, has been appointed to the command of the depot of the Royal Horse Artillery at Woolwich, but so far his successor has not been officially notified. It is stated, however, on good authority, that a Royal Horse Artillery officer now in India has been selected.

That "preux chevalier," Captain Alfred Hutton, late of the King's Dragoon's Guards, with his comrade-in-arms, Captain Matthey, has been covering himself with glory at Brussels. In the magnificent "Fete de l'Épée," given with full scenic and orchestral effects in the Monnaie Theatre, before the Count and Countess of Flanders, and the Princess Henriette, the gallant Englishman was the hero of three tremendous fights. In the first he figured as Eric Gunther deciding a "wager of battle" with Repère d'Angis in the presence of Childebert and his Court. The second affair was yet more exciting, for, clad in a full suit of steel armour, he represented Jaques de Labaing, the Flemish champion, wielding his battleaxe against Thomas Qué, a redoubtable Scottish warrior, Philip and Good being the arbiter of the contest. Wild cheering burst from the spectators when the man of Flanders hamstrung his adversary by a dexterous and very realistic stroke. The latter encounter must have been the most picturesque of all, consisting of a mimic duel with small swords and daggers between three bravos of Louis III.'s household and the same number of partisans of the Guise faction.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of the Royal Munster Fusiliers being permitted to bear upon their regimental colours the words "Condore; Masulipatam; Badara; Rohilcund, 1774," in commemoration of the distinguished services of the 1st battalion of the regiment, formerly the Royal Bengal Fusiliers.

In the House of Commons lately in reply to Mr. Bowles, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth said:—"The attention of the Admiralty has not been called otherwise than by the hon. gentleman's question to the statement in the Journal of the Royal United Service Institution to the effect that the cruisers "Tourmaline," "Ruby," "Emerald," and "Garnet" ought to be struck off the effective list. The vessels named are on the effective list. It cannot be stated when they will be withdrawn from service. The "Tourmaline" is on the North American Station, the "Ruby" in the training squadron, and the "Garnet" returning from the Pacific. These ships are efficient fo