

ly made before an audience, as he has recently, they ought only to be uttered after due notice of the same, so that information be received from the Ministers of the Crown on these matters. Notices of such statements being about to be made ought to be made in presence of those whose duty it is to answer and who are prepared to answer those charges. My explanation of these charges, I believe, will be most satisfactory to the public, and I will not fall into the error I have censured him for.

One thing more on this question I must mention, and I am ashamed to mention it; it is the statement that the Queen has never paid income tax. I say a man almost ashamed to take notice of such an observation, unfounded as it seems to me, that every one who knows what the Queen is will be able to acquit her with a moment's consideration. The Queen is no stranger in public—is no novice in Government. She has for four and-thirty years reigned over us, and maintained during that time a high, honorable, and stainless character. I really feel ashamed to say what I am going to say; that is that I have every reason to believe that all the promises made by the Queen have been fulfilled. I state to you being a person from whom such a statement would come with proper official authority, that Her Majesty has paid income tax. I am not going into details, but the sums thus paid by Her Majesty since the year 1812, when the promises were made were counted in hundreds, and thousands. (Applause) I have selected that as a simple instance, and if the honorable gentleman in question should bring it forward in the House I shall be most happy to give the fullest explanation, and I have no doubt the country will be satisfied with, as in other things that the Queen in her office has been high and honorable; and that Her Majesty has been true to herself and the worthy representative of all English people.

I should think it degrading myself if I were to take part in any discussion as to the respective merits of monarchy or republicanism. Politics are not speculative or metaphysical, but a practical and indicative science. The test of politics is what has answered or worked well. The English monarchy, which has existed since the time of William the Conqueror, has obtained for the English people more order connected with liberty than has been granted or been the privilege of any other people on earth. (Cheers) I do not misread the feelings of my countrymen when I say they will not discuss or be disposed to take into consideration the property of changing our constitution under which they have derived so many benefits which no other country in the world has been favored with or enjoyed. (Cheers.)

COLONIAL FORCES IN NEW ZEALAND.

An interesting report appears in the papers received by last mail from New Zealand, affording information as to the condition of the military force which has been raised for the defence of that colony to take the place of Imperial troops recently withdrawn. A capitation allowance is granted to all enrolled Volunteers who may qualify themselves as "efficient," consisting of £3 to cavalry and artillery, and £2 10s. to ordinary riflemen. The provision of this allowance has had a most satisfactory effect, for from a statement published by the Inspector of Militia and Volunteers, it appears that the proportion of the "efficient" to "enrolled" Volunteers, "has increased from fifty-one per cent. in 1869 to seventy-

four per cent. in the present year." The encouragement given to the whole movement by the liberal grant of the Legislature towards the colonial prize-firing has also contributed to its success. "In June, 1870, the strength of the Volunteers in the colony was 5497, of which number 3811 qualified themselves for capitation allowance. On the 31st of March last there were 6368, of which number 4880 were efficient." Hence it would appear that New Zealand, at least possesses a very tolerable armed force, and one which may be considered fully proportioned to the strength of its civil community; for the principal object in maintaining such an armed force and disciplined body is to protect life and property from the incursions of the hostile natives, and when these existed in far greater numbers than at present it was not deemed necessary to employ for their subjugation so large a proportion of Imperial troops as those now available in New Zealand.—*Broad Arrow*

THE "SESOSTRIAN SYSTEM" FOR RECRUITING.

When Sesostrius, the renowned Egyptian monarch, was preparing for the invasion of Syria, he sought to assemble a mighty host composed, according to the historian Diodorus, of 600,000 foot, 24,000 horse, and 27,000 chariots. But, no doubt much to the indignation and surprise of the royal autocrat, he found himself opposed by an unexpected obstacle. His faithful subjects were far more intractable than he had at all anticipated, and, in short, very generally declined to enlist. In this dilemma, he hit upon an expedient which may possibly be worthy of notice, even in the present day. He issued a royal proclamation, wherein he engaged to pay the private debts of every officer and soldier who would take service under him. The result of the experiment was such a rush to join his standards, that his forces were very soon recruited to the required extent. Now, as our Radical Ministers have proved themselves incompetent to keep up the regimental strength of the English Army, and have utterly failed in their recruiting efforts, we would respectfully suggest, to them the adoption of the "Sesostrian system." It has the great advantage of a long established "precedent"—always so dear to the official mind. It was crowned with success, which no plan of their own has ever yet been; and it would doubtless be satisfactory to those who should volunteer their services. It is true the adoption of this system might add a million or so to the Army Estimates, but as nobody outside the War Office has any idea what they may amount to at present, this trifling addition would not excite much attention. Besides which, in the present flourishing state of the revenue, swelled as it will also be by the vigorous use of the system of surcharges now in operation, we hardly think that it would present any serious difficulty even to the economic mind of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer.—*Globe*

THE WOOLWICH INFANT.

On Tuesday, when the last rounds were to be fired from the 35 ton gun at the proof butts, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, previous to its removal to Shoeburyness for practice against the targets, a defect was discovered which will at least retard its progress for some time. It is well known that the Committee on Explosives has been making a series of experiments with the gun, in order to test the pressure exercised on the bore,

and the velocity imparted to the projectile with various kinds of powder, and some days since a charge of 120lb. was fired which registered the extraordinary pressure of sixty-six tons on the square inch, the average pressure of that weight of ordinary gunpowder being something like thirty tons only, and scarcely ever exceeding forty tons. As usual after heavy firing, the gun was on Tuesday morning examined by taking impressions of the bore in gutta serena, when it was found that there was an incipient crack in the steel lining extending about four inches along one of the grooves. Several rounds have, however, been fired since the one which gave such exceptional pressure, and which, no doubt, caused the steel to give way, but no other injury appears to have resulted from it; and Colonel Campbell R. A., Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factories at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, was desirous to proceed with the firing at once, as would probably be done in action, when there would be no time for examination; but as the gun is now mounted on a valuable naval carriage, it is thought desirable to remove it first on to an ordinary sleigh, from which, as soon as the gun has been thoroughly inspected, it will be fired again. It would be a simple matter at once to repair the gun, by substituting a new steel tube, but it is considered of even more importance than the value of the gun to know how far it may be depended upon under any circumstance in which it is likely to be placed. The officers of the department are averse from the use of steel in any part of these large guns, owing to its brittle qualities; but no other material has been found hard enough to endure the friction of rifled projectiles, and its use as a mere lining appears, therefore, to be a necessity, the strength lying in the wrought-iron structure which surrounds it. The tensile strength of tempered steel is under fifty tons to the inch, and no surprise is therefore felt at the tube giving way under a pressure of sixty-six tons. This pressure is very remarkable, as the velocity which it gave, 1375 feet per second, is very little more than has been attained by other descriptions of powder, which have indicated only one-third of the pressure. Nevertheless, as guns are liable to be fired with powder of uncertain quality it is important to test this, the trial gun, under even the most disadvantageous conditions, and future experiments are looked forward to with increasing interest.—*Broad Arrow*

One hundred and twenty million tons of coal were taken out of the British coal fields last year, representing the exhaustion of a seam six feet thick, over an area of twenty thousand acres. It is manifest that at this rate of consumption any coal beds not practically limitless in extent must be exhausted within a term of years not difficult to compute. Even now the principal workings have been carried so far below the surface that the nation has begun to fear that the day when its coal mines shall be exhausted may not be far distant.

It is reported that the head-dress of the French army of the future will be the helmet, not on the model of the Prussian, but of a classic Roman shape, the express design of one of the most eminent French sculptors. The helmet will be made of brass or steel, and like the regimental standards, in Louis Philippe's time, will be surmounted by a Gallic cock of the same metal, the ornament in the case of an officer being silver or gold, according to his rank.