

also made of it. The results expected from heeling and nailing the German soldier's boots with aluminium are better and quicker marching, and the arrival of troops at the point of concentration in a less fatigued condition.

It is well known that secret agents play an important part in Russian policy. We have seen numberless instances in the past of the cunningly-devised means by which Russia works towards her ends, but we are too ready to forget or disregard them. British soldiers have never taken kindly to espionage, although it is often absolutely necessary to success, and nearly always places valuable information at the disposal of a commander. The time seems, however, to have arrived when it will be no longer possible to treat this matter in a casual manner, or to exclude it from a place among subjects of systematic study. A Russian staff officer has published a work, in which the science and art of obtaining information secretly are elaborately set forth for the benefit of his brother officers. Espionage is regarded by this author as a legitimate means of increasing the power of an army. It is the development of an intelligence department in the provinces of detection and dissimulation, and if "knowledge is power" there is something to be said in favour of his contention. "The eyes and ears of an army" can thus be materially assisted. What we have to guard against at this moment is the insidious work of Russian agents on and within our frontiers in the East. Whether officers should be put through a course of espionage we will not venture to say positively, but they should certainly learn the sportsman's habit of "marking his country," and of keenly observing and intelligently interpreting all the signs by which they are surrounded.

The new torpedo boat destroyer Ardent, built and engined by Messrs. Thornycroft & Co., underwent a preliminary trial at the mouth of the Thames on Friday last week. She attained a speed, on the mean of two runs with and against tide, of 29.182 knots, and a highest speed on a single run of 30.151 knots—the quickest yet recorded.

It is stated that when the Blake returns to England for repairs her sister ship, the Blenheim, now attached to the Channel Squadron, will replace her as a flagship on the North America and West Indies station. The Blenheim will then be superseded by the Barfleure. The Theseus is shortly to be commissioned for the Mediterranean station, and the Salamander is being prepared to relieve the Watchful as a tender to the Galatea.

The following officers of the New South Wales local military forces, who are shortly expected to arrive in India, will, on arrival, be attached for instruction to the cavalry, infantry, artillery, and general staff of the army:—Lieut.-Colonel H. D. Mackenzie, assistant Adjut.

ant-General and Chief Staff Officer, New South Wales Military Forces; Captain J. W. M. Onslow, Mounted Rifles; Captain H. W. Dangar, New South Wales Artillery; and First Lieut. J. G. Legge, 1st Infantry Regiment.

Chip of the Old Block.

Lieut. Straubenzie, of the Royal Artillery, son of Lt.-Col. Straubenzie, of this city, late D. A. G., of Military district No. 3, is maintaining, in the motherland, the credit of the good old military family from which he is sprung.

At the military tournament held recently at Woolwich, he won the officers' award, from 17 competitors. And he led his battery—the 2nd Depot Field—to victory in the driving competition. Lieut. Straubenzie has also played in all the cricket matches which the Royal Artillery has had with other corps, and has made a very high average in them.

Our Navy.

The extent of Canada's Navy is known to but few of our military men. The following list is taken from the Canadian Almanac of 1895, just to hand, will be of interest to our readers.

FISHERIES PROTECTION AND MARINE SERVICE OF CANADA.

Commander, O. G. V. Spain (retired R.N.)
Secretary, John S. McKay.

ACADIA—Two guns; screw cruiser; 526 tons; 138 horse power; speed, 14 knots; flagship. Fisheries Protection Service. Commander, O. G. V. Spain.

ABERDEEN—Two guns; screw cruiser; speed, 12 knots. Has quadruple expansion engines and is fitted with a powerful search light. Fisheries Protection Service. Captain, C. F. Knowlton.

CONSTANCE—Two guns; screw ram bowed gun-boat; 185 tons; 50 horse power; speed, 10 knots. Revenue Service (River St. Lawrence). Captain, George M. May.

CURLEW—Two guns; screw ram-bowed gun boat; 158 tons; 50 horse power; speed, 10 knots. Fisheries Protection Service (Bay of Fundy). Captain, J. H. Pratt.

KINGFISHER—Two guns; sailing schooner, 107 tons. This schooner is built on the latest design and is extremely fast. Fisheries Protection Service. Captain, W. H. Kent.

LA CANADIENNE—Two guns; screw cruiser; 372 tons; 60 horse power; speed, 9½ knots. Fisheries Protection Service. Captain, S. Belanger.

LANSDOWNE—Screw steamer; 680 tons; 80 horse power; speed, 7 knots. Lighthouse and Buoy Ship. Captain, G. Bissett.

NEWFIELD—Screw steamer; 780 tons; 90 horse power; speed, 9 knots. Lighthouse and Buoy Ship. Captain, J. H. Campbell.

PETRIE—Screw ram bowed gun-boat; 96 tons; 50 horse power; speed, 10 knots. Fisheries Protection Service, etc (Great Lakes). Captain, Edwin Dunn.

QUADRA—Screw steamer; 573 tons; 120 horse power; speed, 12 knots. Fisheries Protection Service, etc. (Pacific Coast). Captain, John S. Wallian.

STANLEY—Two guns; screw cruiser; 914 tons; 300 horse power; speed, 15 knots. Fisheries Protection Service during the season. Employed as the ice-boat between mainland and P. E. I. in winter. Captain, A. Finlayson.

VIGILANT—Two guns; sailing schooner; 100 tons. Fisheries Protection Service. Captain, H. McKenzie.

In the Canadian Almanac will be found much other interesting information, and well worth the purchasing price—20 cents, paper covers; 30 cents, cloth. Copp, Clark Co. Ltd. Publishers.

In Military Attire.

A rather vain young military officer is an admirer of a pretty girl up-town and he father dislikes him so that he has

declared war on him. Not long ago a friend was talking to the father about the young man.

"I suppose that young popinjay still continues to visit your daughter?" he said.

"Um—er—well," replied the old gentleman, "he was up to the house one night last week."

"All booted and spurred, of course?"

"Um—er," hesitated the father, significantly, "I can't say as to the spurred, but he was booted. I happened to be there, and know."—*Detroit Free Press.*

THE AULD CURLER'S PRAYER.

I.

I'm bit a puir auld doited carle,
Wi' siller nane to spare,
The auld broon coat is patched an' thin,
The shoon are brusten sair;
There's nane sae plenty coal an' wood,
The shelf is unco bare,
Bit I'm prayin' aye for days
Wi' the frost i' the air.

II.

The wife misca's me tae the folk,
The bairnies say I'm daft;
Bit there's nae nae curlin'
When the weather's warm an' saft.
Of a' the soonds that God has gi'en
There's nane sae sweet tae me
As when the bonny channel-stane
Gangs roaring tae the tee.

III.

Wi' withered airm, an' crookit back,
That ance was streight an' strang,
An' tremlin' limbs, an' blighted een,
I canna bide for lang;
Bit set my foot upo' the ice,
My han' upo' the stane,
An' pairted youth an' I shall meet
For ane short hour again.

IV.

Then gie me bit anither day,
Anither hour tae stan'
Ane mair a blythesome callant
Wi' the besom in his han';
An' when the partin' shot is played
I'll lay me doon and dee,
An' through the narrow port my soul
Shall rest upo' the tee.

—*Outing for December.*

Littell's Living Age for 1895. The success of this sterling periodical is owing to the fact that it enables one, with a small outlay of time and money, to keep pace with the best thought and literature of the day. Hence its importance to every American reader.

It has always stood at the head of its class, both in the quality and quantity of the reading furnished; and in fact it affords, of itself, so thorough and complete a compendium of what is of immediate interest or permanent value in the literary world as to render it an invaluable economizer of time, labor and money. In the multitude of periodicals of the present time,—quarterlies, monthlies and weeklies,—such a publication has become almost a necessity to every person or family desiring to keep well informed in the best literature of the day.

For 1895 an extraordinary offer is made to all new subscribers; and reduced clubbing rates with other periodicals are also given by which a subscriber may at remarkably small cost obtain the cream of both home and foreign literature. Those selecting their periodicals for the new year would do well to examine the prospectus. In no other way that we know of can a subscriber be put in possession of the best which the current literature of the world affords, so cheaply or conveniently.

Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.