

Such noisy days of brilliant festivals and unforeseen accidents were followed by quiet days such as the Queen loved above all things. Sunday was always her most delightful day. Opposite the castle, on the north side of the river Deo, lies the small village of Crathie, with its very plain and humble church. Thither every Sunday a devout couple, with prayer book in hand, was seen to wend their way from the castle across the bridge; behind them followed the children and a few servants. Only when the weather was too unfavorable, the family, which, as was shown by the livery of the servants, was the royal family, drove in a carriage to the little village church. The worshippers from the village, in the beginning, stared not a little at the Queen and Prince Albert, but before long they were so well acquainted with each other that they exchanged greetings like old and intimate friends. In the afternoon the Queen, never accompanied by her servants, and only occasionally by one of her children, visited the cottages of the poor and sick. She enters now one cottage, now another, examines the clothes presses and beds, makes inquiries about the education of children, asks the boys and girls if they make good progress at school, if they remember what the preacher said, &c. She comforts the sick and feeble, and reads from the Bible; she scolds the lazy. After returning home she makes all sorts of notes—as a consequence of which, in the next few days, efficacious relief is given to the poor sufferers in many a lowly hut. Now she visits, during the week, the village school—now she converses with the village clergymen, on the spiritual condition of his flock and the improvement of the school. The children know her well, and having once heard the Queen say to Prince Albert, "What do you think Albert?" they henceforth call her only "Dear Mrs. Albert;" and while her husband establishes a model farm for the peasants of Crathie, she is at work upon the establishment of a model village school. However, the happy husband and wife do everything together.

The year 1861 destroyed the happiness of the royal couple. The excellent German Prince who once said of himself, "he was not only the Queen's consort, but the educator of her children, the private Secretary of the sovereign and her permanent minister," was torn from her side by his premature death. "Lonely and dreary," she says in the preface of her husband's speeches, "lay her path before her from this time—it is true, a path of duty and toil, which, confiding in the loyal attachment and sympathy of her people, she would, with God's blessing, strive to pursue."

ARBITRATION OF THE "ALABAMA" CLAIMS.

The British Foreign Office has just issued a volume of diplomatic correspondence on this awkward question. From it we learn that in May last, Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, sent a communication to the British Minister in Washington, to the effect that England was ready to submit the Alabama claims to a Commission of Arbitration, and to abide by the decision whatever it might be. The only stipulation to this offer was, that the United States should agree to submit, in the same manner, the claims of British subjects for losses sustained during the rebellion. The official statement, of course, gives its quietus to the very improbable story so very industriously circulated by some of our American contemporaries, that England was disposed

to cede certain of its possessions on this continent in payment of the bill for damages inflicted by the *Alabama*. The *Times* of the 14th instant, we learn by the cable, had an editorial commenting on the correspondence which has passed between the two governments on this subject. It remarks that Secretary Seward shows by his despatch that he is unwilling to forego by a definite settlement a popular ground of complaint against England, and, like a lawyer, is less anxious for judgment than to prolong litigation. He asserts that counter claims of England for indemnity at least balance those of the United States, and complains that Mr. Seward now declines to adopt the plan of a mixed commission which was proposed by himself. The article concludes that Lord Stanley had acted all along in good faith, and with determination not to give capital to the circle of American politicians who are ever seeking causes of complaint against England; but under the circumstances he will wait until the United States government reduces its pretensions. We are glad to find that the proposition for an arbitration is regarded by some of our neighbors as fair and honorable. The *New York Sun* is of opinion that there is no other way to adjust the difficulty. We cannot, says that journal, think of a war between the two countries as a consequence of this comparatively trifling dispute; and yet if neither party will consider anything, or the sake of compromise, the trouble might eventually become serious. The best thing our Government can do is to accept the proposition of England, submit the whole question to an impartial commission, and receive the judgment of that body as conclusive, no matter how the case may go. The Alabama claims are of too little consequence to fight about, and hardly important enough to talk about any longer. Let the vexed question be settled, and the quicker the better.

THE PARAGUAYAN WAR.

(From the *Standard of Buenos Ayres*.)

A painful experience has already shown how useless and dangerous is any attack on the lines of Curupaity, which is only an outwork of Fort Humayta. In the assault of September 23d the allies lost seven to eight thousand men, mostly troops of the line, leaving little better than raw recruits as survivors. Since then the cholera has carried off eight or ten thousand men, and the scourge has recently broken out afresh with much violence at Tuyuty, all owing to the pestilential marshes where the allies are encamped.

Moreover, an extraordinary and unexpected inundation has forced the Brazilians to evacuate Curuzu, with immense loss of men and war material; for, as soon as the enemy noted the movement of the Brazilians, they opened a new masked battery of heavy guns, and caused awful havoc among the ill-fated Brazilians, who had numbers killed, wounded, and drowned.

At the same time the flood caused great losses in the Argentine camp: 3000 bales of hay, 10,000 arrobes of corn, a number of horses drowned, and a quantity of coal, have been the losses caused by this disaster, which has been as fatal as a great defeat. No wonder that the cholera has returned among the poor soldiers who are encamped in such morasses.

But apart from these devastations, what hope is there of forcing the lines of Curupaity? They are defended by the Estero

Tuyuty, which is 500 yards across and ten or twelve feet deep. Then the Paraguayans have a fosse thirty feet wide and eighteen feet deep, which communicates with Lake Piris, and is full of water, running six miles all around Humayta. After this they have a line of abatis, from 100 to 120 feet deep; then another ditch like the first, 30 feet wide and 18 deep, before we reach their grand parapet fortification of Curupaity, which is obstructed by chevaux de frise, and surmounted by splendid batteries of heavy guns, well served by expert gunners, and the whole defended by 30,000 valiant soldiers determined to do or die for the independence of their country.

But passing over such considerations, it is evident that the allied position at Tuyuty is untenable. Far from obtaining any advantage, the allies will gradually melt away in those swamps, and the grand Brazilian fleet, now useless for more than a year, shows itself powerless to overcome the obstacles placed by the enemy. Some other route must therefore be taken.

VISIT OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON TO THE CAMP AT CHALONS.

The Emperor Napoleon left Paris on Thursday for the camp at Chalons. A letter from the camp, dated the 6th instant, and published in the *Paris Temps* of Thursday, says:

A despatch received this morning at headquarters fixes Thursday the 8th instant for the arrival of the Emperor at the camp. His Majesty will remain until the 16th. He wishes, indeed, to see for himself the importance of the modifications to be introduced into actual tactics in consequence of the new armament of the French infantry. Ever since the 24th of June we have had grand manoeuvres every week on Monday and Friday. We were, therefore, much astonished a few days ago to read in the little *Moniteur* that the troops at the Chalons camp would soon commence the grand manoeuvres they execute every season. A month and a half in arrear is a little too much; however, from the very beginning of our manoeuvres certain changes have been regarded as established principles, others are still on trial. Repeated experiments can alone demonstrate the expediency, more or less, of their adoption. As before, the artillery commences battle; it opens fire at 2500 metres; at 1500 metres its fire is very accurate and effective. During the fire of the artillery the infantry advances, covered by a dense mass of skirmishers, and endeavoring to profit by all the accidents of the ground to avoid the fire of the enemy's artillery. The skirmishers open fire at 1000 metres. It is still undecided as to the exact distance at which the battalions ought to commence their combined fire; but in a few days the exercises in combined firing will put an end to this uncertainty. Meanwhile it is thought that their effect is very great at 800 metres, and that they may commence at that distance against troops in line. At 600 or 500 metres it is impossible for any troops whatever to stand against the fire of a battalion armed with Chassepots. On a plain no cavalry could approach even at charging distance, that is at 200 metres, a battalion firing at will. This is so thoroughly understood that now in our manoeuvres during all the action the cavalry is held in reserve; it has not entered into line, and has only charged when the enemy's troops have clearly indicated their retreating movement.