

## FOREIGN NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE *Cologne Gazette* gives the following particulars, "according to the most trustworthy accounts," relative to the extent to which the various armies of Europe are now provided with breech-loaders: In the North German army the infantry of the line and the guard are all armed with needle-guns, of which there is also a sufficient supply for the reserve and for the garrisons. The arming of the whole of the landwehr with converted needle guns was also decided upon last June. Of the South German troops those of Hesse, Baden and Wurtemberg are all armed with the needle-gun, while Bavaria only began a few months ago to supply the Werner gun to her army. Austria had armed 300,000 men with the converted Wanzel last July. The whole of the French army may be regarded as being supplied with the Chassepot since last spring. In Belgium the Albini gun is to be in the hands of every soldier of the line by the 1st of October. In Italy thirty-two battalions of bersaglieri were armed last July with a rifle similar to the Prussian needle-gun, with slight modifications. The English army has, since the beginning of the year, carried the Snider. The arming of the Danish army with the Remington rifle is also complete; and Russia makes the greatest efforts to hasten the supply to her troops of Carlen needle-guns. Of the other States, Holland, Sweden, Roumania and Servia have only just introduced breech-loaders into their respective armies, while in Turkey, Spain and Portugal the soldiers still carry the old musket.

## THE BATTLE OF ALCOLEA.

By the arrival of the wounded from the armies of Andalusia we have received better information as to the conflict at Alcolea, and most of the papers contain some particulars of the battle. The accounts are not in all respects entirely similar, but all seem to agree that the loss inflicted upon the royal forces by the artillery and breech-loaders of the troops of Serrano was something terrible. Its severity was increased by the circumstance that the royal force at first fell into a trap which had been prepared for them. At least so I gather from the conflicting accounts which have come under my notice. When the troops under the command of General Novaliches made the attack the vanguard of Serrano's army, acting under instructions, retired before them, and commenced what looked like a retreat.—The royal forces, animated by the apparent discomfiture of their adversaries, pressed on towards the positions which they already regarded as their own. Serrano's artillery was, however, so placed as to command the bridge; and while the royal forces were engaged in crossing it his batteries poured upon them a most destructive fire, which was well supported by the infantry regiments. The royal forces thrice advanced to the attack, and were thrice driven back by the superiority of the artillery and musketry fire of their antagonists. It was, I believe, while directing and animating the third and last assault that General Novaliches was wounded; and his wound was so serious as at once to render impossible the continuance of his direction of the engagement. Nearly the whole of his chin was shot

away, and there have been repeated reports as to his death. These reports have as yet no foundation; but he is at present lying at Pinto in a very precarious condition.—The wounding of Novaliches and the desertion of several regiments of the royal army (of which I have already informed you) assured the victory of the revolutionary forces; and had General Serrano pressed on he might of course, have annihilated that portion of the Queen's army which remained faithful. Such a step was unnecessary and would perhaps have been unjustifiable. At all events it was not the one which commended itself to the Duke de la Torre.—When he learned that Novaliches was wounded, and saw how completely his adversaries were at his mercy, he generously suspended the combat, and only busied himself in the removal of the dead and the relief of the wounded.

FALLEN MONARCHIES.—Arbitrary government may have brief snatches of supreme satisfaction, but in the long run it does not answer. Power resting on the broad basis of constitutional government escapes the shocks which hurl down the fabric of despotism. A liberal contemporary at Paris reminds us that Queen Isabella is the last of a long train of sovereigns who, within half a century, have, through disregard of the true source of stability, fallen from power, or have lost a considerable portion of their territories. Napoleon was finally deposed in June, 1815, his brothers Jerome and Joseph, and Murat, King of Naples, having fallen before. The Bourbon monarchy of Spain, hardly in its seat, lost its American colonies, and Ferdinand VII. was only maintained by the French expedition of 1823. Iturbide, the Emperor of Mexico, disappeared in 1824. In 1830 Greece was lost to Turkey, and the same year saw the fall of the Dey of Algiers and Charles X. The King of Holland lost half his States, now the kingdom of Belgium, and the Duke of Brunswick was driven from his principality by his irritated subjects. Three years later Don Miguel, King of Portugal, was compelled to yield the crown to Donna Maria, daughter of Don Pedro, who was left with the Brazils. In 1848 Europe was covered with the wrecks of monarchies or dynasties. Louis Philippe was a refugee, the Emperor of Austria abdicated to save his throne, Pius IX. fled from Rome, and for a moment Hungary was lost to Austria. In 1855 the Czar Nicholas, checked on the road to Constantinople, died of chagrin and wounded self-love. In 1859 the Duke of Modena, the Duchess of Parma, and the Grand Duke of Tuscany were struck out of the list of reigning princes; and a few months afterwards Francis II. left Naples at one side as Garibaldi entered it at the other. In 1862 King Otto was expelled from Greece by a bloodless insurrection. In 1866 Austria passed through a terrible trial, and the empire was only saved by the abandonment of Venice. The same year witnessed the upsetting by Prussia of the throne of Hanover, Nassau, Brunswick, and Electoral Hesse, none of which were rooted in the affections of the people; while in the distant country of Mexico the unfortunate Maximilian came to a mournful end. During all this time the *Siecle* reminds us constitutional monarchies were safe, and England, Sweden, Belgium, and Portugal were untouched by the waves of revolution. The popular governments have certainly the best of the review. —*Express*.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Post* says the candidates for seats in the new Parliament comprise 116 naval officers.

We understand that Her Majesty has directed the name of Major-General Mackirdy to be placed on the list of general officers receiving rewards for distinguished and meritorious services.

A young girl, possessing a beautiful head of hair, cut it off and sent it to Cardinal Antonelli, the proceeds to be devoted "To buying a Pontifical Zouave," *i. e.*, inducing a man to enlist in the Pope's army.

RIFLES FOR KINGSTON.—On the 27th ult., 2,000 Snider rifles were despatched to Kingston. It is reported that two military districts are to be malagamaté—which would remove one Major General and staff from command.

REMOVAL OF TROOPS.—We understand the detachment of the Rifle Brigade, at present stationed here, is under orders for Quebec. We presume this is in consequence of the decision to reduce the force in the colonies. The 8th of next month is the date fixed for their departure.—*Cobourg Star*.

A novel principle is to be applied in naval warfare. Experiments are being made at Antwerp to fortify the river Scheldt by a line of torpedoes to be exploded by an electrical current. The time for exploding them is to be determined by a *cambra obscura*. When the ship arrives over the line of the torpedoes it will cast an inverted image, and the electrical current will then be applied.

ANOTHER ARMOUR-PLATED VESSEL TO BE BUILT ON THE CLYDE.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* says that Messrs Napier, of Glasgow, have taken the contract to build the armour-plated ship *Hotspur*, for the Admiralty. She is to be covered with plates of 11 inches thick and the total weight is to be 1000 tons. The price at which Messrs. Napier have agreed to build the ship is £40 per ton dead weight, or about £45 10s. builder's measurement.

The following story was told about the Turkish troubles, just before the outbreak of the Crimean war. A Russian General arrived at Constantinople, to have an interview with the Turkish Pasha. Entering the presence, he found the Pasha seated on a divan arrayed in the habit of a Turk; but the two had no sooner cast eyes upon each other, than the following dialogue ensued.—Russian General—What! is that you, Sandy Macpherson? Turkish Pasha—Eh! Jock Macdonald, who'd hae thoct o' meeting you here.

There is joy in the artillery department at Berlin. After having so long yielded the palm to Armstrong, Krupp, it is asserted, has at length defeated his rival. Early this summer a competitive trial of the two guns was held in the artillery ground at Tegel, near Berlin, when the native product came off second best. Great consternation prevailed at the time, and the King, the Princes and Princesses who had come to witness the triumph of the Prussian weapon, rode not best pleased home. Since then an improvement, the nature of which has not inspired has been introduced, and, it seems, most successfully. At the trial, which has just come off, Krupp's 72-pounder smashed the nine-inch plates—said to be the strongest in use—at each round. What, then, must his guns of more formidable calibre accomplish if re-modelled on the new pattern?