

marek entered the diplomatic service in 1851. Then he set himself to the double task of strengthening Prussia, and weakening Austria, in the councils of Germany. His more recent exploits, such as the spoliation of Denmark, the breaking off of the treaty with Austria, and the secret alliance with Italy for making an aggressive war upon Austria, to drive her out of Germany altogether, are yet fresh in the public mind. And it is not hard to explain why his professed friendship for France was so suddenly turned to hatred. After Sadowa the Prussians were ready to march on the Austrian capital, but were prevented by Napoleon, who boasted to the French Chambers that he had arrested the enemy (of Austria) at the gates of Vienna. From that time the diplomatic war broke out between France and Prussia, and there can be little doubt but that each tried to circumvent the other.

The French version of the "secret treaty" to which we referred last week, is precisely as we then surmised; Count Bismarck suggested, and at his suggestion Count Benedetti wrote; Bismarck kept the draft, and the French Ambassador forwarded the proposals to Paris, when the Emperor rejected them. They were also submitted to the King of Prussia, and met with his disapproval.

After some delay, rather unaccountable in a matter that ought to be so simple, there appeared on the 31st ultimo in a Berlin paper, the Prussian circular addressed to its representatives at foreign courts, explanatory of the whole of the secret negotiations between France and Prussia. The telegraphic summary of this circular states that before the Danish war, the French Legation at Berlin urged an alliance between the two powers for mutual aggrandisement. The propositions were that:

1st. Should the Congress of Powers assemble, Italy was to have Venetia, and Prussia the Duchies. 2nd. Should Congress disagree, an alliance, offensive and defensive, will be made between France and Prussia. 3rd. Prussia is to open hostilities against Austria within ten days after the dissolution of Congress. 4th. Should no Congress meet, Prussia is to attack Austria within thirty days after the signature of the present treaty. 5th. Napoleon is to begin hostilities against Austria as soon as Prussia begins. 6th. No separate treaty is to be made by either power with Austria. When the joint treaty is made the following are to be conditions: 1st. Venetia to go to Italy. 2nd. Prussia to select German territory at will, for annexation, the number of inhabitants not to exceed eight millions of souls; the territory thus acquired is to become a part of the Kingdom of Prussia, without federal rights. 3rd. France is to have a liberal share of the Rhine Provinces. 4th. A military and maritime alliance to be made between France and Prussia, to which Italy may be a party, should she so desire."

It is to be remarked that as the Congress did not meet and as the treaty was not signed, the first five of these propositions have no value now except as to the question of their authorship. With respect to the proposed joint treaty, to be signed after Prussia and France had despoiled Austria, it is worthy of remark that the first proposal—the acquisition of Venetia by Italy, after the war, was actually fulfilled; that the second, "Prussia to select German territory at will," was also carried out to the very letter and beyond it; and that, with respect to the third, France only was disappointed! If Napoleon did propose terms so advantageous to Prussia, no wonder that he was an angry man when he saw her gain all that he had promised without his assistance, and therefore without any advantage to himself. As we have noted the fulfilment of two of the conditions of the intended joint treaty, it may be remarked, also, that Napoleon demanded the fulfilment of the third. Its prompt refusal by Prussia nearly led to war, and probably would have done so, but that Napoleon had no chassepots at the time. It is probable, therefore, that this so-called treaty really embodies the conditions of the private understanding between Napoleon and Bismarck, said to have been entered into at Biarritz.

The circular says this programme was rejected in June, 1866, in spite of the urgency of France, and that similar proposals were "incessantly renewed" but were never "seriously entertained" by Prussia, though "for the sake of peace it was thought best to leave Napoleon to his own delusions." This is a curious phrase. Did the Prussian Government draw Napoleon on in the indulgence of these delusions by tolerating the hope that some day she would assent to them? It looks very much like it, though "no word implying approval was returned," the circular says. But ought there not to have been an indignant protest, with the intimation, on the first approach, that a repetition of these proposals would immediately be followed by their being communicated to every court of Europe? To allow these propositions to be "incessantly repeated," during four years, without exposing the would-be robber, is something extraordinary. Prussia was bound in honour to France to keep the first secret proposal a private matter; but she was equally bound in honour to the other Great Powers, answerable for the integrity of the menaced States, to have warned France that a repetition of such proposals would be at once communicated to them. Had she done so, she would not have been fighting France single-handed to day; for on the first declaration of war by the Emperor there would have been a European coalition

formed against him, more powerful than that which hurled a greater than he from the Imperial throne of France. No wonder that England has informed both the Powers that their explanations are not satisfactory. It appears certain that, whoever first started these attempts at secret negotiation, both parties intended to profit by them in the end.

The circular goes on to say that the last propositions—that is, for the acquisition of Luxembourg and Belgium by France, and of South Germany by Prussia—"were formulated by Count Benedetti himself;" but again it may be asked, if Bismarck did not instigate them, why did he not expose them to the Great Powers? Surely as they were "the same which were made four years ago under a 'threat of war,' Prussia had every incentive to have enlisted the sympathies and secured the support of England, Belgium and Holland on its side! The rulers of both France and Prussia are certainly open to the suspicion of desiring to enlarge their territories at the expense of other nations; and we may hope that the old adage, "when rogues fall out, &c.," will be fully realised in their case, though we cannot but deplore the sufferings their mad ambition will bring upon both countries.

#### GRAND FALLS, RIVER ST. JOHN, N. B.

We give a view in the present number of the Grand Falls, on the St. John River, New Brunswick. The falls are about ten miles above the point where the Salmon River empties its waters into the St. John. At this point a sudden turn of the river forms a little bay, and immediately below this the river rushes with great fury over a rocky bed till it is suddenly narrowed by the projection of the rocks. From the western side it rolls with great impetuosity over the ledges, and is precipitated in a perpendicular line forty-five feet into a narrow basin of pointed rocks, amidst which it foams and rages till it escapes through a narrow rocky channel, over a series of declivities half a mile in continuance, enclosed on each side by craggy cliffs. The falls are spanned by a handsome iron bridge.

#### THE QUEEN'S HOTEL, TORONTO.

The Queen's Hotel bears the reputation of being the most comfortable and the most aristocratic, not only in Toronto, but in the whole of the western province. The building, as seen in our sketch, is large and roomy, having of late been enlarged and otherwise improved. It now has a frontage of 156 feet, with two side wings, each 80 feet long, and a centre wing extending northward 108 feet. It is furnished with accommodation for two hundred guests, and the whole of the interior is elegantly laid out and tastefully furnished. The arrangements are of the best kind, securing to the guests every comfort and attention. A large garden is attached to the hotel, and the site of the building on Front Street, overlooking the bay and commanding an extensive view of Lake Ontario, adds to its attractions. The "Queen's" is in the hands of Captain Thos. Dick, who has succeeded in creating for himself and his hotel a great name among the travelling community of America.

#### HA-HA BAY

Ha-Ha Bay, one of the finest natural harbours of the Saguenay, is also a great place of summer resort, and takes its rank with Murray Bay, Cacouna, Kamouraska, and Tadoussac in the list of pleasant places along the St. Lawrence that offer their attractions to the tourist and the holiday-maker. Ha-Ha Bay is situated on the south side of the river, and so perfect is its resemblance to the main channel of the Saguenay that travellers are often misled by its appearance. There are various opinions as to the origin of its curious name, but the most prevalent opinion is that it is thus called on account of the sudden bend which the river here makes; this unexpected *détour* induces the voyageur to exclaim "Ha-Ha!" being struck with surprise at seeing the opening of a new prospect. Such is the origin given by Bouchette. The bay is situated at about nineteen leagues from the mouth of the Saguenay, and is distant seven leagues from Chicou'imi, from which it is separated by a tongue of land sixteen miles in breadth. From Tadoussac to Ha-Ha Bay a continuous chain of mountains incloses the river on both sides, occasionally presenting capes and promontories projecting into the river. In the neighbourhood of the bay, however, the land is lower and more level than on the coast downwards. Good salmon-fishing is to be had in this neighbourhood, and Ha-Ha Bay has always been a favourite resting-place with the lovers of the "gentle craft."

#### THE CAVALRY CHASSEPOT.

A new arm has, within the last twelve months, been introduced in the French army for the use of the cavalry. This weapon is an adaptation of the renowned Chassepot rifle, modified in such a way as to be used with ease and safety on horseback. It is somewhat shorter than the Chassepot, and is said to work with great precision. Its length is 1 metre, 14 centimètres—about a yard and a quarter; and its calibre 11 millimètres, or nearly half an inch. The range is 1200 yards. On horseback the cavalry chassepot is carried horizontally, the barrel resting against the horse's shoulders, and the butt-end lying against the trooper's thigh. It can be loaded and discharged with facility while riding at the fastest pace. This arm is intended for two branches of the cavalry, the dragoons and the tirailleurs. The manner of using it is as follows. The troopers range themselves in two rows, each man standing at a distance of 10 yards from his neighbours. The first rank fires and retires rapidly—reloading the while—and the second line advances and discharges in turn. The manœuvre is executed with the greatest rapidity, and by this means a very hot and steady fire is kept up.

The Chassepot differs from the Prussian arm in two particulars. 1. The escape of gas is not prevented, as in the Prussian needle-gun, by the perfect fit of the needle-bolt and the band. 2. The fulminate is not in front but in rear of the charge, and is contained in an ordinary copper cap. The chief feature of the invention, however, consists in the contrivance

adopted for preventing the escape of gas breechwards. The hermetic closing of the breech parts is obtained by the instantaneous compression, under the action of the explosion, of a vulcanized caoutchouc washer interposed between the front face of the breech bolt and a flange, or shoulder, upon the needle-guide. The needle-guide being moveable, and the front face of the bolt being fixed, the India rubber is nipped between them. The washer and the flange or shoulder are of little less diameter than the breech in which they are fitted, so as to facilitate their play therein, but the diameter of the front face of the breech bolt is, as nearly as possible, equal to the inner diameter of the breech. When the explosion takes place, the pressure transmitted by the moveable needle-guide to the washer is such, that the latter is compressed sufficiently to hermetically close the rear end of the band and thereby prevent all gas' escape. After the charge is fired, and the pressure removed, the washer, by virtue of its elasticity, returns to its natural position. The ring or washer is composed of three layers of different degrees of hardness, the two outward layers being of much harder substance than the centre one, so that, on being pressed, the intermediate layer, which is perfectly elastic, expands. The India rubber ring is compressed by the needle-guide between the washers, when the charge is ignited, and is therefore forced to fill the barrel, in which, in its normal state, it loosely fits.

Messrs. Norton and Valentine in their report to the U.S. government on the munitions of war exhibited at the Paris Universal Exposition, in 1867, give the following account of the comparative experiments of the Chassepot rifle and the needle-gun as made in Prussia: "The Prussian gun maker, Specht, has received from Paris a Chassepot gun similar to those adopted by the French army, and experiment have been made with it which have furnished important results. The Chassepot is certainly superior to the Prussian needle-gun. Competitive essays have been made with the two. More than fifty officers of all arms witnessed them. The Chassepot was in the hands of Mr. Specht; the needle-gun in the hands of one of the best marksmen in the garrison. The arrangement was to fire with each weapon per minute. The needle-gun was the first; it fired eight rounds and struck the target eight times. The Chassepot fired ten shots and was loaded the eleventh time within the minute; the needle-gun discharged three shots, the Chassepot five."

The weight of the Chassepot is 8 lbs. 14 oz. 13 dr.; calibre, .433 inch; range, 1,994 yards; number of grooves, four. With its ball the long bones are more frequently split, its effects are more fatal; but if death is not produced, the wound is more easily managed. The bullet is one inch long, blunt pointed; its base, the broadest part in circumference, is half an inch in diameter. It is by the use of this gun, pronounced to be so much superior, that the French expect to have an important advantage over the Prussians.

The accompanying illustration shows a party of dragoons practising with the new weapon at Châlons.

#### "CHARITY AND ITS MOTIVES."

Though every man is disposed to inveigh against the selfishness of every other man; though the benevolence of some takes the turn which Sydney Smith so graphically described as A seeing B in distress, and suddenly resolving to compel C to relieve him; though too many instinctively button up their pockets—metaphorically speaking—at the approach of every applicant for aid, no matter how deserving the object, there is yet a wonderful amount of charity, of kindness, and of goodwill, to be found in this much, and no doubt deservedly, abused world of ours. In fact there are few who have not felt at some time in their lives, that "Charity is twice blessed;" though it has been said that, to some,

" \* \* \* \* \* The pleasure is as great  
In being cheated as to cheat."

But such people must be rogues on principle; whereas there are many who are not overburdened with the virtues, that yet feel very much more pleasure in giving than in receiving. Our artist produces several exemplars of the different impulses in which acts of charity or alms-deeds have their origin. In the first the devoted religious at the bed-side of the sick tends to the every want of her patient with kindness, alacrity, and even pleasure, because it is her vocation—she has been called by some high impulse and she joyfully obeys the promptings of her womanly heart. Some of the most heroic acts of seeming self-sacrifice have sprung from the indulgence of one set of feelings at the expense of the others; nevertheless, those who do good for the sake of good, have surely well earned the gratification its performance brings them. The second portrays the good pastor administering consolation to one of his flock. He may not enjoy the secret heart-triumphs of a Florence Nightingale, sitting from pallet to pallet, giving comfort and strength to the sick or wounded soldier; nor may he indulge the consciousness of the self-sacrifice that subduces while it cheers the Sister of Charity as she passes from ward to ward of the Fever Hospital. But if the spectacle has seemingly less of love it has more of grandeur, for here is every feeling subordinated to the sense of duty. Not indeed that the feelings are lost or that they do not warm with their kindly glow the performance of that which without them must be harshly, if not unprofitably, done; but there is a calmness and a dignity surrounding the performance of some offices in the Christian ordinances, as recognised by every creed, that only the inspiration of duty can beget.

The sudden change of scene in the next illustration requires a new paragraph. Here there is no "call" but the conventional one of society; no "duty" but that of avoiding the imputation of being a "muff" or a "bear." Of course the gallant swell cannot refuse the young lady! Perhaps the object, however laudable in itself, has no more interest to him than it has to the mythical man in the moon, but sheer politeness forbids that he should refuse, though, likely enough, the half-dollar he drops into the purse would have been more worthily expended in reducing the balance against him at his washerwoman's! As to the next—giving "something" to the organ-grinder's well-trained begging monkey, just "for fun," it is so like the freak of a newly married lady, whose heart is all aglow with sympathy for every living thing (except for the "horrid creature," Miss Jenkins, who never could see what she fancied in Adolphus Augustus), that none but a confirmed enemy of hurdy-gurdies would complain of it. Very many excellent people hold to the opinion, however, that such gifts are less of alms-deeds than towards perpetuating an intolerable nuisance. With respect to the fifth scene, perhaps we are hardly *en rapport* with the artist. He represents an enrolment for some charitable