

arranged with ferns, plants and flowers. The table and decorations were under the superintendance of John Parkins, the admiral's steward. The following menu list was printed in gold:

Printaniere a la Royale.
Filetz de Saumon.
Quenelles de Volaille en aspic.
Cotelettes d'agneau au Concombre.
Dindon roti.
Langue de Boeuf.
Filets Boeuf braises.
Jambon braise.
Vin de Champagne.
Pondin Ratafia.
Gelee Maraquino.
Anchois aux Olives.
Creme Glace aux Fraises.
Eau d'Ananas Glace.

The following programme of music was played by the band of H. M. S. Blake:

Overture—Esmeralda - - - Herman
Serenade—La Paloma - - - Yeadier
Valse—Toreador - - - Hoyt
Selection—Il Trovatore - - - Verdi
Intermezzo—Cavalleria Rusticana -
- - - Mascagni
Valse—Sultana - - - Bucalossi
Morceau—des Mandolines - - Desormes
God Save the Queen.

NEWS OF THE PARENT SERVICE.

The Government of India have agreed to the proposal by the Government of Victoria to depute two or three Field Artillery officers of the Colonial force to India during the cold season of each year for instruction with field batteries, and the Victorian Government have been informed that, so far as next cold season is concerned, arrangements can be made to attach these officers to field batteries at Meerut and Lucknow, and to enable them to attend an Artillery practice camp, which will be held at Gurgaon, near Delhi, on December next.

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It is now hoped by the experts that the difficulty which threatens to be fatal to our new army explosive, cordite, may be circumvented by a change in the manner of loading the cartridges. If they can be so loaded as to secure a less rapid expansion of the gases generated, there is a chance that the corrosion, which proves so rapidly ruinous to the rifle barrel, may be obviated. Experiments will show whether this is the case or not.

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A very interesting experiment was carried out the other day at Lydd with a view of finding out the probabilities of hitting fast torpedo boats with quick-firing guns. A model torpedo boat, 55 feet long and 3 feet wide, was constructed of wood in such a manner as to fit on a long railway truck, the latter being drawn by a locomotive with a long steel wire rope working through a snatch block so that the boat would travel at double the rate of the locomotive, and in this way a speed of over 25 knots per hour

was readily attained on the Government railway at Lydd. There were four runs, the speed varying from 14 to 25 knots, and the ranges from 2,000 to 1,000 yards. In all 60 rounds were fired with cordite charges from the 6 pr., O. F. guns, and four hits obtained with common shell, any one of which would probably here placed a real torpedo boat hors-de-combat. The conditions for the gun (only one used) were decidedly unfavourable, and the general impression was that over water the result would have been much greater. The runs took from 1 minute 40 seconds to 3 minutes, in the former 12 rounds were fired, and in the latter 19 rounds.

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The study of Russian language, which a few years ago was almost unknown in the British Army, has received a great impetus during the past five or six years, for besides a large number of officers who have been noted as passed, no fewer than 78 have qualified as interpreters. Of this number fifty belong to the Indian Staff Corps, other officers of the same branch being nearly always under going study in Russian, for which great facilities are granted. Considering the influence of Russia in the East the study of the language with a view to counter action is a step in the right direction.

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A committee has been formed for the purpose of erecting a memorial to Major-General Sir John Inglis, K.C.B., who commanded the garrison that defended Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. The committee consists of officers of the old garrison—"Defence of Lucknow"—but they will be much obliged if any officers connected with the Relieving Forces—who wish to cooperate with them—will communicate with the Hon. Secretary, at 28, Connaught Square, Hyde Park, W.

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It is reported from Malta that when the Camperdown's collision compartments were opened up one link of the Victoria's cable was found inside, the only remaining vestige of the ill-fated ship. At the time of collision the Camperdown's doors forward of the store-room were open, thus accounting for the large body of water, estimated at 700 tons, that entered the ship.

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A correspondent with the "B" fleet under Rear-Admiral E. H. Seymour, furnishes some further particulars of the circumstances under which a mistaken signal was made by the Anson whilst the squadron was in the vicinity of Falmouth. The case is particularly worthy of notice in view of the Victoria disaster; indeed, considering what a short time has elapsed since that terrible accident occurred it is remarkable that a somewhat similar blunder should have been again

merely committed. It appears that the squadron composed of eight ships, was formed in two divisions only three cables apart, when Rear-Admiral Seymour made a signal to alter course sixteen points, the leaders being directed to turn together to starboard, and the remaining ships to follow motions in succession. It was originally reported in several papers that this signal was a repetition of Sir George Tryon's attempted manoeuvre, but this statement was inaccurate. At the same time, Admiral Seymour's signal must have resulted in a collision if it had not been promptly cancelled, as with the two columns only three cables apart, there was obviously no room for the leading ship of the port division to turn inwards. The special correspondent of the Times does not explain whether the blunder was due to the Admiral or to the signal staff.

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The Harpy, paddle vessel recently purchased from the Admiralty by the War-office, for the purpose of carrying out experimental trials with the pneumatic gun, is to be repaired, and fitted with additional mooring appliances by the employes at Devonport Dockyard. The work is to be taken in hand at once and completed by the middle of August at a cost of about £3000, which the War-office will defray. Lt-Gen. R. Grant, C. B. R. E. Inspector-General of Fortifications, with a committee of Ordnance officers, will conduct the trials.

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Lady Wallis, widow of the late Admiral of the Fleet, has sent a cheque for £250 to the Royal Sailors' Home at Portsmouth for the endowment of two more cabins. One will be named "Shannon, 1813," and the other "Wallis, 1893." Fleet-Surgeon A. T. Corrie and some of his friends have also endowed a cabin, to be named "Pearl, 1873-77".

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There is now every probability that pensioners from the Royal Navy will be allowed to join the Army Vet.'s Association. This will of course necessitate a change in the title of the society, and possibly the United Service Veterans' Association will be chosen. The proposed alteration of the basis of the association, if carried, appears to be a wise one, as both services are inseparably linked together, while the strength of the association will be largely increased. A meeting of the veterans will shortly take place at the Buckley Military Hall, when the proposals will be laid before those interested.

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There will be no large cavalry camp held this year in India, it having been decided to give cavalry regiments a rest. A small camp for four regiments only will be held at Nowshera.