

OUR LONDON LETTER.

[From our own Correspondent.] All the military clubs are full of talk about the quarrel of Dr. Russell and Sir Garnet Wolseley over the behaviour of the troops in the Transvaal. The Daily Telegraph suppresses a good deal of its special correspondent's letter, on the ground, I believe, that even if it was all true, it would do no credit to our arms to publish it; but it published too much to please the Horse Guards as it was, and the Adjutant-General stigmatised the statements that were allowed to see the light by the sternest word in our vocabulary. The military clubs turned these statements to account, to prove the necessity of preserving the cat-o-nine-tails as an instrument of military discipline, and now Sir Garnet Wolseley says the famous special has been the victim of a hoax, and gone in for a scare, in rivaling with Archibald Forbes, by drawing upon his imagination for his facts. Dr. Russell, in today's Telegraph, emphatically re-affirms all that was originally said, and the proof is, that these statements are made by the pen of the Crimean War, and of the Indian Mutiny. It is a brilliant and picturesque pen; but its owner must not rely upon that alone.

We are not in a position to decide either way; but I think the presumption is in favour of the army. No doubt, the soldiers got up to some larks, and made havoc with the shop-keepers of the Transvaal when they had too much of the bad liquor of the country in them; but Dr. Russell has made mountains out of mole-hills, and I am sorry that he should have thus ended his career as a War Correspondent.

The Diamond scare has come to an end. Every one being the possessor of these stones has been in mortal fear for some time, lest he should learn some morning that they have become valueless. It is now a fact that diamonds can be made, but it costs five pounds to make a five shilling stone, and then it is such a mere speck that you need a microscope to look at it, and a thousand of these particles put together would not make a decent diamond for a pin or ring. The process is thus a success and a failure commercially, and the jewellers are happy once more.

The following kindly action is told of the Prince of Wales:—On Friday night, during the Afghan debate in the House of Lords, he noticed among the spectators Lieut.-General Sir Samuel Browne, who commanded the Kyber column during the operations in Afghanistan last year. Sending for him, the Prince said, "We are going to have a quiet dinner in one of the private rooms here, and if you have nothing better to do, the Princess and myself will be delighted if you can dine with us." Sir Samuel, a rugged soldier, was somewhat nonplussed, for he left one arm on the battle-field in the Indian mutiny, and feels a little awkward when cut from his own combination knife and fork. However, hearty assistance was offered by the Princess of Wales and Princess Beatrice.

The Empress Eugenie will shortly leave for South Africa. These who have seen her lately say that, although she has recovered her health, the terrible blow which fell upon her last year has left indelible traces upon her face. The features which were once considered as amongst the fairest in Europe, are marked with deep lines of grief and care, and, as she walks on foot to the little chapel of Father Godder, dressed in deep mourning, the Empress inspires feelings of the deepest compassion.

For something like fifty years, temperance advocates have been trying to convert the world by talking, but with little effect. Now, however, a surer course has been entered upon—the erection of Coffee Palaces to compete with the gin palaces—and, as was stated at the annual meeting of the Coffee Tavern Company this week, steady progress is being made. The profits have reached 11 per cent. Lord Derby expressed a great truth when he said that "in our great towns we have not temperance, but intemperance, on compulsion. There are thousands of places where intoxicants are sold, but until lately there were very few places where a man could get a cheap cup of anything but that which would make him drunk." Even now, the supply is in no way equal to the need which exists. There will be small need of utter compulsion or "local option," if only the people are given the "personal option" of drinking what they please, by coffee taverns being made as numerous as public houses.

I hear positively that the plot to blow up the Winter Palace was discovered by the Berlin police, and information giving many details of the designs of the conspirators was forwarded to St. Petersburg under Prince Bismarck's instructions by special couriers ten days previous to the catastrophe which has startled the world. It is no wonder that of the two officials who had charge of the Palace one has since shot himself, and the other has had a paralytic stroke.

The meeting against the Sister's Marriage Bill on Thursday was well attended, and the speeches were extremely good. That of Mr. A. C. Swinton, of the Church of Scotland, was a singularly clear and telling statement of the case. Lord Hatherley made a great blunder when he classed Canada with Australia as having adopted the measure. Mr. Beresford Hope's exposure of the "Anonymous Society's" selfish, cynical, and imprudent proposals was excessively rich, but as doubtless you will read the speeches themselves in the papers, I will not say anything more about them.

It will be interesting to many of your clerical readers to hear that the Warden of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, has become Archdeacon of Durham. Canon Ryle has been appointed to the vacant Deanery of Salisbury. As appointments go, this is not a bad one, and no one grudges Mr. Ryle his promotion; and no doubt he himself will be benefited by the dignity that has fallen upon him. Still it is odd that a member of the Church Association should thrust himself into the headship of a capitular body; for he will be called upon to deliberate to break the law, even as it is laid down by his own pet tribunal, the Privy Council, or he will have to use the vestments when he celebrates the Holy Communion.

Births.

PENTREATH—At the Rectory, Moncton, N. B., March 11th, the wife of the Rev. Edwin S. W. Pentreath, of a son.

Marriages.

SWARTZ-DUFFIN—On the 20th inst., at Hubbard's Cove, by the Rev. the Rector, Amos R. Swartz, to Amelia A. Duffin, both of that place.

ILES-MOURENT—At Christ's Church, Jan. 22, by the Rev. C. Crotcher, assisted by the Rev. C. W. McCully, Edgar Gerrie Rees, merchant, Cow Bay, to Libby Gertrude, daughter of Anthony Mourent, Esq., South Head.

Deaths.

MOFFATT—At Londonderry Mines, March 10, 1880, John Moffatt, aged six months, child of Charles and Anna Wilson.

GREER—At Aldon Mines, N. S., March 15, aged 34, Isabella, beloved wife of Mr. Wm. Greer, sexton of the parish.

D'AUBIN—At Peggy's Cove, after a long and painful illness, Elizabeth Catherine, widow of the late Richard D'Aubin, in the 79th year of her age.

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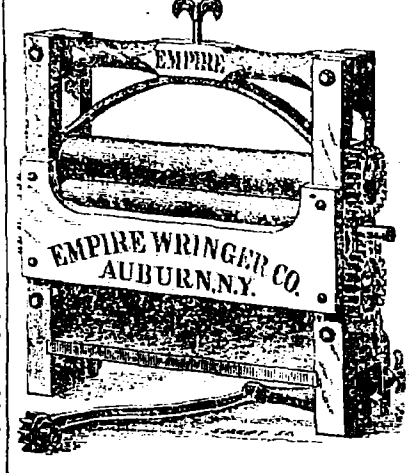
Parish of Wilmot, Annapolis Co., N. S. The Rectorship of this Parish being now vacant, the Wardens will be glad to correspond with Clergymen desiring the position. JOHN W. JAMES Lawrencetown, ROBT. D. MACDONALD, Wilmot, Churchwardens.

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Mail Contract.

TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, On Friday, the 2nd April, for conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, THREE TIMES PER WEEK EACH WAY, between Shubenacadie and Dean, via Gay's River, Middle Musquodoboit, and Upper Musquodoboit. under a proposed contract for four years, from the 1st July next. Conveyances to be made in vehicles, drawn by not over two horses. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen, and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Shubenacadie, Middle Musquodoboit, and Dean or at the office of the subscriber, CHARLES J. MACDONALD, Post Office Inspector's office, Halifax, 27th Feb., 1880.



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TENDERS for a second 160 mile section WEST OF RED RIVER will be received by the undersigned until noon on Monday, the 29th of March next. The section will extend from the end of the 45th Contract near the western boundary of Manitoba to a point on the west side of the valley of Bird-tan-Tuck. Tenders must be on the printed form, which, with all other information, may be had at the Pacific Railway Engineers' Office in Ottawa and Winnipeg, on and after the 1st day of March next. By Order, F. BRAUN, Secretary.



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DEPT. OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS, Ottawa, 7th February, 1880.

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