

British Consul Medhurst, in his last annual report from Shanghai, gives an account of the Chinese arsenal at Kao Chang Miao, about six miles from Shanghai, higher up the river. It is an important establishment, employing a number of foreign artificers and some 1,300 natives; and, considering that it has been in working order for only about five years, remarkable efficiency has been attained. The consul had visited the arsenal recently with Admiral Shadwell, and found it turning out "Remington" rifles complete, both the long armed for foot and the carbine for cavalry, at the rate of 20 per day. Shot and shell, rifled and spherical, iron gun carriages, Downton's pumps, and a vast variety of other articles of a complex character were everywhere in the hands of the workmen. In front of the arsenal was anchored a steam frigate pierced for 26 guns, measuring between 2,000 and 3,000 tons, and of 400 horse power, which had just been turned out of dock; and the superintendent assured the consul that every part of this vessel, with the sole exception of the screw shaft and cranks, had been manufactured on the spot. Admiral Shadwell detected several technical defects in her rigging and elsewhere, but pronounced her, on the whole, a most creditable specimen of naval architecture. She was the last of five steam vessels which had been turned out of this arsenal, the other four having all been running for some time on the coast and the Yangtse river employed in transporting high officials, troops, and government stores, and in other such public service. A sister ship was still on the stocks. This vessel has since Mr. Medhurst's report been successfully launched.

The *Moniteur Universel* says:—"We learn that the request made by the ex Marshal's (Bazine) wife to be allowed to share her husband's captivity has been favourably received by the Government. The buildings contained within the enclosure of the fort which commands the Ile Sainte Marguerite are arranged in such a manner that it is possible, at little cost, to adapt them for the accommodation of the Marshal's family without any infringement of the rules for the internal discipline of State prisons. A special wing of the building will be devoted to the use of the Marshal and his family. A good sized garden, which extends down to the glacis, will be surrounded by a wall, so as to satisfy the exigencies of prison rules and the laws of humanity. The Marshal's wife, children, and servants will be able at all times to pass freely in any part of the house or the garden, but all will be required to pledge themselves to observe strictly the regulations laid down. The prisoner himself will also be required to pledge his honor not to abuse in any way the facilities granted for allowing his family to modify the severity of his imprisonment. Colonel Viletto has returned to Paris to make the arrangements for the transfer of the family to Sainte Marguerite, and has, on behalf of Mme. Bazine, expressed to M. Baragnon her gratitude for the concession granted her, and has, on behalf of the Marshal and of all his family, given the required pledge to observe all the regulations laid down for their governance."

According to the *Figaro*, M. Luchaud, the counsel for Marshal Bazine, has declined to receive any fees for his services, and the Empress Eugenie has sent him a *souvenir* in token of her appreciation of his disinterested exertions. Ex Queen Isabella of Spain has offered to provide for the education of Marshal Bazine's children.

SANTAGO DE CUBA, March 22.—Yesterday the steamer from Guantanamo brought the not very agreeable news to the Spaniards and plantation owners that a force of insurgents had passed near Tiguabos. There were some 300 to 400 of them under the command of Maceo. Some of the Guantanamo mobilized volunteers had a brush with them, killing three and capturing one. This prisoner gave the information that the band in question was bound to the Monte Toro, there to form a junction with Silverio Prado who was expected there with 500 men. With what object the insurgents were massing themselves there the prisoner could not, or would not, and certainly did not say.

The Saratoga which arrived on Friday from Gibaro brought news of the attack by the insurgents of Maniabon resulting in the destruction of that village. Particulars as to the losses on either side I have been unable to learn.

Finally it is reported that a severe action took place at the Saiba, near the Mogote, where troops, 400 strong, attacked the insurgents, numerically superior, but without success, having been forced to retreat with considerable loss. If this is true it would indicate that the foraging parties reported in my last as having carried off some oxen were rather more than isolated or straggling bands and were probably the advance guard of the forces which have moved this way.—N. Y. Sun.

WASHINGTON, April 5.—An important letter has been received here from the present headquarters of the Cuban patriot forces. It is dated just prior to the recent battle of Guasimutche, but clearly foreshadows it. The patriot leaders are confident that they will be able ere long to reduce Puerto Principe, and the concentration of their forces under Cisneros and Gomez, the proof of which is seen in the recent fight, is intended to effect that end. The conscripted volunteers, the letter says, are deserting in large numbers, and many are coming into the Cuban camps with their arms and equipments. The patriot lines have been widely extended, and according to the information embodied in the letter referred to, there are now partisan bands operating within forty miles of Havana.

Operations were in progress near Santiago de Cuba, Manzanillo, and Guantanamo, which then promised a great success. One of the most successful of Cuban leaders is charged with the work of not only worrying the troops there, but of holding the Cinco Villas district, the most important portion of the letter cannot be disclosed, because in connection with others previously received, it closes an extensive plan now in process of execution, whereby the slave population is being organized for service in the Cuban cause. The increase of plantation fires in the Eastern Department is one of the evidences of this. The patriot leaders are greatly encouraged.—*Id.*

An exploring party despatched by the Queensland Government to examine the north coast north of that part of Australia, has returned with news of a satisfactory character. Thousands of acres of the richest sugar growing land were found, two new species of banana discovered, and numerous additions made to the list of the flora of tropical Australia. This new country will be speedily taken up in consequence of the early establishment of the Torres Straits mail service giving intending planters speedy conveyance to and from the capital.

THE WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA.—YOBIMITE TREES ECLIPSED.—The Brisbane (Australia) *Courier* of Dec. 30, 1873 publishes the following official telegram from Mr. Walter Hill, the Government botanist, dated from Cardwell on the 27th and received by the Queensland Secretary for Lands: "Since the 20th of November we have examined the banks of the Mulgrave, Russell, Mossman, Daintree, and Hull rivers, and have been more or less successful in finding suitable land for sugar and other tropical and semi-tropical productions. The ascent of the summit of Belleuden Kerr was successfully made by Johnstone, Hill, and eight troopers. At 2,500 feet in height we observed an undescribed tree with crimson flowers, which excels the *Poinciana regia*, *Colvillia racemosa*, *Lagerstromia regia*, and the *Jacaranda mimosifolia*. At 4,400 feet a tree fern, which will excel in grandeur all others of the *Alboreos* class. A palm tree at the same height which will rival any of the British-India species in gracefulness. On the banks of the Daintree we saw a palm tree cocoa, which far exceeds the unique specimen in the garden of the same genus from Brazil in grandeur and gracefulness. While cutting a given line on the banks of the river Johnstone, for the purpose of examining the land, an enormous fig tree stood in the way, far exceeding in stoutness and grandeur the renowned forest giants of California and Victoria. Three feet from the ground it measured 150 feet in circumference; at fifty five feet, where it sent forth giant branches, the stem was nearly eighty feet in circumference. The river Johnstone, within a limited distance of the coast, offers the first and best inducements to sugar cultivation."

WAR HORSES.—These interesting animals when hit in battle, tremble in every muscle, and groan deeply, while their eyes show deep astonishment. During the battle of Waterloo, some of the horses as they lay upon the ground having recovered from the first agony of their wounds, fell to eating the grass about them, thus surrounding themselves with a circle of bare ground, the limited extent of which showed their weakness. Others were observed quietly grazing on the field between the two hostile lines, their riders having been shot off their backs while the balls flying over their heads, and the tumult behind, before, and around them, caused no interruption to the usual instinct of their nature. It was also observed that when a charge of cavalry went past near to any of the stray horses already mentioned, they would set off, form themselves in the rear of their mounted companions and though without riders, gallop strenuously along with the rest, not stopping or flinching when the fatal shock with the enemy took place. At the battle of Kirk, in 1713, Major McDonald having unhorsed an English officer took possession of his horse which was very beautiful, and immediately mounted it. When the English cavalry fled the horse ran away with its captor, notwithstanding all his efforts to restrain him; nor did he stop until it was at the head of the regiment of which, apparently, its master was the commander. The melancholy and at the same time injudicious figure which McDonald presented when he thus saw himself the victim of his ambition to possess a fine horse which ultimately cost him his life upon the scaffold may be easily conceived.