

Gleanings.

Lieut. Tappenbeck, the African explorer, died recently of fever at Cameroons.

The Dacoits continue to distract the peace of Burmah, and the Chins continue their defying attacks.

The Belgian field artillery has been armed with Krupp guns. The army manoeuvres will begin on August 4th.

The Belgian Small Arms Commission have recommended the adoption of the German Mauser, if Herr Mauser will consent that the gun shall be made in the Belgian factories.

Owing to the German admiralty preferring to strengthen the Imperial Navy by ironclads instead of by torpedo boats, the Torpedo Inspection Office, which was only created in March, 1886, is to be abolished.

A new ironclad for the Black Sea squadron, of the same dimensions as the Sinope and Tschesma, to be ready in four years, is to be built by the Russian Shipping and Commercial Association for the Russian Government.

The German Emperor has presented Lieut. Philip Walter, Admiral Fremantle's flag lieutenant, with his photograph, accompanied by an expression of warmest thanks for the assistance rendered by him to the German gunboat Schwalbe, that stranded on Jan. 4 between Dar-es-Salem and Bagamoyo, and that was successfully got off under circumstances of exceptional difficulty.

Admiral Krantz has got \$12,000,000 towards a new shipbuilding programme for France, and is said to be going to spend it on three armourclads, four despatch boats and 38 torpedo boats. The large increase to the torpedo boat fleet is supposed to have become necessary owing to the bad behaviour of those ordered by Admiral Aube, and the necessity for more vessels of this nature, made apparent during the late manoeuvres.

War should be but the continuation of politics, the most advantageous for the interests of the State, with the last and strongest means at its disposal; with this view military operations should be conducted, and the General-in-Chief should be kept fully informed of all political matters, be honoured with the full confidence of the sovereign, and be constantly during the war in possession of all relating to politics and diplomatic transactions.—*Archduke Charles.*

The experience of the naval manoeuvres of last year is not reassuring, and it is borne out by that of the French experience of recent date. Rear Admiral O'Neill, who acted as the "enemy," had a much inferior force at his disposal to the force commanded by Rear Admiral Alquier, who was entrusted with the defence, yet he did pretty much as he liked along the coast, and wound up by destroying Marseilles, and was not even interfered with by the "enemy," who never came within reach until he had finished his work of destruction.

From England a *Sun* correspondent reports: "There have been lots of friendly demonstrations between the Emperor and his grandmother's family, which is supposed in some dark and mysterious manner to cement international alliances and help the welfare of great nations. Even round Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, tried to look as though he liked getting seasick to meet his imperial nephew, whom he hates, and whom he has ably described as a caddish little upstart. All these goings on, of course, amount to very little, for if Bismarck wishes to try to thrash this country he will not be kept back by the recollection of Grandmother Victoria kissing her descendant on both cheeks."

"Lord Charles, I believe would have remained member for Marylebone had the authorities at the Admiralty been amiable," writes the *Tribune's* correspondent. "They were not amiable. They bear him a grudge for having done them a great service—for having brought to their aid that great body of public opinion which made it possible for them to rebuild the Navy. There is no service which the permanent official so bitterly resents as one which enables or compels him to depart from routine and to be useful in a new way. My Lords at the Admiralty looked about them for means of resenting this; or, if they prefer, for rewarding Lord Charles for his deserts as they understood them. They discovered that he could be sent to sea. There is a rule—I believe a musty one, which made it more creditable to them to dig it up and use it again—under which Lord Charles could be required to spend three years afloat or lose his right to promotion. His activity in Parliament would thus be quenched. A man cannot be in the House of Commons and at sea at the same time. In vain did this sailor legislator protest; he was told he must take his choice between Parliament and the Navy. He might be member for Marylebone. He might be Admiral. He could not or should not be both. So, as Lord Charles is before all things devoted to his profession, he resigned."

Piracy is still prevalent in the China Seas, notwithstanding the severity of the punishment meted out to those caught in the act or hunted down. It has been stated by a correspondent at Canton that Viceroy Chang is anxious to stamp out piracy, robbery and burglary in the province, and, "has had thousands of heads cut off during his term of office." It is further stated that many make Hong Kong their headquarters.

"It is a question," says the *Horse Guards Gazette*, "whether, in competitions like the United Service Cup at Wimbledon, the use of any aids in shooting should be allowed. One of the naval team, finding his men were hopelessly out of it, naively remarked, 'Do them volunteer chaps wear them spectacles and things when they are in action!' The reply was that they were never there, a remark which seemed to tickle the ear immensely. Seriously speaking, however, all competitors should be on an equality."

The *Times of India*, reporting with regard to the sad accident which terminated in the death of Captain Russell, R.A., A.D.C., to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, on June 14th, says: "Two events of the Horse Show had been concluded, and the jumping competition for ponies was in progress, when the accident happened. There were three jumps—all very ordinary ones—a hurdle, stone wall and water jump. Before the competition began, Capt. Russell cleared all these with the greatest ease on his pony Midnight. During the competition he also negotiated the jumps so well that Midnight and Capt. Preston's Petrel were adjudged to have gained an equal number of points. It was in jumping off this tie that Capt. Russell met his death. Midnight rushed the first hurdle, striking the top, and, apparently flurried by the *contretemps*, charged the 3 feet 8 inch stone wall unconnectedly. Capt. Russell tried to steady him, but the brute took off too far, and, striking the obstacle with his knee, hurled Capt. Russell over his head. For a moment the spectators looked on more or less unconcernedly, expecting Capt. Russell to get up and remount; Midnight stood quietly by his fallen master. Then, as the prostrate man lay without motion, the gravity of the situation began to dawn on the spectators, and anxious inquiries ensued."

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