



# The Volunteer Review

## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. VII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1873.

No 20.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

English advices from 10th to 14th May state that a despatch from Rome says the Pope was too ill to receive a party of pilgrims from France.

Advices from Cape Town, south of Africa, just received here, state that the King of Ashantee, one of the most extensive and powerful kingdoms of Western Africa, has declared war against Great Britain. An Ashantee army 46,000 strong has marched from Coomassie, their capital, and it is now threatening Elmina, a fortified town of the Guinea coast. Much alarm exists and preparations are being made for their defence.

It is reported that Gouillard has informed Thiers that he has resolved to resign the Ministry of the Interior, unless Jules Simon, Minister of Public Instruction, retires.

*Le Soir* says Gouillard and Simon have tendered their resignations to Thiers because of their incompatibility to serve in the same Cabinet.

The bourse of the principal cities of Germany are extremely depressed in consequence of the panic in Vienna. The Government, with a view to their relief, will introduce a measure into the Diet, applying Prussia's share of the war contribution to purchase bills and public securities to advances for the accommodation of merchants and the redemption of the debt for railway works.

From Madrid we learn that the Ministers have agreed upon an election bill for the Island of Cuba to be submitted to the constituent Cortes.

General Nouvallas, Minister of War, who is now in Navarre, demands reinforcements for the troops now in that province.

A *Herald* London special says, the battle at Puerto de Evault, near Stella, in Navarre, on May 5th, was the most important yet fought, and was a most complete victory for Derroquay. Four days previously the Carlist troops were surprised at Penna Correa by the Government column, and retreated with the greatest precipitation towards the mountains. Other Government forces cooperating joined in the pursuit; thus five

columns encouraged by the Carlist's flight, pursued them with such energy, that Derroquay marched forty eight out of sixty hours. On the fourth day the Carlist troops were completely broken down, but the Government troops were distanced, excepting only one column under Col. Nevarre, composed of regular troops, with a battery of artillery. Derroquay contrived to turn suddenly, probably to deliver a blow to cripple this force; consequently, when he formed a line of battle at Puerta de Evault, he had about three thousand men in position.

The Government troops in coming up, occupied a higher ground which gave their artillery command of the Carlist position. The Carlists had no artillery. At 3 p. m. the Government troops advanced handsomely supported by the fire from their battery, which, however, was not destructive. When the Government troops advanced within range, the Carlists then opened from the chaparral bushes, an exceedingly destructive fire which staggered the line, and broke the advance of the force, and compelled them to relinquish the ground already gained, but the troops preserved perfect order. Elio managed to get well on the flank of the force and Lissanagas kept up a vigorous fire from the chapparal bushes. The fight continued in this way nearly an hour; both sides losing men. The Carlist Cavalry then made a furious charge on the Government troops who broke and fled in complete route in every direction.

The voting throughout Spain on Saturday and Sunday last for deputies to the Constituent Cortes resulted in the election of 310 Ministerial Federalists; 20 Extreme Radicals, 8 Internationalists, 10 Independent Republicans, and 10 Monarchists.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, will, by command of the Queen, hold a levee at St. James's Palace, on behalf of Her Majesty, on Monday, the 26th day of May next, at two o'clock. It is the Queen's pleasure that presentations to His Royal Highness at this levee shall be considered as equivalent to presentations to Her Majesty.

Special despatches from Calcutta to the 1st inst., say the Russian Expeditionary

Force has occupied Corghens, a village of Khiva:

The same despatch says that Abdul Rahmal has been summoned to St. Petersburg.

A *Herald's* special from Rome, dated the 12th inst, says the Pope has passed a sleepless night. He is much disturbed by coughing. Audiences are absolutely forbidden. He received some cardinals to day, but the Archbishop of Palermo was not admitted.

The Pope was very feeble yesterday (May 13). He had a fainting fit which lasted an hour. To-day his condition is rather worse, showing excessive debility. This is the 81st birthday of His Holiness, but he is unable to give audiences to deputations which called at the Vatican to tender congratulations.

A special despatch from Calcutta on the 13th inst. says the Russian expeditionary force has occupied Oorghen, a village of Khiva. The same despatch reports that Abdool Rahwal has been summoned to St. Petersburg.

Despatches from Kasalinsk bring intelligence that detachments and reconnoitring parties from the Russian expeditionary columns report that the Khivans are throwing up entrenchments at Klytsh and Danko'ra. They are also sending out a vanguard to meet the Russians at Minbulak. There has been an engagement at Igda between the Russians and a force of Turcomans, in which the latter were defeated. Twenty two Turcomans were killed, and 1,000 camels captured by the Russians.

Recent advices from the West Indies received here, state that a drought had settled on the south side of the plains in Jamaica, which was doing much injury. The weather has been favorable for sugar making, with fine showers of rain and irrigation of comparatively poor land by the utilizing of the water which is allowed to waste, is attracting attention.

The planters of St. Kitts have had fine weather lately and are rapidly taking off their crops. The colonists find confederation distasteful.