

is really idle to be hesitating about the absolutely best form of breech, when absolute perfection is denied us in human affairs. It is sufficient that the Martini Henry is the best yet known, or, at the least, as good as any other. This surely should be sufficient to insure its immediate adoption. It would still take a year in the manufacture to place a sufficient quantity in the hands of the Regulars, and therefore every day is precious, indeed, each day's delay is so much lost time; and woe betide a Ministry that neglects to take the steps necessary to secure the armament of the forces with the best rifle at the earliest possible moment. In the opinion of a most competent judge, as reported by the *Pall Mall Gazette* correspondent from the scene of war, good shooting formed the first three elements of the German success; and that without it all the organization of the other arms of the service, admirable as they were, would have gone for nought. The Germans neutralized the use of the better weapon by their greater skill in the use of the inferior rifle; but they suffered terribly from the infliction nevertheless. Why, then, we ask, should England be placed in a similar position?—and there is not the slightest excuse for it. It is simply a question of money, and not a large amount for such an object—a million sterling would, at 3*l.* a rifle, provide 333,000 Martini-Henrys—and it is hard to see how a million could be better spent. The abstract of the report of the special Committee on these arms, issued for trial in 1869—extracts from which were published in our last number—so completely confirms the first report of the committee as to leave nothing further to be desired. After a most elaborate dealing with every objection that could by ingenuity be urged by even captious objectors, the report is so conclusive of the excellence of the rifle that the Minister may proceed without fear. It ought to dissipate the last lingering doubt, if any such exists; and we do hope that ere another week elapses, a new instruction will be given that the Martini Henry has been decided on at last as the national weapon, and the manufacture of this splendid rifle is to be proceeded with at once.—*Volunteer Service Gazette.*

WAR ITEMS AND INCIDENTS.

THE BURNING OF BAZEILLES.—The Duke de Fitzjames gives the following description of Bazeilles after the battle at that place.—“Paris, Sept. 13. I have just returned from Sedan. Ever since Chalons I have not left our heroic but unfortunate army. Entrusted, together with Prince de Sagan, by the International Society for the aid of the Wounded, with the duty of establishing its ambulances where they were likely to be most useful. I have seen all those battlefields from Beaumont to Sedan, where our soldiers, crushed by numbers, have fallen gloriously for France. Allow me to express my indignation at what I saw at Bazeilles. Bazeilles is near the Meuse, about five miles from Sedan. On the morning of the 31st of August, the courageous inhabitants of that village, perceiving that the enemy was coming on, donned their National Guards' uniforms and aided the army in holding in check a Bavarian corps and a division (Shoeler's) of the 4th Prussian Reserve corps. The French arm was driven back. The enemy entered Bazeilles, and then commenced a scene of horror and nameless excesses that must forever disgrace their perpetrators. In order to punish the inhabitants of the village for presuming to defend themselves, they set the place on fire. Most

of the National Guards had been killed. The population sought a refuge in the cellars. All women and children, were burnt alive! Out of 2000 inhabitants barely 300 survive to relate how the Bavarians drove the women and children back into the flames, and shot down those who attempted to escape. I myself saw the ruins of the village. There is not a single house left standing. A fearful smell of charred flesh prevades the air, and I saw the calcined bodies of the inhabitants on the thresholds of their own dwellings.”

THE DISCOVERY OF ARMS IN PARIS.

The story of the discovery in Paris of a store of upward of 30,000 Prussian guns is thus given by the *Paris Journal*:—

“Some days ago some chests were seized which were found to contain Uhlan uniforms. Yesterday the arms were found. The plan contemplated was simple, and had it succeeded would have been effectual. The 30,000 or 40,000 Germans who inhabited Belleville and La Villette before the decree of expulsion was issued had been formed into regiments with that machinelike precision which marks all the proceedings of Prussia. At the given moment, and concurrently with an attack by the besieging forces, we should have been taken in the rear by the Uhlans, who would have charged upon us, and caused us to believe that the city had been entered either by a breach or through the sewers or catacombs. Some persons appointed for that purpose were to have called out ‘Treason,’ and then our troops would have been assailed in front and in rear. The discovery was made quite accidentally. A quantity of rifles having been sent to the station of La Chapelle, a railway servant seized one, which he took away with him, and being somewhat intoxicated, declared loudly that he knew where there were plenty of arms. A body of the National Guard, upon being informed of this man's statement, proceeded to the station and interrogated the officials, who at first denied that there were any arms there, but some of the porters pointed out several railway trucks which were laden with cases of muskets. Upon careful search, 16 trucks were found to be so laden, having, according to the statement of the employees, arrived from Sedan some days before. The National Guard having no authority to seize the arms, an application was made to the police, who took possession, not of 16, but of 32 trucks, all laden with arms and ammunition. Among those arms were Chassepots and needle-guns bearing the Prussian eagle. It is said that cuirasses and lances were also found. An investigation is now proceeding, which it is hoped, will acquaint us with the names of the intended receivers as well as the actual senders.”

Col. Wylie, Provincial Store keeper visited Kingston on the 29th ult., for the purpose of receiving over stores and buildings of the Imperial Government on behalf of the Dominion. The gunboat *Rescue* teamed up, and made a trip through the harbor and down the river for his inspection. Her Armstrong steel gun and brass pieces, of which she was lately disarmed, have again been put on board, and she will no doubt be kept in her present condition of preparation for active service, should occasion, now apparently very remote, ever require it.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF ENGLAND.

The military organization of the Germans is recommended by the *Times* for adoption in England, in an article which thus boldly deals with the subject:

“Do the London Volunteers themselves think they are in condition to be sent tomorrow to assist in arresting the progress of 40,000 continental troops, landed we will suppose, on the southern coast? They would be victims, and the people who ordered them to the front would be murderers. A good many can shoot and that is all they have learned, in a rather costly course of national instruction. As volunteers, however, they cannot be made to learn more than suits their tastes or convenience. If training is to be obligatory, it must be in the militia, in one form or another. In that militia there may be as much variety as in the Queen's army. In the line, itself, there are crack regiments, where both officers and men are allowed a social superiority. Let us have militia to everybody's taste, on the simple condition that everybody must prepare himself to defend his country, and that in the capacity of a real soldier. It may interfere a little with business, and still more with pleasure, but we don't divide all our time between duty and pleasure.”

The Emperor Napoleon, says the “*Times*,” went poor to France, poor he has quitted it. He retains no private property but a small cottage which came to him from his mother. Whatever he received from France he spent it in the country. The Czar could not maintain such splendor. The Oriental magnificence of the Sultan was mere shabbiness compared with the French Court. Napoleon III. will leave his German place of captivity at the end of the war almost as poor a man as when he entered France in 1848. The Empress has, indeed, her jewels, gifts at her marriage and on her fête days, but these are her private property, the State jewels being now in the hands of the French Government at Tours: she has, besides, an hereditary property in Spain, and the Prince Imperial has a house which has been bequeathed to him near Trieste. This, we believe, is all that remains to the family which lately was supreme in France. The “*Times*” mentions this simply in order to dissipate the calumnies which have assailed the dethroned sovereign, who, though for a long period so distributed the favours of the most splendid State in Europe, yet left France in his old age with little of its wealth clinging to him.

The territory now united into the Kingdom of Italy, was divided before the war of 1859 among the following governments:

	Area sq. miles.	Population.
Lombard-Venetian Kingdom.....	17,511	5,007,472
Kingdom of Sardinia.....	28,229	5,090,245
Kingdom of Naples (including Sicily).....	41,906	8,704,472
Pontifical States.....	17,210	3,006,771
Grand Duchy of Tuscany (including Lucca).....	8,586	1,815,686
Duchy of Parma.....	2,766	507,881
Duchy of Modena.....	2,073	586,458
Republic of San Marino.....	22	7,600
Principality of Monaco.....	53	6,000
Total.....	118,358	24,733,385

With the acquisition of the city of Rome, Italy now includes a population equal to that of Prussia, prior to its acquisition of 1866.