

Friday night saw a large number of spectators on the ground to witness battalion drill by the 62nd Fusiliers. Four powerful electric lights have lately been put on the square, which enable outdoor parades to be held every evening. It is very interesting to see the battalion fall in as they did last night at the drill shed. Sharp at eight o'clock the "fall in" was sounded by some dozen or more buglers and the men fell in by sections (that is, one-fourth of a company) and after being inspected by the sergeants were marched on parade and put through a few movements, after which the "officers' call" sounds, when the captains take command of the companies, and on more bugle calls sounding are marched into column, and the Lieut.-Col. takes command. Last evening the battalion under Col. Tucker were marched to the Barrack Square, headed by the bands, and formed in column, handed over to Major Hartt, Adjutant, who put them through physical drill with rifles, the men taking off their belts and unbuttoning tunics. The exercise was then done to music in very good form and was a very pretty sight. After this line was formed and the parade was handed over to Major Sturdee, who put the battalion through the bayonet exercise. Col. Tucker then assumed command again and several battalion movements were gone through, the men moving very steadily. Then the march past was practised to the music of band and drums and the corps marched to the drill shed, where the men were dismissed.

On next Wednesday evening the Fusiliers will parade for a route march, and at a near date will have a church parade.

The new drill is very trying this year on officers and men, as there is as much difficulty in "unlearning" the old drill as there is in committing the new to memory. The movements are, however, very much simplified, and rigid movements, slow and "swagger," relegated to the past. The companies are this year ordered to drill in single rank, which give a much larger front, thus accustoming the men to move as a full company.

The inspection of the Fusiliers by companies will be held on 11th, 13th and 14th August and battalion inspection on the 15th. It is expected General Herbert may be here on those dates.—Globe, July 21.

OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

The Naval and Militia Record says:—The Russian Press is unanimous in deprecating a war between China and Japan as opposed to the interests of both Russia and England. At the same time, Russia will not be slow to seize an opportunity of gaining possession of one of the fine harbours of Korea if a plausible excuse can be found. Of this we may be quite sure, as it is well known that Russia urgently needs a naval base in the East to counteract the importance of Hong-kong and Singapore. We annexed Port Hamilton in 1884, not so much because we needed the port, as to prevent its annexation by Russia. Subsequently we

agreed to evacuate the port, but in view of the present complications it might be well to keep an eye upon Port Hamilton. Meanwhile the news from Korea is but scanty. Neogotiations are said to be going forward, but Japan is still massing her troops, and both the Japanese and Chinese forces are encamped near Seoul. Under these circumstances war may be precipitated at any moment. Our own interests in this quarrel are almost entirely confined to the action of Russia. To use it matters little whether Korea is controlled by China or Japan, or by both these Eastern Powers. Nor, in reality, does it concern Russia, except in so far as Russia is desirous of profiting by this disagreement between her Eastern neighbours.

The following anecdote is characteristic of the Emperor William. Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Edmund Commerell, who has again been appointed "in waiting" on the Emperor during his forthcoming visit to Cowes, is, says the Pall Mall Gazette, an especial favourite with his Majesty, doubly so on account of his German origin. The fact was brought out during the great naval review at Spithead in 1889, in honour of the Emperor, when a student at Tubingen, named Commerell, seeing his naval namesake in England so frequently referred to in the papers, wrote to him to enquire whether they could possibly be connected. Thereupon Sir Edmund replied that he didn't know about the connection, but was at least quite true that he was himself of German origin, his forbears having for long been State officials in the kingdom of Wurtemberg. This was quite enough for the Emperor, who claimed Sir Edmund as his own at Cowes ever afterwards.

Mr. A. B. Hicks held an enquiry at the Star and Garter, Battersea, with reference to the death of Thomas John Keep, aged 56 years, who died on the 19th July.—Mrs. Emma Keep, the widow, stated that the deceased was formerly in the Grenadier Guards, having entered the army as a bugler at the age of 9½ years. He went all through the Crimean war, and returned on a pension in 1878, when he entered the service of the Army and Navy Stores as a packer. He remained there until three years ago, when he broke some of his ribs. On Saturday evening he went out, and upon returning home he fell over the doormat, seriously injuring himself. He died on Monday. The Coroner said that one must always regret the untimely death of a man who had served his country as the deceased had. From papers which he had before him, it appeared that at the age of 10 years Keep was at the battle of Inkerman as a bugler. After the fight, when a large number of soldiers were dying on the field, and although the Russians kept up the fire on our wounded, Keep gathered a bundle of sticks and built up a fire, with which he made some tea and went about succouring the injured. For that courageous act he was highly commended, and was very properly described as "The Boy Hero."—The jury endorsed

the coroner's remarks, and returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Colonel Sir F. Carrington, K.C.M.G., half-pay, late South Wales Borderers, who has just been promoted to general officer's rank by selection, stood thirteenth on the Colonels' and eight on the Infantry and Cavalry List. He has never commanded a battalion and has done no regimental duty for fourteen years, having been employed with the Colonial Forces and the Bechuanaland Police. As an authority on South affairs he is one of the best, and in the event of hostilities would secure an active command. He has served in all the campaigns and expeditions in South Africa since 1875, having been several times mentioned in despatches, promoted to major and lieutenant-colonel, besides receiving the C. M. G. and K.C.M.G.

Considerable interest was excited amongst the officers and men of the Mediterranean Fleet when at Gibraltar by the significant wording of a proclamation issued by the Spanish authorities. It related to the appointment of a new "Governor of Algeciras and Gibraltar, now in temporary possession of the English." Algeciras, as is well known, is on the Spanish mainland, just across the bay, and in full view of the Rock, off which the Fleet has been lying.

The unfortunate accident which occurred by the blowing out of a breach-block at the Châlons Camp last month has been followed by a similar accident with a 95-mm. gun at Braconne, which caused the death of a gunner. Both these regrettable accidents, involving loss of life, appear to have been caused by the breech not having been properly closed, and stringent orders have now been given by the French military authorities to see that the lever is in proper position before the order for firing is given.

An American army officer who speaks from experience says:—"Of all the many lessons of the strike war none is more clear than the folly of prescribing an undress blouse not designed for field conditions. Such officers on duty here as were so unfortunate as not to bring an old pattern blouse have found to their annoyance and discomfort that the new style braided and slashed garment is unfit to be called military. The idea of wearing the sword belt under the blouse is now condemned by all. Nor can the pistol be so worn, although it must of necessity be the officer's real weapon on riot duty, the real work of the future. The slashings of the blouse are found to be unsuited in shape, size and position for the comfortable and efficient wearing of either sword or pistol. To keep the braided blouse clean in dusty, smoky Chicago is almost impossible. Might not the opinions of officers on riot duty here be obtained by you as to the relative merits of the two blouses." We should be glad to have the opinions of other officers on this subject.