

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Russian officer has invented a gun that will fire 200 shots a minute.

From Birmingham forty-eight cases of Remington muskets have been shipped for the Papal army. The lot includes 5 000 stand of arms,

In consequence of the hostile relations existing between the Porte and Greece, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has determined not to pay his intended visit to the Court of Athens.

The recent trial of the "Hercules" compels English papers, which generally depreciate English ships of war, to acknowledge that Great Britain now possesses "the swiftest and most powerful vessel afloat."

Salm-Salm, after serving in the Austrian army, fighting in Algeria, battling in Spain, going for a soldier in the Union army of the United States, and drawing his sword for Maximilian, has entered the Prussian army as Major in the Queen's regiment.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* states that it was generally believed that Vice-Admiral Sir Sydney C. Dacres, K. C. B., was a candidate for the West India command during the existence of the late Government, and it is rumored, if his inclination were consulted, he would prefer active service to the duties at present discharged by him.

The *Times'* Berlin correspondent writes under date Jan. 2, Daoud Pasha, the Turkish Minister whom the telegrams lately represented as having left for Paris to negotiate railway concessions, is in reality commissioned to purchase there as large a number of Chassepot guns as he can lay his hands on. As yet the Turks have only the old fashioned rifle. The Turkish cuirass fleet has been sent to Volo, on the Greek frontier.

THE PRINCE OF WALES BECOMES A MASON.—The Swedish paper *Dagens Nyheter* reports that the Prince of Wales, during his stay in Stockholm, on the 20th December, was admitted into Freemasonry, and passed through six degrees. His Royal Highness, on the following day, had some additional degrees conferred upon him, and was created a Knight of the Masonic Order of Charles XIII.

SUDDEN CONVERSION.—One of the zealous chaplains of the army of the Potomac called on a colonel noted for his profanity, in order to talk of the religious interests of his men. He was politely received, and motioned to a seat on the chest, when the following dialogue ensued:

Chaplain—"Colonel, you have one of the finest regiments in the army."

Colonel—"I believe so."

Chaplain—"do you think you pay sufficient attention to the religious instruction of your men?"

Colonel (doubtfully)—"Well, I don't know."

Chaplain—"A lively interest has been awakened in the—Massachusetts (a rival regiment.) The Lord has blessed the labours of his servants, and ten men have already been baptized."

Colonel (excitedly)—"Is that so?" (To the attendant)—"Sergeant-Major, have fifteen men detailed immediately for baptism. I'll not be out done by any Massachusetts regiment."

MILITARY ITEMS.—The half yearly inspection of the Royal Artillery, stationed on St. Helen's Islands, was made by the Major-General commanding, who expressed himself as being much pleased with the appearance of the men, and everything connected with them. A gymnasium room has been fitted up in the Victoria Barracks by the 78th Highlanders, where, doubtless, the men will pass many a pleasant hour during the remainder of the winter, and which will tend much to their physical improvement. They have also a skating rink at the foot of St. Sulpice street, which they keep in good order. An excellent concert was given in the schoolroom at Hochelaga, last night, by the Glee Club of the Royal Artillery. There was a very good attendance.—*Witness*.

THE 13TH HUSSARS.—The *London Broad Arrow* says:—"It is proposed to bring the 13th Hussars home from Canada about the middle or end of March, their services being no longer required in that colony. It is further proposed that this regiment should go out to India in the winter following to complete their term of foreign service. As far as we can foresee, this will in some measure, alter the anticipated cavalry moves at home. On arrival it is most probable that the 13th Hussars will replace the 6th Enniskillen Dragoons at Manchester, or go to Colchester and replace the 3rd Dragoon Guards, who would take their horses and march to Manchester, where, in this case, they will replace the Enniskillens."

HUMAN TAILS.—A discussion having originated in *Once a Week* on human tails, a correspondent of *The Times* writes:—"In the autumn of 1855 I was sent, under orders from the Horse Guards, to superintend the volunteering of members of the Irish militia regiments to the regular army. One of the regiments I went to was stationed at Castlebar, and there I met a Captain of the Land Transport Corps, then being organized, engaged on the same business as myself, but enlisting only for his own corps. On the first day of our competition the men discovered that his terms were better than mine, and one young man who presented himself, first for the Land Transport Corps and afterwards to me, on my asking why he had been rejected for the mounted corps, said, "Because I have a tail, sir." There was a surgeon present who at once examined him in my presence, and I can vouch for the fact that he had a tail, and a most unmis-takeable one, it being about an inch and three quarters or two inches long, thick at the juncture with the body, and tapered to a blunt end."

Our best broadside war-ship, the *Hercules*, has been tried under steam, and the occasion has been taken advantage of to criticise her points generally, and to arrive at a conclusion as to her merits. She is pronounced the best ship as yet built by Mr. Reed, but she is not so strong, as she might be, owing to the four indented ports of her central battery. Notwithstanding this defect, the ship could "go anywhere and do anything" that any iron-clad broadside ship existing could do, being handy under steam owing to her comparative shortness and balanced rudder, and having very thick armour and most powerful guns. The only ship to be compared to the *Hercules* is the *King William*, belonging to Prussia, built in a private yard, also from designs by Mr. Reed. The comparison between the two shows that the *King William* is stronger above the water line and the *Hercules*

below. It is thought the latter would prove the stronger in conflict. The principle of her construction for defence is the concentration of her strength at the water line, as may be gathered from a comparison between her strength and that of the *Warrior*, our first iron clad. The latter had at the water line 4½ inches of armour, backed by 18 inches of teak and half an inch of inner iron skin. The *Hercules* at the water line is of 9 inch armour, 40 inch teak, and iron skins 2½ inches thick. The offensive power of the *Hercules* is very great; but here her defensive qualities are somewhat weakened, for in placing a small number of very large guns with a wide range of training, which is the favourite modern practice, Mr. Reed has laid his ship too much open to the enemy at the indented ports to which we have already referred. The guns are eight, of 18 tons, which throw 400 lb. shot (the use of which has still to be proved possible by practice at sea); two guns of 12 tons, throwing 250 lb. shot; and four guns of 6½ tons, throwing 115 lb. shot. The ram has not been forgotten, and the balanced rudder is expected to be most efficient in regulating its employment. The *Hercules* is only too exquisitely finished, but appears to have no other serious fault except the indented ports. For an iron ship, moreover, she is exceedingly handsome.

DEATH OF SIR HERBERT B. EDWARDES, K. C. B.—We regret to state that Sir Herbert B. Edwardes died on Friday morning at Holles Street, Cavendish Square. Sir Herbert Benjamin Edwardes, K. C. B., K. C. S. I., D. C. L., LL. D., was the son of the Rev. Benjamin Edwardes, of Frodesley, Shropshire, and grandson of Sir John Thomas Cholmondeley Edwardes, eighth baronet of Shrewsbury. Born 1819, was educated at King's College, London; entered the Indian army 1840, became lieutenant in 1843, captain 1850, brevet lieutenant colonel 1854, brevet colonel 1860, was aid de camp to Lord Gough in the first Sikh war (1845-6), and severely wounded at the battle of Moodkee (1845), was present at the battle of Soobraon (1846), and assistant to the Resident at Lahor, 1846. On the rebellion of Dewan Moolraj, the Governor of Mooltan (1858,) he raised an irregular force and defeated the rebel, shutting him up in his fort and capturing ten guns, for which exploit he was made C. B. and Brevet Major; received the hon. degree of D. C. L. at Oxford 1850, was re-employed in the Civil Administration of the Punjab, 1851, and created K. C. B. 1860, for his services as Commissioner of the Peshawur frontier in the mutiny of 1857; received the hon. degree of LL. D. at Cambridge, 1860; was again employed in the Punjab as Commissioner of the Cis Sutlej States 1862. Left India on sick leave 1864, and was created K. C. S. I. 1866; married 1850, Emma, daughter of James Sidney, Esq. Created Knight in 1860.—*Globe*.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—The *Daily News* says it has excellent reasons for believing that Mr. Cardwell's scheme of military retrenchment will be effected gradually and carefully, with a view naturally to a considerable reduction of the Estimates, but with a firm resolve not to injure, but rather to improve the efficiency of the service. Many persons, however, who have hitherto enjoyed what is termed a good berth will find their occupation gone, and overgrown establishments will not be permitted. According to the *Daily News*, the militia patronage will certainly be taken out of the hands of Lords-Lieutenant.