

commanding the approaches to Montreal from the South.

In the northern part of New-York State the strongest post will be at Plattsburg barracks on Lake Champlain. Here is to be concentrated the 21st Infantry, numbering 524 men, and but a short distance away, across the lake, and about three miles from Burlington, Vt., is the new cavalry post, Fort Ethan Allen, to be garrisoned by Troops G. E. F. and G. Third Cavalry, 214 men, who have been temporarily at Fort Sheridan during the Debs insurrection."

The above which we have clipped from one of our exchanges, confirms a fact we had noticed at Plattsburg in the spring.

Right on the highway to Canada two important stations are now practically completed and in the event of trouble between the two countries would offer a point of concentration only a couple of days march from Montreal.

Major Macartney, in the *United Service Magazine*, points to the absolute necessity of training soldiers how to use their rifles under active service conditions—as he says moveable targets should be used, and prizes offered for squad competitions of volley firing.

If this were done more systematically in Canada we would not see, as at Ottawa this year, more than one corps, with sufficient men on the ground to form a team, yet without any representation in the British Challenge Shield and Gwozski Competitions.

There is no doubt that good prizes offered for competitions by squads at disappearing targets, (as in the Gwozski) at all company matches would bring out many men to the ranges, who would otherwise not turn out, and work up many effective if not expert rifle shots.

Far are we from saying that target shooting as practised at present, be useless; but a great improvement in its practical usefulness could certainly be effected by more frequent and systematic skirmish practice at moving, or at least disappearing targets, and at unknown distances.

Lieut.-Colonel James M'Caul Hagart, C.B., of Eastbury Manor, Guildford, and Barbicaja, Corsica, who died last week, served with the 7th Hussars in Canada during the revolt in 1838, returning home with the regiment in 1842.

OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

Captain von Hannecken, to whom the Chinese look with expectation for advice and leadership in their army, is a German officer of distinction, who won his spurs in the Franco-German war and rose afterward to the rank of Major and Brevet Colonel. When Li Hung Chang applied for a first-class man to aid him the military education of the soldiers of his province, the German government recommended von Hannecken. He went out to the Far East about 1885, and has been there ever since. Although his contract expressly excepted the performance of service in the event of war, like a true soldier, he has found it impossible to sit still while the trumpets blow, and on the breaking out of the hostilities he volunteered and went forward to the scene of action on the ill-fated Kow-shing.

The present Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese army in Corea, Field Marshal Count A. Yamagata, who had just brought the first stage of the campaign to a brilliant close, is about 47 years old. He comes of very humble origin, and is the only one of the four Japanese marshals not of princely birth. His strategy and tactics on previous occasions have been masterpieces in skill and precision. There has scarcely been any fighting since the war of restoration in which he has not actively engaged. It is the general opinion of the Japanese that Marshal Yamagata is the ablest general that Japan now has. Marshal Yamagata has in his staff in Corea Lieutenant-General Nodsu, as a vice-commander, who has had as brilliant a military career as the marshal himself. They have been together in previous battles and know each other well.

Major-General Hutton, C.B., commanding the Colonial Forces in New South Wales, commenting upon the references made in Admiral Colomb's letter to the Times of Saturday to the question of Australian defence, said he was convinced that the remarks about the uselessness of the local defences were made in ignorance of the details of the scheme recently completed for the defence of the whole of the colony of New South Wales, especially Sydney and the other leading ports. With reference to Admiral Colomb's remark that an enemy would walk into Sydney by way of the back garden and not the hall door, General Hutton observed that he had, in preparing the defence scheme, carefully laid down every form of attack possible on the coast, and he had no hesitation in saying that Sydney was perfectly secure. Some of the defence works have now been completed and the plans for others have been prepared. The general scheme which is being carried out was drawn up by General Hutton more than a year ago.

Whilst the Russian Minister of Finance has been talking about an "enduring peace so far as Russia is concerned," and expressing a fervent hope for a general disarmament, the Russian War Office has chosen the present time as the

most opportune for a recommencement of those movements of troops from the Caucasus to the western frontier, towards Germany and Austria, which several years ago caused so great a stir in this part of the continent, and occasioned counter-measures which still weigh on the taxpayer of Austria-Hungary. It was reported from Batoum some days ago that preparations were being made there for the embarkation of the 38th Division of troops, now in Kutais, in trans-Caucasia on its way via Odessa to Bobruysk, in the Government of Vilna, in Russian Poland. We may now read in the Russian military papers that the 19th and 20th Infantry Divisions are also shortly to be removed from the Caucasus to the western frontier, where two new Army Corps are to be formed—to wit, the 19th and the 20th. Some time must, of course, elapse before the troops, which have a long journey to make, will have to arrive in Russian Poland; but, once there, they will remain permanently, like all former military forces, and when the new rifles, on which 20,000 hands are said to be engaged in a single factory, are ready for distribution, the Caucasian troops will have arrived at their destination ready to receive them. The personal opinions of M. de Witte will not in the least alter the fact that Russia is mobilizing her entire forces at a time of the profoundest peace, and is placing them at the most probable seat of the next great war.

There is a story told of the late Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Inglefield, which should be placed in the hands of every young person, with instructions to duly profit by it. One rainy day, we are told, soon after he became captain, the lately deceased veteran was on his way home from church when he observed an elderly and umbrella-less gentleman vainly endeavouring to shelter himself under a tree. Thereupon Captain Inglefield offered him half his umbrella, and accompanied him to his home near by. Names and addresses having been exchanged, the pair parted, never to meet again; but a few years later the elderly gentleman died, leaving his "benefactor" £10,000. Many are the lessons taught us by this story, and now that we are approaching the rainy season we may expect a lively trade in umbrellas and a rush of expectant heirs offering these shelters to likely-looking old gentleman. Anyone of "warm" and venerable appearance who may be in want of a new umbrella, cannot do better than post himself under a tree and take the first gold-mounted offering which comes in his way. Obviously, if half an umbrella is worth £10,000 a whole one ought to fetch at least double that amount.

The Ringarooma Ashore.

Intelligence has been received at Sydney that the cruiser Ringarooma, which recently stranded on a reef of Malicollo Island, in New Hebrides, has been safely got off with the assistance of the French cruiser Duchaffault. Contrary to the apprehensions at first entertained, the Ringarooma was found to be only slightly damaged.