



# The Volunteer Review

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### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

To all of our readers we present our compliments and wish them a happy New Year, and many, very many returns of the same.

The Hon. Mr. Vail, Minister of Militia and Defence, and Lady, left Ottawa on 23rd for Nova Scotia, to spend their Christmas holidays with their friends. The Hon. gentleman is expected to return inside of a couple of weeks.

A letter dated Dufferin, Dec. 8th, states that a despatch had been received from Col McLeod, of the Mounted Police, conveying the information that thirty Yankee whiskey traders had been arrested in the neighborhood of the Rocky Mountains and fined \$200 each, and their liquor spilled on the plains, also that a murderer had been captured. The Mounted Police under Col. McLeod's command are reported in good condition.

The Secretary of the Interior received on the 22nd December from the State Department copies of official letters announcing the acceptance by the British Government of the invitation of the U.S. to participate in the centennial which is conveyed in a letter from Lord Darby to Minister Schenck.

The House Committee on appropriations has agreed to a bill appropriating \$30,000 for defraying the expenses of entertaining the King of the Sandwich Islands.

King Kulakaua has, it is said an income of \$22,000 per annum. This is derived from a tax of 5 cents on every \$100 worth of property, \$1 on every horse, and \$5 for every carriage owned and run in his dominion.

A delegation of Navajo Indians visited the office of the United States Centennial Commission on the 22nd, and arranged for the representation of their tribe at the International exhibition of 1876.

President Grant in compliance with a requisition from the Governor and Legislature of Mississippi, has issued his proclamation warning the people of a county alleged to be in insurrection to submit to the laws within five days. The majority in the Legislature protest against the allegation that there is any necessity for this step, and boldly accuse the Governor of the State of instigating the negroes to attack the town of Vicksburg.

A telegram from Havana, Dec. 22nd, gives the following particulars of a heavy engagement; Advices from Venezuela to the 8th inst., report that a desperate battle has been fought in the Province of Barquisi-

mento between a force of Government troops under General Marquez and a body of insurgents under General Calina. The engagement lasted 48h. Between 700 and 800 men were killed and wounded on both sides. Both parties claim the victory.

Some interesting facts with regard to the armaments of native States in India is given by one of the Madras papers. The combined armies of the native chiefs of India number 315,000. The artillery numbers 5,300 large guns.

A late revision of the pension lists in France show that there are still living 25,000 men who served under Napoleon.

The production of opium in Asia Minor, which in former years averaged annually from 2,000 to 3,000 baskets or cases, each containing 150 pounds, has of late years much increased, and the crop now averages from 4,000 to 6,000 baskets. Out of this quantity, which is shipped at Smyrna, the United States take about 2,000 cases.

A new port has been opened on the Severn, at Sharpness Point, midway between the mouth of the Avon and the city of Gloucester, England. The works have been built by the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal Company, at an expense of £200,000, and will afford accommodation for steamers 300 feet in length by 60 feet beam, and there will be an average depth of water at high tide of 26 feet. Railway connections are being arranged for, and it is expected that Sharpness will become a commercial centre of considerable importance.

A despatch from Berlin says it is not improbable that as an appeal has been taken from the sentence in the case of Count Von Arnim, further proceedings may be suspended until the case comes up before the Kammergericht in February next. Count Von Arnim's health continues to be a source of apprehension to his friends, and it is doubtful whether he could endure a continuance of the privations and confinement which the carrying out of the sentence would impose without lasting injury to his constitution.

Captain Lahure, of the Belgian General Staff, has got into hot water by his book of the *Service d'Etat Major*. He recently fought one of his critics, also an officer of the staff, in the little riding school at Brussels. The duel was with sabres, and by the terms every cut or thrust was admissible. There was but one restriction. Neither could touch his adversary when disarmed. Captain Crousse, the critic, fell in the course of the combat, but fell with his sword in his hand. He was, therefore, at Lahure's mercy, who discontinued the duel.

Alphonso Prince of the Asturia, in reply to an address of certain Spanish grandees says, that a monarchy alone can terminate the disorder and uncertainty which exists in Spain. A majority of the people of Spain are agreed and have declared their opinion that he only is the rightful representative of the Spanish Monarchy.

A Constantinople special says, the Porte is pushing forward the work of strengthening the defences, and the numerical strength of the army is to be increased. Additions have been already made to the artillery and infantry. Large quantities of rifles have been ordered and are arriving at the different military depots for distribution among the troops. The cause of the present warlike activity of the Porte is not assigned.

The German Government has appointed a Committee of ten members to represent Germany at the American Centennial Exhibition, at Philadelphia, in 1876. Herr Jacoby is President of the Committee.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope state that the United States steamer Monogahela sailed from there on the 7th of November for Kerguelen Islands, to embark an American party, which observed the transit of Venus from that steamer. Reports from the diamond and gold fields are encouraging.

During a furious storm on 21st the lightning struck the powder magazine in Scutari, and caused a terrible explosion. A portion of the city wall was overthrown, many houses were demolished, and 200 persons were killed and wounded.

Prince Bismarck has moved in the Federal Council that an extradition treaty be concluded with the United States, which shall replace all similar treaties now existing between that country and the various German Governments.

A special telegram from St. Petersburg to the *Times* says the difficulties with the Turcoman tribes in Khiva have been settled. The attacking expedition has returned without fighting. The Turcomans voluntarily released the 30 prisoners.

The *new Free Press* states that the documents read in secret session of the Arnim trial, explained the policy of Germany in regard to the appointment of a successor to Pope Pius IX.

Monsieur Capel has published a pamphlet in reply to Gladstone's expostulation. He says Gladstone's pamphlet resembles Dr. Schultes work on the power of the Pontiff, which enables Capel to use Monsieur Fessler's answer entitled, "True and false infallibility."