

possession of Kiel, and she must therefore seek an outlet in the Black Sea and Mediterranean. All this was well known to the Turkish Government which, adds the French diplomatist, immediately after the issue of Favre's circular, addressed a pressing appeal to the European cabinets on behalf of France. "When these negotiations," he says "become matter of history, this document will become known and people will be astonished at its not having been adhered to by the neutral powers. If England, who had her reasons perhaps for not taking the initiative had energetically supported the Turkish proposals, she would have carried with her the co-operation of all the other neutrals, and this imposing combination would at that moment have made peace inevitable."

When it is remembered that this curious letter was written some time ago, and published at least a week before Russia announced her desire for the freedom of the Black Sea, it will be confessed that it is to say the least, a remarkable document.

THE FIRST MITRAILLEUSE.

It has been supposed that the mitrailleuse is a recent invention. This is an error. A correspondent of the *Sun* writes us that he has before him drawings and specifications of a similar contrivance, patented in England 15th May, 1718, over a hundred years which takes all the shine and novelty out of the Hitecock and Gatling, and Louis Napoleon arrangements in this line. The patent is issued in favor of one "James Puckle, of our city of London, Gent. Witness ourselves ye Fifteenth day of May, in the fourth year of our regime." The specification is dated July 25, 1718. The accompanying drawing shows the piece to have been fired from a tripod or *treped*, as it is called. The revolving breech has nine chambers; when these are exhausted, another, ready loaded, is furnished, and the whole arrangement is turned rapidly by a coffee mill handle. These nests of chambers are of two kinds—one to be loaded with round balls the other with square missiles. The inventor was a genuine English Yankee. There is a strong mixture of humanitarian sentimentality and grim piety mingled with his destructive ingenuity. The diagram is headed by this inscription:

"Defending KING GEORGE, your COUNTRY and LAWS,
In defending YOUR SELVES and PROTESTANT CAUSE."

No. 16, explaining the diagram, defines it to be a "plate of the chambers of the gun for shooting square bullets against Turks." No. 17, "For round bullets against Christians." If James Puckle had anticipated a little further, and come over with the Pilgrim Fathers, he might have found his invention useful in the next trip of that revered craft to the coast of Africa, for a load of negroes, and quite handy if he could have persuaded the pious Mather's friends to kidnap William Penn and his companions, and send them into slavery in the plantation, in exchange for wine and sugar, as Mather proposed to do as a comfortable speculation, and to advance the interests of religion.

The Hon. Mr. Chauveau and his colleagues have cordially received a deputation of members of the Quebec Legislature from the Ottawa districts. They wished to impress upon the Premier the necessity of aiding in the construction of the proposed railway which is to go along the north side of the river as far up as Pembroke. It is believed the local Government will grant three millions of acres.

THE NEW KING OF SPAIN.

The new Spanish sovereign is the second son of Victor Emmanuel, by rank and title Duke of Aosta, better known as Prince Amadeus Ferdinand Maria. He was born in 1845, and, having passed through inferior grades, was colonel of the Lombard Grenadiers and general of brigade in the Austro-Italian campaign of 1866. At the battle of Custoza he led his brigade against the Austrians, and he and his brother, the Crown Prince Humbert, greatly distinguished themselves by their bravery, Prince Amadeus in particular, who was wounded in the chest, and had to be removed from the field. In 1867, Prince Amadeus married Mary daughter of Prince Pozzo della Cisterna, the head of a historical Italian family. He is connected by the marriage of his sister Clotilde to Prince Napoleon, with the house of Bonaparte, and by his sister Maria Pia, with the reigning King of Portugal, Don Louis I. His mother was Adelaide, daughter of the Archduke Renier of Austria.

PERSONAL.—The *Hamilton Spectator* of the 30th says, W. F. Whitcher, Esq., Commissioner of Fisheries, was in town yesterday and was the guest of John Brown, Esq. Mr. Whitcher has been west on business connected with his department, and while in the neighborhood of Long Point, availed himself of the opportunity to indulge in a little recreation from the toils of office, and he took himself to the wild duck preserve, where he killed no less than 384 ducks. Mr. W. leaves for Ottawa this morning. In connection with the foregoing, our readers will easily recollect the storm of Thursday night, which raged with unequalled violence on the upper lakes. The pelting rain, hail and snow driven everywhere by the pitiless wind, made even safely housed persons shiver at the very thought of outsiders. Yet Mr. Whitcher was imprisoned by the storm and darkness, and his canoe swamped by the waves. He was stranded among the reeds on the lee shore during sixteen hours, in the wet and cold, and on the following morning was found almost buried up in snow and ice. We offer Mr. Whitcher our sincere congratulations on his escape—not merely as a thorough sportsman but because of his pluck and endurance in "padding his own canoe."

FRENCH AMAZONS.—The female citizens of Paris are apparently weary of the monotony of a besieged existence. They are enlisting in a body called "Amazons of the Seine." Their costume will consist of a pair of black trousers, with an orange colour striped blouse of woollen stuff, with a cap and a black kepi, with an orange band, together with a cartridge-box fastening to a shoulder belt. Only woman of unexceptionable character will be permitted to join this corps, all candidates having not only to be accompanied by a husband father or brother but to bring with them a certificate from the Commissary of Police, attesting their character, position &c. The officers will all be ladies, mostly wives and daughters of officers in the army, or at any rate possessing some knowledge of military affairs. A special patriotic and most spirit-stirring song has been composed for the corps entitled "The Marseillaise of the Amazons of the Seine." In addition to tending wounded they are expected to defend the ramparts and barricades jointly with the stationary National Guard and to render the combatants in whose ranks they would be distributed by companies all such domestic and fraternal services as are compatible with moral order and military discipline.

THE TYNE CREW DIVIDED.—A feeling of rivalry has been in existence some time between Renforth and Taylor, two of the champion four oared crew that recently contended with the Paris crew at Lachine, and the rivalry has at length resulted in an open rupture. Renforth very recently challenged the world to produce two men to row against himself and another in a two-oared race, for £20 a side; and scarcely had the challenge been made when it was taken up by Taylor and Winship, two of Renforth's crew. A meeting of the parties interested took place when, after a good deal of fencing, the match was at length made, and a deposit of £5 put up, to tie the match for Renforth and Kelly on the one part, to row Taylor and Winship on the other part, a straight-away race in pair-oared boats, from the High Level Bridge to Scotswood Suspension Bridge, for £20 a side; the race to take place on the 16th of January.

THE END OF CIVILIZATION.—Never was a great truth more happily set forth than in the following from the New York 'Nation': "Refined homes are the end of civilization. All the work of the world,—the railroading, the navigating, digging, delving, manufacturing, inventing, teaching, writing, fighting, are done, first of all, to secure each family in the quiet possession of its own hearths as possible with grace, and culture and beauty. The work of all races, for five thousand years, is represented in the difference between a wigwam and a lady's parlour. It has no better result to show."

GOOD SHOOTING.—On Tuesday last the Cobourg Battery completed their fifteen rounds per man, in accordance with general order. The shooting was most excellent,—even for this crack Company. The score of Sergeant-Major MacNachtan, 56 points out of a possible 60, is the best we have heard of, and we question if it has ever been equalled in Canada. He made 19 points at 200 yards, 20 at 400 yards, and 17 at 600 yards,—five shots at each range. Gunners White and Grieve also stand very high. The "Snider" will be an effective weapon in the hands of this Company.—*Cobourg World*.

While the Crown Princess of Prussia was in Hamburg recently, her youngest child narrowly escaped being killed. As she was passing down stairs with her children, the nurse of the youngest child dropped it over the balustrade. It would doubtless have broken its skull on the marble floor below had its clothes not been caught by a metal ornament of the balustrade. Thus it escaped death, and almost miraculously. As it has since been found out that the nurse, a French girl, had uttered threats that she would avenge her brother, who had fallen at Wissembourg, she has been arrested and an investigation ordered.

It appears from an article in the *Dziennik Poznański*, a Polish paper published in Prussia, that some of the most brilliant achievements of the German army in the war were performed, not by the Germans, but by Poles from the Polish provinces of Prussia. The Third Division of the Landwehr, under Gen. Kummer, whose coolness and determination in the battles before Metz have been so warmly praised, consists entirely of Poles.

According to an official statement, says the London *Times* of the 29th ult., the number of German soldiers now on French territory is 856,000; 740,000 of these belong to Prussia and the North German Confederation.