

Edon was on a tour of inspection and visited an infantry regiment garrisoned at the fort of Charenton, outside Paris. He observed that the uniform of Sub-Lieutenant Schiffmacher was a little too big, and made remarks to that effect; then he asked, had he the new pattern of revolver, and desired to see it. When the belt case was opened, the General seized the weapon by the handle, never remarked the cartridges in the chambers, commenced trying the trigger, and before the Lieutenant could complete the warning, "It is loaded!" a ball was lodged in his abdomen, and next day he expired. A certain press endeavored to make bad capital out of a clumsy accident. General Edon was suspended till he passed before a court martial; the latter was purposely delayed to allow public excitement to subside. It has just been convoked and consists of six generals superior in rank to the accused. The latter was ordered to stand up; he is a tall, powerfully-built soldier, full of energy and decision, and showed he was deeply pained at the catastrophe, which resulted from the General not hearing the deceased's warning as to the revolver being loaded, owing to deafness. Officers are expected when on the march to have eighteen ball cartridges; some put the package in their pocket, others load their revolver, as if preparing for action. The brother of the deceased, a barrister, and who judges the conduct of General Edon severely, was in court; the President told him the court-martial had nothing to do with the matter of civil damages, that it deplored the accident, which deprived the army of an exemplary and promising officer, and sympathized with the sorrow of his relatives. The brother bowed and sat down. The court retired for fifteen minutes, re-entered, and with hands on swords and standing up, declared General Edon "acquitted." As to his resuming active service, the War Minister will decide that point.

After all, the national holiday will be kept by municipalities and shop-keepers. They must have their cakes and ale; they have paid all honors to the remains of M. Carnot, but see no necessity of shutting themselves up, they say, in his tomb. The Government will not take any part in the festivities, except to hand over the credits voted for the fireworks, etc., to the poor, who will thus get double out-door relief on the fourteenth. In any case, the soul of the national holiday this year may be viewed as dead. Very few preparations for its observance have been made. Then the advanced Republicans are sour and down in the mouth because their candidate, M. Brisson, has not been elected to the Presidency rather than M. Casimir-Perier. The railway companies will only run excursion trains on the sly. The small trader will mostly feel the effects. Many will seize the occasion to pull in their horns on the subject of outlay, and as the rurals utilized the holiday and the excursion trains, attractions to make annual purchases in Paris, the circulation of money will be restricted. Quiet people will be glad when the rejoicings are over.

Count Tolstoi has thrown, by his new pamphlet, another wet blanket over the Franco-Russian alliance. He declares the whole affair to be a pure comedy, arranged by politicians, to stage effects, to daze the masses of both countries. The explosions at Cronstadt and Toulouse, observes the famous Russian writer, were "foolish and odious," organized by hypocrites to work the ignorance of the crowds. The Russian

alliance is now never alluded to in France; the Russian Hymn is never heard. Germany has received into her arms the Czar, where French protectionists impelled him to go.

Very important reforms are being carried out in the detective police force of Paris. M. Carnot's death has not been unconnected with these changes. The efficacy of the force has reflected the cutting down system applied to the grants—all was done apparently on the cheap. Now a special Presidential police corps has been organized, so that it will be very difficult for any Caserios to come too near the Chief Magistrate. The general body of the detectives will be better paid. A division will be supplied with bicycles, to roll through the side alleys of the Bois de Boulogne, so infected with bad characters of both sexes, but now being gradually cleared out. But it is at night, along the external Boulevards, the bicycle police will tell. They will wheel in threes, and will be armed, while the machines will have dark lanterns and no tell-tale bells. The patrol duty along these exterior Boulevards is performed by the mounted police, but their approach is known by the tramp of the horses. Malefactors hide till the police ride past. One firm has just been given an order for 100 bicycles, with all the modern improvements, at the price of 500fr. per machine; this corps of police on wheels will first operate in the region of St. Ouen and St. Denis, where the most dangerous of the dangerous classes prowl. It is said, that the police have a new plan for handcuffing prisoners, that is better than a strait jacket. The velocipede police are specially trained.

The friends of M. Renan are very wrathful; they collected funds, and had a statue cast, it is said, to perpetuate the glory of the deceased writer, by presenting it to his native town in Bretagne, Treguier. But the villagers objected to any site being granted by the town council, to accommodate the statue to the terrible apostate and heretic; and the women vow they will pull it down if set up. Renan always said his native village would never give him absolution.

Public opinion is so far pleased with all the general committee of the 1900 Exhibition has done. It blesses its two good intentions, to get rid of that eyesore, the Palace of Industry in the Champs Elysee, and to have demolished that Panamaism stigma, the Eiffel Tower. The plan of three juries is approved of: one the general, to select the prize winners, the other to revise their findings, and the third, a jury of appeal. In order to ensure punctuality, the jury will commence operations one month after the official opening of the show, and two months will be allowed them to finally award the honours. The system of collective tickets is approved of, and also the variation in the price of admission, following the nature of the daily attractions. All school children, national or international, will be admitted free. The producing of results, rather than the results *per se*, will be the base of the show. The plan of isolated shows in the park, for separate nations, finds no favor; the architecture will be infinite in variety, but still not a mighty maze, and with a common plan. Internal decorations will be left to national tastes and fancies. An American has applied for a site to erect a Chicago residence of "thirty storeys"—the home of the future. The tendency of Parisians is, to have a small house of their own, some miles outside Paris, bringing them to office

or workshop, in a few minutes and for nominal fares. But if the municipality continues to oppose electric tubular under city railways, the bloom will be taken off the 1900 Big Fair.

Two schoolmasters, who were originally professors, preside over the Senate, M. Challemeil-Lacour, and M. Burdeau, over the Chamber of Deputies. The Premier, M. Dupuy, was also a professor, and M. Casimir-Perier may be viewed as a military instructor, as he keeps all in marching order.

It is asserted that the usual seaside resorts are deserted more this season than ever, and that from Dunkirk to Biarritz, there is nothing but wailing and gnashing of teeth; so much the better for humble purses: out of evil comes good. Fashionable society now patronizes mountain outings. Strange, man and babydom prefer the seaside; the air brings more repose to fatigued brains, and restores lost nerve power. It is not at the foot of Mt. Blanc, that babies can walk and wade in bare feet, or engage in engineering and architecture, with sunny sand for raw material. But if materfamilias has girls to get off, she will stop at nothing to harpoon an "eligible" for her daughter. And the marrying men prefer the mountain home, precisely to keep from being led into the temptation of matrimony, but they must be new to earth. Now that is why the Grissons and Pau, and the Alps will soon be as peopled during the season as London or Paris, or Mecca, for a peculiar shrine worship is there carried on. Three-fourths of the marriages celebrated among well-to-do people this half year in Paris were the result of preliminary meetings in the Swiss mountains last summer.

Mussels produce poison in their liver, as vipers do in their tongue. M. Lalkonski, of Berlin, has extracted the poison, and it is as toxic as *curare*, and which in many respects it resembles; cook the mussels in water, to which 3½ grammes of carbonate of soda per litre is added, and the stomach will be poison-proof. Nothing yet has been found wrong with the liver of oysters or Strasbourg geese. Madame de la Valette, cursed Louis XVIII. for not pardoning her husband; eventually this shook her reason, and in the asylum she passed her days singing praises in honour of His Majesty. Z.

IN CHURCH.

The windows of the little church
With paint are frosted over,
Which hides from many a roving eye
The meadows clad in clover.

But here and there a space is bare,
And through it may be seen,
Like picture in a tiny frame,
A tree, or sprig of green.

And such a space I oft gaze through,
And see, or seem to see,
The gravestones gliding into view
Beyond a hiding tree.

And when I rise or kneel to pray,
Anon they seem to dance,
Or sometimes slowly fade away
Like ghosts seen in a trance.

Whate'er I see pertains to death,
The flowers spring from graves,
Or form on stone a rosy wreath,
On high the willow waves.

The little hollows and the knolls,
Some grassy and some bare,
Mementoes of departed souls,
These, only these, are there.

The preacher's theme, all-conquering Death,
Sounds like a far refrain;
I need not list to what he saith,
'Tis written on the pane.

WILLIAM MCGILL.